

# External School Review

## Marden Senior College

Across our education system, we seek growth for every student, in every class, and in every school. The external school review value-adds and supports schools to raise student achievement and sustain high performance by providing an expert external perspective on school performance by verifying or challenging:

- a school's improvement planning and processes and its impact on student learning
- the impact of previous external school directions
- the rigour of a school's improvement practices
- the school's capacity to achieve or sustain learning improvement over time.

The external school review lines of inquiry focus on:

- quality school improvement planning
- expert teaching
- quality leadership
- conditions for optimal learning.

The overarching question in every external school review is: How well does the school improve achievement, growth, challenge, engagement, and equity?

### Reported impact of directions from the previous External School Review in September 2019.

The school has been collectively developing an agreed and consistent approach to using data to support effective differentiation. Teachers have been actively engaged with the learning teams and professional learning communities to develop their capability to implement high impact, evidence-based differentiation strategies. These include planned and sequenced learning activities, addressing student interest, explicit teaching, formative assessment and use of scaffolds. There has also been an increased focus in using diagnostic data to support the design of learning tasks to meet the diverse needs of students. This work is ongoing and the staff are undertaking this in a highly collaborative way.

The school has established systems to ensure a more consistent approach to implementation of concepts and strategies within the colleges teaching and learning framework by reviewing the framework in 2018. As a result, the revised framework has a new section around knowing how to learn (metacognition) to support an increased cohort who had gaps in their learning, were disengaged or reluctant to participate in class. In addition, there is a mentoring programme where an assigned teacher provides support and assists the student in taking greater responsibility for their own learning.

The college has worked to promote contemporary practice and refine current professional learning community practices to ensure regular communication, reflection and discussion amongst groups. There is a lens of reflective practice supporting growth in capability. Through seeking feedback, professional learning community structures have been refined and teachers now work in cross-disciplinary teams which has brought together a diverse range of perspectives and sharing of subject expertise. Teachers use a professional learning community template and tracking tool to measure the impact on student learning and there is a mechanism for sharing new learnings and informing next steps. The college's literacy agreement plan outlines targets and strategies aligned with the site improvement plan. Teachers share resources, student work samples and model use of online editing tools and this has helped to build their capability in explicitly teaching subject specific literacy.

### Outcomes from the External School Review held in August 2023.

The principal will work with the education director to implement the following directions:

- Direction 1** Strengthen and build staff capability in using multiple data sets, to plan for differentiated learning, ensuring greater consistency of practice.
- Direction 2** Build and strengthen agreed processes and structures in providing timely feedback to staff, including documented, intentional leader walkthroughs and peer observations, affirming good practice and highlighting challenges for growth.
- Direction 3** Provide further clarity around systems and structures to ensure timely tracking, monitoring and responding, to improve learner engagement and attendance.

These directions are published on the school improvement plan and will support the school's ongoing improvement work. **Based on the school's current performance, Marden Senior College will be externally reviewed again in 2026.**



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