



New notebook computer program launched at OLMC Parramatta

After four years of planning, OLMC Parramatta's new notebook computer program was launched on Monday August 3 when each Year 8 student received a notebook computer for use at both home and school.

The Year 8 students were the first students in the College to be provided with the DELL notebooks by the College with the roll out continuing over the next two years so that every student in the College will have one by 2011.

The day of the program's launch was spent preparing the Year 8 girls for the practicalities of life with a notebook computer. The students were instructed on a variety of user related issues including how to maintain battery charge, classroom etiquette and how to efficiently and safely pack their school bag for transportation. A group of specialist physiotherapists were also invited into the College to demonstrate to the girls good stretching and lifting techniques to protect them from unnecessary physical strain while using and transporting the notebooks.

However, the most exciting part of the day was when the girls actually received their notebook computers – every Year 8 classroom was buzzing!

"I'm really excited about getting my notebook", said Sajneet Pooni, a Year 8 student at the College. "It means that I'll always be able to use a computer at home AND I'll be improving my ICT skills at the same time!"

The College has been preparing for this day since 2005 when it began developing the parameters for its Master Plan (2008-2016). Results from Parent Forums as well as research into best practice for girls' education indicated that the way forward lay in the College developing a richer technological environment.

As a result, in the past four years there has been significant development of OLMC's technological resources, including a major upgrade of the College's infrastructure, the provision of notebook computers to all teaching staff, the installation of data projectors and wireless facilities in every classroom, and the provision of interactive whiteboards in a number of rooms. Most importantly, the College has worked with teachers in not only enhancing their technological skills, particularly for the classroom, but also in further developing their pedagogy. Over the past two years a number of ICT Integrators have been appointed - teachers who have undertaken tertiary study in the use of ICT and who work with the other teachers in developing learning programs based on the new technologies.

Celebrating its 120th Anniversary this year, OLMC Parramatta continues to tailor its teaching and learning practices to the needs of its students both now and for the future.