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Traditional teaching flipped on its head at Henley High

Students at Henley High School are receiving some of their SACE lessons online through an innovative teaching method known as ‘flipping the classroom’.

The flipped classroom model inverts traditional teaching by delivering video or PowerPoint lessons online outside of class time and moving ‘homework’ back inside the classroom.

Henley High School teacher Jeremy LeCornu is exploring the concept, and has recorded several SACE Biology lessons for his students.

“I decided to trial the concept on my Year 12 Biology class, as the students are highly motivated as they work towards achieving their SACE,” Jeremy said.

“I’ve made a series of short videos covering aspects of the Year 12 Biology curriculum such as ‘Culturing Cells’, ‘Altering Cell Metabolism’, ‘Cells, Tissues, Organs, Systems’, etc.

“The videoed lessons cover all of the key concepts students need to know, and they’re illustrated with pictures and diagrams. I’ve also injected a bit of my own style and humour to engage students.

“My Biology class really took to the idea – after all they are the ‘YouTube’ generation.

“They’re accessing my videos on their laptops, computers, phones, and tablets – at home and at school. They can learn at their own pace and can stop and rewind if they need to go over anything.”

One of Mr LeCornu’s students, Hampus, enjoys the YouTube Biology lessons and said the biggest advantage is that the lessons can be accessed at any time.

“The online lessons have really helped me, particularly when revising for tests and my test results have improved as a result,” Hampus said.

Student Olivia has also endorsed the tailor-made video lessons and said the concept frees up class time for other things.

“As a class we have more time for revision and also time to apply our knowledge, rather than just gaining the knowledge,” Olivia said. “I think this will definitely be an advantage when it comes to exams.”

Jeremy LeCornu is a finalist in the Early Career STEM Educator of the Year category of the 2013 South Australian Science Excellence Awards which are on Friday 16 August.

Please note: National Science Week runs from August 10 to 18, 2013.