

Creating and maintaining student engagement

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My Background

- Canberra Grammar School & ANU
- Master of Teaching & CGS teaching
- Conducting adults -> Conducting students
- ANU pre-tertiary teaching

Student Mindset – Interests

- Friends / social media
- Hobbies
- Outside-school activities
- Gaming / movies
- Politics / social activism

Student Mindset – Pressures

- School deadlines
- Family
- Academic pressure, tertiary preparation
- Work & scheduling
- Increasing external commitments with age/responsibility
- Increasing rate of stress: depression/anxiety, lack of sleep

My Background – Student Engagement

- Canberra Youth Orchestra – auditioned (elective) ensemble
- ANU pre-tertiary teaching – auditioned (elective) course
- Adult orchestras/choirs – both auditioned & unauditioned (all elective)
- Canberra Grammar School – a bit of both across Junior and Senior schools

Student Engagement

- Students maintain engagement with many competing interests
 - Some interests more so than others
- Education mandatory for all students
 - ... but we all know a student who's not in the right headspace in the classroom, or for certain subjects outside of their core interests

Teacher Mindset – Engagement

- Are we always engaged in the classroom?

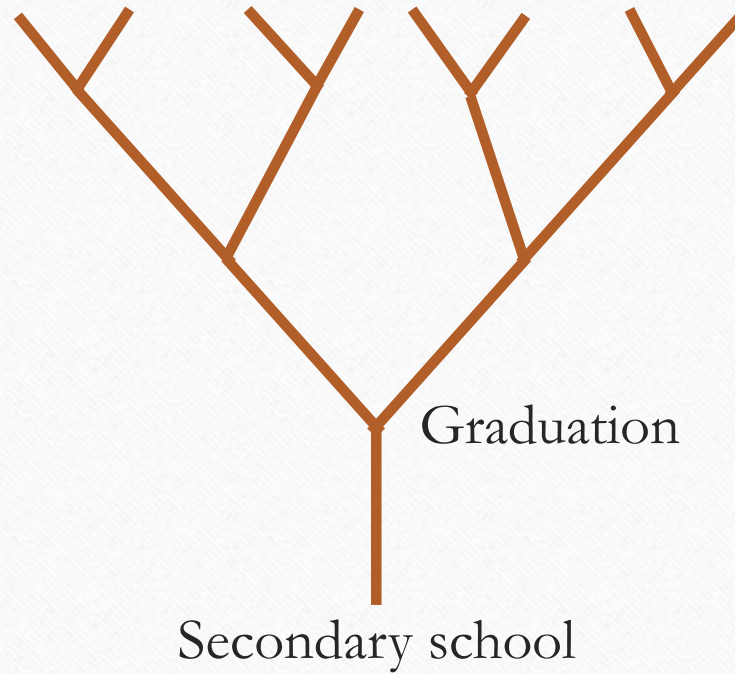
Teacher Mindset – Engagement

- Planning
- Marking
- Curriculum progress/standards
- Meetings – colleagues, parents and students
- New content & teaching methods
- New technology
- Co-curricular commitments
- Department/house/year responsibilities
- School-mandated PD, External PD & TQI
- After-hours / weekend school commitments
- Self-reflection & personal development
- ... and sometimes we get to teach!
- Family / friends / social media
- Hobbies / self-development
- Gaming / movies
- Politics / social activism
 - News
 - Global relations

Student self-discovery

- Student minds are not fully formed
 - Many indecisive until postgraduate study/employment
 - Increase in number of career changes within a working lifetime
- Malleable to both positive and negative influences

Student self-discovery



Questions?

Four discussion points on student learning

- Is there one right answer for these questions?

What spark first captivates a student in an educational situation?

How do you retain student engagement across multiple years?

What motivates students to have an active voice
in their own learning?

What we can bring to the classroom to enhance
their individual drive?

Discussion

- **What spark first captivates a student in an educational situation?**
- **How do you retain student engagement across multiple years?**
- **What motivates students to have an active voice in their own learning?**
- **What we can bring to the classroom to enhance their individual drive?**

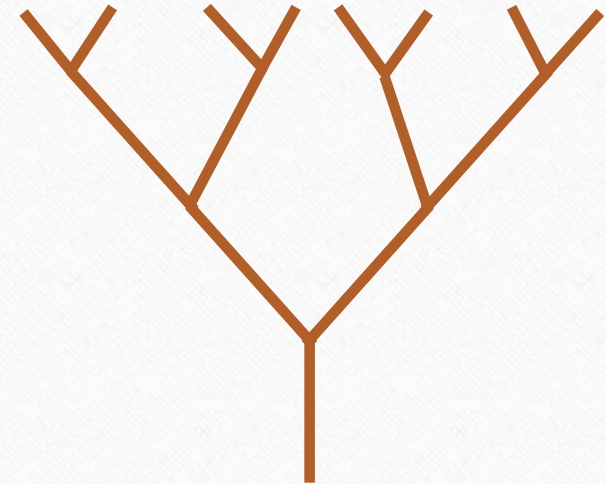
- **Can only the students answer these questions?**

Facilitating Teaching Development

- Continue to reflect on our teaching
- Always be aware of more to learn and self-improvement
- Place ourselves in the mindset of students – how is our engagement held?
- Dialogue with students – how are they learning?
- Reflect on teacher engagement and enthusiasm

Facilitating Student Development

- Foster student interests and curiosity
- Involve students in additional in-school programs
- Encourage external individual development
- Open doors & facilitate new opportunities
- Provide advice or suggestions for career paths



Questions / Discussion
