

# The first semester with Stile X at Covenant College



**Nathanael McEwen**  
Senior Science  
KLA Leader

Nathanael McEwen is a science and senior biology teacher and KLA leader at Covenant College, Victoria. The college has used Stile Digital to support their science teaching and learning for the past four years, and recently made the decision to introduce Stile X.

We sat down with Nathanael to discuss the impact Stile X has been having on the college's teachers and students so far.



Covenant College,  
Victoria

## Developing long-lasting study skills

Since introducing Stile X, Nathanael has noticed improvements in his students' fundamental learning skills. While Stile Digital encourages students to practise note-taking and summarising, Nathanael says the way Stile X explicitly scaffolds skills on paper has changed the way his students learn. He says, "It's great to walk around a classroom and see the way students are taking notes. With Stile X, it's a formal medium for them to do that."

For Nathanael, one of the most impressive aspects of Stile X is the research that has gone into scaffolding skill development. He's "encouraged by the way it clearly stems from solid research." Since adopting Stile X, his students "ask more meaningful...more inquisitive questions." He explains that the skills developed by Stile X set students up to succeed not just in science, but in their whole academic journey. "There's really good research on how pen and paper beats screen for memory retention...I want them to develop note-taking skills and recall strategies so they can learn better across the board and take that into senior science."

## Variety is the spice of life... and science teaching!

Nathanael enjoys the pedagogical variety Stile Digital and Stile X brings into his classroom. He finds the range of activities encourages students to "use their brain in different ways... You've got interactives, short videos, fill-in-the-blanks, exit tickets, you're putting pressure on students to summarise, to paraphrase, to rank. I think it gets their brains working across a greater spectrum of modes."

With the introduction of Stile X, his students access even more activities and ways of thinking that can only be done using a paper-based resource. He says that having a wide variety of pedagogical techniques "takes

pressure off teachers to come up with all that content themselves" and gives them back time to focus on the needs of their students.

## Getting parents more involved in student learning

One of Nathanael's favourite Stile features is the Markbook. He says it equips him to "communicate meaningful feedback with parents on the progress of their child...they take great delight in seeing their work."

Nathanael is only just beginning to explore the ways Stile X can enhance his outreach to parents. So far, he has found that it's much easier for parents to interact with the paper-based resource. "This year, parents can actually just have a look at the book... and actually sit down next to their child and see them take notes live... Parents are excited about that." This is consistent with feedback from other schools who have been successfully enhancing parent interaction with Stile X by encouraging them to review the Practice Test model answers with their child to prepare for assessment.

“Be convinced of the research that supports true long-term retention of information. Learning requires memory strategies such as those that Stile X encourages like recitation, narration, pen and paper learning, and paraphrasing.”