

Three ways Stile enhances science teaching and learning



Samuel Price
Learning Area
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Samuel Price is the Learning Area Leader – Science at Galen Catholic College in Wangaratta, Victoria. They've used Stile since 2017 and began using Stile X – Stile's cutting-edge revision workbook – this year. They've found incorporating Stile X into their classrooms has been as easy as 1, 2, 3.



Galen Catholic
College,
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Victoria

1. Builds literacy and numeracy skills

In the past, Samuel and his team created their own physical booklets to support student learning with Stile. Once they saw Stile X, however, they realised it was “exactly what we were trying to do, but on steroids!” He appreciates how Stile and Stile X don't just address the curriculum, but also include literacy and numeracy skill development, which are areas of focus at Galen Catholic College. “One of our cross-curricular goals is supporting the development of literacy and numeracy skills in our students. In science, in particular, we

know that we also need to be working on technical writing, summarising and other important literacy skills.” Samuel says that the flexibility of Stile X makes it easy to use across all of his school's classrooms. “There are lots of different teaching styles, lots of different strengths and areas of expertise among teachers, and we have to support our team accordingly. Stile X facilitates this.”

2. Improves student engagement in science

Samuel says one of the biggest reasons Stile X has been easy to implement is that the students themselves love using it. “If I've accidentally left their Stile X booklets in my office, then I'm in trouble!” He says one reason for this is that the highly scaffolded nature of the resource means students don't feel overwhelmed. “I think that's really good for confidence building. Kids that naturally have those abilities will fly through it, but they've also got levels they can work at above the others.”

“It's surprising how well it works. That's been a standout for me, just how well the kids have adopted it and really taken ownership of it and enjoyed it.”

Another reason his students love Stile X is that it doesn't just teach them study skills, but explains the cognitive

research behind them. He's found that including this has given his students “ownership of understanding why we're doing what we're doing in class.” For example, mindfulness activities have explanations about the importance of mindfulness and managing stress when studying. He says activities like these have resulted in his students “really enjoying getting their Stile book.”

3. Provides rigorous, evidence-based professional learning

Samuel has found the professional learning sessions offered by Stile have been incredibly useful in helping him and his team implement Stile X in their classrooms. He says that these sessions don't just show teachers how to use Stile X, but also explain best practice teaching methods and strategies and the evidence supporting them. “I love that you had not only the practical hands on, ‘this is what you can do right now in your classes’ elements, but also the ‘this is why – and it's based on proven research.’”

“The PD sessions are interactive and engaging. It's meaningful stuff that teachers can start using in the classroom the next day. My colleagues shared very positive feedback about how much they got out of the sessions.”