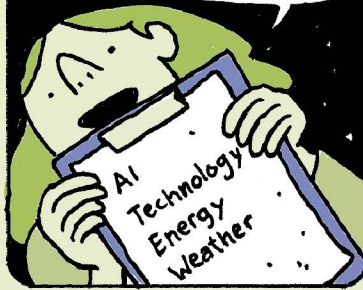


WHAT DO STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLS?

Monash researchers worked with Monash Tech School to develop a world-first 'AI Energy Futures' curriculum and learning resources.



The project asked students to investigate the impacts of anticipated global megatrends on future learning.



Things like:

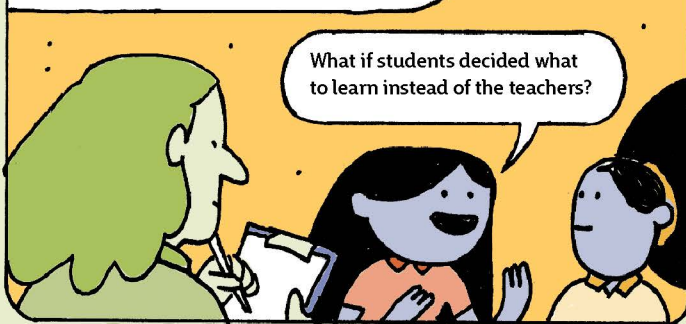
Working in small groups, students engaged in discussions and activities to develop their own future school scenarios.



Alright, please direct your attention to the flashcards on the tables.

Students used a "Future School Scenario Planner" and generative AI tools to guide the development of their future schools as well as a series of flash cards that reflected aspects of industry scenarios, such as:

Who decides what and how students learn?



What if students decided what to learn instead of the teachers?

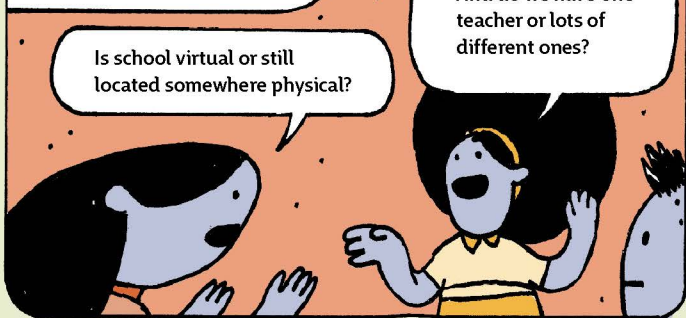
Who controls the access to school?



What if a private company ran the school?

Or us kids?

Where do you go to learn?



Is school virtual or still located somewhere physical?

And do we have one teacher or lots of different ones?

How does technology influence learning and to what extent?



Do students need to know information, or just how to find it?

Students also responded to a series of wildcards that presented various climate change, AI and energy considerations on the future of schooling.



Then students presented their scenarios at the end of the three days.



Wait, do we really have to present?

Yeah, maybe in the future, students won't need to present their work?

Nooo!

SCENARIO ONE: NEW HORIZONS 2070

Because of overcrowding and pollution in cities, our school will be part of a global network located in the desert!

The school will be futuristic and spacious with a big emphasis on botany and green spaces.

It'll be a big, long building, able to house all the students and staff, reducing the school's impact on the environment

A student's day starts with a personalised greeting from an AI hologram and is organised based on their interests and skills.

Morning, AI!

Good morning, Kate.

Along with your schedule, the AI informs students about any potential hazards as it hands them their tablet.

A sandstorm is expected, so best keep inside.

It also takes attendance with a retinal scan.

Don't blink...

WHIRR...
CLICK!
SCAN!

Math and science are important subjects, and lessons are designed to help prepare us for the workforce.

Our classrooms are state of the art with all the latest tech and are led by the school's AI.

Comfy?

Yup!

We have some human teachers too, but their job is to assist the AI and provide emotional support.

Most of the staff in the school are robots

Lunches are amazing at our school because they are 3D printed by a five star Michelin rated restaurant!

And when you walk into the canteen, the AI scans your stomach and so it knows the best food to print for you that day.

Scanning...

You require three serves of broccoli

Wait, what?

No, chips! I require chips!

SCENARIO TWO: SPRING HILL ACADEMY 2050

Our school is designed around sustainability, innovation and creating a positive, safe environment for students to learn.

It's located on top of an interconnected skysrise complex, and has a dome on the top to maintain air quality and protect students from UV exposure.

Up so high, the school will generate its own energy using turbines, solar panels, and (when it rains) hydropower.

And while technology is a big part of the school, we prioritise human relationships and learning is focused on practical knowledge and individual student interests.

The school is responsive to environmental conditions, like, the school hours change depending on time of year.

On days when the weather is too extreme to travel, we learn virtually from home using holograms.

The school is a part of an interglobal system, so if a teacher is absent, a teacher from another country's school fills in via hologram.



Humanities is our first class, and then we have Health and Manners.

We exercise for the first half of the class to keep fit and then we learn to treat individuals properly.

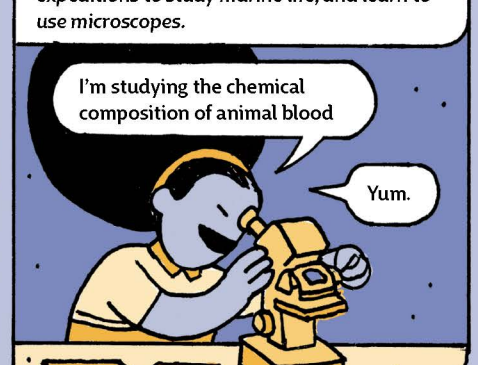
...getting a good job someday, sir..



Some of our other subjects are sign language, maths, and finance.

Finance covers business and investing, but also practical stuff like taxes and budgeting.

In Science, we study climate change, take VR expeditions to study marine life, and learn to use microscopes.



SCENARIO THREE: RICH PARK HIGH

Have you ever wished you had Albert Einstein as your science teacher, or Leonardo da Vinci teaching you to paint?

Ever wished your school had swimming and surfing on sport days?

How about teleport eggs? Do you even know what those are?

And what if wolves attack? Do you have an emergency shelter just for that?

Well, Rich Park High has all of that.

And we're rich.

Our school is seven stories high, with each year on a different floor.

Seniors are on the top floor and they have everything!

The school is right on the beach and we get all our energy from hydroelectric generators.

We have a high tech canteen where you can get lunch for free.

And alcohol!

They serve alcohol as well!

Since the school is on the Gold Coast near the water, we envision the school using the beach water for energy.

We also rarely get in trouble here! But if you use too much of the school's energy, then you get suspended or detention.

Energy consumption exceeded! Detention!

Yes! Come to life!

Aw, what? But the school is rich!

We have all the usual subjects like Maths, English, Science and Art, but we also have Howling Moon and Alpha.

Alpha stands for Amazing, Loving, Phenomenal learners, Happy, and An outstanding Alpha.

And everyone needs some help sometimes too, so in any subject, at any time, teachers are there to support you with anything.

Howling Moon is basically music class, only it sounds cooler.

In that class we train to be more independent.

Miss, we need a drummer!

On it!

REFLECTING ON THE PROJECT WITH STUDENTS.

At the end of our three days, we asked the students to reflect on the future of education, AI, energy, and the other major topics of the project.

Do you think it's important to think about the future?

Hm...

I do think the future is important, because...

if something were to happen in the future and we haven't been focused on it at all, and we were completely unprepared, it'd be a lot harder than if we had prepared for it.

Yeah

A lot of videos on YouTube show the future as a negative thing...

like, there's going to be wars and global warming will ruin the planet.

But thinking about future schools has helped me see the future in a positive way.

Okay, what about robots and AI? Any thoughts about that?

Well...

When we learnt that we had to use servers for data and it uses a lot of water, it was quite shocking,

because I thought, well, the server just had one big fan cooling it down, but I never realised they would use so much water.

Yeah, it can be surprising how interconnected all of these issues are with the natural world.

I feel like the world doesn't care enough about climate change.

And people in power, they're so focused on power and wealth that they don't care what they're doing to the environment.

And it seems that projects, especially technology projects they think that oh, it's gonna help with research and stuff, but they don't know what they're doing to the environment, especially like the Arctic and stuff.

Like when you see all these icebergs melting, it breaks your heart.

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