

# TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS?

As the world develops and technology becomes increasingly important in our everyday lives, our children need the skills that enable them to participate confidently as informed members of society and have a balanced and successful life.

With technological development and globalisation, the skills and knowledge being taught at school are also changing. In a time of high-speed internet, cell phones, and iPods, it is essential that our children develop a broad technological literacy and competence in using existing technologies and creating solutions to technological problems.

In schools today, students are being offered a wide range of opportunities through Technology education. Technology extends students' knowledge and experiences to develop the broad technological literacy that is essential to all kinds of work, university study and a successful life.

Technology is offered in most schools in the areas of Materials, ICT, Electronics, and Food Technology. However, increasingly these boundaries are dissolving due to the multidisciplinary nature of Technology. Food Technology, for example, also involves food packaging (materials) and marketing (graphics and ICT). This provides a unique and fun learning experience that is challenging and rewarding to all students.

In Technology, students learn to be creative and innovative in generating ideas. They learn to be responsible and independent thinkers as they develop lateral and divergent thinking to identify, trial, evaluate potential solutions and explore factors that influence choice. Technology classes provide opportunities for interaction with business and industry, so students gain professional and practical experience. Technology is an approved subject for university entrance.

In our current economic climate it is important for New Zealanders to be equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills in using existing technologies to create innovative solutions to technological problems. Technology helps students to develop such competencies and, most importantly, it contributes to the intellectual and practical development of our children as individuals.

To find out more and to see New Zealand schools offering fantastic opportunities in Technology, visit [www.techlink.org.nz](http://www.techlink.org.nz).

*From top down, left to right:*  
Year 6 students from Sunnyhills School, Pakuranga, worked with traffic engineers to design safe drop-off zones, to reinforce road safety messages and relieve traffic congestion around their school.  
Year 12 students from Hillcrest High School, Hamilton, developed their own interactive multimedia CD-ROMs using industry best practice.  
A Year 12 Wellington College student designed and built a magna air hockey table for the staff room of the local supermarket.  
Senior Food Technology classes at Garin College, Nelson, worked with a Sealord food technologist, learning about industry techniques and practices.  
Year 13 Queen Margaret College students worked with Te Papa to design and create a window display.



VISIT [WWW.TECHLINK.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.TECHLINK.ORG.NZ)

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOMS IN NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS