

# Varsity College invests in technology for its 21st century learners



Varsity College's 21st century learning vision met by HP Pro Tablet 10 EE solution

**Industry**  
Education

**Objective**  
To fulfil the school's vision of being a leader in educational innovation and achievement

**Approach**  
To search for and deploy a classroom technology solution that would replace older and outdated laptops that were limiting the teaching and learning opportunities for the school's students at the earliest age

**IT matters**

- Delivered speedy and seamless classroom connection to the internet
- Provided a technology that allowed teachers more flexibility and productivity in the classroom
- Provided faster and more reliable ease of access to the internet

**Business matters**

- Delivered a durable and robust device which eliminated the previously high rate of breakages
- Provided affordable, easy to use devices that could be used in multiple locations
- Enabled youngest students to adapt comfortably and more quickly to educational technology solution



**“Technology is critical to the modern learning environment because we have 21st century young learners. The college felt its vision was being constrained by the older, more limited laptops that were no longer suitable in helping the students fulfil their true potential.”**

– Steve McLuckie, executive principal, Varsity College

## Youngest learners empowered by classroom tablet technology

Varsity College's vision of delivering 21st century learning capability to its youngest students was being obstructed by the school's outdated laptop resources. Having analysed the market, Varsity deployed HP Pro Tablet 10 EE devices for the children in the first three years of its primary campus.





## Challenge

### 21st century learning vision

A group of Australian school children, aged between four and seven years, are the spearhead for a 21st century learning vision whereby the bright minds of tomorrow are being inspired with the latest innovations in education technology.

Varsity College, with more than 3,200 students, is located on Queensland's Gold Coast. It is the largest primary campus in Australia. The philosophy governing the school's vision is outlined by Steve McLuckie, executive principal, Varsity College: "Varsity College is committed to being a leader in educational innovation and achievement. We do this by providing modern facilities and technology which expand opportunities for learning."

McLuckie adds: "Technology is critical to the modern learning environment because we have 21st century young learners. There is a threefold focus: Who we are teaching, what we are teaching and how we are teaching. The how we are teaching is just so important, it has prompted us to find different ways to teach our learners, delivering opportunities which respond to their different abilities and their different levels."

### Educational vision being handicapped

After a decade of strong growth and development, the college was facing the challenge of offering its students an even greater opportunity through a more personalised and interactive environment.

Carmel Ord, head of department, eLearning Prep Year (Kindergarten) to Year Six comments: "The college requires technology that not only gives students of different ages and learning stages the ability to complete their work efficiently and successfully, but also empower them to push the boundaries of creativity without restriction." She expands on that creativity concept. "We realised our major challenge was to move away from being just a consumer of technology to more a creator with technology. We're very aware of a greater uptake of coding and designing in schools, and we want to be at the forefront of that momentum and so prepare our students as early as possible to become really strong designers."

## Solution

### Meeting diverse needs of teachers and students

Varsity College decided it needed affordable, robust and long-lasting devices that could be used in multiple locations and connect easily to the internet. Ord explains: "Reliability and flexibility were just two key considerations with our choice of device; we also wanted a suite of features customised to meet the diverse needs of our students and teachers."

The school chose HP Pro Tablet 10 EE Tablets and decided to place ten in each of the three different year levels, the four and five year old preparatory (kindergarten); the six year old Year One and seven year old Year Two. Specifically built for education, the HP Pro tablets had the features that measured up to the school's desire to place them in the hands of the youngest children.



Ord says the HP Pro Tablet 10 EE had a battery life of over nine hours “which meant they could last the school day and deliver a reliable dual band wireless and WWAN connectivity.” She points out the accompanying charging station also ensured continued productivity for teachers and students alike.

The tablet’s hard shell cover and durable keyboard case enabled freedom of movement for even the youngest of students. “With the previous devices we suffered a high level of damage which inevitably interrupted the teaching and learning process. Now we don’t worry much at all about breakages.” The HP Pro 10 EE tablets also came with a tethered on board stylus pen for a natural handwriting experience and an HP School Pack with education specific software.

## Benefits

### **Flexibility, accessibility and durability**

Ord highlights the range of benefits the HP Pro tablet solution is delivering to Varsity College. “Our teachers are enjoying the greater teaching and learning flexibility and productivity they are achieving with the devices. The reliability and ease of access to the internet is a significant improvement on the older devices. Teachers love the hard shell covers on the devices. This durability allows the teacher great flexibility in deciding where they want the children to learn. They can move around inside or outside the classroom without the old fear we had of damaging the tablets.”

Jasmine White teaches Year One at the school. She describes how the tablets have changed her teaching day. “There are twenty-five children in each class for Year One, so having those ten tablets I am able to work with more children. It is not a case of just using the tablets as a ‘you go and sit in a group’ activity; instead we can individualise and utilise towards their needs. So I might have two children working on a certain mathematics addition task and have others learning how to form their letters. I’ve really been able to guide more children directly to where they need to go.”

She explains how important it is for the younger children to learn about collaboration from very early on. “Being able to problem solve with technology and being able to work together in a group is a teachable skill. Enabling them to work in pairs on the tablets and getting them to work through problem solving and helping each other during certain apps has really been beneficial for them.

“The device is also ideal for rotational teaching where the class can be split into smaller collaborative groups sharing the devices while the teacher works with another group on their project. Then, when it is appropriate, the teacher can use the VGA cable and throw images up on the interactive white boards and share the learning with the entire class.”

## Customer solution at a glance

### Hardware

- HP Pro Tablet 10 EE

### Increased classroom productivity

Susie Dearlove teaches Year Two classes. “Since the HP Pro tablets were introduced I’ve noticed that the students are more engaged with their learning and they really love what they’ve been doing with these devices in different learning environments. For both the students and myself there is noticeably increased productivity because I can set them tasks on the devices and they are able to own their learning. I’ve noticed that they are really becoming confident in their ability to access the programs and apps such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs or Literacy Planet.”

Dearlove explains: “When giving half my class devices and the other half not I’ve noticed that the children with the devices can then work together collaboratively. Their knowledge has been strengthened with the use of the tablet and they have really grown in confidence to just work on their own while I’m working with another individual or group.”

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– Carmel Ord, head of department, eLearning Prep Year to Year Six, Varsity College

The detachable keyboard has proved popular with the Year Two children. Dearlove says: “In the earlier years the children respond well to the touch pad which they find easy and intuitive to use, but in my class the children are learning to touch type with the keyboard and that is adding an extra dimension to the learning process.”

Carmel Ord reflects on the completeness of the HP Pro Tablet 10 EE product solution. “We really love the touch capacity, but love also having the stylus and the detachable keyboards.

“And on an equally important practical note it comes with a lockable charging box. This is critical in classroom environment where lots of resources such as chairs, tables and the children are gathered. We have no worries about cords lying around or misplacing the tablets. We feel HP has really thought through how this product should work in the teaching and learning environment.”

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