

Case Study: Thomastown West Community Hub

EAL Homework Club

Background

Thomastown West Community Hub (TWCH) is part of Whittlesea Community Connections. As well as learning clubs, TWCH hosts a range of other programs including adult English classes, refugee support groups and school holiday programs.

The Program

The EAL Homework Club targets students from Thomastown West Primary School and the English Language School (primary) based at Thomastown Primary School. The focus is on conversational English, providing individual tutoring to support EAL background students and building social connections. Up to 12 students, mainly in years 3 to 6, attend each week.

“We make it as much fun as possible, as well as being a learning environment.” Staff member

Sessions start with conversation and active games. Most students bring a reader or choose from the resources at the Hub. The club then provides 1:1 or 1:2 tutoring for students. The aim is to support children to understand and complete homework tasks, set by the school teachers.

There is close liaison with the school and teachers keep in touch regularly about the students' progress. This is really valuable for the club and helps to address the students' academic needs.

Holiday activities provide further opportunities for informal English conversations and build rapport between volunteers and students.



Outcomes for Students and Families

“The tutors speak and I learn stuff to help my English. I don't feel shy anymore, I can speak in class.” Student year 5

Key outcomes for students include:

- Increased confidence in English
- Improvements in reading skills
- Development of friendships
- Development of positive mentoring relationships with tutors
- Increased ability to request help from the appropriate person.

Both teachers and parents report improvements related to homework club attendance.

“You see an immediate impact- you see it in the faces of the kids. They want to be here, feeling part of the community.” Staff member

Being part of a community hub ensures engagement with parents occurs across a number of programs. These links support family engagement and help families to feel part of the community.

This resource was produced by CMY

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