

Parent Information Sheet:

Welcome to the Axon Education centre. On the following pages we will outline how Axon works, what your child will be doing and what involvement parents can have.

Axon is a fully interactive computer based educational tool. The centre uses state of the art computer programs which provide targeted lessons for your child.

How the Program works:

The student education programs, along with the written work, one to one elements and homework are designed to develop students skills in the areas of Mathematics, English, Spelling, Grammar, Writing, Problem solving and many more. Each student will be assessed when they first enrol, in order to establish the level of ability and the courses required. Once a student starts the program a student history is established. This history is unique to each student and allows the teacher to assess and address each individual area of the subject enrolled.

Once a student begins at Axon, they are constantly assessed. Every question they answer adds to their history. It also adds to the database of knowledge that we have about the way they answer questions and the areas of greatest need.

For the first few sessions the student is placed into initial placement mode (IPM). During this time the program in conjunction with the teacher will make constant adjustments to the level of difficulty. This is designed to find the students "just right" level. After the IPM the program will still constantly adjust the students levels, but with smaller increments.

Within the history created for each student, information about where a student struggles and the way that they learn best is analysed. As a result a student may be given more repetition or alternate presentations or alternate methods for the same style of question. Where required the program will also advise where a student needs to have personalised instruction on concepts they do not understand. In these cases, our fully qualified teaching staff will ensure the student receives the attention they require.

The computer will also adjust the method of teaching based on the age and ability level of a student. EG. 1) A six year old child will have colourful characters and spoken questions, often broken down phonetically or spoken in small sentences (each child wears headphones and is spoken to individually). A clapping clown or a parachuting bear may be used to recognise a correct answer. 2) An 11 year old working on area may have a ruler or protractor available on screen to help them with their work. The colourful screens will become a little more sophisticated with a gold ribbon recognising a correct answer. 3) A 16 year old student will have advanced tools available on screen including a

scientific calculator (if required). The graphics are in keeping with the age group and will include photographic images and full motion video.

Unlike many other programs, children studying at Axon are NOT held back or made to repeat again and again over areas until they grow bored. The program recognises that everyone needs a challenge and will direct the level of questions to reflect this philosophy. Advanced students can go further ahead and students struggling on a concept are given all the help they need to catch up. When an area is difficult, the program introduces tutorials or special lessons to explain the concept in greater detail or in an alternate way. Because Axon is constantly assessing the work, students will not be given work that is beyond their level of understanding. The students own speed, level of understanding, and confidence will dictate the “just right” level for them.

In the Axon centre:

To get the best out of the student and the program, all Axon centres are air conditioned and carpeted. Even on the hottest day the centres provide a comfortable working environment. Toilets and washrooms are onsite and all facilities are kept clean and fresh.

Every student has their own personal password and they can choose from any of the computers within the centre. Once they have logged on, the computer is for their sole use during their session. There are no shared computers or facilities at Axon.

To make coming to the centre as easy as possible, we are open at the times that suit you best. Classes generally operate from 4pm onwards however some classes are specifically for VCE students, so please contact the centre for individual times. The centre is open throughout school holidays and curriculum days. The only time we are closed is from mid December through until mid January. Work can be provided during the break on request.

Learning should also be about fun and incentive. Students are allowed to play computer games (non violent) once their work is completed and prior to the next students arrival. It should be noted that students are not able to go onto games until their work is finished and they are unable to attend earlier or later than scheduled for additional game time.

Each student can record and monitor their progress. At the end of each session a report card indicating how many questions a student has answered correctly and incorrectly appears on screen for the student to record their days work.

Positive reinforcement:

Every child will respond much better, and therefore learn more quickly if praised for their success rather than chastised for their failings. Within the centre we work hard at developing a relationship with each child. This may mean anything from knowing what sport they play, to giving them praise for an achievement or telling them a joke or story. As a result we expect them to communicate with us if they are having any difficulties in any area. Please let us know if there is anything important happening in their lives or if they are having any problems.

Remedial and children with learning difficulties:

Please remember that Axon is not an overnight cure. Many of the problems that a student is experiencing may be as a result of having missed key building block areas or not having understood concepts taught early in their school career. At times they may feel frustrated or have problems. PLEASE support them through these difficulties and let us know.... We may be able to help, or adjust the program to help see them through. They will, with your support, get there, but in some cases they may need to go backwards in order to go forward.

Children with learning difficulties and in need of remediation will often need a slower path with many more steps. Sometimes we breakthrough and there is a spurt of learning often followed by a plateau before the next concept is understood. As a result the remedial students often feel frustrated or resentful. Teaching in these cases is about patience and support. Please help us to help the student by supporting our efforts.

Advanced students:

Axon allows students to progress at their speed of ability. If they fully understand a concept we will move on. As a result many students attend Axon specifically because they seek advancement. Many students will progress far beyond the limitations of the classroom and will seek scholarship or extension work. In all cases we can work with the students and parents to provide as they need.

Parent Reports:

Reports are available on request after a student has completed the initial placement mode (IPM). The reports will advise parents of the grade level by individual strand within the enrolled subject. Parents are welcome at any time to call and arrange a time to discuss the reports or students progress.

Fee Payment:

Fees are due on a monthly basis and are payable on or before the 1st of each month. A fee envelope will be sent home approximately one week before the end of the month. You can return the fee envelope with either cash or cheque inside on or before the required date. Cheques should be made out to Axon Education Centres. If you wish to pay by credit card please arrive prior to classtime so that the teacher can process the payment with as little disruption to students as possible.

Axon operates on a monthly fee structure. Classes are planned well in advance so that the correct balance of courses and levels meet the student's needs. As such we ask for a minimum of 2 weeks notice should you wish to discontinue or suspend for any period of time. Fees are payable for the month or part thereof, so should you be unable to attend on a given night, feel free to call prior to the missed class to arrange for a makeup class. Missed classes where the centre hasn't been informed are forfeited and no discount is given for unattended sessions.. As would be appreciated, if informed we can arrange for other students to use the vacant timeslot if we are advised in time.

Handicapped and Special needs students:

The Axon program offers particular advantages to handicapped and special needs students. As the program uses a variety of approaches the learning experience is always changing and always interesting. Students do not need to have had experience with computers to be able to use the programs; many of the actions are completed with the use of a mouse. Sound based courses or levels can be adjusted for the hearing impaired. Longer time allowances for answering questions can be manually adjusted to allow for those with limited motor skills.

Homework:

In addition to the work a student does within the Axon centre, a small amount of daily homework will also be provided. The homework will take a number of forms, including worksheets, workbooks with exercises, story writing sheets, textbooks, reviews, story books etc. Axon uses a resource library of hundreds of different texts and thousands of different worksheets that will allow the teacher to specifically target the area of need. The homework volume will be adjusted according to the individual students and the amount of work they are currently getting from school. Should you wish to have more or less homework at any given time, parents are asked to advise the teacher prior to classtime.

School Holidays:

Traditionally Axon operates throughout the school holidays but at different times. Usually class times will commence at 2.30 during the holidays so that parents can adjust their day or time and allow them to get away or do make up classes. The holidays are a critical time for students. Many slip back over the break and the teacher needs to re teach the concepts they were working on prior to the break. Students that attend the centre during the holidays invariably start that much ahead of their peers. If you are going away, advise the centre and we can arrange for homework to be taken with you or for make up classes on your return.

Problems:

There are none. Or at least none that are solvable. If you have a question at any time you are welcome to contact the centre to arrange a time for a personal discussion about your needs. The centre is there to help; we are not locked into an inflexible approach. We will do whatever we can to help in your particular circumstances.