**Learning from Learners**

**(Breakout session 2)**

The panel comprised students from Mount Waverley Secondary College, Trafalgar Secondary College and Nossal High School who are representatives on VICSRC.

The VICSRC is the peak body representing school-age students with a Board made up of 15 school age students.

Learning frontiers

This is the challenge:

* 38% of learners report being bored at school
* 26% of students think that what they are learning in school is irrelevant
* 70% of young people currently enter the workforce in jobs that will be radically affected by automation.
* 75% of the fastest growing occupations require STEM knowledge.
* The average 12 year old will have 17 jobs across five different industries in their lifetime
* Australian primary school teachers are required to spend only 1.5-2.5 hours on science and technology in a 30 hour teaching week.
* Students experience the middle school slump which is the ideal space for innovation
* Students have uncertainly about what they are doing and their next steps
* Boredom leads to a lack of engagement
* The skills that students want for the future are not all academic
* Students don’t know what skills are relevant to attain jobs, so it is often difficult to make the right choices across subjects
* Career counsellors offer advice – but students would like more, especially around work experience opportunities
* Having entrepreneurial skills is incredibly important, but is often self-taught
* While there are resources available, students often don’t know about them
* Social media could be better utilised (spread of information etc)

Where to from here in the ‘run for excellence’?

* It is important to bridge the knowing and doing divide.
* Introduce flexible hours.
* Form connections to local business/ communities-mentorship
* Choice: offer a variety of subjects-global studies/languages
* Tech Schools could provide the link to the skills needed for employment
* Automation frees people up to do more creative thinking and problem solving
* Key skills that students want for the future include the ability to adapt and create their own jobs and having the skills and ability to act as global citizens (make an impact on the world)
* Students want a space where they can make a choice about how and what they learn
* Tap into existing resources – utilise parents and community members
* Provide more opportunities for students to interact with tertiary lecturers – blur the lines between sectors
* Utilise the technology available (i.e. more possibilities with ipads - not just used as a PC replacement)