Students starting kindergarten this year will graduate in 2025 and many of the jobs and careers they will choose are, as yet, unimagined. Even just a decade ago, jobs like social media strategist, user experience specialist, data scientist and sustainability manager were unheard of. A key question for schools today is how do we prepare young people for an unknowable future. This edition of CCSPNet looks at some of the ways schools are addressing this question.

Curriculum and Core Capabilities
The new Australian curriculum recognises that ‘disciplinary’ or subject knowledge should be taught in ways that also develops skills and concepts that help students learn how to think critically and learn for themselves, so they can use the knowledge in new situations and in an environment where there is rapidly changing information, technologies, jobs and social conditions.

In addition to core content knowledge and capabilities such as literacy and numeracy, the new Australian Curriculum includes five other general capabilities:

- Information and communication technology (ICT) capability
- Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and social capability
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding.

The Classroom Environment
The physical classroom environment can also make an important contribution to learning. Increasingly we are designing classrooms that reflect and support the diverse learning styles of students and provide opportunities for more flexible and innovative teaching methods. It is not uncommon now to find classrooms with lounges, beanbags, learning booths (pods), carpeted walls, sound rooms, computer stations, electronic smartboards and ‘rooms within rooms’ for quiet work, one-on-one and group instruction. Classrooms can look and feel very different from the more traditional classrooms that many parents remember.
New Technologies in the Classroom

New technologies, including digital technologies, are helping to change the way students learn and the way teachers teach. Some of these technologies include digital devices (tablets, smart-boards, laptops), web based resources and portals (wikis, blogs, glogs), podcasts and social media such as Twitter and Pinterest.

How can parents help?

- Be prepared to learn something new - be open to new ways of teaching and learning.
- Take an active interest in what’s being taught (content and capabilities) AND how it’s being taught (new technologies and teaching strategies).
- Provide opportunities for young people to demonstrate at home how they use new technologies and tools in their learning. Don’t be afraid of technology!
- Have conversations with your children about responsible use of technology, including social media. Set rules around around technology in the home, for example length of screen time, use of phones and laptops in bedrooms and privacy settings.

This edition of CCSPNet is supported by the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund