Workshop abstract

Alfriston College is a new state secondary school (opened in 2004) in Manukau City, Auckland NZ. The College is designed to respond to the needs of 21st century students. This workshop reviews the learning philosophy of the school and comments about the research that underpins it. Significant detail will also be provided about innovations that have been implemented in curriculum, property and organisation. These developments include–

- **The Learning Park**: the school built environment viewed as a theme-park dedicated to learning.
- **The Soundscape**: the school network is used to store and distribute sound files to groups of between 4 and 500 speakers located throughout the school classrooms and grounds.
- **Three Day Episodes**: the timetable is suspended once each term for three days. All students and their teachers engage in intensive, project based, cross-age-group, performance assessed learning.
- **ICT infused in classrooms**: Alfriston has no computer laboratories; over 300 networked PCs are located in classrooms.
- **Flexible space**: operable walls create the opportunity to vary classroom size with ease.
- **Integrated learning programmes**: year nine programmes are collaboratively planned by all teachers around a major concept or idea. Each term a new concept is selected.
- **Independent learning programmes**: selected students are ‘licensed to learn’ and are able to negotiate their learning with senior staff. They are then monitored and assisted but not directly supervised.

John Locke is the current and foundation Principal of Alfriston College; he was closely involved in the design of the school. He has presented at many conferences including a 2004 OECD conference in London on 21st century schools and the 2007 International Confederation of Principal’s Convention. The establishment of Alfriston College is described in a recently published book 'Building for the Future'.