Brief summary of proposed workshop:

**Developing a Thinking School** will examine how schools might incorporate thinking strategies as a whole school strategy and what programs can be established to assist teachers to use thinking strategies in their classroom practice.

Detailed description of Proposed Workshop (purpose and rationale of presentation, learning objectives, and outline of presentation):

**Purpose:**

This workshop will explore how Brighton Grammar Junior School developed a vision for future learning environments, focussed on incorporating thinking strategies and provided all teachers with effective professional learning opportunities and resources. We will examine the Thinking Strategies Scope & Sequence developed and practised by Brighton Grammar Junior School. The Scope & Sequence structure is designed to support and develop the problem solving and metacognitive skills of students and is a resource for teachers. Furthermore, the workshop will:

- share the experience of a leading Australian school
- explore a range of thinking strategies
- open dialogue with other schools that have the same interest but different experiences

**Rationale:**

The ‘information explosion’ of the past ten years has put knowledge at the fingertips of anyone with a computer, or even more recently, a mobile phone. Any education system that aims to remain relevant must look at not only imparting information but at making creative and innovative use of information. Thinking strategies empower our students with skills that allow them to successfully evaluate information and make informed choices about how they use it. These strategies also give our students a greater range problem solving skills.

**Learning objectives:**

- participants will look at the development of a scope and sequence, exploring the experience of the staff at Brighton Grammar School
- participants will look at some of the strategies needed to develop a successful thinking school, exploring the experience of the staff at Brighton Grammar
- participants will have the opportunity to discuss a vision for the classroom learning environments of the future

**Outline of presentation:**

Brighton Grammar School is one of Australia’s leading schools. It is an Anglican Grammar school for boys from ages 3 to school leaving. It was founded in 1886 and is situated in the Melbourne bayside. Over the past five years, the staff of the Junior School at Brighton Grammar developed a Thinking Strategies Scope and
Sequence. This Scope and Sequence draws on the work of the world’s leading thinkers and educators, including Art Costa and Edward de Bono and provides for our students a range of strategies that can be used to solve problems both inside the classroom and in real life.

This workshop aims to look at the process undertaken by Brighton Grammar in the development of the Scope and Sequence, looking at specific features, which assisted in its development and supported staff and/or students. It will outline the features of the Scope and Sequence, linking them to current best practise.

Strategies examined will be:

- Thinking Hats
- Extended Brainstorming
- Thinker’s Keys
- Questioning Techniques
- Bloom’s Taxonomy
- Habits of Mind
- The thinking classroom

These will be examined in the context of fitting them into our existing school curriculum and practical examples of how these have been used with students will be shown.

The workshop will also briefly look at where our school is heading and what it aims for the future of the Thinking Strategies Scope and Sequence.

The Presenter

Dale Sheppard has been teaching and learning in schools for over twenty years. In 2002, he developed a website that allows staff to record and search thinking skills activities. This site is currently being used as part of the Thinking Strategies Scope and Sequence. In association with the Brighton Grammar Junior School Leadership Team, Dale developed the Thinking Strategy Scope and Sequence and is currently coordinating this within the Junior School. Dale is also a member of the International Boys’ School Coalition 2006 Action research team investigating the use of digital technology to engage boys in learning and Project Coordinator of the Collaborative Virtual Environment, a project funded by the Australian Federal Government through the Australian Schools Innovation in Science Technology and Mathematics project. In 2006 he presented at ‘Best of Boys – an African Experience’ the IBSC 13th Annual Conference in Johannesburg, ‘Connecting Learning’, the ICT Education in Victoria Conference and 'Leading the Way Forward', the Brighton Grammar School Staff conference.