



**High Possibility Classrooms as a pedagogical framework for technology integration in classrooms: An inquiry in two Australian secondary schools**

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## High Possibility Classrooms as a pedagogical framework for technology integration in classrooms: An inquiry in two Australian secondary schools

Understanding how well teachers integrate digital technology in learning is the subject of considerable debate in education. High Possibility Classrooms (HPC) is a pedagogical framework drawn from research on exemplary teachers' knowledge of technology integration in Australian school classrooms. The framework is being used to support teachers who teach various stages of schooling to take 'pedagogical steps' in their practice with technology. This paper focuses on the use of the HPC conceptual framework in a study of seven teachers and their students at two secondary schools in New South Wales (NSW), Australia. Analysis confirms the practicality of this conceptual framework for technology integration in secondary school classrooms. This inquiry has implications for addressing the reluctance of teachers to integrate technology in curriculum, and the paper concludes by suggesting that more schools might consider using conceptual frameworks like HPC to support secondary school teachers to enhance student learning with technology.

Keywords: technology integration; pedagogy; secondary school education; conceptual frameworks, theory

## Introduction

There is no doubt that pedagogical change in many secondary schools is urgent (Robinson & Aronica, 2015; Wagner & Dintersmith, 2015). In a keynote address at a education technology conference in Sydney, Australia, Professor Eric Mazur (2016) from Harvard University claimed: “students are more asleep during lectures than when they are in bed”. This statement penetrates to the core of what some secondary school students experience every day in classrooms: pedagogy reliant on didactic approaches, memorisation and test-based assessments. These are common practices in Australian secondary schools (Evers & Kneyber, 2016; Lingard, Thompson, & Sellar, 2016).

This paper reports on research conducted with six classroom teachers in two New South Wales (NSW) secondary schools and a head teacher from one of these schools. The classroom teachers identified that their use of a pedagogical framework known as High Possibility Classrooms (HPC) for technology enhanced learning supported them to plan and program engaging lessons for young people in their classrooms. Students in these teachers’ classrooms described ‘a different approach’ and expressed liking their learning more when the classroom was less teacher centred; indeed, they pleaded for teachers in other classes to ‘stop lecturing them’.

To foreground this discussion, it is important to understand that the HPC framework, the subject of this paper, is not simply a set of instructional strategies. It is a conceptual framework (Miles & Huberman, 1994) that emerged from research (Author, 2013) on exemplary teachers’ knowledge of technology integration in the classrooms of Australian school students aged 6 to 16 years (Belbase, 2016; Groundwater-Smith & Mockler, 2016; Reynolds, 2015). Teachers in the original study conceptualised their knowledge of digital technology integration based on theory, creativity, public learning,

1  
2  
3 life preparation and contextual accommodations; these five conceptions are supported  
4  
5 by 22 underpinning themes of pedagogical strategies and student learning processes  
6  
7 (Author, 2013, 2015a, 2015b).  
8

9  
10 The HPC framework's validity was further strengthened in a later study (Author,  
11  
12 2015a), and it is now being used by an increasing number of teachers in primary and  
13  
14 secondary schools in Australia as a means to shift pedagogical practices and better align  
15  
16 students' digital lives outside school with classroom learning that is premised on  
17  
18 inquiry, solving real world problems and critical thinking (Hewes, 2016; Lin, Zhang, &  
19  
20 Zhang, 2017; Littlejohn, 2016). HPC is the subject of a number of ongoing studies. The  
21  
22 concern of the research reported in this paper is whether a pedagogical framework  
23  
24 developed from exemplary teachers' knowledge of technology integration could be  
25  
26 enacted to support and change pedagogy to more student-centred approaches in the  
27  
28 classrooms of the teachers who participated in the study, without it having to fit  
29  
30 purposive criteria like those in the earlier study (Author, 2013).  
31  
32

33  
34 The terms *technology* and *technology integration* used here refer to tools created  
35  
36 by human knowledge to combine resources to produce desired products, solve  
37  
38 problems, fulfil needs or satisfy wants. As such, they include *digital technology* and  
39  
40 how it is used or integrated for learning in schools (Author, 2015a).  
41  
42  
43  
44

## 45 **Background literature**

### 46 *Frameworks for technology integration in schools*

47  
48 Pedagogical frameworks for technology integration play a critical role in supporting  
49  
50 teachers in schools to take risks with approaches to teaching that afford students  
51  
52 opportunities to learn in different ways (Groff & Mouza, 2008). Conceptual frameworks  
53  
54 like TPACK (Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge) developed by Mishra  
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1  
2  
3 and Koehler (2006) have taken the scholarship of technology integration ahead in this  
4  
5 area. Thousands of studies of TPACK have led teachers, schools leaders, education  
6  
7 systems and policy makers to explore and re-think ways to enact technology integration  
8  
9 in education settings (Graham, 2011; Harris & Hofer, 2014; Koh, Chai, & Lee, 2015).

10  
11 For many experienced teachers, the development of TPACK reminds them:

12  
13  
14       Selecting adapting, and designing learning activities, projects, and units is review  
15  
16 work but the awareness of how digital tools and nondigital tools can be used in  
17  
18 the service of students' learning ... encompasses new information ... about the  
19  
20 planning/instructional design process. (Harris, 2008, p. 266)

21  
22  
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24  
25 HPC is a fresh conceptual framework for technology integration that has taken the  
26  
27 TPACK framework and built on it from research on exemplary teachers' knowledge of  
28  
29 technology integration in Australian primary and secondary school classrooms (Hewes,  
30  
31 2016; Littlejohn, 2016). The framework's five conceptions of theory, creativity, public  
32  
33 learning, life preparation and contextual accommodations (see Figure 1) form an  
34  
35 evidence-based scaffold that reflects these teachers' knowledge of technology  
36  
37 integration in action. Each conception is underpinned by themes of pedagogical  
38  
39 strategies and students' learning processes (see Table 1). For example, the first  
40  
41 conception, theory, refers to how:

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43  
44  
45       [The] teacher's technology philosophy in the classroom affects practice, and  
46  
47 is supported by themes: the construction of learning, purposeful teaching,  
48  
49 and planning ... [and] through implementation of these themes, the  
50  
51 teacher's actions impact students learning processes of enriching subject  
52  
53 matter ... reflective learning and shifting conversations and thinking ... it  
54  
55 engages students in authentic ways. (Author, 2015a, p. 150)

1  
2  
3 The other four HPC conceptions are also potent forces in the teachers' knowledge of  
4 technology integration. The second conception, creativity, has five themes: boosting  
5 learning through technology, creating opportunities for production, unleashing playful  
6 moments, supporting the teachers values and enabling differentiation of learning. In the  
7 public learning conception, technology scaffolds the performance of students' work in  
8 front of peers or for online audiences, and it enhances their learning outcomes. The  
9 fourth conception, life preparation, is supported by technology that operationalises the  
10 real world for students, gives them a voice, denotes ownership and responsibility, and is  
11 effective in engaging and motivating them. Contextual accomodations is the fifth  
12 conception. This refers to the understanding that while exemplary teachers' knowledge  
13 is considered personal they also have a professional responsibility for scheduling longer  
14 blocks of learning time over the school day, nurturing the community of learners in their  
15 classrooms, and using technology to 'define the game' of effective teaching (Author,  
16 2015a; Belbase, 2016; Groundwater-Smith & Mockler, 2016).  
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36 <Insert Figure 1 approximately here>  
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39 <Insert Table 1 approximately here>  
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44 *Some realities of technology in Australian secondary school classrooms and elsewhere*  
45

46 The Digital Education Revolution (DER) between 2008 and 2011 was the  
47 largest technology policy ever initiated by the Australian Government (Moyle, 2015).  
48 The AUD 2 billion program placed a mobile device in the hands of every public  
49 secondary school student in Years 9 to 12. Reports of its policy effects (Masters, 2014)  
50 and pedagogical impacts are inconclusive (Arthur, 2013; Howard & Mozejko, 2013).  
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57 However, what the DER did achieve was the provision of equitable access to a  
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3 technological tool that had ‘significant catalytic impact on secondary schools and  
4  
5 secondary school teaching across Australia’ (Danolo Partners, 2013, p. 5). It disrupted  
6  
7 the status quo and challenged the existing, mostly teacher-centred, pedagogies in senior  
8  
9 secondary school classrooms (Howard & Gigliotti, 2013).  
10

11  
12 We are reminded in other education literature that the promise of more  
13  
14 democratic, fairer roles for digital technologies has not been realised. Expressing  
15  
16 unease, Selwyn (2014) writes ‘the gulf ... persists between the rhetoric of how digital  
17  
18 technologies could be used in education and the realities of how digital technologies are  
19  
20 actually used in education’ (p. vii). There is an urgent need address the untidy reality of  
21  
22 technology use in secondary school classrooms, where it has a necessary place in school  
23  
24 learning.  
25

26  
27 Wagner & Dintersmith (2015) argue that for young people to live well now and  
28  
29 in the future there needs to be a re-imagining of school education. The examining of  
30  
31 teachers’ pedagogical approaches to technology integration is a core component of their  
32  
33 call for improved schooling experiences for young people. At the *White House Summit*  
34  
35 *on Next Generation High Schools* (The White House, 2015) there was widespread  
36  
37 agreement that the current model of secondary education does not serve students well in  
38  
39 terms of engagement, authenticity, and preparation for college or their future careers.  
40  
41 This urgent call is also seen in education reports from the United Kingdom (Department  
42  
43 for Education, 2010; Evers & Kneyber, 2016; Kelly, 2012), and resonates with an  
44  
45 important account (Fullan & Langworthy, 2014) that calls for a ‘radical change in  
46  
47 relationships between all of the key players in learning: students, teachers, technologies,  
48  
49 school cultures, curricula and assessments’ (p. 2). New and emerging pedagogies  
50  
51 require students to create fresh knowledge and connect it to the world using the power  
52  
53 of technology. The role of project-based learning (PBL) is common in such visions of  
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3 secondary school education where technology integration is important, and it provides  
4  
5 opportunities for students to engage in inquiry and leverage solutions to problems that  
6  
7 are vital to them and to the world outside (Boss & Krauss, 2014). Education research  
8  
9 needs to assist teachers in secondary schools to more effectively integrate technology in  
10  
11 student learning and understand how they may enact practice using new pedagogical  
12  
13 frameworks.  
14

15  
16 The main research question of this study was:

17  
18 How does the HPC framework support secondary school teachers to integrate  
19  
20 technology into student learning?  
21

22  
23 Two sub-questions underpinned the main question:

- 24  
25 i) What HPC conceptions and themes do the teachers use in lessons?  
26  
27 ii) How do teachers use a pedagogical framework like HPC to make learning  
28  
29 more engaging for students?  
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### 32 33 34 **Research context**

35  
36 The schools in the study, Melton High School (MHS) and Bally High School (BHS),  
37  
38 are public schools located in the northern suburbs of a major city and cater for students  
39  
40 aged 13 to 18 years. MHS is a medium-sized, academically selective co-educational  
41  
42 school, and BHS is a large comprehensive boys' school. At both schools WiFi  
43  
44 connectivity is inconsistent on most days, students have the option of bringing their own  
45  
46 technology devices, and the learning spaces are traditional, meaning they are often  
47  
48 small with rows of desks and chairs. The two sites were chosen on the basis that being  
49  
50 involved in a research project fitted with their 'other school commitments' and there  
51  
52 was a group of teachers in each who desired to integrate more technology into their  
53  
54 classroom practices.  
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3 The six classroom teachers who contributed represented a mix of curriculum  
4 areas and taught a blend of student age groups (N =143). They had varying lengths of  
5 teaching experience, ranging from early career to more than 30 years. The schools and  
6 participants are given pseudonyms. Table 2 gives further demographic details of the  
7 participating teachers.  
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16 <Insert Table 2 approximately here>  
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21 Groups of six to eight students selected at random from the teachers' classrooms  
22 representing a diversity of backgrounds participated in four focus groups (N=34). All  
23 teachers and students were informed of the research directions and ethical protocols.  
24  
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26  
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### 29 **Methodology : research design and analysis**

30  
31 The qualitative approach used for the research is consistent with case study  
32 methodology (Yin, 2009) involving classroom observations, teacher interviews, student  
33 focus groups and document analysis. Subjectivity in case study research is always a  
34 limitation (Abma & Widdershoven, 2011), and it was with these constraints in mind that  
35 the research proceeded. Participating teachers were recruited from an invitation sent to  
36 all secondary public school principals in NSW. Member checks were carried out on  
37 transcripts created from interviews and focus groups; collected data was managed using  
38 *NVivo 11* qualitative software and stored securely. The state education regulator  
39 endorsed the workshop as accredited teacher professional development (PD), and the  
40 study was approved by the University Human Ethics Research Committee (No.  
41 H100381) and was also agreed to by the State Education Research Approvals Process  
42 (No. 2013-2015232).  
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*Design of the study*

All teacher participants attended a two-hour HPC familiarisation workshop conducted by the researcher. The workshop agenda included:

- an explanation of the original HPC research (Author, 2013) and how exemplary teachers' conceptualised their knowledge of technology integration
- viewing video examples of student work
- distribution of a resource handbook that summarised key theoretical technology integration models, including TPACK (Mishra & Koehler, 2006).

After the workshop participating teachers spent time with the head teacher of MHS, planning and programming a minimum of two lessons using the HPC conceptions and themes. Each teacher was observed and interviewed twice. Questions covered the workshop, how they used HPC, whether it was supportive or not and examples of engaging lessons. Classroom observations were recorded on a digital grid setting out the presence or absence of the HPC conceptions and themes. Student focus groups took place after the lesson observations and discussed questions about technology and what it meant in the classroom. Questions required students to give examples of what they liked about technology, what was not helpful, their favourite technology lesson/s and subjects, and whether or not they learned better/or were more engaged when they used technology in the curriculum area they were studying.

*Analysis*

Codes were generated from the first sets of teacher data; names assigned to the codes were created from the original study (Author, 2013) and included the five HPC conceptions shown in Figure 1. Numbers of codes were reduced at this point, prior to

1  
2  
3 importing them into the qualitative software to code the remaining five data sets when  
4  
5 open coding commenced in earnest. Seven case summaries involving careful cross-case  
6  
7 processes were prepared from the analysis and presented and adjusted after a  
8  
9 conversation with each participant (Author, 2017; Miles & Huberman, 1994). The case  
10  
11 summaries form the data reported in the results.  
12

## 13 14 15 16 **Results**

17  
18 Research findings are presented as seven vignettes that form one case study. The first  
19  
20 six are teacher vignettes enriched with comments from the student focus groups, and the  
21  
22 seventh features reflections from the head teacher at MHS, Bella, who was instrumental  
23  
24 in the inquiry. Vignettes 1 to 3 relate to teachers from MHS, and 4 to 6 to teachers from  
25  
26 BHS. For ease of reading, the dominant HPC conceptions (noted in **bold** text) and  
27  
28 themes (noted in *italics*) are distinguished in each teacher vignette. A summary draws  
29  
30 attention back to the findings as a response to the research questions.  
31  
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35

### 36 *Vignette 1: Jacob*

37  
38 Jacob was new to MHS having just arrived from his first teaching position at a  
39  
40 secondary school in a rural setting. In a computer lab, Jacob's Health and Physical  
41  
42 Education (HPE) students engaged in constructing a blog to promote healthy lifestyles:  
43  
44 'Blogs really help me to focus my planning' (Jacob, Interview 1). Understanding  
45  
46 content from the syllabus and making it public on a blog was a motivating factor. Field  
47  
48 memos recorded in classroom observations confirmed the students' focus and  
49  
50 engagement on the task.  
51  
52

53  
54 When Jacob checked the blog after each class he commented on the extended  
55  
56 responses from quiet students: 'Students don't always feel comfortable in class. When  
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3 they use technology they can jump online and comment on what other students are  
4  
5 saying – those silent students have some great ideas’ (Jacob, Interview 2). He used his  
6  
7 rural connections to link the blog created in a city-based context to a blog generated by  
8  
9 a teacher and same-age students in a HPE class at his previous school:  
10

11           The students here don’t understand the demographic out there at [rural  
12  
13 town] it is a chance for them to connect with rural students and build a  
14  
15 community through blogging and sharing what they know beyond the  
16  
17 classroom – it pushes them to produce work of a higher standard. (Jacob,  
18  
19 Interview 1)  
20  
21  
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24

25 Jacob viewed blogs as creative tools, they assisted him with differentiating learning for  
26  
27 students and were an opportunity to ‘push him out of his professional comfort zone’. He  
28  
29 said, ‘I am not a blogger but when you try new tech in what you are planning to teach it  
30  
31 forces you to experiment’ (Jacob, Interview 1).  
32  
33

34           In the focus group, Jacob’s students reinforced their passion for using  
35  
36 technology in HPE: ‘I liked that first lesson on blogs, it is an interesting way to learn  
37  
38 about healthy things ... we can talk to people we wouldn’t normally meet and express  
39  
40 our opinions’ (Focus group, Year 7, MHS). They also expressed a fondness for  
41  
42 technology they had used in primary school and spoke at length about why it was an  
43  
44 important skill to have for the future. There was also deep frustration with not  
45  
46 sustaining their familiarity with technology: ‘I have found they haven’t introduced us to  
47  
48 a lot of new tech ... we just keep revising all the same things on computers.’ Students  
49  
50 spoke about the nature of some teachers’ technology abilities; one student spoke in  
51  
52 blunt terms: ‘I think teachers in secondary schools as well as providing technology for  
53  
54 students – the teachers need to have an education in technology.’  
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3 In summary, Jacob used the HPC conception of **theory** to *construct* the learning,  
4  
5 to *plan*, to *reflect* and make his students' learning more *authentic*. The second  
6  
7 conception of **creativity** was realised through the manner in which he gave students  
8  
9 *opportunities to produce*; in this case they developed a blog. They 'played online' with  
10  
11 the connections they made to rural students, the lessons allowed *differentiation*, and  
12  
13 there was strong support for the *value* of technology and why it makes learning  
14  
15 engaging for young people. **Public learning** was evident when students presented their  
16  
17 work and responded to blog posts from peers, and their HPE reports towards the end of  
18  
19 term noted a clear upward trend. In **life preparation**, the *real world* task of creating an  
20  
21 online response to a healthy lifestyle task was significant in promoting *ownership and*  
22  
23 *responsibility*. In **contextual accommodations** Jacob spoke about how technology  
24  
25 nurtured *community* in the classroom.  
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### 32 *Vignette 2: Carrie*

33  
34 Carrie came to her education career from a previous position as a professional marine  
35  
36 scientist. She had worked in special schools and questioned the role of technology in  
37  
38 education and whether or not teachers 'really know the best way' to use it. In Science  
39  
40 lessons examining the cardiovascular, respiratory and kidney systems in the human  
41  
42 body she focused on **creativity**. Students worked in small teams in the school library to  
43  
44 create artefacts to communicate their understandings. Carrie expressed a lack of  
45  
46 confidence and preferred to co-teach the lessons with support from the head teacher,  
47  
48 Bella, and the teacher-librarian.  
49  
50

51  
52 After both lesson observations, Carrie expressed reticence in terms of whether  
53  
54 technology gave students opportunities to be creative: 'I can also be creative without it.  
55  
56 There is nothing limiting me in a lesson on surface tension. For example, I can get a  
57  
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59  
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1  
2  
3 paper clip to float – I am only limited by what I choose to do’ (Carrie, Interview 1). She  
4  
5 believed that technology enhanced skill development in young people; nonetheless, she  
6  
7 was more concerned about them not being on task.  
8

9  
10 Students in Carrie’s class liked using technology for taking notes and sharing  
11  
12 information. They also expressed apprehension about ‘too much screen time’ and  
13  
14 whether ‘sticking to handwriting should be encouraged by the school’ (Focus group,  
15  
16 Year 8, MHS). Prompted further, they shared fond memories of projects completed in  
17  
18 Year 7, one in particular where they built a planet: ‘It was a mix of technology and non-  
19  
20 technology ... you could gather information on a range of topics and we got to present it  
21  
22 to a group of Year 10 students.’ All students chimed in about how much they enjoyed  
23  
24 doing projects involving the use of technology to learn curriculum content.  
25  
26

27  
28 In summary, although Carrie stated that **creativity** was to be her main HPC  
29  
30 focus, the classroom observations, document analysis and interviews proved otherwise.  
31  
32 She used **theory** through *planning* and *construction* of an authentic task to *enrich the*  
33  
34 *subject matter* of learning about the human body. As well, her students had to present  
35  
36 their work to the whole class (**public learning**), and by conducting research in teams,  
37  
38 which included preparing, recording and editing, they demonstrated the HPC  
39  
40 conception of **life preparation**. In addition, the evidence for **contextual**  
41  
42 **accommodations** showed that longer blocks of learning *time* were given to the task as  
43  
44 students became engaged, and their working in collaborative ways nurtured the  
45  
46 *community* of learners.  
47  
48

49  
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52 *Vignette 3: Katrina*

53  
54 Katrina liked using technology but found it often replaced pedagogy that could just as  
55  
56 easily involve traditional approaches; she valued expert teachers who made specific  
57  
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59  
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2  
3 suggestions about effective applications and web-based resources for the English units  
4  
5 she taught. The **theory** conception was used to target *construction of learning, focus*  
6  
7 *planning* and *promote reflective learning*. Katrina also used another pedagogical  
8  
9 framework, *Quality Teaching* (NSW Department of Education, 2003), which has a  
10  
11 dimension of ‘significance’ that is reflected in the HPC framework. She said, ‘The HPC  
12  
13 framework resonated with *Quality Teaching*, because I try to be really conscious of that  
14  
15 in my teaching and when I am planning lessons – I reflect on my lessons as much as  
16  
17 possible’ (Katrina, Interview 1).  
18  
19

20  
21 The **creativity** conception was obvious in expectations that opportunities to  
22  
23 boost creativity would culminate in students making a product, in this case a satirical  
24  
25 meme. One student confirmed Katrina’s intention: ‘Satire is always fun, we are doing a  
26  
27 film ... you learn more when you can create things using technology (Focus group,  
28  
29 Year 10, MHS). In **public learning**, Katrina made specific digital resources available  
30  
31 online that would support students to complete the meme. She saw this as an essential  
32  
33 step in developing PBL skills: the outcome of what students produce must always have  
34  
35 a real audience. She said, ‘Online technology helps you to follow students learning  
36  
37 publicly’ (Katrina, Interview 2). She also acknowledged that she aspired to get much  
38  
39 better at integrating technology. Students concurred, wanting their learning ‘out there  
40  
41 [but it] really depended on the teacher and in English it was interesting content so we  
42  
43 are less likely to use the alt-tab and be off-task playing games’ (Focus group, Year 10,  
44  
45 MHS).  
46  
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49  
50 **Life preparation** in Katrina’s classroom focused on *operationalising the real*  
51  
52 *world and ownership and responsibility*: ‘PBL on satire using technology is about  
53  
54 producing young people to be good citizens and the power of their vote – choosing a  
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3 contentious issue and satirising it ... they collaborate and critically think' (Katrina,  
4  
5 Interview 2).

6  
7 **Contextual accommodations** was apparent when classroom design restricted  
8  
9 pedagogical approaches involving technology:

10  
11 I think there are bureaucratic problems that prevent successful technology  
12  
13 integration ... you cannot get into the computer rooms and students don't all  
14  
15 bring devices – the iPads we were given to use never connected wirelessly  
16  
17 ... sometimes the 'how in tech' is not thought through – it's a shame.

18  
19  
20 (Katrina, Interview 1)

21  
22  
23  
24  
25 On this topic, one of Katrina's students was vocal: 'I don't use my laptop  
26  
27 because it's hard to connect to the Internet, also it's distracting and over time our  
28  
29 handwriting is being downgraded – some teachers prefer us not to use technology ... I  
30  
31 kind of like traditional teaching' (Focus group, Year 10, MHS). Another student added,  
32  
33 'We have to get ready to do three-hour exams in two years time and many of us type  
34  
35 slowly.' In summary, Katrina's lessons reflected the planning and programming she did  
36  
37 with Bella's assistance, and the data analysis shows the presence of each HPC  
38  
39 conception and most of the underpinning themes.

40  
41  
42 In the following three vignettes of Sue, Noel and Paul at BHS, the focus of  
43  
44 observations of their lessons was the weeklong project: *My Space - How do we design*  
45  
46 *more effective learning spaces for boys?* Conducted in the school library, the project  
47  
48 was for gifted and talented students (GATS) who worked in groups, wrote individual  
49  
50 blog posts and used digital tools to record their thinking and to present content. The  
51  
52 teachers produced a comprehensive booklet to scaffold the students' learning steps. As  
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3 it was a co-taught series of lessons, one summary of the dominant HPC conceptions and  
4  
5 themes is provided at the end of Vignette 6.  
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10 *Vignette 4: Sue*

11 Sue sought opportunities to use digital media like film and video for her students'  
12  
13 learning, often encouraging them to photograph their own work and display it on social  
14  
15 media. The PBL task was an occasion for students to reflect on their learning, and the  
16  
17 daily blog posts were a means to do this. She said,  
18  
19

20 I still think it is the teacher's role to set up tech learning opportunities for them  
21  
22 and when students record their conversations or thoughts it acts as evidence –  
23  
24 they can look back over it. (Sue, Interview 1)  
25  
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28  
29 Sue liked the way PBL gave students who don't normally work together the opportunity  
30  
31 to do so: 'Authentic learning ... a real task like this one gives the boys a chance to make  
32  
33 the school look better ... to have their voice heard' (Sue, Interview 1). In the focus  
34  
35 group, students spoke about their enjoyment of PBL and their perceived skills in  
36  
37 technology, namely touch typing and being able to take effective notes. One boy said,  
38  
39 'It is so much faster ... I am good at typing – so glad we get the chance to use our  
40  
41 laptops in projects' (Focus group, Year 7, BHS).  
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47 *Vignette 5: Noel*

48  
49 Noel had deep beliefs and capability when using technology with students. He regarded  
50  
51 himself as an early adopter: 'Technology enables students and teachers to participate at  
52  
53 a much deeper level' (Noel, Interview 1). He approved of the way the GATS program  
54  
55 relied heavily on the use of technology to engage students and the fact that students  
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3 could present a real design to a public audience in the project's finale. He pointed out  
4 that in terms of seamless technology integration in classrooms, infrastructure is a big  
5 problem in secondary schools, and BHS was no different: 'If teachers could use  
6 frameworks like HPC it will support them to be game' (Noel, Interview 1).  
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10  
11 In the focus group, his students shared a similar connectivity frustration and they  
12 perceived that some of their subjects used a lot more technology than others. One  
13 student said, 'Some teachers give us educational apps to use and others don't at all – my  
14 laptop often stays in my bag all day' (Focus group, Year 7, BHS). They shared an  
15 appreciation for their teachers' efforts to set such tasks as a means to boost  
16 opportunities for **creativity**, the following comment being typical:  
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25 I find it a lot more interesting when we do this kind of work, it's creative –  
26 this term we are doing a more open-ended project based on something real –  
27 something that matters to us – we can expand our ideas – last term we did  
28 gender equality in India – I couldn't relate to that. (Focus group, Year 7  
29 BHS).  
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39 *Vignette 6: Paul*

40 Paul had an inconsistent relationship with technology and only used it when he thought  
41 it was going to enhance what students were doing as 'often it became the lesson rather  
42 than what was learned' (Paul, Interview 1). He was active in his support of students  
43 working in teams and spoke at length about each of the HPC conceptions and themes  
44 and how they were present in his teaching. His responses were peppered with  
45 enthusiasm for a new pedagogical scaffold. On the other hand he expressed  
46 disappointment that much of his lesson preparation time was focused on preparing  
47 students for examinations:  
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3 I understood I was preparing them for the real world. I think exams are the  
4  
5 quite the waste because at no time in life do you sit down with zero access  
6  
7 to notes for 45 minutes or three hours or whatever and only write what you  
8  
9 can remember. (Paul, Interview 1)  
10  
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13  
14 Paul maintained the PBL task was successful. However, he noted that there were things  
15  
16 that could be improved, for example, the student products were good because they  
17  
18 created space for the boys, but the ability of the students to present visually what they  
19  
20 had learned was weak: ‘Weebly was not the best tool to present with and the students  
21  
22 did not really take on their roles as designers, architects, and creators’ (Paul, Interview  
23  
24 1).  
25  
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27  
28 In summary, all HPC conceptions were demonstrated in the lessons of Sue, Noel  
29  
30 and Paul. **Theory** manifested in terms of what was *constructed* through set tasks in the  
31  
32 design booklet, the *planning* and intersection of regular blog posting. From **creativity**,  
33  
34 the project ticked many of the HPC themes – especially in terms of the final plan for a  
35  
36 space that had to be pitched to an adult audience. **Public learning** was satisfied. **Life**  
37  
38 **preparation** was evident in the school executive and the parent body being able to view  
39  
40 outcomes of the design process. **Contextual accommodations** focused on themes of  
41  
42 *nurturing community*, and teacher commentary that embraced technology integration  
43  
44 really *defined the game* of professionalism.  
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48 One overriding word permeated the data collected in vignettes 4 to 6: ‘exhausting’.  
49  
50 It was used to convey the intensity of PBL in comparison to other teaching methods.  
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52 However, the ‘benefits it offered to learning outweighed reasons not to do it’ (Sue, Noel  
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54 and Paul, Interview 2).  
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*Vignette 7: Bella*

Bella, the head teacher at MHS, is considered a leading practitioner in the field of technology integration, having presented her work at state, national and international education conferences. Her role in this research was to discuss what the teachers planned to focus on and how they might integrate technology using the HPC conceptions and themes. Professional development with a technology focus was high on her list of priorities as a head teacher, and she co-taught in colleagues' classrooms when invited. Bella supported the teachers to identify the HPC conceptions and themes:

I was able to identify and name the aspects of their teaching practice that they wished to target in relation to the integration of technology in their classrooms.

This meant providing them with more effective advice and support.

She explained why pedagogical frameworks like HPC are important for teachers to use when they integrate technology:

As an English teacher I know the value of language, especially meta-language. I think that frameworks like HPC provide teachers (and those in roles like mine) with the ability to communicate clearly what needs to be achieved with the integration of technology. This saves time and ensures there is a complete understanding of the purpose/intent of ICT specifically in relation to learning. A quality framework perfectly encapsulates the nexus between theory/intent and practice.

Field notes made during the data collection phase recorded Bella's strong support for her teachers via face-to-face interactions, email follow-up and phone calls.

## Discussion

This case study features seven teacher vignettes from two Australian secondary schools. It has implications for how teachers with support from targeted professional development and assistance from a head teacher might use a pedagogical framework to integrate technology into classroom learning. Limitations of claims rest on understanding that it is a small-scale study and is not generalisable (Yin, 2009). However, it does provide examples of naming practices and processes that are critical when integrating technology. Teachers responded positively, and each of the five HPC conceptions and underpinning themes were strongly present in lessons. This might be expected as the teachers' professional development was situated in the school context (Kopcha, 2012) and centred on explicit understanding of one framework, and teachers were supported by a head teacher in their lesson planning and programming.

In response to the study's main research question, the HPC framework supported these secondary school teachers not only to integrate technology into student learning, but also to:

- take risks with their pedagogy, in particular shift to more student-centred classrooms
- see stronger links with the digital worlds of students outside the classroom
- keep experimenting with new technologies for classroom learning
- plan and provide further opportunities for students to work in teams to learn the skills of collaboration and problem solving
- push themselves out of their own 'professional comfort zone'
- seek increased opportunities for students to make and produce artefacts in creative ways on the subject matter they learned.

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3 Teachers seemed surprised at the level of planning and facilitation that permeated this  
4  
5 different pedagogical approach but were eager to maintain their use of HPC as the  
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7 professional satisfaction it provided was ‘immense’ (Jacob, Carrie and Paul, Interview  
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9 2). Comments like this are reflected elsewhere in the data: ‘I like this way of teaching’,  
10  
11 ‘It’s very clear’ and ‘I am getting the hang of it – it seems deeper’ (Katrina, Sue and  
12  
13 Noel, Interview 2).  
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16 In terms of the first sub-question of what HPC conceptions and themes the  
17  
18 teachers used, the conception of **theory** dominated. Teachers viewed technology  
19  
20 integration in their discipline content as the means to construct learning for students. It  
21  
22 was more useful than their ‘previous teacher-centred approaches’ because it enabled  
23  
24 them to actively support students to reflect on what they had learned. **Creativity** was  
25  
26 strong in the data and teachers understood its central role in adolescent learning (Craft,  
27  
28 2011; Kelly, 2012). Overwhelmingly, **public learning** was present, and in PBL at BHS  
29  
30 it was particularly effective even when the final products were disappointing (Hewes &  
31  
32 Hewes, 2016; Larmer, Mergendoller, & Boss, 2015). **Life preparation** was a firm focus,  
33  
34 with some teachers expressing concern about the role of school examinations and how  
35  
36 this limited their time for effective technology integration in classrooms (Evers &  
37  
38 Kneyber, 2016; Lingard et al., 2016). The fifth conception, **contextual**  
39  
40 **accommodations**, was about teachers providing opportunities for students in groups to  
41  
42 solve problems and challenge each other’s thoughts (Reynolds, 2015; Wiliam, 2016).  
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47 Recurrent themes in the second sub-question show that learning became more  
48  
49 engaging when teachers integrated technology. Some students were critical of ‘teachers  
50  
51 in other classes’ who did not use technology (Author, 2015a; Littlejohn, 2016). The  
52  
53 question of distractability of technology in classrooms was raised. However, from the  
54  
55 students’ point of view if the subject was engaging and what they were required to do  
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3 using technology was interesting then there were fewer reasons not to be on task.

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5 Students who wanted to improve their information literacy skills identified that the  
6  
7 finding of good information from websites was a problem. In summary, they found  
8  
9 learning was more engaging when they worked in teams, and they liked a focus on  
10  
11 producing worthwhile projects that produced ‘real’ outcomes.  
12

### 13 14 15 16 **Conclusion**

17  
18 This paper has illustrated how the HPC framework supported secondary school teachers  
19  
20 at two sites to take pedagogical risks and develop their technology integration practices.

21  
22 The conceptions of **theory, creativity, public learning, life preparation** and  
23  
24 **contextual accommodations** provided a meta-language that made pedagogical  
25  
26 strategies and students’ learning processes in technology integration more accessible. If  
27  
28 secondary school teachers co-plan lessons or units of work with a head teacher who acts  
29  
30 as a type of ‘instructional coach’ in the school context then more technology integration  
31  
32 occurs. According to Netolicky (2016), coaching as professional learning ‘can  
33  
34 (trans)form teachers’ senses of professional identity and not just professional learning,  
35  
36 but epiphanic life experiences, which can in turn shape professional selves and  
37  
38 practices’ (p. 24).  
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44 This case study raises questions about learning practices that new pedagogical  
45  
46 frameworks like HPC invite. As a scaffold, HPC provides a way forward for how  
47  
48 secondary school teachers can teach, and it illustrates ways of learning that adolescent  
49  
50 students tend to find engaging and motivating (Author, 2015b; 2015c). However, its  
51  
52 employment may make it incumbent on secondary schools to appoint at least one  
53  
54 technology integration head or lead teacher to act as an instructional coach. In this  
55  
56 research the head teacher’s central role in the study design became more apparent as the  
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3 research progressed; it was not part of the initial design to investigate the head teacher's  
4  
5 responsibility or to directly question teachers about it. This aspect would be well worth  
6  
7 exploring in future research.  
8

9  
10 Additional research is needed to build on this case study to examine how HPC  
11  
12 may change and/or transform teaching practice in school classrooms. The reimagination  
13  
14 of pedagogy in schools is occurring in pockets (Fullan & Langworthy, 2014) and there  
15  
16 are inspiring examples across the globe of education leaders and secondary school  
17  
18 teachers who each day, in highly creative and imaginative ways, align how they teach  
19  
20 with the ways young people like to learn (Robinson & Aronica, 2015). Technology  
21  
22 integration supported by new pedagogical frameworks in secondary schools is timely,  
23  
24 and HPC offers a way forward for teachers and students.  
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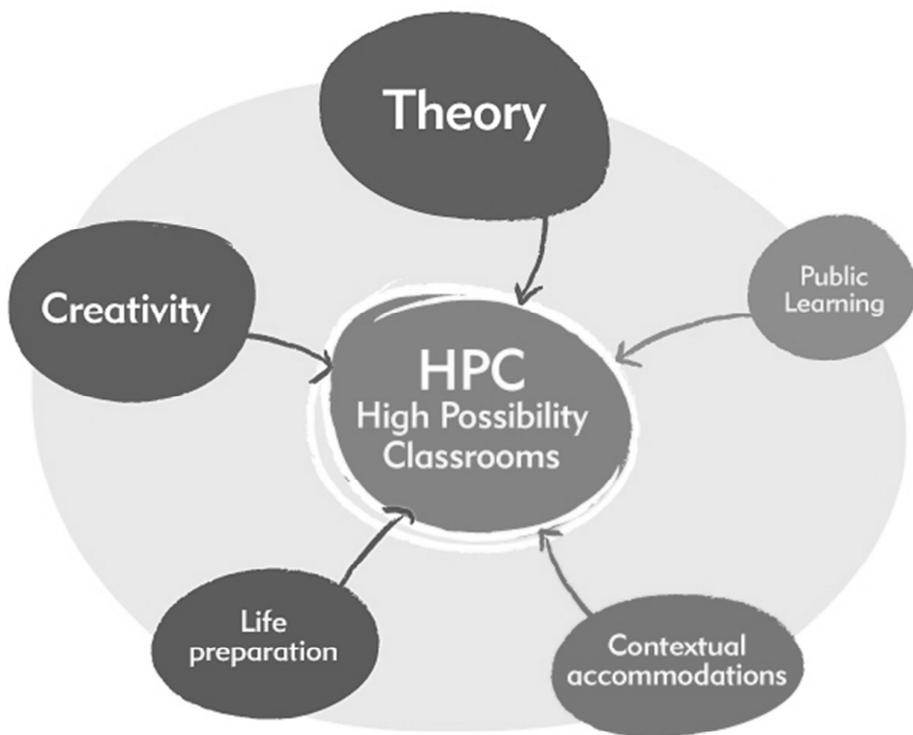


Figure1: Five conceptions of the HPC framework

view Only

Theory-driven technology practice	Creativity for learning through technology	Public learning through technology	Life preparation using technology	Contextual accommodations using technology
Technology drives construction of learning	Technology boosts creativity	Technology scaffolds performance	Technology operationalises the real world	Technology remains personal and professional
Technology enhances purposeful teaching	Technology creates opportunities for production	Technology enhances outcomes	Technology gives voice	Technology changes time
Technology focuses planning	Technology unleashes playful moments		Technology means ownership and possibility	Technology nurtures community
Technology enriches subject matter	Technology supports values		Technology reveals effectiveness	Technology defines the game
Technology promotes reflective learning	Technology differentiates learning			
Technology shifts conversation and thinking				
Technology engages students in authentic ways				

Table 1: Twenty-two themes of processes and strategies that underpin the five HPC conceptions

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Years of teaching experience</b>	<b>Curriculum area</b>	<b>Age group taught/year/role</b>
1.Jacob	MHS	2	Health & Physical Education	12-13 y.o. Year 7 classroom teacher
2.Carrie	MHS	10	Science	14-15 y.o. Year 8 classroom teacher
3.Katrina	MHS	5	English	15-16 y.o. Year 10 classroom teacher
4.Sue	BHS	12	Visual Arts	12-14 y.o. Year 7 classroom teacher
5.Noel	BHS	31	Science	12-14 y.o. Year 7 classroom teacher computer coordinator
6.Paul	BHS	14	History	12-14 y.o. Year 7 classroom teacher
7.Bella	MHS	12	English/ Drama	12-18 y.o. Years7-12 head teacher

Table 2: Participant demographic data