

Dear Colleagues,

I trust that you have had a productive year and are ready for the transition to the new senior system.

The earlier that students are introduced to Cognitive Thinking, the better their academic outcomes will be. These higher-order thinking skills are not only important for student outcomes in their senior years but also vital for the future career success of your students. Mighty Minds has a track record of effective collaboration with schools to change the deeper learning outcomes for their students

To address critical issues in the implementation of Cognitive Verbs, Mighty Minds has developed a comprehensive CV subscription package, offering the following benefits:

1. Trackability: In every subject, each student's ability for every Cognitive Verb activity is able to be measured and tracked against the same proficiency scale. This allows for a clear picture of individual student ability within all Cognitive Verbs they have covered.
2. Collaborative approach: Unique to the Mighty Minds system, the proficiency scale allows clear visualisation of which Cognitive Verbs have been covered in student learning, and which are yet to be addressed. This prevents unnecessary teaching overlap. It also allows each teacher to thoroughly cover a small number of verbs per term (we recommend three) that are aligned to their subject material, rather than shallowly touching upon many. Our system encourages a collective, cooperative teaching approach that leads to deeper learning, greater understanding and better established cognitive development.
3. No gaps. Student ownership of learning: After Cognitive Verb ability has been mapped within your school, CV activities can be assigned to each student on a regular basis. These activities can be self-assessed, peer-assessed (by up to three peers to ensure consistency) or teacher-assessed: again, against our unique proficiency scale. All of this can be completed online.
4. Reduced teacher workload: After your school completes their Cognitive Verb plan (refer to the document headed "Cognitive Verb junior secondary work plan" on our website). Mighty Minds can then begin the activity- assigning described above. Although teachers are welcome to if they wish, they don't need to assign or mark any activity.

Mighty Minds can offer expert assistance to schools that are endeavouring to develop cognitive thinking throughout their curriculum.

### **Cognitive Verb Solutions – we will cater for your budget and needs!**

For \$20 per student, Mighty Minds offers a full Cognitive Verbs subscription that provides your staff and students with full access to our Cognitive Verb posters, lessons, exam-style questions, tracking system, junior-secondary work plan, staff professional development and student and staff portal training.

Every Cognitive Verb activity is accompanied by a model response that acts as an exemplar for the highest level of proficiency. Our lesson activities also include an example response for each level of proficiency, so students can identify exactly what is required for each level for every verb. Our test-style questions come with personalised feedback that informs students of exactly what they need to do to reach the next highest level of proficiency for each verb.

All of the above resources have been integrated into our online teacher and student portals for ease of access and a convenient method of tracking each student's cognitive development over time. Activities can be assigned

to students so that they can self-assess and peer-assess responses, promoting independent, student-driven learning, while simultaneously reducing staff workload so they can focus more on individual student needs.

We also recognise the importance of consolidating students' English, Maths and Science skills, so that greater focus can be placed on developing higher-order thinking skills and cognitive growth. We consequently also offer a Fundamental Skills Subscription, to be used in conjunction with our Cognitive Verbs subscription service.

Included with the Fundamental Skills subscription is:

- Focus Element Assessment – unlimited access to over 25 000 questions and detailed theory in Literacy, Numeracy and Science, aligned directly with the Australian Curriculum.
- Diagnostic testing – a valuable insight into students' strengths and weaknesses, with detailed reporting and personalised feedback to drive student improvement.
- NAPLAN equivalent testing – access to all of Mighty Minds NAPLAN equivalent tests for language conventions, reading, numeracy and writing, based off the most recent NAPLAN test.
- Automated weekly tasks – weekly tasks aligned directly to your school's unique curriculum plan for Literacy, Numeracy and Science.
- Student Practice Section – interactive platform allowing students to earn points, level-up, unlock avatars and compete against their peers on the leader board.
- Free Fundamental Skills Compendium (valued at \$495 each) per 50 subscribed students.

If your school purchases the student subscription for Year 7–9 students, as well as our *Pathways to Success: Cognitive Verbs* student workbook for Year 10 and Year 11 students in 2019, we will also provide these same students with free access to our online full subscription service, which includes additional Cognitive Verb activities. This is ideal, as the new Senior Curriculum has a heavy literacy component and we recognise that students need to be competent in their basic skills in order to succeed.

Should you commit to a Cognitive Verbs subscription, you will also be able to request, free of charge, the design of any CV activity that is related to your subject area.

Visit our website for more information on our Cognitive Verbs resources:

<http://mightyminds.com.au/resources/cognitive-verbs/>

### ***Cognitive Verbs and Success in Senior Student Workshops***

Starting November 2018, we will be running both half and full day student workshops tailored to the specific requirements of your school. We will structure your workshop upon your requests and can suggest:

- A half day focused on writing and literacy skills for success in senior, followed by a half day focused on student understanding of the Cognitive Verbs and developing cognitive ability. These workshops can run concurrently or on separate days. After facilitating over 10 000 workshops and engaging over one million students face-to-face we have a proven record of success.

### **Do you have students requiring additional QCE points to receive their senior certificate?**

Our Links to Life program provides students with the opportunity to gain 2 QCE points (1 per unit), while developing valuable employability skills in the process. These units can be completed by the end of this year and, as they are fully integrated online, they are ideal for self-paced learning.

For more information:

<http://mightyminds.com.au/resources/courses/links-to-life>

Our Steps to the Future student workbook can be implemented with the QCAA Short Course in Career Development, providing students with the opportunity to gain one QCE point. The workbook focuses on life skills and future planning, and is available at the discounted prices of \$22 (+GST) until the end of this year. A class-set purchase of Steps to the Future also provides schools with free online diagnostic literacy and numeracy testing. For a view of the teacher sample, please follow this link:

<http://mightyminds.com.au/assets/Uploads/BookSamples/StepsToTheFuture-Teacher-Sample.PDF>

### **QCS Workshops for Year 12 students in 2019**

As Mighty Minds will be very busy in the coming year managing both the QCS system and the new senior ATAR system for our client schools, we highly recommend booking in next year's QCS workshops as soon as possible to ensure we meet your requested dates. Contact [director@mightyminds.com.au](mailto:director@mightyminds.com.au) to request your workshop bookings now.

### **QCS Marking Service**

Our current marking service is better than ever, with two options offered. We can mark your practice testing for you, or you can mark the testing and we can provide a detailed analysis of the data. If students have completed tests from 2014 or later we also provide:

- Personalised feedback for each item of the Multiple Choice and Short Response tests
- Personalised feedback for each criterion of the Writing Task
- Over 1000 hours of revision activities aligned directly to the specific CCE each item assesses (for the MC and SRI tests) and criterion for the WT

For more information, contact our marking team via [marking@mightyminds.com.au](mailto:marking@mightyminds.com.au).

### ***Pathways to Success: 6<sup>th</sup> Edition***

As 2019 is the final year that students will sit the QCS test, we will not be undertaking another print run of our PTS-QCS student workbook. We have limited copies left, so please place your order as soon as possible! The books are available at a discounted price of \$22 (+GST) if purchased before the end of the year, and come with:

- Free literacy and numeracy diagnostic testing.
- Free literacy and numeracy CCE testing.
- Free QCS program design.
- 28 individual QCS quizzes, available through the Mighty Minds Portal. These focus on literacy and numeracy skill development, providing detailed answers. Additional revision questions mean that there are up to 1200 questions and answers available for free online.
- Access to the Mighty Minds Assistance App and additional revision activities.
- A free copy of the Fundamentals of Senior Learning eBook - containing extra activities to practise Writing Task, Short Response and Multiple Choice skills.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mighty Minds today if we can assist your school in any way.

Warm regards,



Steve McCabe

Director of Mighty Minds