**PROJECT BASED LEARNING** *IS COMING TO TOORMINA!*

Would you like to see your children excited about what they are doing in class? Would you like to see them working with others to research, plan and create? Would you like the opportunity to see some of what you child is doing and learning at school?

Well, Toormina High is about to begin a series of Project Based Learning (PBL) units which should bring all those things to pass. Starting in Term 3 this year all Yr8 students will be involved in PBL units during their English and Science lessons. The idea is to introduce this style of learning in two more faculties each year until it becomes an option for teaching and learning at any year level, for any subject.

What is Project Based Learning? Put succinctly, it is a method of teaching which involves students working in small groups to plan, research and learn about a set unit of work. By basing the teaching and learning around a Driving Question, which has real-world relevance, students are motivated to develop teamwork skills in communication, co-operation, creativity, technology and critical thinking. These are the skills essential for success in the 21st century workforce.

All PBL units are carefully planned and educationally rigorous; unlike some of the “projects” many parents will remember form their own school years. Teachers at Toormina have formed a PBL Team and are already working together to develop the projects, tasks and scaffolds for this year to ensure they are both engaging and valuable experiences for all students. At the end of the Term 3 projects parents will be invited to Celebration days for both English and Science, in which students showcase the work they have done and the solutions they have proposed for their Driving Questions.

We’ll keep you updated over the coming months, however if you’re keen to know a bit more, have a look at the links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMCZvGesRz8> PBL explained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjAHbQWir78>

* Julie Roberts

HT – Teaching & Learning.