



## Blue Mountains Grammar School

### TRIAL OF LEXIA LEARNING SOFTWARE

During 2005, Blue Mountains Grammar School participated in a trial of the new Lexia software for students identified with literacy issues prior to the commencement of Years 7 and 8. These students attended additional classes in literacy support three times per week throughout 2005. Each of the lessons was of one hour duration. At these lessons the students used the Lexia software for a period of 30 minutes and then spent 30 minutes receiving additional oral and written work from one of the learning support teachers trained on using both conventional literacy support methods as well as the new Lexia software.

At the end of October 2005, all students in the programme were tested using the Lucid LASS diagnostic screening software to assess both cognitive skills and attainment levels in literacy. These same students had previously been tested in February 2005 and once again in October 2005 using not only the diagnostic Lexia tools but also some of the more common testing measures used in Australian schools such as the Burt Word Reading Test and the Neale Analysis of Reading Ability. These tests were administered as a back up of results gained from the Lucid testing.

Over the time period from February to October, all students who regularly attended lessons showed a significant improvement in literacy. The progress of several of the students involved in the programme are shown in the table below. All students showed growth in key literacy areas, some by as much as three years over the eight month trial period.

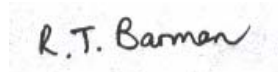
Student	Time of Testing	Burt Reading Test Results		Neale Analysis of Reading Ability*		
		Reading Age	Score	Accuracy	Comprehension	Rate
A	February 2005	10.11-11.04	71	8.11	9.2	11.0
	November 2005	12.01-12.07	79	9.2	10.4	13.0
B	February 2005	10.10-11.04	71	8.5	8.7	9.6
	November 2005	11.07-12.01	76	9.9	11.9	10.3
C	February 2005	12.09+	89	13.0+	10.4	10.10
	November 2005	12.09+	104	13.1+	13.0+	13.0+

\* In 2005, the Neale test used was Form 2; in October 2005, Form 1 was used.

Due to the success of the programme in 2005, it has now been enlarged to include more students not only in Years 7 and 8, but also in Years 9 and 10 and Years 1 to 6. In the trial, the software was only set up on five stand-alone computers. This year, the system has been networked across the School so that all campuses may be involved. Data saved on each student from last year has been transferred across to the network version of the software so that the tracking of student progress on Lexia can be continued. Further training of staff within both Learning Support and the English Faculty has also been arranged.

The Lexia programme has been found to be of assistance to students and staff. Its main focus at Blue Mountains Grammar School is to develop proficient literacy skills in students identified with particular needs, especially in Years 7 and 8, so that all students are equipped with the skills required to cope with the learning demands of their Stage 5 courses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.T. Barman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

R.T. Barman  
Deputy Head-Teaching & Learning