

Institute for the Future

Recent news reports in Australia have stated that technology could make almost 40 per cent of Australian jobs, including highly skilled roles, redundant in 10 to 15 years. This is about the time many of the students at Ripponlea will be establishing themselves in the workforce so it is obviously something we need to consider.

The Institute for the Future, a US based, non-profit research centre that specialises in long-term forecasting, has predicted that it is the following skills that will be required:

- Sensemaking: the ability to connect things to create new ideas.
- Social Intelligence: relationships and the ability to connect with people in a meaningful way.
- Novel and Adaptive Thinking: self-initiative to constantly improve your skills and pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone.
- Cross-Cultural Competencies: the ability to interact with a multitude of cultures, knowing how to empathise and adjust communication and style of collaboration.
- Computational Thinking: being analytical and able to spot meaning, trends and patterns in vast amounts of information.
- New Media Literacy: fluency in in digital and social media forms of communication.
- Transdisciplinarity: being a 'generalist', rather than specialist, with skills that can see the big picture.
- Design Mindset: focussing on human values and developing a deep understanding of the people that matter most to the problem we are trying to solve.
- Cognitive Load Management: effectively managing what you participate in and what you don't.
- Virtual Collaboration: collaborating via the use of the vast range of technical/digital tools.

There are many of these lists around but they are all reasonably similar. Reading through, I am confident that our approach at Ripponlea Primary is giving our students not only a solid education in the academic disciplines but also the skills to equip them for a future that is bound to be very different from what we know today.

Linda Rippingille

For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today - African proverb.