



# Technology in the MYP: What's new at ISM?



Perhaps the subject that has changed the most in the transition to the MYP from IGCSE is Technology. So what are these changes?

Previously, IGCSE students were studying ICT—Information and Computer Technology. This dealt with the structure and function of computers and learning common computer programs and applications. ICT will continue to be taught mainly in Technology, but is also incorporated as an Approaches to Learning skill (one of the Areas of Interaction). It will thus be taught through many subject areas as we continue to focus on integrating ICT in all subject areas.

The aim of MYP Technology is to help students develop creative problem solving skills using technology that are both applicable and necessary in our world today. Focused around the design cycle (see diagram), MYP Technology emphasizes three strands: materials, information and systems. Students will engage all three strands in each year of the MYP Programme.

Each unit of MYP Technology follows the

design cycle and culminates in a product or solution. MYP Technology is not simply focused on just a product or solution, instead the process is of tremendous importance.

Students must **investigate** each challenge using a wide variety of authoritative

sources. Then they must create a range of **designs** that could meet the challenge or solve the problem. Thirdly, they **plan** out where to obtain resources and a timeline for their production. Then begins the actual job of **creating** the product or solution, and lastly they

**evaluate** their product and process.

Some examples of recent unit products include a stop-motion animation of a life cycle explored in science class (information), a sailing vessel (materials), and an original nutritious dessert (systems).

Students find the process engaging, and it builds extremely necessary and pertinent skills of problem solving and figuring out how things work. MYP Technology is an exciting course!



## MYP Questions?

Questions on any other of the 8 subject areas? Send your question or comment to Jeff Holcomb on the Moshi Campus (jeffh@ismoshi.net) or Steve Brown on the Arusha Campus (steveb@ismac.ac.tz).

### Coming up in The MYP Minute:

- Reporting in the MYP
- Working through the 8 Subject Areas:
  - What is MYP Science?
  - What is MYP Humanities?