

Tables are turned as students take control



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STUDENT-led information technology sessions at St Ignatius College are also educating the broader community, while helping pupils become more involved in the education process, an IT specialist teacher says.

At lunchtimes, some students conduct technology question-and-answer sessions for teachers and fellow pupils, while on Mondays after school there is a separate session for parents.

Every Thursday, a separate session aims to teach specific topics, such as office web de-

sign, social networking and on-line safety.

The student-led sessions are organised by Year 12 student Shaun Prentice, who is guided by the school's head of IT, Garth Coulter.

Shaun leads a volunteer team of eight students, aged 13 to 17, while old scholar Nick Curtis also goes in to volunteer his time and energy.

"Shaun is head of this particular area and I want to teach him a bit about leadership," Mr Coulter said.

"He learns rosters and time-tableing and how to manage multiple people.

"He is a very capable student and has learnt a lot from

I want to teach him a bit about leadership

IT TEACHER GARTH COULTER

this." He said while some teachers felt a little nervous asking for student help, many had returned to a second session to ask questions.

"Teachers are finding it really handy, especially when it comes to doing reports on Excel," Mr Coulter said.

"Most of the students (who volunteer) really love it.

"The students feel a lot

more involved in the education process ... they feel like they become a part of it."

Shaun, 17, has organised his Year 12 studies so that he is able to allocate five hours a week running the IT sessions.

"Organisation is the main thing," he said. "I like to plan things really well.

"I embrace the opportunity to help people out in an area I am very passionate about."

Shaun, who plans to study psychology next year, said while he set aside time to relax on the weekends, running the sessions was very therapeutic for him. "IT (information technology) is a passion of mine," he said.

