



Video transcript

Keeping reptiles at Camden High School

Welcome to Camden High School, a comprehensive school, south of Sydney. I'm Katie Elphick, Head Teacher of Science. As part of our student engagement and enrichment activities and linking with the curriculum, one of our teachers keeps reptiles within the school. I'm a strong supporter of this because it helps students to engage with our curriculum and helps them to develop a broader understanding of their environment. Reptiles also can be used within the high school curriculum and lend themselves very well to actively engaging the students and being able to have them involved in the curriculum that we're teaching. It can be involved in from anywhere from Stage 4 up to Stage 6. And what that means is different aspects can be explored within a classroom setting but putting it into a broader context for student understanding. So, within Stage 4 'The living things' as with the primary means that we can go through and look at real World examples and put it into a context where students can understand. It also builds upon the work that they've done within their primary schools. The other thing that in the curriculum that it can lend itself too is things like reproduction and evolution and also a lot of the environment issues because reptiles in the way they interact with their environment can be put into our context, the human context as well with that. We also can look at putting these into examples for Year 11 and 12 in Stage 6 where very specific examples are required. And particularly with the Year 11 Biology topic where we have to use Australian examples, reptiles form a really good basis that we can use for a lot of the course concepts within there. So, what we can do is we can take these things that students know within their environment put it into our classroom and help them to understand what's happening here but also in their surrounding environment. James is a dedicated Science teacher who is passionate about reptiles. We're very lucky to have him within our staff and within our school. He brings a lot of passion and a lot of interest with him into the students. James uses reptiles a lot within his teaching as examples of like I mentioned before the real World examples and a way of also engaging students within the curriculum. So, where suitable he can use a reptile to you know peak the interest of the students and get them involved in the actual understanding of the underlying curriculum and key concepts that go with it. James also uses it as a way to engage and build a rapport with students. And this is particularly evident where you see him after school or at lunchtime talking to students about these kinds of issues. And often they're students who may be disengaged with other aspects of learning or other aspects of the curriculum in school life. So, it's a way that these students can actually find a pathway into it. And I think that's really important as well as providing a way for the students to be actually engaged and have real World examples and find ways that they can make those links with the really important parts of our curriculum.