Maitland Grossmann High School

Maitland Grossmann is a comprehensive coeducational school with 1300 students. The school offers a wide variety of STEM courses for students to study in Stages 5 and 6. The school has made strong sustainable partnerships with local STEM industries and tertiary institutes to develop students STEM skills and inspire students to pursue STEM related career pathways. As the founder and initiator of the iSTEM Stage 5 Elective, Maitland Grossmann has led the way in developing and inspiring many engineering and technology students.

The **iSTEM Program** is a School Developed Board Endorsed Course created by Maitland Grossmann High School as part of a Regional Development Australia – Hunter, ME Program grant. Maitland Grossmann identified the need for contextualised STEM curriculum to better engage students. It is unique in its cross-curricula approach which truly integrates STEM with an emphasis on project based and inquiry based learning pedagogies. Since its introduction in 2010, the school has experienced significant improvements in student participation in physics, engineering studies and mathematics in both Preliminary and HSC Years. It is now a central component of the Hunter's ME Program and over 70 schools across NSW have sought endorsement.

The **Stage 4 iSTEM program**, implemented in 2016, has achieved high acclaim from the Office of the Chief Scientist; *"[iSTEM] is one of the great examples of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and exactly captures the practical nature of science and engineering"* Ian Chubb AFR July 2015.

ME Program is a STEM-focused school and industry partnership program. The program aims to prepare the workforce of the future by linking schools and industry to increase the uptake of science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. Maitland Grossmann High School has been a leading contributor to the success of the ME Program which has been recognised as an exemplar in the National Innovation and Science Agenda. The program has led to outstanding success in external competitions such as **F1 in Schools** at regional, state, national and, for the first time in 2016, international levels. The program has led to an increase in female participation in STEM, including 50% of the iSTEM cohort.