

# Caloundra State High School Testimonial



**About the School:** Caloundra State High School (SHS) is a traditional yet future orientated school where individual student growth and personal achievements are celebrated alongside academic success. Partnerships between students, staff, parents and the community foster a sense of belonging and connectedness. With opportunities for cultural and sporting activities, the flexibility of the curriculum creates resilient lifelong learners and global citizens.

**School Contact:** Ben Lynes, Deputy Senior Secondary

**Students:** 1,331 students (7-12)

**City/State:** Caloundra, Queensland

## What is the school's Teaching & Learning strategy?

Our school priorities are 21st Century Learning, being a School of the Future and having Engaged Learners. Our focus is learning in a 21st century mode incorporating the use of digital ICTs, with every student expected to have and use their own electronic device and being taught the 21st Century skills and attributes of Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Citizenship and Character (6 C's). These attributes and skills provide work readiness skilling, or higher education and training preparedness.

## How did Caloundra SHS handle content learning strategies before ReadCloud?

Prior to 2017, content was accessed via hardcopy textbooks, using a hire scheme. This drained staff time during set up and collection, and resulted in book losses and damage. Attempts were made to migrate to electronic textbooks, however this created the complexity of multiple passwords.

## Is there a specific strategy around integrating digital tools (e.g. a device policy)?

Caloundra SHS is a BYOD school. This means that every student is accountable to bring their own charged device to facilitate access to content, interactive online learning activities, and to use a platform to produce evidence of learning. This

provides a seamless link between school, and access to resources at home.

## Why did you decide to use ReadCloud?

Strong BYOD uptake within the student body is made possible by the school removing barriers to online access. ReadCloud allows us to promote the use of a range of online resources, all with one access point. ReadCloud supports continued online relationships with a range of publishers. Locally produced content can be added to the school-specific ReadCloud accounts, which allows for flexibility of use. ReadCloud is secure, with data stored on Australian-based servers. The service team of engineers and product experts and trainers are competent and available. Updates are rolled out continually to improve service and accessibility.

## What features does Caloundra SHS like the most about the ReadCloud platform?

Textbook publishers have created exceptional content, embedding interactive skill builder pages and videos. The setting of homework via the Class Assignments module allows for a variety of answer types to be given, with ease of teacher marking. Maintaining access to a range of these resources on one bookshelf helps us foster independent learners. Interactive software features means we can enhance student use of routine IT skills such as enhancing print size, accessing text-to-speech (for pronunciation), and bookmark use. ReadCloud provides seamless dictionary lookup and provides teacher-curated annotations of the textbooks.

One typical operational feature of large schools is the volume of transient students and staff. ReadCloud provides unity between the school database and the online resources, leaving no effort on the school's part to update the access of both new and left students to copyright material.

## How has ReadCloud helped with the impact of COVID-19?

All students and teachers entered the at-home learning environment on short notice. The established expertise of accessing the ReadCloud app, and the interactive features within, allowed our students to complete interactive assignments during five weeks of online learning with minimal issues. If we had relied upon paper textbooks, there would have been severe disruption to teaching and learning.