



Dear Teacher

Techlink would like your help in showcasing some examples of student work in technology. The Student Showcase, a feature of this Ministry of Education supported website (<http://www.techlink.org.nz/student-showcase/index.htm>) celebrates excellent student work and promotes technology to a wide range of audiences, including the tertiary sector, industry groups, and the media.

The Student Showcase is highly popular receiving up to 2,500 visits a month. We believe these online snapshots of student work not only help raise awareness of technology as a subject in the wider community but also provide an incentive to students and a way for technology teachers to share ideas. The Student Showcase can also help to lift the profile of your school.

We would like half-page project summaries, giving us a sense of what your student did-their practice, the outcomes they achieved, and what they learnt. We would like you to briefly state why you feel the project was a good one and try and capture something of the students' enthusiasm. Bullet pointed information is fine. The team here at Techlink is happy to work with you to produce a piece suitable.

If you have difficulty finding time to prepare a Student Showcase draft, another option may be to have your students' submit their own work. Student submitted Showcase drafts can capture the project just as effectively and students' often get a real buzz when their work is published online.

For more information contact Vanessa Lai, vlai@techlink.org.nz

Below are some guidelines for the collection of material. On the other side of the page is an example of a student project from Wellington College.

Format Guideline

- Project Details

- Student Name
- Project Title
- School Name
- Year and Class
- Duration
- Teacher
- Client

- Context/Issue (one or two sentences that provide a background to the project)
- Brief (conceptual statement plus final specifications)
- Teacher comment (what makes this good technology? What did the student get out the project?)
- Photos

The photos to be attached need to be clear and high resolution. Two or three photos will be fine so long as they show the finished project clearly (preferably in use). Other photos can show the student at work but are not essential

Permission forms are required before student work can be published. These are available from the email address above.

Student name	James Steel
Project Name	Magna-Air Hockey
School Name	Wellington College
Year and Class	Year 13 Design and Technology
Duration	Full-year 2006
Teacher	Matthew Lane
Client	Karori New World staff

James Steel combined his interests in all things technological with his out-of-school part-time job at a local supermarket. His co-workers asked to him design and build an air hockey table for their staff room. They asked that the table be different from those currently on the market.

James interviewed the staff and explored the market thoroughly. Concepts were explored through sketches, computer aided drawings and models. Alternative materials and processes were considered and trialled.

James's technology teacher, Matthew Lane, says the project was all about juggling interest, technology and materials, and demonstrating how one idea leads to another.

The table uses magnets to change the path of the puck and has inter-changeable table top shapes; both ideas came from group discussions and 'outside the box' thinking. Combining his research with the knowledge gained in his previous technology classes allowed James to choose the most appropriate materials to be used and understand how each choice would have an effect on the final product.

Matthew Lane says it was essential James planned each stage of the construction process carefully as excluding key components could have been done easily.

"The whole process is a particularly good example of how James has rationalised each stage to guarantee an excellent technological solution."

Building the prototype required James to make accurate joints to ensure the table retained its shape and strength. James named his finished project, a 'magna-air hockey table'.

"It works really well and both my client and I are really pleased with the way it has turned out; however, I am already thinking of ways of improving it, and making modifications to the project."

*Examples of photos that help to illustrate the Student Showcase
Remember to make them high resolution.*

