

BREAKING THROUGH THE GLASS CEILING

Burton, J.: ATP Coordinator; *Comet Bay College, Western Australia*

Coates, L.: Curriculum Coordinator, LCM; *Comet Bay College, Western Australia*

White, B.: Curriculum Deputy; *Comet Bay College, Western Australia*

Invariably achieving excellence and one's potential seems most challenging in education in the early adolescent years. For many students, including our most gifted, achievement can plateau, slow to a trickle, or even appear to regress. Staff, students and parents are often complicit in perpetuating this – either not knowing a glass ceiling of expectation exists, or not knowing how to breakthrough it. Jennifer, Lisa and Bronwyn are all part of the admin team at Comet Bay College, Western Australia's newest state Academic Talent Program school. This workshop overviews one school's attempt at redressing the issue of low expectation on the part of teachers, parents and students. Participants will come away with a clear sense of how Comet Bay College has, to date, worked at establishing a culture of excellence with staff, students and parents. Strategies will be explored that could be applied across contexts with all stakeholders and include: developing in- school structures that perpetuate excellence in expectation and in practice; using ICT as a support mechanism and working with students and parents to break barriers and smash through the glass ceiling that does exist to create a culture of excellence.