

Bruce Rodger

Avonhead School, Christchurch

Recipient of the 2018 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award



Bruce considers his role as a Year 7/8 Team Leader as one that will encourage, inspire and motivate those around him to be the best version of themselves.

He feels that being a teacher is worthwhile just to see the progress of students through the academic year, regardless of their abilities. When he bumps into past students in public and they choose to come and talk to him he says he feels a sense of satisfaction because to him it means that he has made an impact on their lives.

Bruce says problem solving is a very important aspect of his teaching. Teaching students to think outside the square and analyse a problem for multiple perspectives is a key to their future achievements, he says. That's why, he insists on starting his class with a round of activities that involve problem solving techniques.

Bruce sees himself as more than just a teacher. He considers himself as the sole male role model in many of his students' lives. "If I can impact just one student a year, then my job is done," he says.

He understands that being a leader in education comes with a great deal of responsibility and that being a good teacher means having an even greater one.