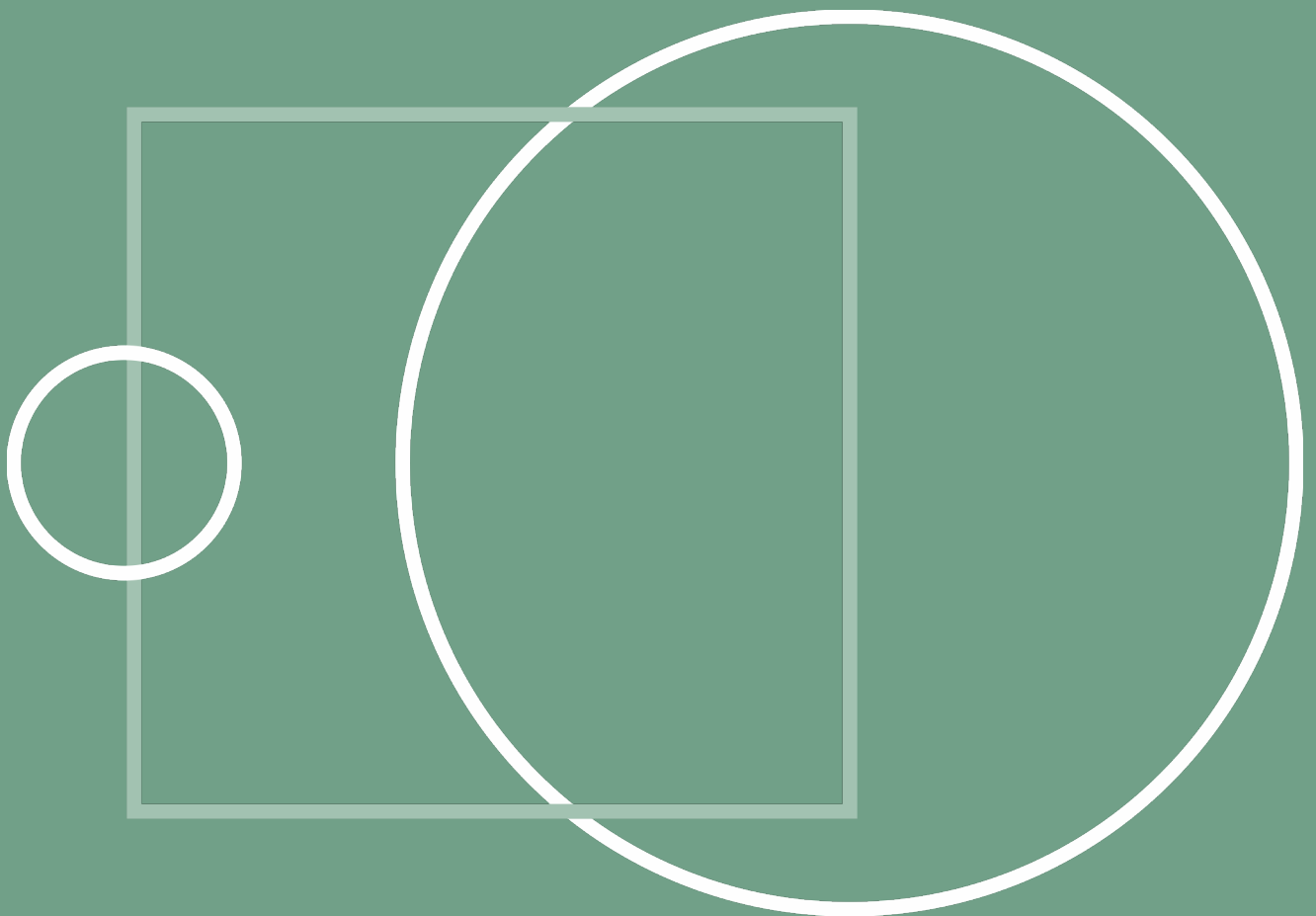


# **21C skills lab**

Information Pack

**TRAILBLAZER SCHOOLS CLUSTER**  
**2017-18**



## OVERVIEW

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The 21C Skills Lab Trailblazer Schools Cluster brings together 10 Auckland secondary and intermediate schools actively committed to supporting students to understand, develop and showcase the full range of 21C skills.

The Trailblazer Schools will represent a range of deciles and be located across Auckland, ensuring a balanced range of students from across year groups and ethnicities, including students from a Māori immersion environment and international students. They may represent a number of [Communities of Learning](#), and, together, up to 10,000 students will be involved.

The Trailblazer Schools will participate together in a one year programme, beginning at the start of Term 3, 2017. Key benefits for each school will be:

- Access to [Tessera](#), an internationally leading, **next-generation assessment** of students' social and emotional skills, at an individual and cohort level, as a basis for individual intervention and wider strategic planning and assessing the impact of intervention
- Guided access to the **Tessera™ Teacher Playbook** which provides actionable steps for teachers to build social and emotional skills – particularly teamwork, emotional resilience and grit – based on up-to-date research
- Up to 4 **empowered teachers** with increased capability to interpret data, design and test skills-focused interventions and lead change in your school's context
- Up to 4 new, tested **21C skills development programmes** designed for your school's needs, and access to many more being tested in other Auckland schools and internationally
- **Students** excited and empowered by understanding their skills in a new way as well as developing them through real-world experience
- **Alignment** across the board, school leadership, parent and student body around the importance of 21C skills
- Opportunities for **partnerships and collaboration** across schools and across the 21C Skills Lab's corporate, government and other learning partners
- Access to **leading global researchers** and practitioners working with schools internationally on 21C skills assessment and development
- An opportunity to take a **leadership role** in driving change within the education sector, working alongside business and government

Participation in the Trailblazer Pilot will cost each school \$10,000 each, invoiced upfront. This will cover the school's participation in the full year-long programme, providing pre- and post-Tessera assessment testing for up to 1000 students, as well as workshops with global 21C skills leaders, a 21C Skills workshop for parents at each school, and a year-long 21C Skills Leaders Programme for up to 4 teachers at each school. Schools will also be able to access SkillsLabs and other workshops run for students by the 21C Skills Lab at an additional cost.

School leaders from Trailblazer schools will also take a leading role in representing forward-thinking schools alongside major employers, government and tertiaries as well as international thought-leaders in a Learning Summit focused on sharing experience and aligning NZ's 21C skill development strategy.

### This information pack covers the following areas:

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1. Sign-on
2. Tessera testing and results
3. 21C Skills Introductory Workshops
4. The 21C Skills Leader Programme
5. SkillsLabs and Other Workshops
6. 21C Skills Lab Learning Summit

## 1. Sign-On

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The 21C Skills Lab Trailblazer Cluster 2017-18 will commence at the beginning of Term 3, 2017. For this reason, schools interested in taking one of the 10 places in the cluster should move as quickly as possible to confirm their participation in the programme, by **1 July 2017** at the latest. We are happy to work with schools to provide additional material useful for boards etc if that is useful.

We also note that it is important for the accuracy of the research going on behind the cluster that we bring together a diverse group of Auckland schools in terms of decile, geography and ethnicity, and balanced in terms of gender. For this reason, we may need to hold over some interested schools until the 2018 Cluster.

Schools will have their participation in the Trailblazer Cluster confirmed by 30 June 2017 and will be invoiced for immediate payment. Places will only be confirmed with payment of the full programme cost.

Once the Trailblazer schools are confirmed, we will organise a **briefing meeting** for principals and/ or the lead teacher responsible for the programme, to take place in the week starting 3 July 2017..

## 2. Tessera <sup>™</sup> Testing and Results

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The first stage for Trailblazer schools will be establishing a baseline of existing social and emotional (SEL) skills, using ProExam/ ACT's [Tessera](#) tool. This data, allowing schools to analyse students on an individual, sub-group and cohort basis, will provide a strong basis for schools to make strategic decisions about focus areas of challenge and opportunity.

At this point, schools will only be able to assess up to 1000 students each. Schools with more than 1000 students will need to make a call as to which year groups or other sub-groups of students to focus this initial testing on.

As soon as possible after signing up, schools will need to provide the name, year group and NSN for all students who are to undertake the assessment. ProExam/ ACT will provide the school with a username and password for each student.

Students will undertake the Tessera 45 minute online test early in Term 3. ProExam/ACT will need each of the 10 schools to undertake testing within a specified 5 day window in order to facilitate processing. The 21C Skills Lab will work closely with schools to co-ordinate this testing programme.

The 21C Skills Lab will provide a package of materials which schools can use to inform parents and students about the assessment.

### More information:

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The ProExam [website](#) and [blog](#) contains a wealth of accessible and usable information on SEL and Tessera, suitable for sharing with staff, parents and the Board.

Some key resources are:

- [Do you have a clear picture of your students' non-cognitive skills?](#) (general informational brochure)
- [Why it is imperative to assess SEL/ noncognitive skills](#) (infographic)
- [Sample Tessera school report](#)
- [Tessera Teacher Playbook preview](#)
- [The 6 skills and character strengths](#) (information sheets on each showing facets, assessment approach, possible intervention strategies)
- ["10 Ways Educators Can Use SEL Measurement and Assessment for Student Success"](#) (blog by Jonathan Martin)
- [School testimonials](#)
- ["Schools Really Can \(And Should\) Measure Non-Cognitive Skills"](#) (30 minute **Getting Smart** podcast)
- Roberts, R, Martin J and Olaru, G (2015). [A Rosetta stone for noncognitive skills: Understanding, assessing and enhancing noncognitive skills in primary and secondary education](#). Asia Society/ ProExam (accessible paper describing the academic basis for the Tessera assessment approach)
- Belfield, C et al (2015). [The Economic Value of Social and Emotional Learning](#). Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education, Teachers College, Columbia University (finds an extremely high \$11 return for every \$1 invested in social and emotional learning interventions)

### 3. 21C Skills Introductory Workshops

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Once the Tessera student testing phase is complete (by late August 2017), ProExam/ ACT will undertake a rigorous analysis of the NZ Trailblazer schools' data, comparing it against the US data to ensure appropriate calibration, before producing, for each school, an individual report for all students taking the test and an overall school report. Schools will also be able to receive this information as an Excel spreadsheet if they would like.

Schools will be provided with their data at least 3 working days prior to the initial **Introduction to Tessera workshop** to be held in Auckland in mid/ late September. This will be a full day workshop, led by the Chief Scientist at ProExam, Dr Rich Roberts, and Tessera lead facilitator, educationalist Jonathan Martin. Each school will be able to send up to 4 participants and a copy of the Tessera Playbook will be provided to all participants. The workshop will cover:

- The importance of non-cognitive skills
- How Tessera works
- How to interpret the Tessera data to understand school strengths and opportunities for improvement
- An overview of how to analyse the data further, including by studying which SEL skills are positively and negatively correlated with achievement, attendance etc
- How to share results with the school community and individual students
- How to use the Tessera Playbook to develop effective interventions
- How to undertake follow-up use of Tessera to assess intervention effectiveness

There will also be a 3 hour **Introduction to 21C Skills breakfast workshop** with Rich and Jonathan for Trailblazer principals and board trustees to build knowledge of non-cognitive skills and how Tessera and the 21C Skills Lab can support their work to develop a 21C skills strategy.

Parents from Trailblazer schools will also have the opportunity to attend an evening **Introduction to 21C Skills and Careers workshop** convened by the 21C Skills Lab. We will look to schedule three workshops: in South Auckland; central Auckland and on the North Shore.

## 4. The 21C Skills Leader Programme

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Each Trailblazer school will then select up to 4 teachers to take part in the one year **21C Skills Leader Programme**. Through the programme, teachers will:

- Identify key areas where they want to build student 21C skills, based on their school's Tessera results and its overall strategic plan
- Define, ideate and rapidly prototype initiatives focused on this, resourced by a large range of research on interventions which have had impact globally.
- Test out one or more of the most promising initiatives in their own school environment, working together or separately
- Iterate and refine their projects
- Build new skills around leading and driving change with their school and Community of Learning, including how to make change sticky and sustainable, and able to scale.

Through the programme, teachers will learn and practice a design thinking approach (a critical 21C skill in itself) and will support each other's learning in a facilitated community, as well as being mentored by experienced education innovators. As a community of innovators, our Trailblazer cluster will generate a powerful resource for each other - and schools which come on board next - to draw upon.

In this initial year, the Lab will partner with [Education Changemakers](#), a highly experienced and globally sought-after agency, to lead this programme, based on their [Changemaker Programme](#) and tailored for the NZ 21C skill context.

The programme will be made up of three workshops:

- The initial **two-day workshop** in mid-October will focus on working rapidly through the initial “empathise, define, ideate and prototype” design stages, with all participants leaving with a clear change project addressing their identified challenge to test in their own school environment in the 2018 school year
- The **second workshop**, held in June 2018 allows participants to iterate and refine their projects, and build new tools around leading and driving change with their school and Community of Learning.
- The final **one day workshop** in September 2018 focuses on how to make change sticky and sustainable, and able to scale.

Throughout the year-long programme, participants can engage with unlimited strategy and coaching meetings with the 21C Skills Lab team and the facilitators through personalised email, phone calls and video conferences. Learning is also reinforced through a facilitated online learning community.

## 5. SkillsLabs and Other Workshops

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Students from Trailblazer schools, as well as other Auckland schools, will have the opportunity to participate in 21C Skills Lab events and workshops around 21C skills development, career and further education planning, and showcasing 21C skills to employers.

These events and workshops can be held during school time, in school or at the Lab, or as part of a holiday programme. They will be at an additional charge to the Trailblazer Cluster participation cost and will be negotiated on a school by school basis. An events programme is under development and will be sent out to schools shortly.

### **Understanding 21C Skills and Understanding 21C Careers Workshops**

These two half-day workshops can be customized for students at different year groups (eg Y9-10, Y 11-12, Y 13). Where students have undertaken the Tessera assessment, the workshop will incorporate reflection using this tool.

### **SkillsLabs**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of focused SkillsLabs held through the year. These will be rich, immersive, hands-on learning experiences, taking advantage of digital technology, and grounded in the 'real world of work'.

Each SkillsLab will focus on a particular 21C skill area – such as creativity, resilience, design thinking or entrepreneurship – and, where appropriate, will be undertaken in partnership with businesses and learning partners. SkillsLabs will feature our 21C Skills Champions – young New Zealanders who are building exciting careers using and developing the focus skill. They will also incorporate a strong “real world” perspective – using partner employers to show students how these skills are valued in their own contexts.

### **Showcasing Skills Workshops**

Students will have the opportunity to learn how to best showcase and communicate their 21C skills to employers, tertiaries and others in two workshops.

The first will use a 21C Skills Lab tool to help students build their own digital portfolio, showing how they have developed and utilized key skills – at school, through sports and community activities, with their families, and at work. The portfolio will incorporate digital badges recognising strong demonstrated skill levels assessed using Tessera.

The second workshop will focus on empowering students to tell their own skill stories in interviews and applications.

## **6. 21C Skills Lab Learning Summit**

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Held in September 2018, the 21C Skills Lab Learning Summit will run over 2 days.

On the first day, Trailblazer school principals, trustees, teachers and students will come together as a group to discuss what they have learned, what they can share with other NZ schools and stakeholders, how they want to take their work forward and how the 21C Skills Lab can better support schools and students to achieve their 21C skills aspirations.

On the second day, the Summit will open its doors to a broader community of the 21C Skills Lab's organizational and learning partners, other schools who want to learn about 21C skills development, and other partners and collaborators internationally. School leaders and our “21C skills leader” teachers will share case studies and their research and results. The group will also look forward to what more can be done together to align efforts to drive change across the NZ education system.

## Contact:

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For any queries, please contact the Co-Directors:

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