

EXCLUSIVE BETHANY HIATT
EDUCATION EDITOR

There will be no classrooms, timetables or bells at a “radical” new private school opening in Fremantle next year.

Instead, students at The Studio School will decide for themselves what they want to learn and how they want to do it, with support from mentors.

Belinda Provis, principal of All Saints’ College which is backing the standalone school, said it marked a “radical shift” away from mainstream education.

“The traditional classroom won’t exist,” she said. “It’ll be more like a co-working space, an adult approach to learning where students co-design their program based on their aspirations and interests.

“That notion of a rigid timetable and age-grouped young people won’t exist in this model.

“It is quite a radical shift for Perth — and probably Australia — in taking us to that next generation of schooling.”

Ms Provis said The Studio School would provide a “boutique model of schooling” to about 120 students in Years 10, 11 and 12, whose work on real-world projects would count towards their WA Certificate of Education.

“It’s a significant shift away from a systemised approach to education towards a personalised approach,” she said. “It’s a re-imagining of what education should look like.”

Instead of absorbing information from a teacher standing at the front of a classroom, Ms Provis said it would be a model

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“where students are doing” and learning from partners in industry, academia and the community.

“They would be working on achieving their academic milestones but via projects that are linked to their particular passions,” she said.

Students would still be able to study some ATAR subjects and sit exams if they wished.

TSS is negotiating a lease for a space in the centre of Fremantle, chosen for its reputation as a creative hub and links to public transport.

School fees would be about \$13,000 a year, half the amount charged by All Saints’ College.

Sashana Burling, 14, who hopes to swap the All Saints’ College uniform for a TSS polo shirt next year, said the independent learning style appealed to her.

“I’m very passionate about the environment and music, so anything that revolves around them would be really amazing,” she said.

Her mum Marlena said she was excited about the model.

“I believe many parents feel their child would benefit from combining their studies with their passions,” she said.