

Students: Amy-Alyce Attard, Dylan Morrison and Tegan Kay

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From left: Amy-Alyce Attard, Dylan Morrison and Tegan Kay will this month take part in the Future Problem Solving National Finals in Queensland.

Problem solvers put to the test

BY REBECCA COMINI

THREE SENIOR CATHOLIC Regional College (CRC) Sydenham students will be putting on their thinking caps to solve the problems of the future in a national competition to be held this month.

Year 11 students Dylan Morrison, Amy-Alyce Attard and Tegan Kay will be competing in the Future Problem Solving Program National Finals in Queensland from 16-18 October, after winning the Victorian senior student competition earlier this year.

Kairos Catholic Journal is sponsoring the students, donating \$300 to help with their travel expenses to get to Queensland for the finals.

The Future Problem Solving Program is an international educational program for students of all ages from Prep to year 12 that focuses on the development of creative thinking skills. Students are required to identify problems and, by applying imagination and critical thinking skills, develop positive solutions. The program aims to give young people the skills to design and promote positive futures for the society in which they live.

CRC Sydenham deputy principal Leo McInerney said the students would be representing all Victorian Catholic schools as the only Catholic school to have made the final.

"It's a two-hour examination in

which they are given a scenario. They read the scenario and they have to pick out all the problems regarding the situation then come up with a complete and exhaustive list of solutions to overcome the scenario," Mr McInerney said. "The kids have no idea what the scenario will be so they can't plan for it or study it."

In the Victorian competition, the scenario was on the environment. "They entered the competition last year, which gave them a good grounding to go on this year."

Mr McInerney had high praise for the students.

"Dylan is a hardworking, diligent student who inputs 110% in every aspect he undertakes. He was recently appointed college captain and has been achieving impeccable grades while balancing home, social and some part-time work," he said.

"Tegan achieves fantastic grades and was recently appointed college vice-captain. She is a well-known student who is always willing to lend a helping hand. She is currently working towards her major goal of studying medicine at Melbourne University and becoming a doctor.

"Amy-Alyce Attard is a studious student who is focused on her studies. She is committed to the school community and has been given the role of college captain next year. Amy always has a positive outlook on tasks set out for her and is looking forward to going to the nationals." ■