This term, our MacKillop Club students will be focusing on completing a ‘coding’ course.

**What is Coding?**
Coding, in the simplest of terms, is telling a computer what you want it to do, which involves typing in step-by-step commands for the computer to follow. Computers are not clever things, however they are very obedient. They will do exactly what you want them to do, so long as you tell them how to do it correctly. Learning to code has been likened to learning a foreign language, or perhaps more specifically a family of foreign languages. Have you heard of ‘Javascript’ or ‘Python’? These are just two of the most common coding languages.

**Why is coding important?**
Code powers our digital world. Every website, smartphone app, computer programme, calculator and even microwave relies on code in order to operate. This makes coders the architects and builders of the digital age. Over the next 10 years it is estimated that there will be 1.4 million jobs in computer sciences and only around 400,000 graduates qualified to do them. Jobs not directly linked to computer sciences - such as banking, medicine and journalism - will also be affected by the need for at least an understanding of programming and coding.

As an added bonus, coding can be fun! Our MacKillop Club students have really enjoyed trying coding so far.

It is really easy to begin coding. I encourage you to try some coding at home. A great place to start is by using the ‘Hour Of Code’ website: [https://code.org/learn](https://code.org/learn)

Brett Wilkie
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