



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Term 2 mornings are certainly refreshing aren't they?

The days are crisp and clear and the winter uniform is necessary to stay warm. Students are drawn to the comfort of the inside rooms and Term 2 becomes the reporting term. Every student will receive that formal feedback about progress.

In the recent release of the future plan for school education at the national level, the Gonski 2.0. plan, the design team is keen for the reality of student learning to match the rhetoric of what all schools say – student learning needs to indicate 12 months of schooling. No doubt you will be interested in the discussion about our nations progress compared to the rest of the world. At Thomas Hassall, we are working hard towards the goals of the plan. Please find the summary of the plan at the end of this article.

Our 'Leader of the Pack' Musical concludes this week after a 6-night performance season across 2 weeks. Did you take the opportunity to see the show; enjoy the wonderful songs; the fabulous set and the outstanding efforts from all the cast and crew; the staff, students and parents behind the scenes, and the brilliant expertise of our orchestra; our sound and lighting team – all directed by the master direction of Justin Fitzgerald.

The superlatives are justified, and importantly, after nearly 6 months of preparations, the learning that takes place in such a project is never forgotten. So much of what the students gain from the Musical (and indeed every significant project) is transferable into academic learning and future opportunities. We are very keen to encourage the arts and public performances; to encourage the best pursuits in sport and outdoor education; the study of languages and technology.

Contemporary education offers much for our future adults.

Thanks for your continued support of the College and our programs. Our 20th year is celebrated in 2019 and as the new Physical Education Centre and Oval nears completion, we are looking to promote a 20th year project. The College Council is working hard on future plans and we will be looking for the ongoing support of our families – our students and parents in the next exciting phase for the College.

*'...Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?..' **Romans 8:34,35***

We have identified three priorities ...



Deliver at least one year's growth in learning for every student every year



Equip every student to be a creative, connected and engaged learner in a rapidly changing world



Cultivate an adaptive, innovative and continuously improving education system

... and made recommendations across five areas to address them

1  Laying the foundations for learning	• Promote high-quality early learning and seamless transitions into school • Engage parents and carers as partners in their children's learning throughout school and develop tools and resources to support this • Ensure all students have the opportunity within schools to be partners in their own learning
2  Equipping every student to grow and succeed in a changing world	• Introduce new reporting with a focus on learning attainment and learning gain • Revise the structure of the Australian Curriculum to present the learning areas and general capabilities as learning progressions • Prioritise the acquisition of foundation skills in literacy and numeracy in curriculum delivery during the early years • Give more prominence to the acquisition of the general capabilities e.g. critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability • Strengthen community engagement to enrich learning • Review senior secondary schooling to equip students with skills for the future
3  Creating, supporting and valuing a profession of expert educators	• Create the conditions and culture to enable and encourage more professional collaboration, observation, feedback and mentoring amongst teachers • Develop an online and on demand student learning assessment tool for teachers for the purposes of formative assessment and tailored teaching • Provide teachers with high-quality professional learning • Develop a comprehensive national teacher workforce strategy • Implement effective induction practices for early career teachers • Create meaningful career pathways which value and utilise teaching expertise and keep excellent teachers teaching
4  Empowering and supporting school leaders	• Review and revise the Australian Professional Standard for Principals to prioritise leadership of learning and include accountability for individual student learning growth • Ensure principals have the autonomy required to lead their school on the improvement journey most relevant to their starting point • Create and implement a structured career pathway for school leaders • Provide school leaders with high-quality professional learning
5  Raising and achieving aspirations through innovation and continuous improvement	• Enhance school and system internal self-review and external quality assurance processes for the purposes of monitoring and reviewing student learning gain • Accelerate the introduction of a Unique Student Identifier • Establish an independent institution to coordinate, source and generate the development of a national research and evidence base that can be easily accessed and implemented to improve student outcomes



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