



THE WAY



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There is much to recognise and celebrate in this edition of The Way . Last week we held a service for the 25th anniversary of the College and opened the new STEM building. It was a fabulous occasion and I want to specifically commend the students who attended for their exemplary behaviour. The student leaders had the opportunity to meet our guest speaker – Dr Lewis Jones from the university of NSW. He inspired us all to see God’s design in Science and how they go together. Dr Jones wrote to thank the College and to acknowledge the students – ‘I thoroughly enjoyed myself and was so impressed with the students...They were positively engaged with life and are a credit to their parents and staff and teachers and the vision for education that you have together created and fostered.’

We have also completed NAPLAN for another year and held our two cross country carnivals. Again, I want to commend the students for their efforts and commitment. It is wonderful to walk around the College and observe so many of the students actively learning and concentrating in their lessons. Today, the Senior Boys’ Football Team competed in the CIS Football Cup against Central Coast Adventist School. This is another great example of how learning occurs – the boys operated as a team, they encouraged each other, and their skill was evident. Congratulations on a well-deserved win.



I am meeting students as often as possible as they arrive on the buses each morning. It is a wonderful way to start my day. Hearing them thank the bus drivers, help younger students with their bags and greet me is a joy.

I also want to start a conversation with you all about the impact of online interactions on young people. You will be aware that there is new legislation coming into effect in December 2025. The aim of these new laws is to establish a minimum age of 16 for social media use and to place responsibility on social media platforms for the safety of their users. In 2023 all government schools introduced a policy to restrict phone use onsite. At Thomas Hassall we require students to use the College issued pouch during the day as a secure place for phones and to promote a safe environment for all students. We understand that social media platforms can be a great way to connect with our families and friends but it is also a danger to young people who do not understand the impact of their choices. Please continue to have discussions with your children regarding phone use and interactions. It is never okay to film other children and there are legal implications surrounding the sharing of photos and videos online.

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Colossians 1:16-17

Mrs Karen Easton
Principal
