THE WAY

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FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

This week we were privileged to have students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 present their Creative Arts Night.

At Thomas Hassall, the creative and performing arts—music, dance, drama and visual arts—play a vital role in shaping young minds. These disciplines are more than just extra-curricular activities; they are essential tools for cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Research from the University of Sydney highlights that students involved in the arts show higher motivation, engagement, self-esteem and life satisfaction. Participation in creative subjects fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills, all of which contribute to academic success.

The arts provide a safe space for self-expression, helping children build confidence and resilience. Drama and dance, for instance, encourage teamwork and empathy, while music enhances emotional intelligence.

The Learning Behaviours section of the K-6 report highlights these qualities. Active listening, collaboration, focus on tasks and resilience with challenges are all skills developed through the arts. Encourage your children to participate with enthusiasm and delight in their lessons throughout the term.

By integrating the arts into primary education, Thomas Hassall and all other primary schools

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nurture creative, confident and well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the challenges of the future. The benefits extend far beyond the classroom, shaping students into expressive and thoughtful members of society.

Ms Lisa Hansford
Director of Teaching and Learning - Junior School

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