



THE WAY

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This week I have been reflecting on the many challenges facing our world. The recent escalation of conflict around the world has reminded us how fragile global peace can be.

Here in Australia, we enjoy relative safety and security. Yet even from afar, these events carry an emotional weight. It is often difficult to fathom the personal cost borne by so many individuals and families living in fear and confronting loss. These stories remind us why the virtues of respect, kindness and empathy matter so much.

Over recent weeks, I have been speaking with our Senior School students about these very themes and how important it is to treat others the way we want to be treated. This is a challenging message when the adults in the world sometimes struggle to do the same. In the Junior School, I've been delighted to hear about the "Word of the Week." Last week's focus on friendship feels especially meaningful. What a valuable concept for young people to embrace at a time when the world so often appears to ignore the most basic principles of compassion and decency.

Last week was Harmony Week, an annual United Nations-aligned initiative that celebrates multiculturalism and diversity. It is a time to recognise the richness that different cultures bring to our communities. In light of the global conflicts we are witnessing, this message carries a certain irony. Yet at Thomas Hassall, it is a source of pride: we are a community united in our acceptance of difference and our appreciation of culture. Whilst we will recognise this next term during Unite week, it is still a good reminder of who we can be when we show acceptance and understanding

of each other.

We each come from unique backgrounds and traditions. Many of our families will approach the upcoming Easter break from very different cultural or faith traditions. But within our College, we share a common culture. We are grounded in a culture belonging, connection and respect. It is a culture where we are comfortable sharing our faith, acknowledging the beliefs and identities of others, and celebrating what unites us under Christ and within Australia's diverse social fabric.

We want our young people to grow confident in who they are, proud of where they come from and capable of celebrating both their own heritage and the shared culture that binds us together as a College community.

I want us to be known as a community that chooses respect. A community that values culture. A community that practices kindness, not only when it is easy, but when it is needed most.

As we enter the Easter season, we are reminded that our deepest sense of belonging is anchored not in circumstance, but in the hope Christ offers. The empty tomb declares that light overcomes darkness, that renewal is possible, and that each of us is invited into a community shaped by grace. May this truth inspire us to build a College where every student knows they are valued and where belonging is not just something we speak about, but something we live each day.

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said."
– Matthew 28:6

Mrs Karen Easton
Principal
