THE WAY

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School musicals are extraordinary, not only because of what we see on the stage, but because of what our students learn along the way. Yes, they learn lines, dance moves, blocking and timing, but they learn so much more. Through cocurricular activities such as this, students develop character traits that can seem to be lacking in the world around us: commitment, courage, creativity, collaboration, trust and perseverance. These are the skills and values that I want for the students at the College. I want them to develop qualities that will shape them for a successful future.

What we have had the privilege of enjoying over the past two weeks is the culmination of more than six months of work. Productions like this also remind us of the value of being connected to something that goes beyond the immediate. In a world that can so often focus on convenience, speed and individual recognition, these shared experiences call us to something bigger. Culture is built through what we do and how we do it and at Thomas Hassall, we want to be a community marked by excellence alongside generosity, service and joy.

Our community is deeply interconnected, and events like this are never the result of one group alone. Behind the scenes, many people have worked hard to make this production possible. I want to sincerely acknowledge the staff, volunteers and supporters whose contribution has shaped every part of this experience, often in ways unseen by audiences. I also want to especially recognise our parents. You are integral to the success of so much of what we do. Whether supporting rehearsals, helping prepare costumes and props, serving in practical ways, or simply encouraging your children through what can be a demanding time, your partnership is invaluable.

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Thank you.

This same spirit of connection has also been evident more broadly across College life. Last week's Mother's Day Breakfast was a wonderful celebration, bringing families together, and the stalls added to the sense of occasion by drawing so many different parts of our community together. It was a lovely reminder that the strength of a school is found not only in major events and performances, but in the many opportunities we have to gather, contribute and build relationships across the College. I am humbled by your kindness and support.

Culture is also built on our heritage. It is with sadness and gratitude that I also share the news that the first Principal of the College, Dr Bryan Cowling passed away yesterday. So much that we benefit from today, are from the vision that he started. He has left an amazing legacy. Please take the time to read the article that reflects his service to us and to education.

While the applause at the end of a performance is directed toward those on stage, what it truly celebrates is something much deeper: us working together with our young people growing not only in talent but also in character.

Thank you all!

> *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.*
> *- Colossians 3:23*

Mrs Karen Easton
Principal

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