THE WAY

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THE STAFFROOM SERIES

Welcome to **The Staffroom Series**, a new feature where we introduce you to some of our teachers and support staff across the College.

Through this series, we will learn a little more about their roles and get to know the people behind the work they do each day.

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What is your role at the College and how long have you been here?

I am a Science teacher and the Year 10 Advisor here at the College. My primary role involves teaching Science to students in Years 7–10, alongside senior Biology. In my capacity as a Year Advisor, I am dedicated to advocating for our students by supporting their academic, emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing. I first started at the College in September 2007—meaning I am fast approaching my 20-year milestone!

What do you love about teaching at Thomas Hassall?

Thomas Hassall is a special place to work because of our incredibly diverse culture. Over the years, I have been privileged to build deep, meaningful connections with so many people across our community - colleagues, students, and parents alike. And, being able to weave faith and learning together in this environment makes every single day incredibly fulfilling.

What is one thing students or staff might be surprised to learn about you?

People might be surprised to learn that I am an IRB Level 3 certified Rugby Union coach and used to work as a Rugby Union talent scout. I always thoroughly enjoyed identifying talent and working closely with youth to develop their skills on the field, and I love bringing that same team-first development mindset into my classroom.

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If you weren’t a teacher, what would you be doing?

I would probably be working in the sporting world. My absolute dream job would be serving as a match analyst for the All Blacks, breaking down game footage and finding ways to outsmart the opposition.

Do you have a favourite Bible verse?

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

To me, this is a daily reminder to let pleasing God be my ultimate motivation. It encourages me and my students to simply do the absolute best we can, knowing that our effort is what matters most.

Share a learning moment that has brought you joy recently.

During a recent Year 11 Biology lesson, a student asked me if I believed in evolution. While I can't recall my exact initial response, it sparked such a deep curiosity that half the class voluntarily stayed behind during lunch. We had an incredibly open, respectful conversation about faith, science, our personal beliefs, and what it all means. The absolute greatest joy was that a few students who do not identify as religious stayed as well, simply to ask honest questions about Jesus and church. Seeing young people engage so thoughtfully with life's big questions was incredibly rewarding.

What is your role at the College and how long have you been here?

My current role is Gifted and Talented Liaison for the Junior School. In this role I advocate for our high ability learners within the College and have the pleasure of working with many of these students across the Junior College.

I started working at Thomas Hassall Anglican College in 2002. I have had many different roles over this time, and I’ve never had a chance to get bored!

What do you love about teaching at Thomas Hassall?

I love that we can freely share our love of God with the whole College community. It is a joy and privilege to do so each day. The staff at Thomas Hassall are fabulous; passionate about their role as educators, caring and supportive of others, and able to laugh and joke as well. When working with students, I enjoy seeing their ability to question, critique or explain a concept develop. I especially enjoy those “got it!” moments.

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What is one thing students or staff might be surprised to learn about you?

Many are surprised to hear that I have four children, ranging from ages 8 to 20!

If you weren't in your current role, what would you be doing?

I always gravitate to working with people. If I weren't a teacher, I would be interested in exploring speech therapy.

Do you have a favourite Bible verse?

The following excerpt from Psalm 139 has been a favourite of mine since I was a child. The poetry mixed with the assurance of God's love and enduring faithfulness always provides comfort and certainty when times can be difficult.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
  Where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
  if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
  if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me,
  your right hand will hold me fast.

Share a learning moment that has brought you joy recently.

I recently judged our Junior School Illustrators Competition alongside Mrs McDermott. Seeing the talent and enthusiasm of our students, from the youngest to the oldest, was delightful. The creativity and skill demonstrated in many of the entries were fantastic!

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What is your role at the College and how long have you been here?

I'm one of the psychologists who work in Senior School. This is my 7th year at Thomas Hassall working in this role and I absolutely love it.

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What do you love about working at Thomas Hassall?

I love being able to support and work with young people throughout their Senior School years and seeing their tremendous growth. I feel incredibly blessed and privileged to be a part of this in some way for young people.

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What is one thing students or staff might be surprised to learn about you?

I never actually planned on becoming a psychologist (let alone one the specialises in children and adolescents!). My original dream was to play basketball professionally and for several years I played semi-professionally in Australia and overseas. However, God had much better plans for my life which I am very grateful for!

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If you weren't in your current role, what would you be doing?

Any profession that involves helping or supporting people that are struggling in life in some shape or form.

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Do you have a favourite Bible verse?

Recently, my favourite Bible verse has been 2 Corinthians 12:9-10:

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

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Share a moment in your role that has brought you joy recently.

There are several year 12 students who I have been supporting and working with since they were in year 7. It brings me incredible joy and gratitude to see how much they have grown over the past six years and become these wonderful young people ready to take on the next big step in their lives after the HSC.

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