THE WAY

TERM 4 | THE WAY NEWSLETTER | FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026



FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Power of Questions: Unlocking Growth, Learning and Achievement

When I taught my own primary classes, I used to ask my students to write down their wonderings. What did they think about at any one time in a day? The answers would range from what they were having for lunch to how cars work to why wars were fought and beyond.

Primary teachers typically ask and answer anywhere from 300 to 400 questions in a single teaching day. I wonder how many questions parents ask in day? And how many of these questions are actually answered?

Yet one of the most powerful drivers of learning is not the answers students provide, but the questions they ask.

Questioning is at the heart of deep learning. Curious students are active learners. When children learn to ask thoughtful questions, they develop the learning behaviours that support both academic achievement and lifelong success.

Families play an important role in fostering a culture of inquiry at home. Rather than focusing solely on outcomes 'Did you have a good day?' consider asking questions that promote thinking and reflection:

- - What was the most interesting thing you learned today?

Copyright Thomas Hassall Anglican College. All Rights Reserved. 125 Kingsford Smith Ave, Middleton Grange NSW 2171

- - What challenged you today?
- - How did you solve a problem today?

These conversations communicate that learning is about exploration and growth, not just getting the right answer.

The teachers at Thomas Hassall are using student questions as a form of reflection of student learning. As educators and parents, our role is not only to provide answers, but to nurture the questions that inspire deeper learning and lasting growth.

Ms Lisa Hansford
Director of Teaching and Learning - Junior School

Copyright Thomas Hassall Anglican College. All Rights Reserved. 125 Kingsford Smith Ave, Middleton Grange NSW 2171