THE WAY

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of another year is fast approaching, and as we look towards the final weeks of 2026 there is much to recognise and celebrate. Our College theme this year has been Discover, and it has been a joy to see our students discover new interests, new strengths and new confidence as the year has unfolded. These are precious moments to pause and give thanks for the growth we have seen throughout the year and the way our students have thrived.

Our Sports Assembly was a highlight. It gave us the opportunity to honour the students who have achieved at the top of their respective sports, and to celebrate their dedication and success. It also invited us to reflect on the contribution that sport makes in shaping character. Through sport, our students learn perseverance, how to win and lose graciously, how to work as part of a team and, importantly, the joy of participation. These are the traits that build resilience and respect for others, and they matter just as much as any result on the day.

The Dance Concert was fantastic, with glitter, sequins and skill on full display. Our students performed with confidence and flair, and it was wonderful to see the hard work behind the scenes come together on stage. Some were at the early stages, learning to overcome performance anxiety and to work in small groups, while others were more proficient and confident. All, however, are learning how to learn, how to persevere and how to encourage one another.

Thank you, parents and families, for the way you support our students and our programs. Your encouragement helps us to achieve our College objectives, where every learner is able to make progress and to choose areas of interest to explore throughout the year. This is how we build

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community.

I am proud to share that we have received eight nominations for our HSC creative arts students. Four students have been recognised for their work in Drama and another four students have been nominated for performance and composition in Music. This is extraordinary. Both staff and students need to be amongst the very best in the state to be recognised.

Orientations for Prep, Kindergarten and Year 7 are now underway, and we are looking forward to welcoming new families to Thomas Hassall. It is wonderful to have so many new students beginning their journey with us.

Finally, there will be some movement in staffing for 2027. A few staff members are retiring or moving to promotional positions in other schools. We thank them for their service and contribution to the College, and we wish them every blessing in the next chapter. From the Junior School, Mrs Narelle Lawler and Ms Lisa Hansford are both retiring following wonderful careers in education. Mr Simon Thomas, who has been with us this year will be moving to another independent school. In Senior School, Mrs Megan Stavert and Mrs Elizabeth Ford are both retiring after serving at the College for a long time. Mrs Catherine Sutcliffe has accepted a promotional position in another independent school. Dr Yongbin Zhao, Ms Cathy Su and Ms Elessa Stivaktas are moving to other contexts.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community, and for helping to make 2026 a year of discovery.

> *I thank my God every time I remember you.*
> *- Philippians 1:3*

Mrs Karen Easton
Principal

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