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2 June 2017

## Principal's Message



As a community, we are aware that there will be changes in the style of Senior Schooling from 2019 onwards, with the first cohort being our current Year 9s. Information about what that will look like is starting to be released via QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) and QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre). Information available on the QCAA website about the new system and specifically the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank), which replaces the current OP (Overall Position), includes the following:

The **ATAR** is the standard measure of overall school achievement used in all other Australian states and territories. It is a rank indicating a student's position overall relative to other students.

The ATAR is expressed on a 2000-point scale from 99.95 (highest) down to 0, in increments of 0.05.

ATARs below 30 will be reported as '30.00 or less'.

To be **eligible** for an ATAR, a student must have:

- satisfactorily completed an English subject
- completed five general subjects, or four general subjects plus one applied subject or VET course at AQF certificate III or above
- accumulated their subject results within a five-year period.

While students must satisfactorily complete an English subject to be eligible for an ATAR, the result in English will only be

included in the ATAR calculation if it is one of the student's best five subjects.

**Inter-subject scaling** is where raw scores for a given subject are adjusted so the results for that subject can be compared fairly with the results of any other subject.

If a student of a given ability studies an easier Maths subject they might get a 90/100. But if the same student studied a harder Maths subject they might only get a 70/100. However, if scaling works, they should end up with the same scaled score for inclusion in their ATAR calculation.

If subjects were not scaled, students could maximise their ATAR by studying what they believe are the easiest possible subjects to get the highest possible best five subject results to comprise their ATAR.

Inter-subject scaling will not enhance or diminish a student's performance in their subjects. The student's ranking relative to other students in their subjects does not change. Scaling simply allows for performances to be compared across all subjects, and then only for the purposes of including these in the calculation of a student's ATAR.

Students should choose subjects that:

- they enjoy
- think they will achieve well in
- that are subject prerequisites for tertiary courses that they will be seeking entry to.

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) will remain as Queensland's senior school qualification. Eligible students will still receive a QCE at the end of Year 12, as well as a Senior Statement showing all studies and the results achieved.

As further information is released, we will share this with our community. Please be aware that our academic staff are already preparing for the new system by way of trial pilot exams with students ahead of the external assessment requirements that involved many of our Year 11 students this week, syllabus reviews and feedback, and panel input and feedback in the consultation phases.

In closing, congratulations to our Cross Country Team who competed in the CaSSSA Cup on Friday, 26 May. The girls returned winners of the Percentage Cup Trophy. Thank you to the girls for their dedication to training for the event; Mr Boumford, Mr Hockless and Mrs Macknish for their preparation of the girls for the day; and the College P & F who funded the breakfast that fueled the victory!

Shalom

**Paula Goodwin**  
**Principal**

## Teaching and Learning

At our Open Day on Saturday of last week we saw many eager young faces (and some quite older ones) investigating what the College has to offer for them in terms of a secondary school. The day greeted us with beautiful weather and the crowds flooded in. Thank you so much to all the staff and students who participated. It was an enormous task to highlight all of the areas that come together to ensure that we inspire young women every day of every week. A job well done.

Good luck from the community went out to the students who competed at the Interschool Cross Country on Friday of last week and we were thrilled that they arrived back on Friday with stories of courage and success and a Percentage Trophy.

### Please note: End of Semester Reports

End of Semester One Reports will be published via the Parent Portal. This is a timely reminder for parents to ensure that their contact details and logins for the various systems are up to date. During the holidays, we are unable to offer assistance with portals as the correct support personnel will not be on site.

Access to Portals ensures that parents have access to two years' reports in the one location. Access is via the College Portal only using your parental login. This is the same login used to gain access to the Term One Reports and the Parent Teacher Bookings. This link also provides instant access to useful information such as absentee reports, lists of teachers and classes for your daughters and more.

### Exam Block

Our Senior Exam Block will start on Friday, June 9 when students in the junior school will also be experiencing "examination fever" like the senior students. This can be a stressful time for families as timelines can be rather tight for students. At this point, I need to remind all parents that common sense is the best judgement for any decision regarding absences. If you have a special case, please contact the school to discuss the issues. In the case for senior students, independent verification is required for all cases of absence – ie a doctor's certificate. In the case where guardians are both a doctor and parent, it would be wise to acquire a certificate from an independent source.

Exam block timetables are released to students one week before exam block commences. Some students ask for advanced notice so that they can try to fit in extra hours with their part time work. We recommend that parents insist that all part time work is suspended until the finalisation of all exams

for your daughters. Whilst the temptation of extra \$\$ may seem attractive, the stress that is created is certainly not worth the extra money.

Some guidelines for senior students during this time are as follows:

1. The submission of assessment is conducted in accordance with the regulations of the QCAA dealing with LATE and NON-SUBMISSION of ASSESSMENT PIECES and, as such, the College has a responsibility to adhere to these regulations.
2. Senior Students are only expected to attend school during exam block if they have an exam scheduled.
3. Session One EXAM starts at 8.50 am and Session Two at 12.30 pm. Girls are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to the exam session and will enter the room in time to distribute materials for an immediate start.
4. They should be fully organised with all equipment necessary for the exam in a clear plastic sleeve.
5. It is expected that students will travel directly to school for an exam session and then return directly home at the conclusion of their exam on that day. Safety in travelling to and from school should be paramount. Detours and trips to other venues in school uniforms is not permitted.
6. If a student has an exam in both sessions it is expected that they will remain on the school grounds during the break. Tuckshop operates as normal on these days.
7. The Ad Altiora Place and the deck near the tuckshop can be used for quiet study during their own time. However, normal school rules apply, especially in regards to uniform. When Ad Altiora Place is unavailable, students are to move to the deck and study quietly in that area. Students are not to wait around from their friends who may be in exams.
8. Students should ensure that all possessions are stored in their lockers during an examination.
9. If a girl is absent for an exam, a telephone call to the school from either the parent or the student before the commencement of the exam is required and a request made that her teacher is notified. Senior students will then need to obtain an independent medical certificate to explain absence. When returning to school, the student should immediately see their teacher and then Mr Stevens to enquire whether a catch-up examination can be arranged.
10. Each girl will be emailed a copy of student examination procedures and timetable in the week before exam block.
11. It is important to note that, due to some of the "group" requirements for some exams, that there may be exams that simply cannot be taken in an alternative time period outside of the scheduled exam block time. This means that students should only be

absent from exams for serious reasons – See Item One regarding QCAA regulations.

12. Students encountering a conflict with TAFE commitments should discuss these requirements with their teacher as soon as possible – be definitely before the commencement of exam block.

We wish all of our girls well in their examinations, orals and assignments. Thank you to all students for their dedication to their study this semester.

After the exam block, the College will be conducting Community Week. This is an opportunity for students to experience those activities that normally cannot be conducted in regular school weeks without unusual disruption to the learning program. Year 12 and 11 will be using some of this time to experience QCS testing so that data can be analysed to optimise the subsequent training. As well, retreats, Friendship Days, excursions and guest presenters are on the agenda. This week is well received by the students and should be a rewarding experience for them.

As we move into this important testing time, sleep, nutrition, consistent exam preparation and avoidance of time-gobbling distractions becomes ever so important. Whilst studies show that adolescents are “wired” differently compared to previous generations, some older wisdom is still important:

- you can't watch TV and study at the same time (same for facebook, skype, any social media),
- listening to music whilst studying can be a distraction if it is too loud or the wrong genre,
- serious students study seriously,
- cramming the night before is doing too little, too late, and finally,
- when given the assignment 3 weeks ago, you should have started on it 3 weeks ago.

Old wisdom indeed but still standing the test of time.

Enjoy the week ahead

**Anthony Stevens**  
**Deputy Principal**

## Community Matters



On Thursday of Week 6, Susan McLean addressed students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Susan is an Australian expert in the area of cybersafety and young people. She was previously a member of the Victorian Police and was one of the first Australians appointed to a position involving cybersafety. Some of you may have seen or heard Susan present on T.V. or on the radio as she is a sought after commentator on this area worldwide.

Susan's talk was highly engaging for the students and the staff. While Susan discussed a variety of topics that included subject matter such as personal safety, digital footprints and practical ways to deter and stop harassment from other people online, she brought everything back to what she called the Three Rs:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Reputation

This left students with a very clear message about safely navigating online today, as well as helping them to see that what they do online now also has the potential to negatively affect their future too.

Recently I read an article on the mindmatters website that discussed the results from the latest Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) 2015.

### The report showed that:

- *students who perceive that their teacher provides individual help when they are struggling were less likely to report feeling tense or anxious*
- *bullying was less frequent in schools where students reported more positive relationships with their teachers*
- *adolescents who feel that they are part of a school community are more likely to perform better academically and be more motivated in school; they are also less likely to engage in risky and antisocial behaviour*
- *students with a strong sense of belonging at school are also more satisfied with their life.*

The report reaffirms the message we deliver to students and parents when their child first begins at Our Lady's College around developing their sense of belonging in the community by becoming involved in teams, clubs and groups. Students are also encouraged to be proactive in seeking support from staff when needed, whether that is academic or emotional. Fortunately, many of our staff are committed to seeing the students of this school succeed and happily offer one on one support to students in class time, during dedicated tutorial sessions or on a needs basis in their own time. It is truly satisfying to work in a community where all members are doing all they can to make the environment a positive place to learn and teach.

All the best for the fortnight ahead.

**Dona Archer**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Student Wellbeing**

## In the Tradition

### Mary Help of Christians Mass

Thank you to Bishop Oudeman for celebrating Eucharist with us last week. It was a pleasure to have the Bishop at Our Lady's and we appreciated the reflection he offered for the homily. At this time of strife around the world (he referred to the Manchester tragedy) there is a need to support each other and to think of others not self. He also reminded us of the importance of the role of Mary in the life of Jesus and how she was a real mother to him. Bishop Oudeman also visited some classrooms and was interested in seeing what the girls were learning about.



### Year 10 Special School Program

Year 10 students who are interested in the three day program with Nursery Road Special School have handed in their expression of interest forms. The applications were outstanding and unfortunately have made it difficult to select the small number of girls who will participate. The girls will be involved in activities from 13th –15th June either at Nursery Road, the Museum or 10 pin bowling. Details of the program are being finalised and a training day will be provided to assist the students. Thanks to St Laurence's College for enabling us to contribute to this worthwhile program and to Nursery Road for trusting us to help with their amazing students.

### Reflection Days in June

Students in Year 7-10 will be experiencing a Reflection Day in the last week of term. These days focus on key themes that are pertinent to the particular students. Year 7 and 10 students will be working with Project Hatch, a group of young people with experience in this field. Year 8 and 9 students will be working with Mrs Holmes our Campus Minister. These are not optional days for students but worthwhile opportunities to build personal skills and grow as a person.

### Year 11 Study of Religion Excursion

The Year 11 students attended a seminar this week at Clairvaux MacKillop College with other Senior students. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the "Historical Jesus". Professor Levine guided the students to understand the implications of looking at the Gospels through a Jewish lens and reading the text with a fresh understanding. This provided some interesting interpretation of stories, parables and the Our Father. This insight will be of assistance for the Term 3 unit which begins with this topic.

In God's love,

**Linda Brandenburg**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Religious Education**

## Campus Minister

### Reconciliation Week

This week marks National Reconciliation Week which acknowledges achievements in our journey towards reconciliation with our indigenous fellow Australians. This year the milestone events of the week celebrate significant anniversaries: 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the Mabo decision.

We are reminded this week that big changes take persistence and courage, so let's celebrate together and 'take the next steps.'

### Mary, Help of Christians

Our community celebrated this feast day last week with a mass led by Bishop Joseph Oudeman. We honoured the model of discipleship shown to us by Mary, mother of Jesus, and the first disciple. In Australia, we turn to Mary under the title 'Help of Christians' to be our guide, and our college, Our Lady's, is sustained by her patronage.

### Prayers please...

To Our Lady, Help of Christians...that we seek her help and guidance for ourselves and our nation, and see her life as a model of how we can be Christians of trust and faithfulness.

During National Reconciliation Week, we pray for our land Australia and give thanks for the diversity of peoples and cultures with which we live. We pray that God will help us to learn and grow in this great coming together of those who were here, those who came and those who will come, so our souls may be enriched.

We remember the Mancunians caught in the distress of tragedy, that they will be sustained in their efforts to heal the broken, and that the Spirit will blow the breath of peace into their city and our world.

Blessings,

**Kay Holmes**  
**Campus Minister**

## Guidance Counsellor

High school can be an exciting and exhausting time for young people. Trying to balance their homework, extracurricular activities, work, friendships, family, can be overwhelming, and sometimes it seems there is little time for sleep. Finding a healthy balance can be challenging, but an important part of maintaining wellbeing during this time.

Stress is a normal part of life and can even be a helpful motivator and protector. In fact, we often perform at our best with a moderate amount of stress. However, when our stress levels become too high, or are heightened for an extended period, it can have a negative impact on our mind and body. Managing stress in a healthy way involves building good coping strategies, and finding balance in our activities. Some things we can do to reduce stress include getting plenty of exercise, eating well, maintaining good sleep routines, breaking down

what's stressing us into manageable challenges, and spending quality time with others. Along with a healthy lifestyle, taking some time each day to be mindful can help us become more centered and feel less stressed.

The following links provide some great information and strategies for supporting your teenager through these stressful years.

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/teenagers\\_stress.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/teenagers_stress.html)

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/stress-and-teenagers>

## Year 7 Chill Out Zone

Every Thursday at lunch time Mrs. Holmes and I will be hosting a year 7 chill out zone. This will be a place where students can engage in semi-structured activities with one another, supporting peer connections and engagement. If you feel your daughter would benefit from attending this activity, please feel free to mention it to them at home. Girls will also be informed of this opportunity through their regular lessons and notice boards.

## Year 12's

All year 12 students are welcomed and encouraged to make a time to meet with the guidance counsellor over term 2 and 3 to discuss career pathways and QTAC processes. Students may access this support through student services.

## Career Information and Resources

The options career bulletin provides current career related information and can be downloaded from the OLC Blog. Edition 9 shares information on course and institution updates and open days, career Expo dates, information on career exploration, details for Australian defence force, Information on employment search sites and networks, information about financial assistance and scholarships, TAFE options at school, gap year programs, upcoming university school holiday tours, and study skills information (how to boost your confidence and motivation).

**Kelly Worrell**  
**Guidance Counsellor**

## Middle Leaders Report

### Home Economics, Hospitality and Early Childhood



I would like to express my thanks to Ms Rhiannon Hughes for keeping the department running smoothly during my absence in term 1.

Tuesday morning breakfast continues to be very popular with Our Lady's students and staff, providing valuable hands on experience for the Hospitality students. At the beginning of term 3 the year 12 hospitality class will be running the popular lunchtime dessert restaurants. The Hospitality students did a great job on Open Day.

The senior Home Economics students are working hard to produce a wide range of sustainable bags. Next semester they will be learning about nutrition with a focus on the importance of eating a healthy breakfast.

The Early Childhood students are currently undertaking weekly Industry Placements in Childcare Centres, which they seem to be enjoying.

Year 9 and 10 Home Economics classes have just completed their multicultural food assessment, making and selling such items as Sushi, Churros, Fritters, Tacos and Quiches.

In Year 7 Home Economics students have had a brief introduction to cooking. They have been learning how to work safely and hygienically to produce healthy snacks. Currently they are learning how to use the sewing machines to design and create a pencil case.

The vegetable garden produced a bumper crop of sweet potatoes earlier in the year. The garden has recently been replanted. We now have a variety of citrus trees, tomatoes, shallots, garlic, parsley, mint, basil, lettuce, nasturtiums and more sweet potatoes. When the year 9 and 10 students cook their Thai Chicken Curry this week they will be using Kaffir limes and leaves from the garden.

**Marion Holland**  
**Home Economics/Hospitality Middle Leader**

## Year 10 & 11 Community Service Project supporting Mater Foundation

This term's Year 10 and 11 Community Service Project raised funds for the Mater Foundation, a charity supporting exceptional healthcare and medical education, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1906.

Year 10 and 11 Pastoral Care classes organised and promoted several events for their annual Community Service Project.

Year 10 took turns dedicating their lunchtimes to selling lolly bags from 50c to \$2.

Year 11 Lambert organised "House Ice-Cream", selling ice-cream and topping for \$2-\$3.

Year 11 MacKillop held a raffle, with Alice Kay, from 8 Kelly, winning a gigantic teddy bear, Jada Kynoch, from 11 MacKillop, as well as Yerdanos (Mary) Tabeje, from 7 Kelly, each winning a lolly basket, and Jaini George, 7 MacKillop, taking home movie vouchers.

11 Woods sold a variety of pizzas and were thoroughly enjoyed by students during lunch.

11 Kelly held a cupcake and jelly stall in Penola, offering a range of decadent desserts.

Tremendous thanks must go to the student body for their generosity, and all girls who dedicated their time to helping raise money for a wonderful cause. Thanks also to the Year 10 & 11 Pastoral Care teachers who guided us during this project.

In total, \$816.80 was raised and Margaret Wilson from the Mater Foundation gladly accepted this donation on level assembly this week.



Ruby Parker (11 MacKillop) & Ms Lucy Toumbas (Year 10 and 11 Pastoral Middle Leader)

## St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

As it draws closer to winter time, the St Vincent de Paul group in the college is once again conducting a Can Drive. We are asking for donations of canned foodstuffs, such as soups and other nourishing meals, to be brought in to your daughter's pastoral care group. The donations we receive will be given to the Mary Immaculate Conference of St Vincent de Paul, to be distributed by them to those in need this winter. During the colder months, there are many more requests for assistance than usual, so your donations will be very gratefully received.

**Leanne Penrose**  
St Vincent de Paul Coordinator

## Community News

### Queensland Association for Gifted and Talented Children

#### Challenge 2017: Workshops for the Gifted – 26 & 27 June 2017

Challenge 2017 is an exciting 2-day program of challenging activities designed for students from Prep-Year8 who are seeking extension beyond the regular school curriculum. All workshops offered are fast-paced and rigorous, and involve challenging activities pitched at individual abilities rather than chronological age. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to step up to a challenge, to meet other children of like minds and to establish new friendships. The workshops are presented by leaders with keen interest in gifted education – experts in their field – who design programs to stimulate the interests, abilities and curiosities of gifted children.

Registrations close on 8th June 2017.

<http://www.qagtc.org.au/childrens-challenge>

## St Catherine's School Fete

## Fees and Levies

Access our College Fees and Levies via the left side panel above on this e newsletter or the College website under enrolments.

## College Newsletter and 2017 Calendar

Access our College Newsletter and 2017 College Calendar via the College website

<http://www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au>

## Important Dates and Deadlines

19-23 June	Our Lady's College Community Week
20 June, Tuesday	Year 11/12 QCS Practice
20 June, Tuesday	Year 10 Careers Education
20 June, Tuesday	Year 9 Reflection Day
20 June, Tuesday	Year 7/8 Friendship Day
20 June, Tuesday	P&F Meeting, 7pm
21 June, Wednesday	Year 7/8/10 Reflection Day
21 June, Wednesday	Year 9 Enlighten Education
22 June, Thursday	Year 12 Formal

22 June, Thursday	Yr 7/8 Maths Incursion & Bookweek
22 June, Thursday	Year 11 Leadership
22 June, Thursday	Year 10 Career Education
23 June, Friday	Shake'n'Stir Whole School
23 June, Friday	Year 11 Leadership Session
23 June, Friday	End of Term 2

## Absentees

**Please Phone:** 07 3426 8095 prior to 9.00 am daily

**Email Link:** [www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au](http://www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au)

**Absentee Email:** [absenteeOLC@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:absenteeOLC@bne.catholic.edu.au)

**Or via the Parent Portal**