FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The pace of activity around the College has intensified with our focus on a solid learning period and the realisation that the academic year is close to half way completed. Our demanding reporting process is nearly finalised and we look forward to welcoming students and their parents to the conversation table at our parent teacher interviews on Tuesday 19 May.

Focus and iStudy days have enabled students to extend their thinking outside the immediate day-to-day, and into a space where contemplation of their personal journey can happen with guidance and structure. It has been energy well invested. As a follow-up, our Careers Fairs, scheduled for this week, have been combined into one and re-scheduled for the week beginning 20 July to take place in our Creative Arts Link. Successfully transitioning our students from their secondary school experience, through senior secondary and on to further study, training and career path is our commitment to each and every one of them. Setting realistic yet aspirational goals is the responsibility they are urged to take on. Our work as teachers and family is to companion, challenge and support.

Open Day was a fabulous success. Our student tour guides were superb ambassadors and feedback from our many visitors to the College was full of praise. We are now preparing to welcome hundreds of Year 10 students and their families to the process of confirming enrolment and selection of pathways.

The Creative Arts Link is very close to handover with our first major event taking place in its theatre on 20 May. This will be a study day for students as Dylan Wiliam, an internationally renowned educator, facilitates a professional learning experience for our teachers on formative assessment. We are planning our Blessing and Opening on 30 June and the performance of our first College Musical in the space in mid-August. Other schools and Colleges are already making their bookings for performances and graduations.

Last week we farewelled Rebecca Hughes as she begins her maternity leave. Ramon Jacobs will be Acting Head of Tenison House while she is away and we welcome Leighton Beer and Carole McQueeny who will assist in covering the replacement teaching roles. Greg O’Keefe has chosen to reduce his teaching load to part-time and his replacement is Nessa Carey. New teachers will be in attendance at the parent teacher interviews. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Susan Bunkum to her new position as Deputy Principal of the Glenorchy Campus. Susan is a long standing member of staff and a very experienced educational leader.

The Archbishop and the Governing Council met at the College last week. Our College Captains spoke to them about their understanding of the identity of the Catholic school. Their individual reflections were heartfelt and impressive. If our authenticity as a Catholic school were to be judged by their message alone we would be entirely assured that we are indeed true to our mission.

We were so very disappointed that the parent forum Understanding Adolescence Today was cancelled due to insufficient interest. Surely we should not conclude that the organisation of such parent forums should be discontinued? Let me know your thoughts at principal@gyc.tas.edu.au

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

EFFECTIVE STUDY HABITS HELP MINIMISE ANXIETY AND STRESS

The mid-year examinations are fast approaching which means that it is time for our students to give consideration to their study regime. In order to avoid last minute cramming, which is often a cause of great stress, it is important that students begin planning now. The development of effective study habits is an important strategy that can help minimise stress while maximising potential for success. Now is the time for students to:

1. Organise class notes and handouts, ensuring that everything needed for exam study is located in the same folder/notebook.

2. Identify a study space that allows freedom from distractions (including those associated with technology and social media).

3. Allocate specific times for study and exam preparation. This is critical to an effective study program. In order to make this work, it is important to take note of work schedules, sporting commitments and other appointments. It is important that students devote an uninterrupted stretch of time totally to study. If they have some spare time, they could choose to dedicate it to extra study around exam time.

4. Plan to take good care of their physical wellbeing so that they are able to cope with the extra demands that they will face in the next few weeks. They must factor rest, sleep and exercise into their schedule. Eating well and drinking plenty of water are also key elements in ensuring that they will be able to remain fully focussed for the duration of a two or three hour exam.

5. Finally, students should not be afraid to ask for help. There are many people who can help them organise their time, assist them with areas of work that they find difficult and support them in their exam preparation.

Ms Helen Spencer, Hobart; Mrs Susan Bunkum, Glenorchy
COMPASSION: TO SUFFER WITH
Karen Armstrong, a religious scholar and educator, writes and speaks often on the grim reality of the modern age in which we are exposed to more visual and graphic images of suffering via our televisions than any other time in history. It is understandable for us to feel overwhelmed with the extent of human suffering in the world due to natural disasters, crime and war. In the last weeks we have witnessed state-sanctioned execution taking place in Indonesia and loss of life in Nepal.

In the face of all this suffering, Karen Armstrong writes that it is understandable to give in to despair or even a form of compassion fatigue but she rallies us all to do something practical in our local situation, by educating ourselves on political and ethical issues and being active in our outreach to others.

She has spent her life studying World Religions and has worked in collaboration with representatives of six religious traditions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism) with input from thousands of people through an online platform to devise a Charter for Compassion which is an attempt to define in clear terms the common ground among these religions. The principle they all share is Compassion and the “Golden Rule.” The Charter for Compassion reached Pope Benedict XVII in February 2013, just days before the Pope announced to the world that he would be resigning. Please look into this further at http://charterforcompassion.org/

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE – LITURGY OF THE WORD
On Tuesday, Hobart Studies of Religion 3 students attended a Liturgy of the Word at St Mary’s Cathedral to pray for those who had died in the Nepal earthquake. The unfolding tragedy of death, injuries and destruction on an incomprehensible scale can leave us feeling powerless at times. In rescue efforts, geography is undermining even the most intense efforts to get basic essential items of food and medicine to survivors. Our on-going College support for the work of Caritas will have long term benefits.

However, in the immediate and short term, the College will support the work of the Red Cross in Nepal as well as Vanuatu through fundraising efforts. Please encourage your sons and daughters to put aside the cost of one coffee or treat to make a donation at GYC to assist our brothers and sisters who are in serious need of our generosity.

ANZAC DAY
Guilford Young College students represented the College with distinction at Anzac services across the southern region. The Deputy Principal, Mrs Susan Bunkum, and Director of Ministry, Ms Kylie Sullivan, accompanied Glenorchy College Captains at the Glenorchy service. At the Hobart March, the Principal, Mrs Bobby Court, and students carried the flag of 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion (C Company of which came from Tasmania). They were very moved to march with the daughter and granddaughter of TX2522 Private Alan Whelan. Private Whelan enlisted in the Army on 13 June 1940 at Swansea. He was one of seven brothers who enlisted and all seven returned safely. He fought in North Africa against the German Army and he was eventually transferred to the South East Asia Region where he fought against the Japanese Imperial Forces. He, like so very many, was taken a prisoner of war in Java and worked on the infamous Burma Railway, alongside fellow Diggers including Sir ‘Weary’ Dunlop. Mrs Pam Whelan, his daughter who marched with her daughter, wrote to the College: “Thank you so very much for carrying the banner that allowed both myself and my daughter to proudly march for not just the memory of my father, but for the memory of all who served and made this Country the great Country that it is today and given us the freedom to live the lifestyle we are able to freely enjoy.”

CAMPUS MASSES
During May, we will have House Masses for Bosco, Guzman, Rice and Carmel Houses during Community time. The meaning of Eucharist (another name for Mass) is literally ‘thanks-giving’ and the Mass is regarded as the ‘source and summit’ of our Catholic faith. Parental support for our Religious Education programs, Focus Days, retreat programs and Masses is very much appreciated and your emails of support really give our Religious Education and Faith Team a lift. We appreciate, too, when you have the challenging discussions at home encouraging your sons and daughters to be present in tutor time and to support House and Campus assemblies and activities. Many of our alumni lament the absence of such community and faith-building activities in their adult learning and work environments.
FROM THE DIRECTORS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS These will be held from Thursday 18 June to Thursday 25 June inclusive. Wednesday 17 June is a study day. The timetable has now been released and is available on SIMON under Student Links. Students will shortly receive a copy of the GYC Guide to Examinations which will provide them with full information relating to exam procedures. Teachers and tutors will assist students in their preparation for exams but it is the responsibility of students to be familiar with the contents of the booklet. Students are unable to sit an exam at any time other than that shown on the timetable. A medical certificate will be required if a student is absent due to illness.

STUDENT COURSES: Some students are still seeking to change their course of study. At this stage of the year, 12 weeks of teaching have been completed and this will have involved direct teacher instruction, collaborative learning activities with other students, classroom discussion, exposure to a variety of electronic resources and so on. It is not possible for a student to change into a class and to be able to compensate for these missed learning opportunities.

We encourage students to work with their teachers and to the best of their ability in the courses in which they are enrolled. To gain an assessment in TCE courses, students must have engaged in a certain amount of learning time. This is necessary for the purposes of quality assurance and in the interests of fairness and equity for all students.

TERM TWO PROGRESS REPORTS: A reminder that these will be posted on Tuesday 12 May and will be followed by Parent Teacher Student interviews on Tuesday 19 May.

Mrs Vivienne Hale, Hobart; Miss Heidi Gregg, Glenorchy

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

GIRLS’ SOCCER Congratulations to the girls’ 1st grade soccer team for winning the SSATIS final. GYC defeated Fahan School 6-3. The girls will contest the State final later in the year. Pictured with coach and manager Stephen Lunn are (standing from left) Cassandra Ortmann, Sarah Sammut, Lauren Hay, Ellie Piesse (captain), Izabella Johnston, Ebony King, Madeline Scott and (front, from left) Nina Daniels, Gemma Terry, Jayd Lockley, Laura Negri and Katie Budd.

HOCKEY The Division 1 hockey rosters have commenced for 2015. In the opening round, the girls lost to St Mary’s College 0-5 and the boys defeated The Friends’ School 5-0.

VOLLEYBALL Our three volleyball teams are about mid-way through their rosters and all the participating students are having a great competition!

TENNIS Congratulations to the boys’ 1st grade tennis team for winning the SSATIS final. The boys defeated The Hutchins School 5 - 1 and will now play Launceston Church Grammar in the State final within the next couple of weeks. Pictured from left, Tom Youl, Daniel Harris, Mitchell Free (captain) and Matt Harris. The boys, this week, are also playing for Tasmania in the national schools competition, the Pizzey Cup, and an associated singles competition, the Tennis Australia Cup in which Daniel Groom has been seeded 2.

Mr Zain Wright
WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 INFORMATION SESSION

Are you interested in joining with great young people from around Tasmania on a life-changing journey of faith? What about being with millions of energetic and faith-filled young people from around the world in the largest gatherings of young people in history?

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY will again coordinate the TASMANIAN PILGRIMAGE TO WORLD YOUTH DAY in July 2016 which will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Krakow, Poland! WYD is open to young people aged 16 - 35. If you are at all interested in this amazing opportunity, come to an information session:

**Sunday 24 May, 3pm, at Holy Spirit Church, Sandy Bay.**

Further information: Rachelle ... rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au or 0400 045 368

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A leading social justice advocate and an internationally acknowledged speaker, Sr Carol Zinn SSJ, will deliver the 2015 John Wallis Memorial Lecture at Guilford Young College on Thursday 18 June, at 7pm. The lecture, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE, will ask the questions: How do we sustain our planet and ourselves? How do we work together across the planet, tackling poverty and caring for resources? Being organised by the John Wallis Foundation, the lecture will be held in the Assembly Area of the Hobart Campus.

Cost: $20 adult, $10 concession/student.

One of Australia’s foremost film commentators, Fr Peter Malone MSC, will present an afternoon on LOOKING AT FILM FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE in St Francis Xavier Church hall, Angelsea Street, South Hobart, on Saturday 30 May, from 2-4pm. The presentation will be based on the recently released film, “The Giver”, which will be screened that night from 7:30. Cost: $10 for a light supper during the screening.

SHE forms on the Glenorchy Campus

A group of inspiring young women has formed the SHE Committee: Support, Her-story and Empowerment. They plan to celebrate the achievements of women from the past and the present, locally and globally and to seek inspiration from their stories.

The committee will hold its first public celebration next Monday – Mothers and Women Day. To highlight the importance of mothers, everyone on the Glenorchy Campus is being encouraged to wear a purple accessory. Other activities are also planned.

The photo was taken at the group’s first formal gathering when the then Deputy Principal, Dr Emma Burgess, (fourth from left, standing) was the guest speaker who shared Her-story, to the great appreciation of those who attended.

The group has grown considerably since that first gathering and is under the guidance of Ms Sarah Banks (right).