FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We are invited to find good time during these winter days to take stock and give ourselves permission to reflect deeply on who we are and what it is we should value and prioritise. For our students it coincides with a critical watershed time as evidenced in the hundreds of heartfelt conversations which took place at our parent/student/teacher meetings on Tuesday. Some were challenging indeed, but none was without a clearly constructed avenue for targeted improvement.

Our work in this winter time is to nurture all our students through the navigation of greater intensity with learning and assessment requirements; and in some cases through pressures of a more personal nature. Often students become anxious about the months ahead and the increasing demands on them. We urge them to stay the course, as daunting as it may seem.

Students, especially Year 12s, are reminded of how important it is to complete their schooling and avoid the temptation of taking up job offers which may come their way. All responsible employers should recognise how vital it is, for the long term benefit and wellbeing of young people, to allow - if not encourage - them to achieve what is their right: completion of Year 12. I caution students to consider seriously the amount of part-time work they take on in these coming months. This time will never be repeated for them and they will have the rest of their working lives to gain the benefits of employment. A satisfying career path into the future will be assured through achieving the best academic and training results whilst at college. Short term and immediate gain is a poor substitute for long term and substantial career gain and satisfaction.

At the same time we continue to be enlivened by the energy and achievements of students who are able to manage their studies and contribute generously to our College. The success of our boys in the SATIS State tennis final was superb and a number of our students have recorded great success in national athletic competitions. Musical rehearsals are gaining momentum as are our preparations for presenting to our incoming Year 10s who will see and hear students revelling in sharing their experiences of appreciation and love of college life at GYC.

Yesterday (Wednesday), teachers and assistant teachers were enthused by Professor Dylan Wiliam, internationally renowned educator, who spoke to us about continuing to focus on the improvement of the quality of our teaching and in turn the learning of our students. His emphasis was formative assessment and the techniques we can finesse to enhance the learning experience. It is rare that we declare a study day for students for the purpose of professional learning for staff. It was indeed a worthwhile investment of our time and we trust that students were able to gain benefit from their ‘catch-up’ day.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

CAR SAFETY

We know that it is often with great trepidation you watch your sons and daughters move into the realm of driving. There is good reason for us to be vigilant about safety and young people in cars. At GYC, we are managing hundreds of young drivers and for this reason we have stringent requirements in place.

Firstly, any student parking at College is required to have organised a parking permit to access our car parks. Forms for these are obtained through each Campus Office.

Secondly, students are not allowed to travel cross campus in their own vehicles. They are required to use the cross campus bus.

Thirdly, students are not permitted to drive themselves to and from excursions.

And finally, each student driver must have written permission from his/her parent/carer to transport other students. We also require the passengers in student vehicles to carry written permission from their parent/carer to be in a student vehicle.

We appreciate your understanding around the considerable management of student safety in this regard.

UNIFORMS

With the colder weather upon us, we extend a reminder that students should not be wearing additional coats, hoodies or other non-uniform items. Gloves and scarves are to be navy - and are available from the Uniform Shops. Sports uniform is only to be worn by students with a sports subject on the days of that course. College track pants or shorts are the only options with the sports uniform.

STUDY

Students appear, on the whole, to be focussed on their learning. It’s not too long until mid-year exams, so hopefully all TQA 3 students have a study regime in place. Please refer to our previous Family Bulletin if help is needed.

Mrs Bobby Court
FROM THE DIRECTORS OF MINISTRY

Mrs Simone McManus, Hobart; Mrs Mary-Anne Johnson (Acting), Glenorchy
and the Acting Director of Religious Education, Mrs Lisa Herd

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD LIVES

The 2015 Vinnies Winter Appeal is underway and will continue until August. The theme for 2015 is “together we can build lives”.

Each year we have a friendly inter-House competition to see how many Vinnies bags can be filled during this time. In particular, blankets and doonas are in high demand as are winter clothes and non-perishable food items. Our GYC families are always very generous. The Student Leaders are planning a Vinnies Fashion Parade and a visit from the pop up Vinnies Shop during next term.

Once a month, on a Tuesday night, our GYC staff are on the Gagebrook and Rokeby Loui’s Van service and our generous VET classes and their teachers Mr Stephen Lunn and Mrs Lynda Williams often provide soup for this service.

WALK WITH CHRIST

On the feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday 7 June, a street procession will be held from St Joseph’s Church (corner of Macquarie and Harrington Streets) to St Mary’s Cathedral (Harrington St). This Walk with Christ will start at 1:15pm and conclude at 3pm. Those participating will be joining in solidarity with Catholics around the world.

Can’t join in person? Prayer intentions can be added to the ‘Book of Life’ which will be made available to the Principal and GYC Ministry team. Can’t walk? Maybe you would like to pray at the Cathedral during the time of the procession.

The Walk with Christ is in its 10th year in Sydney and last year 6000 people participated in prayerful solidarity to bring Christ to the world.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rDmmW-YoSk

EXCELLENCE – FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

Our Studies of Religion students and some interested Religion in Society students had an intellectually stimulating day of critical thinking when they attended Dr Peter Vardy’s one day conference at The Friends’ School on 6 May. Students travelled from around Tasmania to attend.

Natural Law, Virtue, Ethics and Utilitarianism as ethical approaches were unpacked with the particular focus being on the quest for living a good life. Dr Peter Vardy has been working with schools and tens of thousands of young people across Australia and New Zealand for the past 20 years. The lively discussion and formal debate at the end of the day greatly assisted to frame good arguments. Extensive resources were shared with students and teachers.

GYC teachers were among participants who attended a full day teachers’ seminar the following day at St Michael’s Collegiate School, where the judicious use in the classroom of movies, new and old, was modelled as ways that film could enliven and engage students in discussion on difficult concepts and ideas.

ILLUMINATING LUNCHES

Our first in a series of planned lunch time gatherings - ILLUMINATING LUNCHES - was held last Friday on the Hobart Campus with the guest speaker being former student and current Diocesan Youth Ministry worker, Rachelle Smith. Rachelle spoke about what sparked her interest in and sense of a vocation towards youth work. She also promoted the WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 PILGRIMAGE to Poland, the second AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL to be held in Adelaide in December this year and the social justice initiative through the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference – JUST SPORTS – a program of games and interaction with the youth at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre. A big thank you to Mr Lunn’s Line 4 class who prepared a delicious two course lunch.
FROM THE DIRECTORS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

TQA ASSESSMENT ONLY QUALIFICATIONS  For students who speak and write another language, the TQA offers assessment in both a written and oral examination in November. Enrolments can be made online or through the College by contacting the Director of Teaching and Learning at your Campus: Mrs Hale (Hobart) and Ms Gregg (Glenorchy). There is no internal assessment and the College does not provide any tuition or additional support beyond forwarding a copy of the syllabus provided by the TQA. Enrolments must be on the official form and the closing date is the end of Term Two - Friday 3 July. The TQA will not accept applications after this date. A list of the languages offered for assessment, together with more information about the qualifications and the application form can be accessed at www.tqa.tas.gov.au/9786

MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS  By now you will have received the Term 2 Progress Report and have had the opportunity to meet with teachers at the parent-teacher interviews. During the next few weeks preparation for the mid-year exams will be underway. These exams will run from Thursday 18 – Thursday 25 June (inclusive) and the timetable is available on SIMON under Student Links. Exams are for TQA3 courses only. However, in TQA2 classes, teachers will set a major assessment to be completed during the exam period. It is important that all our students are engaged in meaningful learning activities at this time and teachers will inform their students about the requirements for this assessment.

We again remind you that it is not possible to sit an exam at a time other than that shown on the timetable. This includes cases such as illness, travel arrangements and the like. In the management of exams, we follow the same rules and procedures that apply to the external exams in November. It should also be noted that mobile phones are not allowed to be taken into the exam room. If a student is found to be in possession of a phone it will be confiscated and there may be a delay in its return. It may also mean that the exam paper(s) cannot be marked. We will continue to publish more information about the mid-year exams over the coming weeks.

Mrs Vivienne Hale, Hobart; Miss Heidi Gregg, Glenorchy

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

TENNIS  Congratulations to the boys’ 1st grade tennis team for winning the SATIS state final. The boys defeated Launceston Church Grammar in a high quality afternoon of tennis on Friday at the the Hobart Campus courts. This was the first time GYC boys have won the shield since 1998.  (photo, page 4)

HOCKEY  In recent games, the girls defeated Fahan B 6-0 . The boys defeated Hobart College 7-2 to remain undefeated.

BADMINTON  The roster started last week with GYC entering two teams in the boys’ 1st grade division. The teams played The Friends School and The Hutchins School.

CANOE POLO  The first round of canoe polo was played on last week. GYC has a mixed team and had a solid start drawing 2-2 the Smiths team.

WATER POLO  In their opening games GYC Blue defeated Rosny College 9-3 and GYC Red was defeated by St Michael’s Collegiate School 1-16. The boys team lost to the Hutchins School 2-12.

Mr Zain Wright

FROM THE CAREERS ADVISORS

FASHION INTERNSHIP  Year 12 students interested in a career in fashion and technology (fashion blogging and marketing) are invited to apply for a two-week paid internship with ‘POPSUGAR and Fame & Partners’. All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered. For further details please email jhaneveer@gyc.tas.edu.au  Applications open 18 May and close 29 June.

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE  The University of Tasmania ‘Stepping into the Future’ event will be held on 4 and 5 June. Year 12 students can find out about life as a university student, hear from faculty staff, tour the Sandy Bay Campus, and learn about scholarship and bursary opportunities. There are four half-day sessions with identical content, so students should only consider attending one of the four sessions. Students attending must hand to the Campus Office a parent permission letter. Further information can be obtained from Tutor teachers.

UMAT  Students intending to sit the UMAT test on Wednesday 29 July must register online at http://umat.acer.edu.au before 5 June. Students are not able to register through the College.
WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 INFORMATION SESSION

Is your son or daughter 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 gathering 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 anyone in your family is interested in this amazing opportunity, encourage them to attend this information session:

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THIS SATURDAY, an afternoon of entertainment will be on offer at Scots Memorial Church, 29 Bathurst Street, for the launch of “Songs of Meeting”. The Thirsty Ground liturgy group is a small group of singers who form part of Hobart’s Choir of High Hopes. Thirsty Ground has been working with noted Hobart Christian musician John Coleman to write songs that enhance the worship services at Scots. Seven of these have been recorded as “Songs of Meeting” and will be launched on Saturday at 2pm. All proceeds from the CD will support the work of the Choir of High Hopes and L’Arche Australia; both beneficiaries strongly announce the worth of people who are marginalised within our society.

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, Anglesea Street, South Hobart, on Saturday 30 May, 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 film.

HELP L’Arche Beni Abbes celebrate its 29th birthday with great celebration in the St James Church Hall, Elizabeth St, New Town, from 6pm on Saturday 30 May. Cost of $25 includes a meal, non-alcoholic drink and entertainment.

Photos in the Family Bulletin: Banner - page 1, the Dylan Wiliam teachers’ professional development, pages 2 and 4, classes on the Glenorchy Campus, page 3, the parent-teacher interviews; and page 2, some of the appreciative guests at the first Illuminating Lunch.

Success: Our boys’ first tennis team, from left, Tom Youl, Daniel Groom, Matthew Harris and captain Mitchell Free with the SATIS shield and their worthy opponents from Launceston Church Grammar.

2014/15 Entertainment Books expire on 1 June. 2015/16 books are now available.