From the Principal

Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

This coming Monday marks the 100th anniversary of the first ANZAC commemorations across Australia and the 101st anniversary of the first troop landings at Gallipoli. It is a day deeply ingrained in the Australian psyche and a day that many of us from Anglo-European backgrounds accept as a turning point in the story of this country and in the development of this country’s national identity.

There is something about this day that engenders a sense of pride but a pride tinged with sadness.

I often wonder what goes through the minds of families, and indeed many of our students, who are new to this country. Many of them initially have little cultural identification with its history. Many have suffered themselves through tragedy and destabilization; many have come simply in hope, to begin a new life; and indeed many see this country as a place of opportunity.

Hopes, dreams and even adventure were a part of the story of the young soldiers who stepped ashore at Gallipoli those many years ago. Their lives and the sacrifice of their lives, arguably reckless yet brave as they were, have told us something about hope, hope for a better world.

Our role as educators is precisely about this same sense of hope. We have an obligation to lead our students to understand their personal story, to engender in them a realistic appreciation of their own gifts and abilities and to show them possible pathways in this world where they can be proud of themselves, make a difference to the lives of others and live a life in peace.

When we remember ANZAC Day at St James, we are identifying with all those who seek a better world, who condemn the futility of war, some who live with the tragedy of loss but whose eyes are hope-filled; we are standing in solidarity with those who come to our country seeking acceptance but who know the journey will be fraught with challenge and in some cases, sadly, rejection; we are embracing difference knowing that with difference comes a richness of diversity, a broadening of experience and an appreciation and love of all creation.

This country for all its faults can and should open its heart because of ANZAC. While I truly believe that those young people who stepped ashore into a barrage of bullets in an unknown land so many years ago knew little of what their legacy would mean for this country, their memory forces us continually to re-assess our values, our worldview and our day-to-day interaction with others.

ANZAC Day is not just a commemoration of a tragic historical event. It is a means to open one’s eyes to possibility. It encourages us all, regardless of cultural background yet appreciative of personal experience, to see the way forward.

If this school can do its part in engendering mutual understanding, respect for others and hope then we are doing what a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition should be doing.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Deputy Principal

Welcome back to Term Two, especially to the new students and their families. I hope their time at St James is engaging, challenging and productive.

Year 12 QCS Examination

Students sitting the QCS test later this year have until May 21 to make application for Special Provisions if required. The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) recognizes that some students may not be able to sit the test and need exemption or can sit only if we vary the conditions for sitting the test. Application forms are available from the QCAA website. From the QCAA homepage at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au select Years 10-12/ QCTest/Special provisions or follow the link to www.qcaaa.qld.edu.au/1102.html. Families requiring assistance can contact me at the College. If you would like more information, please email the Senior Operations Officer (Test Administration Unit) at qcs.spc@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 3864 0475. Applications need to be submitted through the College.

NAPLAN Tests

The 2016 NAPLAN Tests will be conducted with Years 7 and 9 students at the school on May 10 to 12. St James does not expect any disruption to these tests. Applications for exemptions or for withdrawal or special arrangements need to be returned to Ms Ryan.

AP Pastoral

Parent/Teacher Meetings

It was great to see so many parents and carers attend these meetings last Tuesday. Also pleasing was the number of people wanting to catch up with their child’s Homeroom Teacher. As a key person in the pastoral care of a student, the Homeroom Teacher is a font of knowledge about the daily goings on of students across the school. They do a fantastic job in tracking those in their Homeroom across all year levels and I encourage all parents to speak regularly with them if there is any information to be shared.

Students Late to School

In a bid to preserve the sanctity of the classroom, we are now requiring students who arrive at school after Homeroom each morning to spend the duration of the session in the Responsible Thinking Room. School work will be provided via the Learning Management System or by other means so that students can work on the subject they are missing. This is to ensure that classes are not interrupted by students arriving throughout the lesson. Only if we have been notified about the lateness via a phone call to the Office or through a note in the Diary, will students be permitted to go to class. It is timely to remind all families to ensure students get to school on time and are ready for their learning. Please let me know if you have any concerns or queries regarding this new policy.

Retreats

The Year 11 and 12 students have been actively engaged with presenter, Mr Michael Fitzpatrick this week and I have been impressed with the way they have interacted. Mr Fitzpatrick is a gifted facilitator and his sessions are always inspiring but what is most inspiring is the honesty and vulnerability that the students express via his gentle and nurturing approach. It is brilliant being a part of these sessions.

College Jumpers

There has been a run on the College Tracksuit top since the beginning of term and numbers are low. We are encouraging all families to purchase the College jumper as an alternative and we prefer students purchase this item until more tracksuits come in.

Personal Development Program

The Term 2 program has kicked off this week with students engaging in the following topics:

Year 7 – Learners and Thinkers
Year 8 – Keeping Safe and Healthy Online
Year 9 – Making Choices: Drug Education
Year 10 – Constructions of Masculinity and Femininity

Students will engage these topics in class, on Year level Assemblies and through Guest Speakers. Please let me know if you have any queries regarding this program and its delivery.

Girls’ Uniform

I remind all families that senior girls are to wear the tie this term with the top button done up. The blouse is designed to have plenty of neck room so it is imperative that the top button is fastened. Any jewellery apart from one set of sleeper/stud earrings and a watch is not permitted. All other piercings are to be removed. Also the skirt is to be worn at its “made for” length and not rolled up to be shorter than intended. Make up is also not to be worn and hair is to be tied up. Thanks for your cooperation with these expectations.

AP Identity

Sister Joan Chittister writes that “difference is the gift that unlikeness brings us. Because it is our openness to differences we learn to be in the world in new and existing ways. We learn that other foods are equally as good for us as anything we have become accustomed to eating, if not better. We begin to understand history and economics and even religion differently.

Differences bring us out of ourselves into a newer, fuller human being. We see the other models of family life and begin to re-examine our own in the light of them. We begin to recognise likeness among us that enlarge our understanding of what it means to be human beings together.”

Monday and Friday of this week gave our Year 11 and Year 12 Students an opportunity to experience the differences and similarities that existed between the individuals within the group through our Annual Reflection Days which are facilitated by Mr Michael Fitzpatrick.

We reflected on how we could forgive others and move forward in a positive way to be productive members of our cohort within our St James College Community as well as out in the world.

The students attending appeared to engage fully in the process and I believe that the students significantly gained much throughout the days as both individuals and as a group.
I would like to thank Michael Fitzpatrick for facilitating such wonderful enriching days which contribute so much to us as a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition. I would like to thank Mr Marty Wiseman, Ms Erin Johnston, Mr Isikeli Kubunameca, Mrs Neha Linyard, Miss Jessica Whelan, Ms Shannon O’Gorman, Mrs Genevieve O’Sullivan, Miss Yoli Cano and Mr Gerry Crooks for their support in so many ways throughout the day.

I am hopeful that the students understand how lucky they are to work with such a skilled facilitator throughout the day and that the College views this as a key learning tool in the Religious Life of the School and Formation for each of them.

Every Blessing for a Peaceful Week

Mathematics News

RAMPAGE!

Rampage Winner: Congratulations to Tuan Phap Nguyen of Year 12.

Rampage answer from last week: The minute hand moves forward 5, 10 and 15 minutes, while the hour hand moves forward 1, 2 and 3 hours.

New Rampage Question: Can you spot the pattern in this sequence, and decide what comes next?

Four weeks to go till this highly anticipated yearly event on the Jimmies calendar!

This event is showcased on the big stage for our entire community to see and celebrate. Please set aside Friday, May 20 from 7pm to 9pm approximately. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend this truly wonderful evening of outstanding entertainment.

The performances can comprise of, but are not limited to, cultural and hip hop dances, rappers, singers, musicians, athletes, comedians, actors and even magicians! If your child has a talent that they would like to share with our College community then please encourage them to come and see Miss Johnston for further information.

A raffle will be held during the evening which will be a fundraiser for the upcoming East Timor Immersion taking place in the June holidays. Should you have any prizes which you would like to donate for the raffle, these items can be left at Reception with the front office staff. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated, thank you.

Cultural Night enquiries may be directed to either the College Office on 3230 8600 or to Miss Johnston via her email at erin.johnston@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

Guidance Counsellor

Year 10 Work Skills

Term one saw our Year ten students start to explore the careers options available to them after leaving school. One of the most useful tools available to students and their families is the MyFuture website.

Every student has created an account and started their Career Profile by taking the six part quiz in the categories of Interests, Education and Training, Skills, Work Conditions, Knowledge and Entrepreneurship. The results of the quiz are presented as ranked ‘Suggested Occupations’ for students to further explore.

Much like the Job Guide, the MyFuture website provides a snapshot of information about each occupation including the tasks they may perform as well as the personal requirements of people in that role and the training pathway required (e.g. Apprenticeship or Bachelor Degree). It also provides links to possible courses in each state. Unlike the Job Guide, the MyFuture website offers valuable information on the prospects of each occupation including the average income and average weekly hours worked as well as the number of job openings. Crucial information such as weekly earnings and job openings over the next five and ten years are shown graphically. The example below shows the prospects for Accountants:

I would encourage you to explore some of the occupations, their pathways and arguably most relevant of all, the future prospects of each job with your son or daughter. If you’re considering a career change, you may even like to sign up yourself!

Year 10 Work Experience

As part of their Careers Education, all Year 10 students will participate in one week of unpaid work experience from 13 – 17 June. In the past, this has been an overwhelmingly positive week with several students being offered part-time jobs and all students adding some real work experience to their resumes. St James College engages an external provider called SCIPS to organise the placements based on the three industry preferences specified by each young person. The feedback SCIPS has provided is that employers will not accept year ten students for most roles requiring a bachelor degree or higher. For those students
World Challenge presents St James College's expedition to Thailand in November 2017!

We’re excited to advise that this fantastic opportunity is once again being offered to students at St James to plan, fund and ultimately lead their own expedition to Thailand in November 2017.

Learn more about the World Challenge Ethos of student-led expeditions here.

This will be the third time the World Challenge program has been offered to students at St James and we’re thrilled at the prospect of another team of students heading off on this adventure of a lifetime.

The expedition to Thailand is preceded by a training and preparation program, during which students play a major role in planning their own itinerary which will include:

- Project work in a local community
- A challenging trek.
- Rest and Relaxation

A handout was distributed at Assembly on Thursday for the parents of students in Years 9 and 10 to attend a presentation to be delivered by a member of the World Challenge team who will discuss the benefits of the program, the fundraising support and safety back-up they provide, and how they deliver a fun, rewarding, and safe experience.

Date: Tuesday, 3 May 2016
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: St James College Library

Enquiries may be directed to Miss Casey Francis at the College on 3230 8600 or at casey.francis@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

Interested in professional careers requiring university training, we have asked them to request an entry level career in the same industry to ensure they still have a relevant and engaging experience. Once the students have been placed, parents will be provided with relevant information and paperwork. Placements that are cancelled by the student incur a $20 fee.

USQ Springfield Year 11 and 12 Student Experience Day
Are you in Year 11 or 12 and want to find out more about uni and your options after school? Register now to attend USQ’s Student Experience Day on Friday 20 May at Springfield. You can attend hands-on interactive study sessions, talk to current students and tour the facilities. This event is free and morning tea and lunch is provided. See Mrs Munro if interested.

Guidance Counsellor Mr Jim Bartlett
Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo
Students from Years 10 and 12 may attend the 2016 Expo at South Brisbane Convention Centre on Friday 27 May. Buses will leave school at 10.45 am and will return at 12.15 pm.

School based Traineeships
- Butcher apprenticeship vacancies. Positions are now available at: Chermside, Nudgee, Carina, Brookside (x 2) and Coopers Plains (x 2). Year 10, 11 or 12 students. Employers are ready to interview candidates as soon as possible.
- Hairdresser Traineeships. Two hairdressing salons, one at Red Hill and the other at Spring Hill are looking for keen students. Please see either Mr Bartlett or Mrs Munro if interested.

Girls TryA Trade – At this event, girls in Years 10 – 12 will have the opportunity to try out four trades in just one day. The event will be held at:
- TAFE Queensland SkillsTech Acacia Ridge Training Centre from 9 am – 2 pm on Wednesday, 8 June 2016.
- TAFE Queensland SkillsTech Bracken Ridge Training Centre from 9 am – 2 pm on Thursday, 9 June 2016.

Nominations will open soon. Information should be available on the website at http://tafeskillstech.edu.au/ shortly.

Sports News Mr Scott Prickett
Tier 2 Interschool Sport – Two of our summer season teams competed in their Semi Finals this week and they did not disappoint. Our Year 7 Boys’ Futsal team went out against a complete Queensland Representative Futsal team from Cavendish Road State High School to narrowly lose the game 7-8. The boys went out there with no expectations and played with heart and pride, surprising themselves with their efforts. Our Year 9 Girls’ Basketball team went out and dominated the court, beating Mansfield State High School 40-15 in a very good performance. The girls now face Rochedale State High School in the Grand Final to see who will be the South District champion school.

Girls AFL – On Wednesday our Open Girls AFL team played in the Semi Final of their 9 a-side competition. What a game this was - backwards and forwards kicking, many hard tackles and some great team play saw St James get up by one point to rival Loreto 55-54. This will see the girls in the Grand Final next Wednesday 27 April, at 4pm at the Yeronga AFL fields. If you would like to come along to cheer and support our mighty Jimmies Girls’ AFL team, this would be greatly appreciated, thank you.

Basketball – Our Basketball teams are off to play Hillcrest College this Saturday 23 April, Students who are playing in these games and will be travelling on the College bus, must arrive at school no later than 7:30am on Saturday. If you would like to come down and support our program, Hillcrest Christian College is located at 221 Bridgman Drive, Reedy Creek.

The schedule for Saturday’s games is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Year 7 Game</th>
<th>Year 8 Game</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Emerging Boys Game</td>
<td>Year 9 Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Open Girls Game</td>
<td>Year 10 Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Open Boys Game</td>
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Upcoming Climbing Competition
It’s go time! The start of the Rocksports Social Climbing Competition is just 2 weeks away!

The students from Jimmies Climbing Club, from St James College, have been training hard and getting themselves ready to crush. The first round of the series will take place on the April 30, at 5:00pm. It’s rumoured to be the biggest social competition in Queensland this year!

The Rocksports Social Competition will feature three different events throughout the year – starting with a Top Rope Distance Challenge, which will see competitors climb as far as they can in the one hour time limit. Each event is designed to create a social climbing atmosphere that is welcoming and worthwhile for all levels of competitors. The events themselves will offer completely different climbing formats and styles throughout the year.

Climbers can score freebies, prizes or podiums at every event. The first event features more than $2,000 in prizes, and with a ‘no-one wins more than once’ rule, you’re guaranteed to be in with a good shot of taking home some goodies!

To register: Pay the entry fee at Rocksports, and create an account at TheCrag.com (used for scoring purposes). If you’ve never climbed at Rocksports, you’ll also need to complete a waiver form, which you can do online, or in person at the gym.

Enquiries may be directed to Miss Francis at casey.francis@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.
Revitalising senior assessment and tertiary entrance in Queensland

A guide for parents and carers

April 2016

Introduction

The Queensland Government has announced a steady and considered transition to revitalised senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. Designed to meet the needs of current and future students, the features of these systems will be:

- a model that uses school-based assessment and common external assessment
- new processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- a move away from the Overall Position (OP) rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Why is it time to change the current systems?

The senior assessment system in its current form began in the early 1980s. The tertiary entrance system — commonly known as the OP system — was introduced in 1992.

In a report released in 2014, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) found that while existing arrangements had served Queensland students well and remained fair and reliable, they would not be sustainable over the longer term. ACER recommended changes to achieve greater rigour and simplicity.

There is also strong support among Queensland universities for eligible Year 12 students to be provided with an ATAR rather than an OP.

When will the new systems start?

The new senior assessment system will start with students entering Year 11 in 2018. These are the current Year 9 students.

The first students to receive an ATAR instead of an OP will graduate from Year 12 in 2019.
What will be different about the new assessment system?

A system of 100% school-based assessment has operated in Queensland for more than 40 years.

In the new system, subject results will be based on a student’s achievement in three school-based assessments and one external assessment that is set and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

This is fewer assessments than students sit currently — emphasising quality over quantity.

In the new system, the external assessment results will contribute 25% towards a student’s result in most subjects. In mathematics and science subjects, it will generally contribute 50%.

These will not be ‘one-shot’ external exams where an entire course of study comes down to performance over a few hours. External assessments are designed to give an extra layer of information about what students have learnt and can do in a subject. Queensland is introducing a progressive system that embodies the best of school-based and external assessment.

The school-based assessments will not be scaled by the results of the external assessment when calculating a student’s subject result.

Why will there be 50% external assessment in mathematics and science subjects but 25% in others?

Variation between subjects reflects the kinds of learning particular to those subjects and how achievement is most appropriately assessed. It would be inappropriate to assess all subjects in the same way.

Variation exists in other states although few share exactly the same approach.

Will students be subject to more assessment and high stakes exams in the new system?

Year 12 students typically complete up to seven assessments in each subject. Under the new model, students will be expected to complete four pieces of assessment per subject. Three will be school-based assessments and one will be externally set and graded. All four assessments will count towards a student’s final result.

What preparations are being made for the new assessment system?

The QCAA is developing new senior assessment processes through:

- redeveloping senior syllabuses reflective of a new assessment model
- trialling external assessments with about 20,000 students at more than 250 schools
- trialling processes for improving the quality and comparability of school-based assessment.

Teachers and students will be well supported in the transition to the new system. The education community in general has been an important driver of the changes.

When will the trial of external assessment start?

The external assessment trial will be held from 27 May to 6 June 2016. The subjects involved are Chemistry, English, Geography, Mathematics B and Modern History. All of the external tasks will be developed and marked by the QCAA.

Will my child have to do an external assessment if their school participates in the trial?

No, but the greater the number of students who participate, the more useful the trials will be. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss participation with their school before requesting that their child is not involved in the trial assessment group.
Will a student’s performance in a trial assessment count towards their Year 12 level of achievement?
No. As the trial will involve Year 11 formative assessment only, there will be no impact on a student’s Year 12 exit result in the subject.

What certificates will students receive in the new system at the end of Year 12?
The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) will remain as Queensland’s senior school qualification. Students who are eligible will continue to be awarded one at the end of Year 12. Students will also still receive a Senior Statement. It shows all studies and the results achieved that may contribute to the award of a QCE.

What will be different about the new tertiary entrance system?
The ATAR is a finer-grained rank order of students than the OP. It’s a number between 0.00 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05, whereas the OP consists of 25 bands. The ATAR is commonly used in other states and territories.
A student’s OP is calculated by comparing their results in Authority subjects studied at school with those of other OP-eligible students. Subject results are scaled using Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test results. The final QCS Test will be held in 2018.
ATARs will also be calculated by comparing student results. But instead of the QCS Test there will be a process of inter-subject scaling.
Scaling is necessary so that student results in different types of subjects can be compared. The method of inter-subject scaling to be used is still to be finalised by the Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce.
The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will be responsible for calculating students’ ATARs.

What about the students who will finish school before the changes are introduced?
Families with children who will be completing school under the current system can be assured that it remains fair and reliable. In no way will it be compromised by the changes.

Who will oversee the implementation strategy?
The Minister for Education chairs the Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce with representation from schooling sectors, parent groups, principal associations, teacher unions, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) and the tertiary sector.
The taskforce will make decisions about the shape of the new system. School communities will be advised throughout this process.

The current systems explained
Students are taught and assessed by schools throughout Years 11 and 12. The QCAA manages the external moderation processes that ensure all students are treated fairly and standards are comparable from school to school. This involves review panels of trained teachers externally moderating students’ school-based assessments.
A student’s OP is calculated using their subject results and information from the Queensland Core Skills Test.

More information
Please email: secretariat@qcaa.qld.edu.au