Principal’s News

Dear Parents and Friends

Last Tuesday was a wonderful celebration inducting the 2016 School Leaders. We were very fortunate to have as our special guest past School Captain and Dux of 2012, Jacob Greenaway. His messages were clear about understanding that there will be mistakes and how one can choose to learn from these mistakes to grow as individuals. Thank you so much to the parents, carers and friends who supported our school by attending the ceremony. I am also very grateful to our Mayor Graeme Lehmann, State member Mr Jim Madden and Bendigo Bank Manager, Mr Michael Doherty for attending as our special guests.

Our senior school leaders have already set the foundations for leaving a leadership legacy by outlining their vision for the year ahead. I can already advise that they have wasted no time and by Thursday they provided an inclusive opportunity to all students to write notes to their friends for Valentine’s Day. On the Friday the notes were delivered to the student during home group. This small and effective activity has already demonstrated how they can put their vision into action by ensuring every student could access and join in on this fun way to celebrate the day.

Teachers Shine at Musical Reveal

The great thing about teachers is that they love to perform. Under the leadership of our fearless Arts Head of Department, Ms Kristie-Lee Doyle who managed to organise a team of keen and enthusiastic teachers to rehearse and then perform the great Musical reveal. This is yet another example of Lowood SHS teachers going above and beyond to encourage our students and provide an amazing opportunity for our students to be part of an experience that will be life changing. If your young person is looking for a way to belong, meet new friends in all year levels and challenge themselves in a positive and supportive environment, please encourage them to sign up for the musical, Annie. There are opportunities that extend beyond the singing and dancing parts. I cannot wait to see the final production on 2, 3 and 4 May at the Lowood SHS Hall! I will see you there!
Whole School Strategic Teams

Over the last two weeks, I have been inspired by the leadership, engagement and commitment of the teacher chairs, vice chairs and team members who have been involved in their respective strategic team planning days for the 2016 year. Staff development is one of our improvement drivers and through the strategic teams is just one way that we are developing leadership in all teachers.

If you have any feedback or comments to make about:
- Staff Development: Ms Kristie-Lee Doyle and Mrs Helen Bailie
- Quality Teaching: Mrs Jane O’Dea and Mr Matt Peach
- Literacy & Numeracy: Ms Bree Sippel and Mr Gavin Lind/ Ms Kerrie Leary
- Student Attendance: Mrs Teka Ryan and Miss Maja Amidzic

Please feel free to contact the relevant chairs and vice chairs as listed above.

The Lowood SHS school improvement agenda is in exceptional hands due the outcomes that have been achieved during these meetings.

Our school spirit and Team Lowood catch phrase is alive and well as demonstrated by all the teaching staff and I am very excited to share the whole school plan for this year in future newsletters.

Regards
Anne McLauchlan
Principal

Deputy Principal News

Academic Coaching

During the next two weeks of this term, every year 12 student will be assigned an Academic Coach to monitor and support their academic progress through the remainder of their senior year. The goals of Academic Coaching include:

- Monitoring and supporting student progress
- Providing information data to assist them in achieving their academic goals
- Working closely with students, keeping academic achievement in perspective and assisting them, where, necessary, to discover different solutions to achieving their desired academic goals
- Motivating and engaging students in a process that maximises their potential so they can achieve the best possible academic outcomes
- Guaranteeing that each student transitions into a successful and relevant pathway after school

I know that Academic Coaching helps students chart a path to attain their goal and learn how to follow through and get results. This model is a proactive and a systematic approach to supporting each student to be their best. It is designed to assist students in identifying and achieving their academic goals and to motivate them to achieve and strive for excellence.

How it works?

The Academic Coach will be one of the members of the senior leadership team; principal, deputy principals, heads of departments or our experienced senior teachers.

Each coach will work one on one with each student providing individualised feedback sessions that will build on each student’s personal strengths and areas for improvement whilst at the same time providing a realistic picture of how each student is tracking at that point in time. This instils confidence, encourages interest, creates urgency (if needed) in learning and ultimately maximises student achievement. From experience, I know that this makes a difference to students.

If your child has not had their academic coaching by the end of week 6 please get in touch with me through the front office or on dj@eq.edu.au

Year 12 Students NOT on track for their QCE

On Thursday 18th February, ALL students in the school were emailed their assessment schedules for Semester 1, 2016. This schedule contains:

- All topics students will be covering each week in every subject
- Assessment Dates
  - Dates assessment given out
  - Dates drafts are due
  - Dates final assessment is due

By the end of Week 5, Term 1 (26th February, 2016) individual subject schedules will be available on the school website for every year level. Students will also be able to log onto their OneSchool account and access their individual schedule.

This is just a friendly reminder that students who are NOT on track to obtain their QCE at the end of this semester will not be invited to attend the 2016 Formal. If you would like to discuss if your child is on track please contact the school to make an appointment to meet with either me or our senior schooling head of department, Miss Mallett.
Next Step Survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state-wide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2015. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2015. For more information visit the website below or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.


Well-Being

Just like your physical health and fitness, your mental health is worth taking care of and improving. By organising your life under the categories of Celebrating, Connecting and Growing, we can take positive steps to improve our personal well-being.

- Celebrate the positive things in your life, as well as the strengths and values that have helped you through more challenging times.
- Connect with others by paying attention to your close relationships, or by reaching out and making new friends,
- Grow and expand your horizons by trying something new that creates meaning and purpose for you.

Source: www.mentalhealth.asn.au

Some Tips for De-Stressing:

![Some Tips for De-Stressing](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/)

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

!! IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY !!

Being the start of 2016, it is important that students are here learning as much as possible to set up a great start to the year. A number of studies have shown that students’ academic performance is directly linked to their attendance. Therefore, high attendance (90% or above) is critical to ensure students achieve to their full potential. As a result of this, Lowwood SHS places a high importance on attendance by monitoring absences closely. You can help ensure your child’s absences are explained by phoning the absence line on 07 5427 8360. You may also advise of absences through email at absences@lowoodshs.eq.edu.au Please include the reason for the absence in your message along with your child’s name and their grade.

If we have not received a phone call or email, your child’s home group teacher will ask for a medical certificate or note explaining the reason for the absence. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a productive and successful term.

Faculty Highlights

The Arts

Hello. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Ms Kristie-Lee Doyle and I am the head Of department for visual, performing and manual arts. This means that I take care of all Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Manual Art and Graphics subjects, including construction and furnishing.

Throughout 2016 we hope that your students will enjoy taking part in these subjects and also take the opportunity to get involved in extra activities that may be provided for them. Some of these opportunities may include attending excursion/performances, taking part in workshops, entering work in competitions, attending extended learning programs such as hand & power tools and also participating in extra-curricular activities. All of these events are organised by our wonderful teachers to ensure that students get the most out of their subjects and are continually challenged to extend their learning. It is our goal to ensure that students in our lessons are engaged and achieving their very best, and therefore we hope that all our students will come to class ready to learn and willing to continue to improve.

This year we welcome three new teachers to our faculty. Miss Postle is one of our new Music teachers and will be working mainly with students in the senior classes. She is also working very closely with Mrs Chambers who will also be teaching music. Both of these teachers will also be involved in working with students who are a part of the musical cast and can be found in M Block staffroom. Mr Jenner is also new to Lowood High and joins the manual arts department. He is very passionate about developing rugby league opportunities within our school and is located in F Block staffroom.

All of our VPM Arts teachers hope that 2016 is a fabulous year filled with lots of opportunities to showcase the hard work and talents of our students. If you have any concerns regarding any of these subjects or any of the extra opportunities that are available to students, please feel free to contact me through the front office.
Junior Secondary

Welcome to Junior Secondary!

Junior Secondary Wellbeing

This term our CSI focus is bullying where the students are working towards creating promotional products for the national day of action against bullying on Friday March 18.

One thing to consider is whether bullying is occurring or whether others are being mean.

**is it BULLYING?**

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that’s **RUDE**.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that’s **MEAN**.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it*—even when you tell them to stop or show them that you’re upset—that’s **BULLYING**.

Some strategies that work well against bullies are using the Hi 5 hand approach where students are encouraged to do the following things if being bullied, or if people are not being nice to you:

Another port of call is the Stymie website where you can report bullying anonymously.

On a final note remember to be someone’s hero against bullying today.

Mara Kitson  
Head of Wellbeing – Junior Secondary

English

English: The Beginning 2016

It has been a quick, but fantastic start to 2016 in the English Department. Each class has jumped straight into term one units and begun developing the skills needed to achieve success in their assessment for this term.

Year seven classes have started the year with a unit called **Powerful Persuasion**. They are learning all about advertising and how advertisements are created to persuade an audience to buy a product or take a specific action. Students will be focusing on print and online advertisements and will learn all about the language and layout of these advertisements. The assessment for this term will be in week eight and is an in class assessment where they will plan, draft and edit a persuasive essay, which focuses on the effectiveness of a chosen advertisement. Miss Cooney, Mrs Gray and Mr McCall are all excited to support their students through this assessment and lead them to success.

Like year seven, year eights have a media focus this term also, but they are looking at how newspapers and online news sources use language and structure to express a point of view and persuade a reader to see a particular point of view. This unit is called **Media Manipulation** and will see students explicitly analysing specific news stories, identifying the point of view and language choices and explaining how they manipulate the audience. With this analysis, they will then write a letter to the editor in week eight in class explaining their interpretation of the article and providing their own point of view on the issue, event or situation. The year eight teachers, Mrs Goldston, Mr Davison, Mrs Ryan and Miss Tobin, would love to hear from you if you have any concerns or areas that you think they can provide additional support for your child.

Year nine classes are breaking the mould and are looking at short story writing in a unit called **Speculative Fiction**. Miss Salbro, Mr Norris, Miss Clark and Miss Sippel have been looking at Utopian worlds, the end of the world and even dinosaurs, introducing students to the concept of “What if...” This unit centres on information texts and see students deconstructing these texts to find stimulus for a short story which answers a “What if...” question that students create.
Look out for a task sheet going home to students this week with a due date in **week eight**.

Many of our seniors have jumped in to reading at the beginning of 2016. **Year ten** classes have been reading Romeo and Juliet and will have their performance task sheets coming home this week. Most students have been looking at how they can transform themes, characters and the plot from the play into a modern context. They will present re-contextualised scenes in **week eight** as their assessment. Other classes have been working on characterisation and will be focusing on telling a key plot element from a minor character’s perspective. Our **Year eleven and Twelve Authority** classes have been reading plays also, The Crucible (Arthur Miller) and Macbeth (William Shakespeare) respectively. They will be writing expository monologues, focusing on the contexts of their chosen play. Each will have to develop their character and fill a gap or silence within the play. Year elevens will have a task sheet handed out to them next week (week five), with their monologue due in **week eight**. Year Twelves will get their task sheet in their first lesson this week (week four) and their monologue will be due in **week eight** also. The **Year eleven communications** class have been looking at making meaning in music, selecting a song and analysing it for its meaning. Students will have an analytical essay due in **week six** and their second assessment will be handed out in week nine and to be due in term 2.

Our senior assessment is rounded out by **Year twelve communications** who are currently working on a report about local crime, leading them into their play study. This report will be due in **week eight**. If students in these classes wish to start reading the play for next term, it is called Blackrock by Nick Enright and they will be able to pick it up from textbook hire from the start of week 6.

I cannot wait to keep you all up to date with the success of all our students in English this year. We have had a lot of great changes made to our curriculum to benefit all our students and ensure that they are learning the skills they will need in both their personal and professional endeavours. If you wish to contact me about any concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at ehaye40@eq.edu.au and we can organise a phone meeting or a time to meet up at the school.

*Emma Hayes- Head of Department English*