Principal’s News

Dear Parents and Friends

With only days remaining of this year it is very timely to reflect on the year that is nearly over and share what we are looking forward to in 2017.

Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

I was delighted to see the largest turn out of parents and carers ever for this year’s Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. The Graduation Ceremony is the real reason why our young people attend school and labour over their studies for twelve years. It is so they can proudly graduate with their peers by walking across the school stage knowing full well that they have successfully completed year 12. Again this year we saw 25% of the cohort to be the first in their family to complete year 12 and graduate. Once again this is a statistic that moves me. This highlights the big difference that LSHS teachers and staff make to ensuring students have greater opportunities for life success by the simple fact that they have completed year 12.

I sincerely congratulate all of our year 12 students and parents and carers for supporting us to support your son or daughter to be part of this celebration. I would also like to acknowledge Sharon Greenaway for making it very real in her speech that was beautifully addressed to the graduating students.

Youth Support Co-ordinator, Sarah Kendall, wins regional award

This year our region has acknowledged Sarah for her outstanding work and commitment to our young people and families at Lowood SHS. Sarah is instrumental in supporting students to attend school and assist them with managing their social and emotional needs on a daily basis. Sarah is a person who makes a difference to those she works with and supports every day. We are so grateful to have a YSC of Sarah’s calibre, passion and commitment.

Farewell and Thanks Ms Cherie Smith, Deputy Principal

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Ms Smith. Ms Smith has made a positive impact to our students, staff and community during the last 18 months. Ms Smith has moved school curriculum to the next level and has worked very hard to make wide ranging improvements in the Induction and Orientation of new teachers to LSHS as well as being the leader in reviewing the School Responsible Behaviour Plan.
She has also spent considerable time devoting her energy and experience to supporting the junior secondary student body. At times, it would be fair to say that, she has spent more time with some JS students than she has with her own daughter. I am personally grateful for Cherrie’s commitment, growth mindset, and openness to learning and feedback for improvement in her time with us. We will be sad to see Cherrie depart the Lowood SHS gates but understand and support the fact that she has other goals and dreams to achieve in her future.

Farewell and Thanks to Teachers

With a range of tactics and strategies in place that we have developed over the last three years we are doing our best to stabilise the teaching staff and reduce the churn of teacher change throughout the school year. However, for a range of reasons beyond our control, teachers will come and go. On behalf of all the staff of LSHS I would like to farewell and thank the following teachers who also leave us as the year draws to a close:

Mr Jared Stegman, HPE; Mrs Dina Dellas, Maths; Mr Shane Bryan, Manual Arts; Mrs Jan Gray, English/Humanities; Mrs Linsey Hunter, Learning Development Centre; Mr Jaimme Rogers, English/Humanities; Mrs Preeti Patil, Health.

New Staff for 2017

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Mr Tony Degnian as the substantive Deputy Principal at Lowood SHS from the start of next year. Mr Degnian will have oversight of the Junior Secondary portfolio and associated roles. Mr Degnian comes with extensive experience in a range of context from central Queensland to the south east corner and in an array of roles including principal at a primary school, deputy principal, head of school and Mathematics head of department. The addition of Mr Degnian to our team will serve to strengthen the great work that has been achieved over the last two years.

We have also recruited some outstanding graduate teachers as listed below:

- Mr Adam Pengelly, HPE and football academy
- Ms Morgan Kempster, English and Home Economics
- Ms Rosie Kerle, Maths and Science
- Ms Lauren Marks, Humanities and English
- Ms Laura McKay, English and Humanities
- Ms Tara Sanders, English and Humanities
- Mr Lachlan Molan, Music

We have also secured experienced teachers:

- Ms Diane Pashen, Drama and Acting Arts HOD
- Ms Tara Stansfield, Art and Drama
- Ms Madeleine McGarrigal, Empowerment Teacher
- Ms Bev Miles, Empowerment Teacher

Attendance in 2017

I flagged this earlier in the year and I am keen to remind everyone of the change to how we measure attendance in 2017 and beyond. Our benchmark will remain at 90% attendance in order to represent the school, however, the expectation is that students actually need to attend 90% of the time as opposed to 90% with explained absences. This expectation will commence from day one next year. School representation, access to attendance rewards days and other extra-curricular school activities will be contingent on a student being physically present at school 90% of the time.

Unfortunately, at Lowood SHS, despite targeted resources put in place to support student attendance we are still falling short of the region, state and national minimums. Research supports that a 90% attendance minimum is a necessary pre-condition for improving student outcomes so I strongly encourage all parents to ensure your student has the best chance of success at school by meeting this expectation. High attendance also supports a Belonging Mindset (see next item).

Our attendance systems and processes will remain unchanged with the expectation that parents/carers will contact the school and advise of student absences, however these will not be counted any longer towards the percentage. If any parent/carer needs support to re-engage or assist a young person with attending school every day, please contact your respective Heads of Wellbeing; Mrs Mara Kitson for junior secondary and Mrs Susan McNichol for senior secondary.

Learning Mindsets

This year has been all about developing a growth mindset with students and staff. A group of staff led by Mr Johnson, Deputy Principal, consulted and collaborated with students, parents and staff to create the Behaviour and Effort Mindset Matrix. This matrix will assist us all to develop our growth mindsets in the work we do every single day. This matrix will be in the student diary next year for easy reference and will be helpful to parents when discussing their son or daughter’s mindset and choices around how they approach their daily learning at school. Be ready to see the matrix at our parent teacher conferences next year as well. We will be doing this because all the research highlights that intelligence is malleable and that with effort we can all learn and get better.

A year of new firsts

As has become the culture and custom of Lowood SHS staff they are kicking goals and looking for new ways to create new and exciting opportunities for our students.

- Our first official drumline with kit and equipment
- Our first combined school ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies with Lowood SS.
• Business Soiree where we celebrated community and business partnerships and engagement with a thank you event hosted by the Diploma of Business students.
• First year of the Diploma of Business. Four students graduated from the program with many more year 11s to follow and with a record number of students signed up for the diploma in 2017.
• Our very own service dog, Jackson the black Labrador. The training is over and he officially starts work next year.
• Our first international cultural trip to Germany and Austria
• The introduction of Heads of Wellbeing in the school
• The introduction of a Speech Pathologist and Behaviour teacher employed by the school to work with students and staff directly.
• An explicit two tiered reading intervention program to support students who have gaps in their reading development that supports them to move from learning to read to reading to learn.
• Full implementation of the Junior Secondary Team designed to support all our JS students in this exciting age and phase of adolescence.

Based on early planning conversations for next year, I can conservatively guarantee that there are some more innovative and creative ideas coming to students into the future.

Summer holidays, season’s greetings and student start dates
As we all move into the hot summer holiday break I wish you and yours the very best for the holiday and Christmas season and the New Year. Stay safe and enjoy your family time at this special time of the year.

Next year will be very exciting with plans to deeply embed all our work from the last two years into the final two years of our current school strategic plan. With a focussed improvement agenda on student reading comprehension, a continued commitment to developing staff to ensure high yield strategies are embedded every day all wrapped in the learning mindset culture, I am confident that our student outcomes will continue to improve.

We will see another large cohort of year 7s joining us taking our enrolment to its highest in the last 10 years.

For all students school officially commences on Monday, 23 January. Students will be required to present in full formal uniform (please refer to the school website for clarity on shoes, socks and general expectations) and meet at the school hall on this day.

Regards
Anne McLauchlan
Principal

Deputy Principal News

Graduating Class of 2016

It is that time of year when everyone is looking forward to holidays and the festive season. Over the last couple of days I have taken some time to reflect on what 2016 has been all about.

I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents who have contributed to Lowood State High becoming one of the greatest schools in the state. Later this year we will boast the greatest senior academic results the school has ever seen with:

• 100% of graduating students receiving their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
• 100% of graduating students receiving a Vocational Education & Training Qualification
• The best ever QCS results the school has seen
• The most number of Certificate IIIIs awarded

It is a pleasure to work in this environment every day and strive to make a difference in the lives of all people attached to the school.

Free Training for School Leavers
Certificate 3 Guarantee

Eligible working age Queenslanders are entitled to State Government funding to help them complete a certificate level III qualification. The Certificate 3 Guarantee will be paid to the training provider to reduce the cost of the certificate level III qualification to the student. Students should expect to contribute to the cost of their training through a student contribution fee.

Eligibility

The Certificate 3 Guarantee is for students who commence a certificate level III course on or after 1 July 2013, and who do not already hold or are undertaking a certificate level III or higher qualification. Students can only access the Certificate 3 Guarantee subsidy once so it is important you take the time to carefully consider your training options, and compare different providers and their fees, before committing to a course of study.

More detailed information on courses and approved providers in Queensland that will attract the Certificate 3 Guarantee is available at the link below. You can also telephone 1300 369 935 or email training@dete.qld.gov.au.

TAFE Queensland South West Experience Day – Year 9

Year 9 students will again have the opportunity to attend a TAFE experience day for 2016. This day will be hosted by TAFE Queensland South West on Monday 5th December, 2016. Experience Days are designed to provide students with an enjoyable introduction to life as a TAFE student through
exploration of TAFE’s campuses. The aim is to provide students with information and first-hand insight into entry requirements, pathways and career outcomes arising from tertiary study. Lowood State High School year 9 students have the opportunity to visit TAFE Queensland South West to gain a deeper understanding of TAFE life and interact with current teachers and students in a practical learning environment.

Please refer to the notes handed out by Ms Stacey Mallett, Senior Schooling Head of Department, for further details.

What is Stymie?

- Stymie allows bystanders to send anonymous notifications to Your School, about someone who they believe is being bullied or harmed.
- The notification interface allows bystanders to upload evidence like screen shots of facebook discussions, Snapchats, text messages or instant message conversations and an outline of the incident(s).
- Your School receives the Stymie Notifications in the form of an email alert. You may choose which members of staff receive these emails. – (Not in the trial phase – all emails go to the Deputy Principal)
- The notifications are encrypted, anonymous and confidential. Stymie does not store any information; we are merely the road upon which it travels.
- Stymie was built in consideration of the Australian Safe Schools Framework and the recommendations from the Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study.

Who is a Bystander?

- Bystanders are the largest group in the cycle of bullying. They are either witness to, encourage, take an active part in, or instigate bullying behaviours.
- Most bystanders passively accept bullying because: they are scared, they don’t feel as though it is their business, they don’t like the person being bullied, they feel peer-pressured to participate or they think that notifying someone may make things worse.
- Bystanders behave the ways in which they do because they are fearful and do not have the experience or skill, to deal with serious incidents.
- Bystanders often feel guilty.
- Stymie promotes the pro-social responsibilities of bystanders and outlines their responsibilities in the cycle of bullying. We are empowering your students to stand up for each other without fear.

Please feel free to use the stymie website to report any forms of bullying you may see or be experiencing. There will be a parent information session in early December look out for further details in the next newsletter.


End of Year Reports to be Emailed

Please ensure that you have your details up to date with the school to ensure that you receive your end of year report card. All reports will be emailed out from this term on. You can update your details by completing the form below and returning to the school office.

2017 Year 11 & 12 Timetables

Last Thursday all students who were in attendance at school were given their 2017 timetables.

It is important to note that the teachers and rooms that are mentioned on the timetables are most likely to change as we are still in the middle of staffing, however the sequence of subjects is not going to change.

Updated timetables will be emailed to all students early in 2017 as well as being provided with a hard copy on the first day of school.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns around timetables please contact me through the front office or via email on dj@eq.edu.au.

2017 Timetables – 2017 Year 8, 9 & 10 Students

Currently the school is aiming to have 2017 timetables ready to distribute to students during the last week of the school year. These timetables will indicate which electives students have been placed in for the year (year 10) or semester one (year 8 & 9).

If you have any questions about subject selections please either contact me through the front office or on email through dj@eq.edu.au.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Being the last term of 2016, it is important that students are here learning until the last day of term. 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, Lowood 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 year level.

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.

Every Day Counts!

Moving into 2017

During this period of time I will again be looking after year 10, 11 & 12 students (the senior school) and I am extremely
excited about delivering higher outcomes for our 2017, 2018 & 2019 Graduating classes. This success will not come without effort by the students and support from teachers and parents, however it is very achievable.

Wishing you all a safe break and a happy return to “the best place in the world” Lowood State High in 2017.

Mr Daniel Johnson
Deputy Principal – Senior School

Learning Development Centre News

What a fantastic year! Congratulations to everyone!

Term 4 2016, is almost done and the summer holidays are fast approaching.

We have seen students grow both academically and socially and emotionally throughout the year. It is wonderful to look back to the beginning of the year and see how far the students have progressed.

Congratulations to all our year 12s on the completion of 12 years of formal education. To the parents of these students, thank you for your input and communication over the past two years and best wishes to you all for the future.

This year some students have engaged in a program called ASDAN. This program provides Bronze, Silver and Gold Personal Development Programs with points gained contributing to their QCE. This year we saw three students successfully gain their Bronze Certificates. Congratulations to Jake Pinner, Andrew Scott and Shaun for their work ethic and commitment to this subject.

We wish all students and their families a safe and joyous Christmas holiday break, and look forward to seeing you all back again in 2017.

Kind Regards
Sherree Soanes
HOSES

Faculty Highlights

Senior Schooling Wellbeing

A decision has been made to allow current year 11 students to order a 2017 senior jersey up to Thursday 9th February (week 3, Term 1).

We hope this eases the burden of costs associated with the end of year activities. Please note however, that this will be a strict cut-off date to allow the jerseys to be delivered at school by the end of term 1 2017.

Students are allowed to wear their jersey to school on the designated sports uniform day during terms 2 and 3. If you require another order form, please collect one from either myself or student reception.

As we wrap up the year, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to working with you in 2017.

Susan McNichol

Junior Secondary

A reflection on 2016…

This year saw Growth Mindset being explicitly applied to many facets of Junior Schooling at LSHS. From “Challenge and Choices” positive recognition to the Junior Certificate of Education (JCE), students have been challenged to show grit through demonstrating perseverance, and growing from feedback. As a result, the Junior Secondary Team couldn’t be happier, with students continually pushing themselves to new heights - academically, socially, emotionally, behaviourally and through participation in a variety of extra-curricular activities.

LSHS first JCE Recipients!

2016 has been the inaugural year of the LSHS Junior Certificate of Education (JCE). The JCE helps to map student progress towards, and attainment of, readiness to embark on their Senior Schooling journey. Gold, Silver, Bronze or Platinum stars will be awarded to students on the Year 9 Tie Ceremony as well as the Year 7/8 end of year celebration to those students who have demonstrated improvement and success at the end of the year in each of the Junior Secondary years. Very rarely the path to success is linear, and so it’s important to take this opportunity to thank our JS students, parents and caregivers who have attended the JCE Conferences throughout the year and/or supported our young adolescents through other means.

It has been a real privilege to watch the JS students mature academically, not just socially and emotionally over the course of the year. Special congratulations and good luck to our year 9 students who have completed their junior schooling years at LSHS and are about to embark on the next phase of learning – senior schooling.

Junior Secondary Wellbeing

Where has this year gone? The beginning saw a group of year 7s join us. As the year progressed all our students in years 7, 8 & 9 have matured and grown into the students that they now are. Last week I had two of our students approach me with a proposal about entering the school in a Sunrise competition. These students, Amelia and Georgia, had a vision and sought out Mrs McLauchlan to gain approval for their submission. This was successfully entered on Friday and now we wait to hear news on how the girls’ video fares. It is wonderful to see our student’s growth in advocating, not only for themselves, but for the entire school.

The end of the year also sees our year 9s enter senior schooling to now be guided by the senior schooling team. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the Junior Secondary Captains. After seeing what you are capable of this year we have high
2016 was the first year we had a student identified at Verification for their exemplary work. Shami Greenaway’s Shakespearean monologue was said to demonstrate the three dimensions of the English syllabus to an exemplary level. 2016 also saw our local Lion’s Youth of the Year winner move on to compete in Brisbane’s regional competition. Felicity Harm (year 12 Graduate 2016) showed grace, respect and knowledge throughout all stages of the competition and truly did Lowood State High School proud. Our Readers’ Cup team dedicated hours to reading the novels required for the competition and, led by Mrs Goldston and Mrs Gray, competed in our school hall against upper primary and high school students from the region. We also had our first German study tour, organised by Miss Smith. It saw schools from within the region join together and take a group of students to Germany for the September school holidays. Jennifer Moke and Cody Morris were joined by Miss Smith and Miss Tobin for the trip of a lifetime!

In the classroom, we saw students accessing the curriculum through units prepared specifically for the school community. With the teachers’ focus being the Achievement Standards, students became more engaged in their classroom and produced exceptional pieces of work. You can see some of our term four work in the photos below.

There is so much to celebrate, that one newsletter article just isn’t enough! Thank you to all the hard work, from teachers, teacher aides, students, parents and caregivers. You have each contributed to our amazing year!

Moving in to 2017, we are losing some amazing staff from the English Faculty. Mrs Jan Gray is leaving us for Stretton State College. She has been an integral part of our junior teaching team and will be missed. We all know that you are going to take your passion and motivation into your new school and shine like always. We also say goodbye to Mr Jaimme Rogers. Jaimme came into our faculty at the beginning of term four and has worked to build classroom environments where students are focused and engaged in learning. We wish him the best in his future endeavours.
Thank you to all parents and students for making 2016 one of our most successful years to date. We cannot wait to see what 2017 will bring!

Emma Hayes
Head of Department English/LOTE

STEM News

WESTERN STEM Challenge

On Friday 14th October the students of 7A and 8A presented their Western STEM Challenge projects to the judging panel at Ipswich State High School. The students received a lot of encouraging and positive feedback from the judges and politicians who attended. Not all of the awards were announced on the night, which did disappoint our students. We had to wait for the results and certificates to be sent out. The wait was worth it, with a number of our students receiving awards.

Year 8 students Leanna Boogaards and Shishana Nicholson won the Innovation Category for their MANBULANCE. Jasmine D’Arcy, Shania Bowa, Lauren Hart, Trinity Williams, Chloe Ilka, Katelin Smith, Lurissa Masters, Aleesha Shaw, Kate Kendrick and Emily Stephen won Encouragement awards. These certificates were presented to students at the parade on 15th of November.

LEGO ROBOTICS

An introductory course in programming robots has been running at Lowood SHS on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 pm this term for students in years 5 to 9. The course was a joint venture between the Somerset Regional Council, Lowood cluster of State Schools and Lowood SHS. Students were asked to choose from one of 3 tasks to complete; a Robot Dance, a Search and Rescue or a Logistics Solution. Over the six week course students learnt the basics of coding (writing programs) and problem solving the issues that arose in designing their solution. The student solutions were presented to Somerset Regional Councillors Otis Ogg and Bob Whalley as well as parents and guests.

Gavin Lind
HOD Mathematics

Football Academy

On Tuesday 22nd of November, Jace Martyn, Lachlan, Matthew Leschke, Raiden Shannon, Lachlyn Whitmore and Levi Thornton competed at the inaugural Queensland School Sport Futsal Cup finals held at Coomera. The boys faced quality opposition on their way to an elimination quarter final appearance. Although lapses of concentration affected our performances, overall their efforts were commendable. The goal scorers were Jace Martyn with four goals, Matthew Leschke with two goals and Levi Thornton with one goal. Special mention to Zak Payne and Jack Marschke for their contribution to the team in order to qualify for the tournament.

The Lowood Lightning Football Academy trials for 2017 were conducted on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th of November for year 8s and 9s of next year. The trials consisted of activities to measure aerobic endurance, mental strength, discipline, ball skills and their ability in game situations through football and futsal. All the students should be proud of themselves as they gave 100% effort in their attempt to be accepted in the program. Special thanks to the Home Economics department for supplying the students with spaghetti bolognese for lunch.

Jacob Verraart
Football Academy coach

QParents. Why sign up?

Here at Lowood High we offer access to your students’ information through the app QParents.

What does QParents offer?

Real time access to

- Student report cards, as soon as the report is finalised in OneSchool it is available on the app.
- Attendance information, with the ability to notify the school the reason for an absence listed.
- Monies owed to the school, linked to making payments using a credit or debit card.
- Student timetable, no more what books do I need to take today? Not sure what my timetable is? Just look it up.

Want to sign up, email qparents@lowoodshs.eq.edu.au.
### 2017 Term Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Monday 23 January - Friday 31 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 18 April - Friday 23 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 10 July - Friday 15 September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 October - Friday 8 December</td>
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### Community Announcements

**Camp Somerset School Holiday program**

Registration opens - 4/11/2016  
Registration closes - 12/12/2016  
Who - Boys and girls 9 to 15 years’  
Where - Camp Somerset 1180 Stanley Pocket road, Crossdale 4312