

Principal's Update



STUDENT CONGRESS

On Thursday 27 August 70, students from Years 8 to 11 and the Discovery Centre participated in the annual Student Congress. It was a full agenda beginning with interactive activities on visible learning and learner dispositions (see below for a more detailed account). The focus then shifted to getting feedback on our preparations for pastoral care which will begin from the start of 2021 in all year levels. Advice was obtained about how to launch the program with the student body, ideas for the name of the program were suggested and suggestions were given about how and when to get student feedback on how they find the pastoral care lessons. Finally, the day concluded with an analysis of some wellbeing data. Students provided their ideas about how we can work together to improve our school climate and their motivation to learn.

VISIBLE LEARNING

The Student Congress opened with a session around learner dispositions and gaining student feedback on the dispositions they value and would like to see us focus on as a school. This is important as we embark on our Visible Learning journey where we are transitioning from a focus on teaching, to a focus on learning. At GGHS we know that we have many wonderful things happening in classes. Visible Learning is helping us to focus not only on what is currently working, but what will work even better for all of our students. Using the Visible Learning approach, students will know what they need to learn, how to learn it, and how to evaluate their progress. The first activity we did at the Congress was asking students to work collaboratively during a game of Dispositions Bingo to cement their understanding of what different learning dispositions look like. Students shared their understanding of what it means to be creative, independent, innovative, persistent, reflective, and many more, and we were very impressed with their ideas. From here students picked 8 dispositions and did an activity which allowed them to explore which of these are driving forces in learning, and which ones are a result of learning. Students collaboratively decided on their top 4-5 driving learning dispositions that as a school we should focus on. Our next steps will be to combine these ideas with data already collected from staff to decide on a GGHS Learner Profile, which will encompass these learner dispositions. As a school we will develop a common language around these and conduct further work with staff and students to bring these dispositions to life. What exciting and valuable work our students have contributed to!





STUDENT CLUBS LAUNCHED IN TERM 3

Our new Pastoral Care Worker, Mat, surveyed students in Term 2 to identify activities they would like to do during lunchtimes. The results of this survey led to the establishment of a number of brand new clubs that have been launched over the last few weeks. The new clubs are:

- Diamond Art - with Cheryl Watt
- Weights - with Liam Davis
- Sports - with Matt O'Brien
- Film - with Kristy Power
- Gaming - with Mat O'Brien

These clubs join our existing clubs – School Radio (with Adrian Rusby), Umbrella (with Billy Noack) and the Environmental Action Team (with Laura Carrington).

If students have ideas about other clubs they wish to suggest, it is not too late. We are very interested in opening up new clubs. Simply go and see Mat O'Brien in the Hub and he will support you to see what might be possible.



SCHOOL TV



It has never been more challenging for parents to negotiate the modern-day realities faced by schools and parents in raising safe, happy and resilient young people.

SchoolTV is a new wellbeing platform, with ongoing resources, that is available to parents. It provides free access to credible, evidence based information whilst providing realistic and practical strategies.

You can access SchoolTV via our [website](#). Simply click on the SchoolTV icon on our home page and you will be taken directly to the SchoolTV site. From there you will be able to access all of the topics previously published as well as episodes bundled together under the themes of Mental Health, Cybersafety, School Survival, Healthy Body, Positive Parenting and Special Reports. Each episode contains articles about the topic, quizzes and interviews with experts from the field. I strongly endorse the quality of this resource and recommend finding some time to regularly explore the content it contains.

Peter Kuss
Principal