



Edition 14—21 October 2014

Year 10 students show continuous improvement

I am very proud to announce that 52% of Year 10 students improved in their academic achievement from Term One to Term Two. This is an outstanding achievement. These students consistently attend College, effectively and productively engage in their class work and complete regular homework. It is these factors which contribute directly to their success. The top 10 Most Improved students were awarded a certificate of congratulations on the Year 10 parade.

Back row: Harmeet Kaur, Melissa Matthews, Travis Wall, Bradley Hunter, Daniel Morgan, Nicholas O'Brien, Lacey Negri
Front row: Marnie Jarvis MacDonald, Lindsay O'Farrell Absent: Breanna West

Miss Rachelle Wilcox



Past student visits ICS



Innisfail State College Class of 2012 graduate, Corey Cameron visited the school recently and spoke to a group of students who were interested in careers in the defence force.

Corey joined the Australian Army in March 2013 and is currently based in Adelaide. He has loved his time serving in the army and gave the students some excellent and very real insight into the day-to-day lifestyle of an army officer and what to expect if students pursue a career in the defence force. From very demanding training and extremely high discipline standards to the great camaraderie and impressive pay, Cameron gave students the honest inside story. ISC is tremendously proud of Corey who joins a strong ISC contingent serving Australia in the Armed Forces.

Choices—Schoolies week

Celebrating schoolies is a major social phenomenon in Australia, where thousands of young people converge on beachside holiday destinations to celebrate the end of their formal schooling years and the transition to young adulthood. "Choices" is an applied theatre project which promotes key safety messages around alcohol, drugs and sexual activity for young people, by young people, using a music theatre format of comic skits, song and dance. Our Yr 12s were lucky enough to see this performance last week and will take the serious messages with them to whatever celebrations they attend in schoolies week. Other valuable life education demonstrations are being arranged for our graduating students, with Innisfail Road Policing Unit's Snr Const. Sue Gill currently working with emergency services to organise an accident scenario demonstration for 19th November.



State Honours Ensemble Program



Zoe Coubrough, year 12, was recently selected to participate in the State Honours Ensemble Program (SHEP) at Griffith University, Brisbane. Ensemble workshops were offered to 800 of the best students from throughout Queensland. There were many musical groups in the program which ran from the 2nd-5th October including four Vocal Ensembles, four Wind Ensembles, two String Orchestras and the Celtic Strings Ensemble. Zoe learnt many new skills through performing in the Celtic Strings Ensemble including playing ALL pieces by memory! This Ensemble was conducted by Emma Nixon who is in demand as a Scottish dance fiddler and educator in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Zoe has also written her own orchestral composition, which will be performed by ISC musicians at the final Senior Music Concert for 2014. Everyone is welcome to come along to the ISC Auditorium on Monday 3rd November to hear the concert featuring all our senior music students. The concert commences at 4:30pm and admission is by gold coin donation.

From the principal

Yesterday our teachers participated in the State-wide process of verification, to ensure that assessment and marking standards at every secondary school, public and private, across Queensland is of a comparable standard. This is currently an essential part of Queensland's excellent system of assessing our students. The combination of school-based assessment which is standardised by the external Queensland Core Skills Test is unlike the systems in other Australian states. I am pleased that the essence of this system should be preserved if the recommendations of the recent review into secondary schooling are implemented. There will, of course, be some changes, but my belief that teachers in schools make high-quality, professional and accurate judgements on student progress is preserved and remains at the core of the findings.



You can read about the recommendations at: <http://www.acer.edu.au/queensland-review> If your sons or daughters are in year 9 or younger, they will likely be impacted by these changes. I urge you to visit the review recommendations. The leadership and teaching faculty at ISC will continue to monitor and review the changes and work to implement them in the manner most positive for our students. We will also endeavour to keep our school community informed of any changes. I recommend membership of our very relaxed and friendly P&C Association as a great way to keep in touch with what's happening at your child's high school.

There is an old adage that nobody *plans to fail*, however too frequently we *fail to plan* adequately to achieve our goals. We are currently in week 3 of our final school term for 2014. Students should now be armed with feedback from their teachers through semester reports, assessment feedback, ladder conferencing and classroom conversations and should have a sound understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses in each subject. Students also should have a good understanding of the assessment required this term, which will contribute majorly towards their end of year reports. Now is the time to retrieve the wall planner each student received at the beginning of the year, wipe it clean and set out all the current and up-coming deadlines and reminders.

As the college leadership team prepares to present the Internal School Review to our supervisors, it is appropriate to take time out to thank our college families and our wider college community for your continued support. Gathering and analysing data on student attendance, student behaviour, and student achievement this year is truly exciting work.

From our year 10 students' recent participation in work experience out in our community to the support we gratefully receive for our Showcase Awards Night to celebrate the amazing achievements of our students, our college is buoyed by community support. And this support from families and community results in great outcomes for our students as evidenced by the exceptional standard of work being submitted by our Year 12s.



Thank you.

K MacDonald

An invitation to our Awards Night



*All College Families are cordially invited to attend the
Innisfail State College Showcase Awards Night*

To be held at the Shire Hall

Wednesday 29th October

Commencing at 7 pm and concluding at 9 pm

*This is the premier event in our school year, when we acknowledge and celebrate
the excellent academic achievements of our students.*

Coming events

Tues 21 October	Maths tutorial 3-4pm
Wed 22 October	JCU robotics for Yr 8 students
Thu 23 October	English tutorial 3-4pm Junior history competition - Cairns 9am-3pm
Fri 24 October	Junior sports gala day at Tully SHS Art Extravaganza exhibition at O Block 6-7pm Disco 7:30-10:30pm \$3 entry "Halloween"
Sat 25 October	Formal committee BBQ fundraiser in town
Tues 28 October	Maths tutorial 3-4pm 12 REC boat licence group 1
Wed 29 October	Showcase awards night Shire Hall 7-9pm 12 REC boat licence group 2
Thur 30 October	English tutorial 3-4pm
Fri 31 October	Sports Awards Night
Mon 3 November	Final Senior Music Concert 4.30pm Auditorium
Tue 4 November	Maths tutorial 3-4pm
Wed 5 November	Yr 10 vaccinations
Thu 6 November	English tutorial 3-4 pm
Fri 7 November	DLC book fair and disco 6-9pm

Selecting a course of study for 2015

All students from years 6 to 10 are presently involved in identifying a course of study for next year. There is an increasing level of choice from the mere selection of the foreign language study in year 7 to the selection of every single subject including the level of maths and English in year 11. This requires a great deal of consideration and we urge our families to engage in genuine conversations around the preferences, aptitudes and aspirations of each student as an individual. Students in years 6, 7 and 10 participate in a formal interview with senior college staff, during which these choices are made. Students in years 8 and 9 undertake a guided process of self-reflection with their mentor (Mr Graham, Mr Sharrock or Mr Whatling) at school and then seek parental endorsement of the choices made. Please engage in conversation with your sons/daughters about what they are studying in 2015 and what their longer-term aspirations are. It is an exciting and rewarding conversation!