

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE HINCHINBROOK



NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE THEME 2010: "Be the Word in action"

Issue 1

Friday 29th January 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of the College

Welcome back to 2010. I hope that everyone had a restful holiday and that students have returned enthusiastic and ready to commit to their studies. I thank parents for their efforts in ensuring that students have returned in a well presented manner and hope this will continue. I certainly look forward to a year where we can build on the successes of the past and provide the best possible education for the young people who attend Good Samaritan Catholic College.

As is the college tradition each year, the college has a theme which each member of the community is encouraged to aspire towards in all that they do throughout the year. The theme was chosen last year after consultation with the present Year 12 students, on their retreat, the college student leaders and a number of staff members. The choice of college theme for 2010 is "**Be the Word in action**". The theme has two directions for our community: firstly, to be Christ-like in all actions and secondly, to "act" rather than simply "say" you are going to act. The challenge is issued to everyone in all aspects of college life and it is hoped that community will be better for the experience.

At the end of 2009, the college received the School Certificate and Higher School results for our Year 10 and Year 12 students respectively. The results were most impressive in many ways. The School Certificate results were the best that the college has achieved with 66 Band 6's and each subject mean above the state mean. The students also achieved greater representation in Bands 4 to 6 which was higher than achievements across the state.

The HSC results were also most impressive and once again the college achieved more Band 6 results than in previous years. The cohort also had a greater representation in Bands 4 and 5. The number of subjects above state average was higher than in 2008 and the number of students in the lower bands was also reduced.

I congratulate the Dux of the college for 2009, **Luen Samonte**, who gained an ATAR of 98.1. Other students deserving of recognition were Jade O'Brien 92.85, Danielle Froio 92.55 and Helen Said 90.20. This year there was a significant number of students in the 80's. On analysis of the results it was evident that there has been a significant improvement by the cohort over their performance in the School Certificate in 2007. An outline of the School Certificate and Higher School results is included in this newsletter.

As a result of fine HSC performances, a significant number of students were able to enter their chosen tertiary courses. Of particular note were those students who received scholarships and/or Early Achiever's entry to ACU. Congratulations to Amanda Bittman, Nicole Cabello, Adam Cosgrove, Danielle McPherson, Helen Said, Monique Panetta, Jessica Bugeja, Kate Gerrish and Sally El-Azzi on this outstanding achievement.

Once again in 2010 I invite parents to join the Parent Consultation Committee. The role of this committee is to consider directions taken by the college and offer advice from a parental perspective. In 2010 a number of parents from 2009 will continue on the committee and a number of new parents will be added. If anyone would like to be involved they should leave their

JOURNEYING WITH COMPASSION

From the Principal...continued

name at the college office. There are only a limited number positions on this committee so those parents who are not able to be accommodated this year will be considered in the future.

This year we welcome a number of new teachers to Good Samaritan. The new teachers are: Mr Badaloto (Year 9 Coordinator and PDHPE), Mr Katalinic (TAS Assistant Coordinator), Miss Carroll (English), Miss Sobkowski (TAS), Mr Hammersley (PDHPE, Science), Miss Bilaver (TAS RE), Ms Capuzza (Italian RE), Mr Turner (HSIE RE) and Mr Scollard (Assistant Principal). This year, Good Samaritan will have two Assistant Principals, with Mr Brooks predominately working in the area of administration and Mr Scollard working predominately in the area of Pastoral Care.

Next week the college will conduct the Opening Mass and installation of student leaders. Parents are most welcome to attend the celebration which will begin at 11am at OLMC at Mt Pritchard on February 7.

Finally, I encourage parents to access the Annual Plan for 2010 which is available on the College website. This document outlines priorities and areas for development for the year. All parents should familiarize themselves with the document to gain greater insight into the college improvement focus for 2010.

God bless

Assistant Principal (Pastoral Care)

Welcome

A very warm welcome back to all students and their families as we commence a new school year at Good Samaritan, a special mention to our Year 7 students who started on Thursday. Like them I am also new to the College and look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible as the year commences.

Communication

There are various forms of communication at the College and parents are encouraged to be aware of these in order to be fully informed about issues relating to their child's education.

- **College Diary**
Students should carry their diaries at all times. All homework and assignments are to be recorded in the diary. Teachers and parents can communicate through the diary and it is an expectation that diaries are signed by parents weekly.

- **Contact with Teachers**

If parents have an issue that relates specifically to a subject matter they should contact the subject teacher. Any other issues should be referred to your child's Pastoral Care teacher either through a note in the diary, a letter or by telephone. Your child's Pastoral Care teacher is ordinarily the first point of contact for issues of a more general nature.

- **Newsletters**

Newsletters contain important information in relation to issues, events and College activities. These will be distributed at the end of Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 of each term.

- **College Website**

The website provides a wide range of general information, College policies, specific information relating to the curriculum together with a section on current and future events.

Attendance, Appointments and Leave

It is the college's expectation that students attend all classes on all days except when they are absent from school due to sickness or for other approved reasons. Any appointments should ordinarily be made outside school hours. This requirement is equally applicable on Tuesday afternoons as students are required to fulfill mandatory requirements in relation to participation in physical activity and sport. Extended periods of leave from school are discouraged. Any extended leave that families may be planning within the school year must first be formally acknowledged by the Principal. For leave to be granted, students must complete an "Application for Leave" form available from the College Office and have it signed by a parent or guardian. Students are then required to complete a detailed list of assessments, examination details or class work and have the KLA Co-ordinator of each subject sign the form, before submitting it to the Principal for approval. The College reserves the right to withhold permission for leave.

Sickness Procedures

If a student is ill at the start of the day parents are requested to make a judgment about the suitability of sending a sick child to the college. In the event of a student becoming ill whilst at school the procedure is that the student reports to the college office **after** gaining permission from their Pastoral Care Teacher or Year Coordinator. Contact is then made with parents if it is assessed that the student's illness requires them to be sent home. Students are not permitted to contact parents requesting to be collected from the school as there is a clearly established procedure in place for responding to matters of sickness. Parents are advised to remind their children of this requirement should they receive direct contact from them during the school day.

Phillip Scollard
Assistant Principal

Assistant Principal (Administration)

Welcome

I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to the new school year. I trust that families were able to spend some quality time together over the holiday break and that the students can return to school refreshed and revitalised ready for the challenges of the year ahead. In this newsletter there is information about some of the key dates for 2010. I would ask each family to note these on their calendars. In the near future parents will receive individual letters from each Year Coordinator with specific details pertinent to their Year group. An acknowledgment slip accompanying this letter will need to be returned to your son's / daughter's PC teacher.

College Office Hours

The official college office hours are 7.30am to 4.00pm. Parents who arrive to pick up children who have remained at school after the completion of the day are advised to make suitable arrangements for the collection of their sons or daughters in the knowledge that the main vehicular entry gate may not be operational after the office closes for the day. The student entry and exit gate remains open until 5.00pm and students can use this exit to access the bus bay which is the most suitable location for collecting passengers.

Mr P Brooks
Assistant Principal

Important Dates for 2010

Term Dates

Term 1	Friday, 29 th Jan – Thursday, 1 st April
Term 2	Monday, 19 th April – Friday, 2 nd July
Term 3	Monday, 19 th July – Friday, 24 th September
Term 4	Monday, 11 th October – Friday, 17 th December

Other Significant Dates

Wednesday, 3 rd February	Year 11, 2010 Parent and Student Information Evening
Friday, 5 th February	Opening School Mass (OLMC Mount Pritchard)
Monday, 8 th February	Yr 7, 2010 Parent Info Evening
Monday, 15 th February	Yr 10, 2010 Parent and Student Info Evening
Wednesday, 17 th February	Ash Wednesday
Friday, 19 th February	College Swimming Carnival
Saturday, 13 th March	College Open Day
Mon. 22 nd – Wed. 31 st March	Yr 12 Examinations
Wed. 24 th March – Fri. 26 th Mar	Year 7 Camp
Monday, 29 th March	Year 7 Vaccinations
Tuesday, 30 th March	Year 10 Vaccinations
Wednesday, 31 st March	Easter Liturgy
Wednesday, 31 st March	Parent / Teacher / Student Interim Report Interviews
Thursday, 1 st April	Pupil Free Day in lieu of Open Day
Wednesday, 21 st April	Student and Parent Study Skills Sessions

Monday, 26 th April	Anzac Day Public Holiday
Thursday, 6 th May	School Photographs
Friday, 7 th May	Mother's Day Mass
Mon. 10 th – Fri. 14 th May	Yr 10 Examinations
Tuesday, 11 th - Thurs, 13 th May	NAPLAN (Yrs 7 & 9)
Wednesday, 12 th May	Yr 12 Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews
Mon. 17 th – Fri. 21 st May	Yrs 7, 8, 9 Examinations
Mon. 17 th – Thurs. 27 th May	Yr 11 Examinations
Wed. 26 th & Thurs. 27 th May	Yr 7, 2011 Interviews
Friday, 28 th May	Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
Monday, 7 th June	Yr 7 Vaccinations
Monday, 14 th June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tues. 29 th June & Thurs. 1 st July	Yrs 7 -10 Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews
Friday, 2 nd July	Yrs 7 -10 Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews
Wednesday, 21 st July	College Athletics Carnival
Tuesday, 20 th July	Yr 11 Parent / Teacher / Student Interviews
Wednesday, 28 th July	Yr 11, 2011 Information Evening
Mon. 2 nd – Mon. 16 th August	Trial HSC Examinations
Monday, 16 th August	Yr 9, 2011 Info Evening
Thursday, 19 th August	Yr 11, 2011 Subject Selection Interviews
Wednesday, 25 th August	CAPA & TAS Showcase Night
Friday, 3 rd September	Father's Day Breakfast
Mon. 6 th – Thurs. 16 th September	Yr 11 Examinations
Tuesday, 7 th September	Sports Photographs
Friday, 17 th September	Good Samaritan Day
Tuesday, 21 st September	Yr 12 Outreach Day
Wednesday, 22 nd September	Yr 12 Graduation Assembly and Mass
Friday, 24 th September	Yr 12 Graduation Dinner Dance
Wed. 13 th – Fri. 15 th October	Yr 11 Retreat
Wednesday, 13 th October	Yr 8 Archdiocesan RE Test
Thursday, 14 th October	HSC Examinations Commence
Monday, 18 th October	Yr 12, 2011 HSC Information Evening
Wed. 20 th - Friday, 22 nd October	Yr 9 Camp
Thurs. 4 th – Wed. 10 th November	Yrs 7, 8, 9 Examinations
Monday, 8 th - Wed. 10 th Nov	School Certificate Examinations
Wed. 17 th & Thurs. 18 th Nov	Peer Support Training
Wednesday, 1 st December	Yr 10 Thanksgiving Mass
Thursday, 2 nd December	Second Hand Book Sale
Friday, 3 rd December	Yr 7, 2011 Orientation Day
Wednesday, 8 th December	College Presentation Night
Tuesday, 14 th December	School Picnic Day
Wednesday, 15 th December	Parent – Student – Teacher Interviews
Thurs. 16 th & Fri. 17 th December	Staff Development Days



School Certificate 2009

Congratulations to Year 10 students for outstanding performances in the 2009 School Certificate.

Subject	School Band 4-6	State Band 4 - 6	Band 6s
English Literacy	90.1%	82.1%	15
Mathematics	62.2%	49.1%	10
Science	72.7%	70.4%	15
Australian History Civics and Citizenship	57.6%	58.4%	15
Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship	69.2%	58.7%	11

These results are by far the best school Certificate results achieved by the college. Twenty eight students received band 6 results which placed them in the top 10% of students in that subject. In all the students achieved 66 Band 6 results which far exceeds results in previous years.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved Band 6 results:

Pierre Goorkiz (5); Bruno Romeo (5); Jema Samonte (5); Mark Bawalan (4); Rebecca Arcuri (3); Erika Brocklehurst (3); Alyssa Cook (3); Renmark Marte (3); Lauren Smith (3); Zoe Tishler (3); Claudio Carrasco (2); Pierre Estephan (2); Gabrielle Estrada (2); Genevieve Fonti (2); Patrick Goorkiz (2); Felipe Oyarzun (2); Caroline Said (2); Nicholas Toledo (2); Samantha Angeloni (1); Jonathon Byrne (1); Rhiannon Howell (1); Joseph Inzitari (1); Hong Le (1); Veronica Nguyen (1); Natalie Perre (1); John Pham Le (1); Antionette Raco (1); Anthony Tomelic (1); Jacinta Vella (1)

Higher School Certificate Results Overview

Our HSC results in 2009 continued to show improvement across a broad range of areas. Most significantly we were pleased to note the considerable value added between both individual and group performance of students when HSC achievement was compared to School Certificate results from 2007. In summary, in 2009, 21% of our Year 12 students achieved at least one Band 6 result, which represented a significant increase from the previous year. Overall this group of students achieved 27 Band 6 results. Last year there were 33 courses offered at Good Samaritan for the 125 students who completed their HSC studies in 2009.

Our analysis indicates that there was a significant increase in the percentage of Band 4, 5 and 6 results achieved within courses. When our distribution of results is compared to state trends it is clear that within the majority of courses our cohort was quite strong; this is illustrated in the table below.

Higher School Certificate % of Students Achieving Bands 4,5,6						
	2007		2008		2009	
	School	State	School	State	School	State
<i>Studies of Religion 1</i>	80%	77%	98%	77%	91%	83%
<i>English Standard</i>	33%	39%	49%	39%	41%	36%
<i>English Advanced</i>	79%	89%	87%	89%	91%	89%
<i>General Mathematics</i>	57%	59%	59%	56%	73%	54%
<i>Mathematics</i>	36%	70%	91%	72%	83%	71%
<i>Visual Arts</i>	97%	90%	92%	92%	100%	90%
<i>Community and Family Studies</i>	93%	70%	67%	73%	77%	64%

There was clear improvement in student achievement when compared to previous years in all achievement bands. Students and teachers are congratulated on a particularly noteworthy increase in the number of Band 3 & 4 results and the subsequent reduction in the amount of Band 2 results overall.

Subjects Attaining Band 6 Results

Biology	General Mathematics
Community and Family Studies	Mathematics Extension 1 (E4)
English Advanced	PDHPE
Food Technology	Studies of Religion 1
Information, Processes and Technology	Visual Arts

Subjects Attaining Band 5 Results

Ancient History	Mathematics
Biology	Mathematics Extension 1 (E3)
Business Studies	Mathematics Extension 2 (E3)
Chemistry	Modern History
Community and Family Studies	History Extension (E3)
Drama	Music 1
Economics	PDHPE
Engineering Studies	Physics
English Standard	Senior Science
English Advanced	Studies of Religion 1
Industrial Technology	Studies of Religion 2
Information, Processes and Technology	Visual Arts
Legal Studies	Italian Continuers
General Mathematics	Business Services Exam
Hospitality Exam	

Good Samaritan Catholic College 2009 Dux and High Achievers



Luen Samonte
DUX 98.1



Jade O'Brien
ATAR 92.85



Danielle Froio
ATAR 92.55



Helen Said
ATAR 90.20

We congratulate the Class of 2009 for their success in the Higher School Certificate and wish all our graduates success in their future endeavours.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved Band 6 results:

Danielle Froio (Biology, IPT, SOR I); **Ashleigh Pontifex** (Biology, SOR I); **Monique Barnes** (CAFS, PDHPE); **Jade O'Brien** (CAFS, General Mathematics, PDHPE); **Natasha Perre** (CAFS); **Danielle McPherson** (Food Technology); **Adam Cosgrove** (Food Technology); **Raffaele Bellucci** (General Mathematics); **Harley Da Silva** (General Mathematics); **Robert Divola** (General Mathematics); **Sally El Azzi** (General Mathematics); **Luen Samonte** (Extension Mathematics, Visual Arts, SOR I); **Gabriel Pisanu** (PDHPE); **Helen Said** (PDHPE, SOR I); **Nicole Cabello** (SOR I); **Diana Macri** (SOR I); **Natasha Perre** (SOR I); **Hollie Strohmayer** (SOR I)

Technology News

Year 10 Laptops

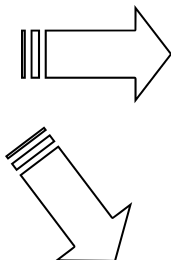
Students in Year 10 should have now received their college laptops, which were recently updated for the new school year. Year 10 are reminded of the expectations for the laptop, which include charging it each night and having it ready for class each school day.

Web Safety Tips

Due to popular demand, we will once again outline a web safety tip during each publication of the newsletter. The tips will range from general internet safety tips, through to specific actions your son/daughter can take to keep them safe while they are on the internet.

- Young people have online user names and passwords for school, game web sites, social networking, posting photos, shopping, and more. According to a study by *Wired Safety.org*, 75 percent of 8- to 9-year olds shared passwords with someone else, and 66 percent of girls, grades 7-12, said they shared their password with someone else. Keep passwords secret. Encourage your son/daughter to treat their passwords with as much care as the information that they protect.
- Be aware of the sites your son/daughter visits. Know the kinds of sites that they may use to download resources (which in some cases, may be illegal web sites). Limewire, Shareazza, and UBX are examples of peer-to-peer client programs that may have been installed on your computer (the icons may already be on your computer's desktop!). Torrents are file content linkers that, when used with a download program, can download files, and even link your computer to others over the internet. These sites significantly add to your download quota with your ISP (and could be costly), and they also open avenues for virus attacks and unauthorised access to personal files on your computer.

Mr J. Reyes
IT Coordinator



College Vehicle Access - Reminder

The security gates at the College were installed for securing the property and, importantly, to improve student safety. These gates limit access to the College grounds by both vehicles and pedestrians during school hours. Parents are reminded of the arrangements in place for dropping off and collecting students by private vehicles in the morning and afternoon periods.

- Parents wishing to drop students off in the morning are required to turn right at the main roundabout into the bus bay with students alighting from the vehicle in the bus bay.
- In the afternoon, access to the College bus bay for vehicles wishing to pick students up will commence **after 3.10 pm**. No vehicles will be allowed in the College grounds before this time.
- The main roundabout at the entrance to the College will be "no stopping" at all times. Parents are encouraged to drop students off and pick them up outside the college in order to reduce congestion and increase safety. Your support and co-operation in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

* * * * *

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Open Monday—Thursday 7.30am—
8.20am
CLOSED FRIDAY
+
Open every 2nd Tuesday 12noon—
3.45pm

Tuesday 9th February
Tuesday 23rd February
Tuesday 9th March
Tuesday 23rd March

* * * * *



College newsletters are available electronically

<http://www.goodsamaritan.nsw.edu.au/news/current/>

Year 7 First Day at Good Samaritan





DATES TO REMEMBER

CANTEEN ROSTER

Monday 1st February	E Hobby, J Colley
Tuesday 2nd February	L Versi, A Waga, J Roccisano
Wednesday 3rd February	R Criniti, D Hadjisocratous, N Williamson
Thursday 4th February	A Demasi, R Origlia, G Gilvear
Friday 5th February	T Kristen, P Puttinger, S Gioiosa
Monday 8th February	N Carver, D Palumbo
Tuesday 9th February	N Pulitano, A Spadaro, L La Rosa
Wednesday 10th February	M Romeo, L Dwarto, D Weatherby
Thursday 11th February	A O'Neill, D Poschl, H Toma
Friday 12th February	H Molina, M Mudaliar, S Orellana

Friday 5th February

Opening School Mass (OLMC)

Monday 8th February

Yr 7 Parent Information Evening

Monday 15th February

Yr 10 Parent & Student Information Evening

Friday 19th February

College Swimming Carnival



"Thanks Good Samaritan for Christmas Hampers & Toys"

A letter of thanks to Good Samaritan College for all the good work that was done in supplying Christmas Hampers and Toys. The letter reads :

"On behalf of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Hoxton Park we thank you & your staff for all the good work that was done in supplying the Christmas Hampers & toys. The children & their families must feel very proud that their gifts made families in our community happy with their hamper.

Could you also pass our thanks to Mr David Cloran for all his support over the years with our appeals.

Once again many thanks & I hope 2010 will be a good year at Good Samaritan.

May God Bless you all.

**Noel O'Donnell
Saint Vincent de Paul
Hoxton Park"**

Last Tuesday was the feast of St Angela Merici, we acknowledge St Angela through the following reading and prayer.

A reading from the Spiritual Testament of St Angela Merici

I ask you, please, do try to bring them up with love, with a gentle and kind hand, not overbearingly or harshly. Try to be kind always. Notice what Jesus Christ says, 'Learn from Me for I am gentle and humble of heart.' That is how you yourselves must act, using all possible gentleness. And above all be careful not to use force, because God has give free will to everybody and wants to force nobody, but only points out, invites and counsels.

This is the Word in action.

Thanks be to God.

Let us Pray

Today, Lord, we celebrate the conversion of Saint Paul and the life of St Angel Merici, Your chosen vessels for carrying the truth of the Word made flesh to the whole world. Help us to make our way to You by following in their footsteps, and by witnessing to Your truth before all men and women of our day. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son.

Amen