



NEWSLETTER | 2022 EDITION 7 | FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

## MRS RACHEL CUTAJAR



Term 4 has been an incredibly busy one with our year 12's sitting their external exams and the pending announcements of our new Captains and leaders for 2023. Whilst a stressful time for both staff and students,

Term 4 brings with it “Awards Season” where we celebrate the outstanding efforts of our young people over the course of the year. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Academic Awards evening and the graduation of our Seniors.

Leadership is always a priority at Merrimac and as such I would like to introduce to you our leaders for 2023 (pictured) who recently attended the Bond University and Gold Coast Secondary Principals Alliance Leadership breakfast. The team represented Merrimac High very well and were joined at the table by Deputy Mr Gibbs, Principal Mrs Cutajar and Bond University representatives. This was an exciting time introducing our dynamic leadership team to the Bond Faculty. We look forward to working with our new leaders and announcing their official titles soon.

**Primary visits:**

Ms Dahna Woods and Principal Rachel Cutajar recently attended our Primary partner schools highlighting the exciting changes and opportunities ready for our 2024 cohort of year 6 students. They were thrilled to hear about our brand new Triple Threat Summit program as well as the multiple Sport Summit opportunities.

**Uniform:**

A reminder for all current Year 9 families to organise your students Year 10 formal uniform purchases early to beat the January rush. A note to ALL students attending Merrimac SHS in 2023 that black polishable leather shoes (not white) will be required for all students.



**Rachel Cutajar**  
**Principal**

# FROM THE DEPUTY'S DESK

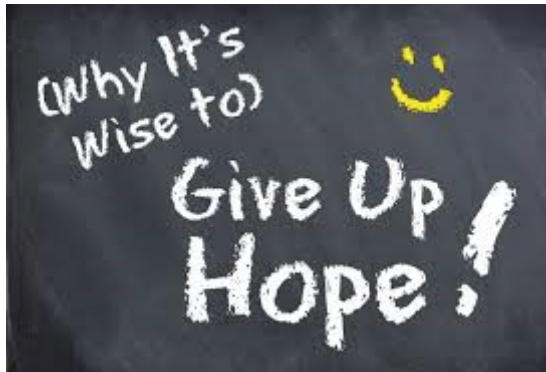
## JASON GIBBS

The Merrimac school community is behind our Year 12 students who are in the midst of their external exams. The three weeks of examinations are the culmination of two years of dedication and preparation. Please take some time to appreciate the significance of this achievement but importantly, rest and refocus quickly so you are the best you can be when you enter each exam ready to succeed. Remember external exams are used with internal assessment to achieve an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

The deadlines for early admission to TAFE, Southern Cross and Griffith Universities are rapidly approaching. If you are considering this as a possible pathway into post-secondary study, please familiarise yourself with the application requirements and timelines to make the best of these opportunities. Over 60 students have already received a tertiary placement for 2023.

As our Year 12 cohort looks to the finish, our Year 10 students are just at the beginning. Following a successful and well received Year 10 into Year 11 subject selection process, we are currently finalising the 2023 timetable for next year's Year 11 students studying their Queensland Certificate of Education. Subject preferences have been used to create the subject offerings for 2023.

To all our students in years 7-12 who will be sitting exams and finalising assessment in the coming weeks – Give Up Hope!



Remember hope is not a strategy. Prepare thoroughly and expect to succeed instead. Make the choice to be successful. Don't leave it up to chance!

**Jason Gibbs**  
**Deputy Principal**

# DEAN YEAR 7 & 10

## DEB MCMENAMIN

A huge congratulations to the Year 10 cohort of 2022 for completing their first year of Senior Schooling! I am so proud of the incredible humans they have become and can't believe that only 4 short years ago, they were little Year 7's beginning their high school journeys.

I would like to acknowledge the amazing leadership team that I have had the privilege of working with throughout the year; Indiana Devlin, Samara Graham, Lashae, Mahlee Tomlinson, Lily Bryant, Videll Forester, Brianna Connor, Jasmin Dick, Khian Gagete, Cody Bargewell, Maksim Simjanovski, Lara Lazic, Sarah Berghuis, Sienna, Tegan Clancy, Daniel D'Abate, Akasha Waites, Lilijana O'Connor, Izabel Christopher, Kate Reddington and Ethan Flood. These students have taken on the role of Peer Mentors, mentoring the Year 7s to help them transition more smoothly into their high school worlds. They have done an incredible job and must be congratulated for all the time and effort they have put in!

So much has happened this year, teaching and learning being a small part in the world that is Year 10. The following is a snap shot of the responses from the students when asked to list their highlights;

### YEAR 10 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

- Teacher Vs Student basketball game
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Legal Studies excursion to the police museum in Brisbane
- Fishing in the mornings before school
- The Careers Expo
- Getting more of an idea of what I want to do when I leave school
- Understanding WHY I am at school and WHY I want to do well
- Miami Rugby 7's
- Maths – Mrs Meni is great
- Athletics Carnival – hanging out with friends and having fun
- Got to know more people around the school
- My new haircut – Jovi 😊
- 15 aside after school
- Winning the Grand Final of Rugby in Term 1
- Paper snowball fight with Mr Hoshke
- Conversations with Mrs Simpson – fun and meaningful
- Being a Peer Mentor
- Becoming a Dance Captain
- Mrs Rakich is the most amazing and fun teacher ever. We are so lucky to have her!
- Being able to choose more and more classes of my own interest.

- Mrs Ly is amazing! She really knows how to teach specialist maths
- Junior City Council Meetings at the Gold Coast City Council Chambers
- Resolving a friendship with someone I had a falling out with in Year 7.
- Going to Sea World for Geography and getting drenched on the rides with my class.
- Playing games with the Year 7s and making connections as a Peer Mentor

**Deb McMenamin**  
**Dean Year 7 & 10**

## MATHEMATICS

### PAUL GRAY

In 2008, 31.2% of the NSW student population were studying maths for the High School Certificate, compared to 28.9% in 2017 – a drop of around 5,300 students.

This issue was recently highlighted by Rachel Wilson, senior lecturer of research methodology and educational assessment and evaluation at the University of Sydney, and fellow University of Sydney lecturer Deborah Chadwick.

In a recent article published in The Conversation, Wilson and Chadwick explained why studying maths brings many benefits, including the likelihood of getting a job, earning more money and becoming smarter.

#### **You'll be more likely to get a job**

“Many industry and economic experts predict future economies – specifically those using technology to rapidly create goods and services – will be built on maths and science knowledge and skills,” Wilson and Chadwick said.

They pointed to research on the changing nature of employment, which predicts that by 2030, we will spend 77% more time on average using science and mathematics skills.

“With youth [people aged 15-24] unemployment in Australia on the rise, maths skills may offer some protection,” they said.

“There are more engineering jobs in Australia than skilled people to fill them. Between 2006 and 2016, the demand for engineers exceeded the number of local graduates.

Employers often look overseas for suitable applicants, with some figures showing more vacancies are filled by overseas engineering graduates than locals.”

### **You’ll earn more money**

Wilson and Chadwick also noted that students taking higher maths at school often go on to have higher earnings in adulthood.

“The relationship between studying higher-level maths and earning more may be one of causation [that maths skills lead to higher earners], correlation [that people with good maths skills are more likely to have other skills that lead to higher earnings], or a bit of both. But, either way, it exists,” they said.

According to US analysis that compared university majors with median starting pay, median mid-career pay (at least ten years in), growth in salary and wealth of job opportunities, maths and engineering majors reigned supreme.

A more recent analysis by the US data researcher PayScale found graduates in maths, science and engineering had the highest mid-career salary.

Wilson and Chadwick said one of the biggest gender gaps in education is seen in maths.

“Girls in most countries complete less, or lower level, maths than boys,” they said.

“The low numbers of girls participating in advanced maths courses is not because girls are worse at maths, as there is no clear gender gap when it comes to maths abilities.”

However, Wilson and Chadwick said girls show less confidence in their maths skills and more maths anxiety than boys.

“Research suggests learning maths is often associated with student anxiety. This anxiety is related to poor performance, negative attitudes and general avoidance of the subject,” they said.

“If girls were encouraged to persist with the challenges presented by advanced levels of maths, we could even see a start to a narrowing of the gender wage gap.”

### **You’ll probably be smarter**

Wilson and Chadwick referred to a study which examined the association between intelligence and educational achievement in relation to 25 secondary school subjects in the UK.

“It showed maths was most strongly associated with the so-called “g” factor, which is a mark of underlying intelligence [English came second],” they said.

“The g factor, or general ability, is the foundation of cognitive abilities and affects all learning, including in maths and science.”

Wilson and Chadwick said graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines report their degrees led to them developing higher-order skills and qualities (such as logical thinking and creativity).

“Another study showed an increase in population IQ alongside a rise in access to maths education in the US,” they said.

“Studies show higher levels of maths attainment for a population are strongly linked to national IQ and national shifts in economic development, such as higher GDP and faster economic growth.”

Wilson and Chadwick said a higher g factor is also associated with higher scores on international assessments of educational attainment, such as PISA and TIMSS, and IQ tests.

“As the Australian system doesn’t require maths after Year 10, it seems it is up to individuals, families and their communities to recognise its importance and support students in persevering in maths for their own good,” they said.

Whilst in Queensland our senior students still need to meet numeracy criteria to be awarded the QCE, this should not be the only reason for studying a mathematics. It is evidenced that those who study mathematics are better at problem solving, are more creative, think logically, have a greater level of financial literacy, will most likely earn more money, will engage their brain more (be smarter) and are much more likely to get a job. Mathematics is a skill for life!

**Paul Gray**  
**HOD Mathematics**



# BUSINESS / IT / TECHNOLOGY

## LISA COWDEROY

### Sustainability in the Kitchen

This semester junior students have been investigating how to eat sustainably and healthy. We have been looking at using alternative ingredients to support the environment and health. A healthy snack was the focus this week with students producing a delicious chocolate muffin using a “magic” bean, kidney beans as an alternative to white bleached flour. We didn’t find the golden goose but have added more fibre, no gluten and absolutely delicious. Well done to those that had an open mind to try it and enjoy it!



**Lisa Cowderoy**  
**HOD Business & Design Technology**



# LEADERSHIP & WELLBEING

## ANDREW MCMAHON

As 2022 draws to a close and our current school Captains and Prefects focus on their final school exams it is great to see that we have a new set of exceptional leaders ready and willing to take up the challenge. The selection process for these positions has just been finalised and the applicants are awaiting on confirmation as to who the student leaders for 2023 will be.

This year, we had six applicants apply for school Captain and they all were given the opportunity to travel to the Gold Coast Secondary Principal's Alliance leadership masterclass breakfast with Mrs Cutajar where they had the opportunity to hear Cooper Chapman (Professional Surfer and Mental Health Advocate) speak about his experiences and journey into a professional sporting career.

This year our students have had many opportunities to support each other and participate in activities that will help them group into leaders of the future. Several students were invited to a breakfast to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gold Coast Junior City Council. The morning was full of inspirational speakers who spoke about the fact that opportunities are everywhere you look. They encouraged the full room of student leaders from the entire Gold Coast area, to be open minded and to say 'yes' in the face of fear.

It is also very important that the school acknowledge the fantastic work our peer mentors have done to support our Year 7 student transition into High School. They have done an incredible job and must be congratulated for all the time and effort they have put in! They have run Phoenix Classes on a Monday and Friday morning, getting to know their Year 7 students better. They have run volleyball and basketball games in the hall of a morning tea and drama games in Q Block. They have supervised the Year 7's under V Block during the breaks and created videos and interactive games teaching the students about our Merrimac Values: Respect, Responsibility and Reliability.

**Andrew McMahon**  
**HOD Leadership & Wellbeing**

# NOTICES

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF BROADBEACH



DISTRICT 9640  
www.broadbeachrotary.org  
PO BOX 5220  
Q SUPER CENTRE  
MERMAID WATERS QLD 4218  
Email: [broadbeachrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:broadbeachrotaryclub@gmail.com)

PRESIDENT: Andrew McTaggart  
SECRETARY: Neil Baldwin



### Rotary Youth Leadership and Personal Development Programs

Rotary organises venues and speakers as well as monetary assistance to help students attend leadership and self improvement programs in School holiday periods. These programs provide significant benefits to those who are able to attend. Students from different schools on the Gold Coast and Northern NSW participate in these programs.

The following programs are applicable to your school:

#### **Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS)**

12-17 January 2023, 6 days residential camp, Year 11-12, ages 17-18. Applications should be made by 30 Nov 2022.

#### **Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN)**

5-7 May 2023, 2.5 days residential camp, year 8-10, Ages 14-16 Applications should be made 31 March 2023

#### **Rotary Virtual Exchange**

A student and family can be paired with an overseas student and family for 8-12 weeks to get an insight the life and culture in another country.

The Rotary website [www.rotary9640.org](http://www.rotary9640.org) also has this information.

My contact details are provided in order to address any queries and for monetary assistance for attendance at any of these programs.



Noel Hodges  
Youth Director Rotary Club of Broadbeach  
Email: [hodgesnk@gmail.com](mailto:hodgesnk@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 0407 222 654

---

*Respect Responsibility Reliability*



Share



Forward



Copyright © \*|2017|\* \*|Merrimac State High School|\*, All rights reserved.  
CRICOS Code 00608A

**Our mailing address is:**

[office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

