From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

Forward direction for student learning

I have been in three separate forums recently that have discussed the forward direction for learning for students – a DECD conducted program, an international report received at the Secondary Principal Conference and a DECD produced paper on learning associated with the new STEM facility. All three distil down to essentially the same things – a shift from superficial learning of a large volume of [theoretical] learning [which is quickly forgotten] to a deeper level of applied learning. Each described the skill sets of value for the future – critical thinking, problem solving, being digitally “literate”, being innovative and entrepreneurial – these have been discussed before.

Each described a changing role for teachers and teaching including:

- creating authentic learning opportunities and solving “real” problems, especially in digitally rich settings
- increasing use of blended learning – some delivered in person, some accessed by the student through pursuit of their own areas of interest
- increasingly personalised learning, where students have voice in what and how they learn to achieve objectives
- students co-constructing meaning with teachers and with each other – rather than the “transmission” of information from teacher to students predominantly through teacher talk.

Moves toward these changes are part of a longer process, but are certainly relevant to us now, especially in the design and use of the proposed new STEM facility.

Last Minute Reminders

- Subject Preference Selection interviews continue in the library today from 2:00-6:00pm
- Student Free Day tomorrow, Friday 26th
- The closing for lodging Subject Preference Selections online through “select my subjects” is August 31st

David Crouch, Principal

MASA Quiz Night

On Wednesday week 3 one hundred and forty students converged on the Renmark High Library for the annual MASA quiz night. Teams from years 8–12 from Renmark, Loxton and Glossop challenged themselves with mind bending mathematics and general knowledge questions as well as problem solving challenges. There was much food and fun on the night, along with friendly competition, giving students the chance to compete against their peers in a different format. It was fantastic to see so many keen Renmark students demonstrating the spirit of teamwork and representing the school so positively. Special mention must be made to our year 11 team of Josh, Harri, Abbie and Michael who won the senior mathematics section, beating year 12 teams from all schools.

Michael Young, Maths Coordinator

Week 5, Term 3
Thursday, August 25
2016

Upcoming events

Week 5
Fri 26/8  Student Free Day

Week 6
Tues 30/8  Yr 11/12 English Studies Excursion to Adelaide
Wed 31/8  Last day for online “select my subjects”
Thur 1/9  E Challenge Program

Week 7
Mon 5/9  Governing Council Meeting
Thur 8/9  E Challenge Program
Fri 9/9  Interschool Debating at Walkerie
Fri 9/9  Lincoln College visit
Sun 11/9  Tournament of the Minds

Year 11 Legal Studies Visit the Law Courts

On Tuesday the 23rd of August year 11 Legal Studies students undertook an excursion to the Law Courts in Adelaide. This learning opportunity allowed students to view the adversary system in action. A variety of cases were witnessed by the students on this day. They ranged from aggravated assault, through to petty fines and home detention. Peter Cavourous, the Courts Education Officer, provided a tour of the court house and fielded a variety of questions during a one hour workshop.

Students will showcase their learning by applying the skills and content learnt via a summative assessment task.

Biljana Elliott, Legal Studies Teacher
Year 9 Agriculture

The Year 9 Agriculture students in Mr Singh’s class are doing some exciting things. They are developing an enterprise project in the production of fresh vegetables. The class has selected seasonal crops and planted on a scale required to continuously supply their marketing outlet. They have been working in teams, distributing tasks among group members in order to achieve their outcome.

Each group has its own plot to manage. Students had to prepare the soil, build mounds to plant vegetables, install drip lines for irrigation and cover the mounds with black plastic to reduce water loss and weed growth.

Students were required to research which vegetables were most suitable for planting for each season. Look for our Year 9 fresh produce in IGA.

Rajender Singh, Agriculture Teacher

Tournament of the Minds 1st for RHS

Congratulations to the 7 students who are participating in RHS’s first Tournament of the Minds (TOM) challenge. They are Jai, Ruben, Allan, Chelsea, Jade, Jack and Brock. TOM is a problem solving challenge designed to encourage students to work as a team, solve problems, think outside the square and work within time constraints.

TOM consists of two parts. The first is "Long Term Challenge" where students have a problem to solve over 6 weeks preceding the competition. The group is required to practise their skills independently of all outside influence and present their results on the day. The second part, "Spontaneous Challenge" is issued on the day. Students have to practise their skills under much tighter time constraints. The competition is judged on teamwork and ingenuity to arrive at their solution.

Good luck to this courageous team of students who will travel to Flinders University on Sunday 11th September to compete. There is no doubt they will be much richer for their experience. Thank you also to Chantel Nunn facilitator, Michael Young and Wendy Matulic for giving their time to provide this opportunity.