Empowering Young Women’s Award

Congratulations Victoria Harris!

Victoria was presented with this award on Wednesday evening in recognition of her significant leadership potential and outstanding qualities and performance.

This award is open to students in full time or part time education in the Downs region.

Victoria’s leadership role as Vice-President of the Student Representative Council and as role model for other students has exposed her to the requirements of a constitution, executive and committee structures, the formalities of meetings and the responsibilities that come with the role. She has been called upon to speak publicly and attend formal functions within the wider community.

It has been through this foundation that she has acquired the skills to organise events such as raising funds necessary to travel to Cambodia where she volunteered in a rural school assisting with student education.

Well Done Victoria

Get that Job! Year 10 Mock Interviews

Year 10 students were praised for the high standard of applications and presentation at their mock interviews this week. Read more...page 4.

Remembrance Day

The school commemorated the signing of the Armistice that ended World War 1. . Read more...page 2.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is now open Wednesdays 8:30am - 9:30 am each week. Also open 5 - 9 December and 16 - 20 January from 8:30 am - 9:30am.
From the Principal’s Desk

Congratulations to all Year 12 students on completing your schooling at Clifton SHS and achieving the goal of 100% QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education) attainment. Although this brings to an end one of those parents or have no access to a valid email address. The school will always support the individual parents with challenges around connectivity and technology.

Next year will also see more parents connecting through the Education Departments Oneschool data base “Q Parents.” We are trialing it with individuals at the moment to make sure it is ready for next year. This function will allow parents to see your student’s report cards, attendance, finance, photo and Timetable.

As always, I am happy to discuss any concerns with parents.

Yours in Education
Lou Oberholzer.

From the Deputy

As we come to the end of this week we say farewell to our Year 12 students and reflect on their achievement. Yet again we have a cohort of outstanding students who have all accepted the challenge of ‘achieving their personal best’ so that each student will be leaving school proud of their achievements this year.

This year students have represented the school in the academic, cultural, and sporting fields at the highest level. The students have also engaged with the community on a number of levels including the Open Spaces and Parks project, their wide range of traineeships and through support for community events such as the Show and Country Week. It has been a great pleasure to watch this particular cohort as they stepped up in Year 9 as the leaders of the Junior Secondary for the Flying Start Trial, with Year 7s coming to High School to the wonderful ambassadors and leaders they have become in Year 12. Their futures certainly look bright.

Throughout the year there have been some outstanding achievers as we heard at speech night. As we go to press congratulations must go to Victoria Harris for being chosen as the recipient of the “Empowering Young Women’s Award” at The Downs Women in Business Awards, on Wednesday night. We also look forward to hearing how Adam Hungerford fares at the National Apprentice and Traineeship Awards.

Remember all fees remain the same as this year to allow parents to see your student’s report cards, attendance, finance, photo and Timetable. This function will allow parents to see your student’s report cards, attendance, finance, photo and Timetable.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and safe travels into the world.

While Adam Hungerford is at the National Apprentice and Traineeship Awards, Victoria Harris was awarded the Women in Business Award for Empowering Young Women through Leadership. Well-done to both students for these remarkable achievements.

On parade and during break times over the next 3 weeks I will be talking to students to remind them of our uniform policy. The Clifton SHS hat will be enforced as part of the uniform from the beginning 2017, and students will not be allowed out in the sun without the school hat as per our School’s policy and for safety reasons. The P&C has endorsed the uniform policy as set out by you as parents through the P&C.

The uniform policy has not changed and my staff and I will support the P&C by enforcing the policy every day and every lesson, from the first day back in 2017.

Variations, that always creep in at the end of the year as we grow out of uniform, will not be tolerated.

I urge parents to have a look at the uniform policy and not give in to students’ version of the uniform. Students will be required to wear formal school uniform every Monday throughout 2017.

As previously discussed, 2017 will see the first Year 7 and Year 8 groups BYOD (Bring your own device for technology). This doesn’t mean that other students can’t BYOD. We are simply starting at one end to help parents with the finances. We welcome as many other year level students to BYOD, if families are able to support this.

Remember all fees remain the same as this year to allow you some support in getting the BYOD technology.

Next Wednesday at 5pm - 6pm we will have a meeting in the library to discuss and answer questions from parents on the BYOD program. Previous newsletters have given out some general information on where to purchase these devices, but it is up to you as a parent to choose the best deal with the specifications that were sent out. Please don’t let a sales person tell you, that you need a device that you don’t want to buy for thousands of dollars. The school believes that a good product that will service your student well could cost below $500 and many companies will give you no or very low interest repayments.

To keep the cost down at the end of the year we will be emailing the report cards to parents.

This is a more productive process as you can then print as many copies as you need for job applications or for other educational institutions. We are in a process of making contact with parents who haven’t provided an email address. Please make contact with the school if you are one of those parents or have no access to a valid email address. The school will always support the individual parents with challenges around connectivity and technology.

CLIFTON HIGHLIGHTS

18 NOVEMBER 2016
Good morning,

I am happy to report that for the second year in a row 100% of our Year 12 students have achieved a QCE. This is the result of their hard work and determination - achievement that has come as much from their character as their intellect. So what's character? Character is about not giving up but keeping on going when things get tough, character is about coping with difficulties or failure, character is about being resilient, character is about showing what kind of person you are.

A famous man Martin Luther King said, "Intelligence and character - that's the goal of education." And that exactly fits the two goals we have - we want our students to develop their intellect and their character while they're here. These they will need not just at school but in their future lives.

We have had students continue to work and strive while dealing with some difficult family situations - with relatives ill or injured. But they've kept coming to school and working on to make a strong finish. That's gutsy - that's showing character. And at this I want to thank you parents and guardians for your support when the red car was running a bit ragged or the wheels were wobbly.

Our students have shown character in so many ways this year.

We have had students work over the last weeks because they were determined they wanted to move their results up. You hear about students who think it's all over when the Verification decisions are made. Not our students - many decided to keep fighting on and take it down to the wire. So Breanna got her sound in Ag Science; Jackson got his VHA in Biology; Mackenzie got her PE result and moved up a rung in her VHA in English; Toni and Gemma moved up to VHA in English; and what can I say about Danny - he survived the vicissitudes of trial by fire and some very long days and got his SA in Modern History which gave him the Core points he needed to get his QCE.

I want to congratulate Dylan on his 5 VHAs and his A on the QCS Test - he has shown academic leadership and is a worthy Dux. I want to congratulate Emily on her Pierre de Courbetin award - a significant award for sport that is achieved through character and commitment as well as talent. I want to congratulate Adam who has made such a strong contribution to our school this year - he won the Regional and then the State awards for school based trainee and attended the National Awards in Darwin last night. He has shown vision and tenacity in pursuit of goals and a sense of community service throughout his Senior years.

I want to mention Issy who made the decision to come back to school this year after being pretty firm at the end of last year that she wasn't and she's leaving with a QCE. That's character as well.

I want to thank all the teachers in the Senior School who have worked hard and shown character and commitment to themselves to handle set backs and work to provide all sorts of opportunities for our students to achieve in the range of subjects and certificate courses. We have been working over the last few years to build and deliver the dream of excellence and I'm happy to report that this year we managed 27 VHAs across 9 of our OP Subjects. The Impact of teachers was made clear in one of the recent English Communication speeches. Phillip found his niche this year - and he acknowledged the influence of Adam who has encouraged and nurtured Philip's talent and his dream. Philip's respect was evident in his speech.

As I sat and listened to those speeches I thought what a fine group of young people - they listened so respectfully. And being respectful is also part of character - and respect is something you show not just to familiar people or people you love but to people who are different. And this year it was wonderful to see Adam, Gemma, Sarah, Dan and Victoria think of how they could help and improve the lives of other students when they fundraised to be able to give some students in Cambodia opportunities we take for granted. We live in a complex world which we share with people who have very different beliefs and values but five of our students have this year reached out to understand and share the experiences, lifestyles and histories of Cambodians. I congratulate them on developing this desire to understand and be respectful.

Yet another aspect of character is self respect as Joan Didion reminds us. And what's self respect? It's the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life. Pride and confidence in oneself - being able to look oneself in the eye. Each of us has values and beliefs we hold dear - we shouldn't give up who we are in our heart of hearts. We need to keep our sense of what we're worth. And each of you has shown your worth, your character this year.

So I wish you all well. We're proud of you. Be strong to live as well as to think. Go well.

Margaret Miller
HOD Senior Secondary

Remembrance Day

On Friday 11th November we observed the minute's silence to commemorate the signing of the Armistice that ended World War 1. We did this as a mark of respect for those who have served and fought and tried to heal during times of war. The school assembled and listened respectfully while incoming student members of 2017 Student Council Executive conducted the ceremony. Darcy Brady chaired the brief ceremony while Christy Phyland read an excerpt of Binyon's famous Ode to the Fallen as well as the poem Flanders Field. The latter poem was written by a Canadian medical officer who served at Essex Farm in Flanders. They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them. (Laurence Binyon)
Mock Interviews
On Wednesday, November 16 Year 10 students participated in mock interviews as part of Certificate II in Workplace Practices. The students were engaged and very enthusiastic to partake in this real world life experience to successfully complete their interviews.

Such experiences build confidence and resilience and help students learn how to present themselves both personally and on paper, in order to get a job.

Thanks to our interviewers, Karyn Kleidon, Karen Mostyn and Karen George (DET Training and Skills), Mark Munro (Toowoomba Hospice), Darren Smith (Golden West Apprenticeships), Nick Stebbins (HB Recruitment), Alan Richardson (Busy at Work), Carole Welch (Clifton SHS), Simone Gillam (Clifton House of Hair and Beauty) and Natalie Millard. Comments from the interviewers were very positive, noting the high standard of applications, presentation and career path knowledge.

2017 School Leaver Strategy
What’s next for school leavers? Vocational education and training could be the smart next step
Vocational Education and Training (VET) is the right choice for many school leavers. VET qualifications can provide students with a pathway to employment or a stepping stone to university. The Queensland Government subsidises more than 300 qualifications, allowing eligible school leavers to gain a qualification at little or no cost.

All school leavers, from Year 10 to Year 12, can register to receive more information about vocational and training opportunities in 2017.

By texting YES to 0476 850 648, school leavers can start receiving text prompts in 2017. The texts will connect them with information about training opportunities. Young people can choose how much or how little information they receive and they have the option to opt out at any time.

Please encourage your school leaver to register with this service.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) is collecting the young person’s mobile number for the purposes of providing them with regular updates on training opportunities during 2017. The mobile phone number will be accessed by authorised employees or contractors of DET. The young person’s mobile number will not be given to any other person or agency unless they have given us permission or we are authorised or required by law. If you have concerns about how the mobile has been used please contact 1800 210 210 (this is a free call). Opt out details will be provided on every text sent by DET. This information service will automatically end on 1 December 2017.

Standard charges will apply to SMS messages sent to us. SMS sent to the young person will incur no additional cost.

Community Notices
FOR SALE
Chest of various tools suitable for mechanical or plumbing maintenance.
For enquiries or to view, please phone 4612 3110