

TERM 3 2018

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

# COMPANION QUARTERLY

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Exceeding Expectations





Year 12 2018, Graduation Speech.

In welcoming you to this particular ceremony I give thanks to the God of all creation and acknowledge with the deepest respect the original custodians of this great land, the Dharug people.

The young men and women before me, graduate from our College having spent the best part of 13 years in Catholic education. Six of which were spent on the sacred land we now call Xavier College.

Year 12, we your teachers and parents have been partners in your education and more than anything else, we would hope that you would know in the deepest part of your being how much you are loved and valued. This powerful gift of love has been expressed in many different ways and has shaped our relationships with each one of you. Tonight you begin another journey; you venture into what for you, is unknown territory, which may even seem a little frightening to you.

Since the beginning of time, people have always found the unknown frightening. But when we analyse the great themes of literature and study the ancients in civilizations long gone, we discover one common thread, without knowledge, theirs was a frightening place. You have been given one of the greatest gifts of all, an education, a sense of purpose and a sense of direction. Yours is not a frightening place at all.

As young men and women and our future leaders, it is your task to help others find the unknown less threatening. You have been called to light the way. I wish to pay tribute to Joshua, Gabby, Elyssa and Bailey for outstanding student leadership, discernment, and assisting me to respond to your needs in a way that allows everyone to be treated with respect and dignity. You have been exceptional leaders in every way... Our new leaders have enormous shoes to fill.

Your educational journey so far has been a journey of enlightenment, and you have been given the tools to think about the future,



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

friends, who may only be few in number, are those who support and help you, though you may have thousands of social media connections. It will be the quality relationships that will sustain you and I recommend adding your parents to your support structure, as they love you unconditionally.

So, we need people keen on building the future, not just those who can predict rain, but those



and to work to shape the future, you most want, both for yourself and for others.

Your education has prepared you to listen, discuss and debate issues so that you can more fully understand the world in which you live, so that you can help others understand that which may seem confusing and frightening to them. Your education has given you the open-minded willingness to learn from others, no matter how you might find your beliefs and values challenged.

Today our world needs a society which values learning and learners. We need excellent communicators, team players, adaptable minds, critical thinkers, and motivators, people with personal conviction, beliefs, and values, people with energy and self-confidence.

Be people who build authentic relationships, quality relationships, relationships built on trust and mutual respect, NOT relationships based on the amount of followers you have on social media. For it is in times of absolute despair true

who think to build the arks. Year 12 each of you are capable builders of the new ark.

Students, as responsibility is passed to your hands, it will not do, as you live the rest of your life, to assume that someone else will bear the significant burdens; that someone else will demonstrate the key convictions; that someone else will run for office; that someone else will take care of the poor; that someone else will stand up for the oppressed; that someone else will visit the sick; protect civil rights; enforce the law; preserve culture; transmit value; maintain civilisation; and defend freedom.

You must never forget that what you do not value, will not be valued, that what you do not remember, will not be remembered, that what





you do not change, will not be changed, and that what you do not do, will not be done. In your hands, Year 12 lies the future, don't be afraid of this responsibility, embrace it with all your might and use every God-given talent to make our world a better place for you having been part of it.

St Mother Teresa, when interviewed whilst working on the streets of Calcutta, said this "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."

Year 12 my challenge to each of you is very simple. When you leave the safe shores of Xavier and walk the path of life make ripples in the world, work for a change! Make a difference to our planet!

Stand up for what you believe! And "Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent" you are God's work of art and destined for the greater good, so wherever the waters of life take you, know that you will always have a haven with you families at home and at Xavier.

So as you leave this sacred place of learning I ask you to remember one truth from a very wise old sage and fellow traveller in life, and I quote:

"Stand up for what you believe in. Always with conviction, with passion and integrity. Don't let ideology blind you, but remain true to what guides you and speak in your own voice, in your own words, in a way that makes sense to you and that could not be from anyone else..." Always be your true self Year 12, you are a remarkable group of men and women.

We, your companions on this journey through life, look forward to a future full of mystery and hope. And may you leave here tonight knowing that wherever you travel in life you are most richly blessed with the friendship of God, as he walks with you every step of the way. Parents, we graciously hand back to you, your wonderful work of art these young men and women. On behalf of all their teachers over the years, I say thank you for allowing us to share the journey with you. We are much richer as a consequence of this journey.

Congratulations Year 12 on all your achievements during your time here at Xavier College.

And may God bless you , your sons and daughters always.

Michael Pate  
Principal Leader





# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 3 has been an extremely busy term full of learning and achievement. Many students have showcased outstanding talent whether it be in the classroom, on the sporting field, stage, or showing support for those in need. Our HSC cohort has finalised their preparations for their HSC examinations and we have already been privileged to experience some of the fine learning outcomes forged from 13 years of schooling on our recent showcase evenings. Some of the performances and work produced was simply outstanding and a reflection of the time, effort and attention to detail our students have demonstrated during their HSC year. The talent of our musicians and drama students cannot be understated and I know many of them will move on to fine careers in this area and it makes me proud in knowing they are a product of Xavier College.

Our graduation mass and awards ceremony were a wonderful celebration of faith, learning and community. I wholeheartedly congratulate our graduating class of 2018 and I wish them every success in the future. They are a fine group of young men and women.

In recent times, one of our Yr 8 students Brock

Mackenzie-Hilllen along with our Agriculture and SRC students recognised the struggles of our drought-stricken farmers. Recognising the plight of the farmers was the catalyst for our "Buy a Bale" for the Farmers Fundraising Day which raised \$4000 dollars to assist in drought relief. Our students at Xavier never see a need without doing anything about it.

I would like to thank all of those students who made our visiting students and teachers from China feel so welcome. They all spoke so highly of our college and this was made possible by the friendships forged and guidance offered by our cultural ambassadors.

Our sporting achievements continue to impress. The College experienced much success in the PDSSSC Thursday afternoon competition, along with great representation at PDSSSC and NSWCCC athletics carnivals. A special mention must go out to our highly talented fencing team who competed admirably at National Level during the term. A special mention must also go to our Agricultural Team for a first place in the Rural Olympics



# AGE



We have also inducted our new Student Representative Council for 2019. We are blessed to have such a fine group of young aspiring leaders to represent the student body next year. This group will travel to Broken Bay for a three-day leadership conference in October to bond and to plan the year ahead.

At the end of term two I asked the Xavier Community how they would shine their light in term three. I believe that those I have mentioned above have answered that question for me as indeed have the whole Xavier community. I have enjoyed my time as Acting Assistant Principal immensely and would like

to thank Staff, Students and Parents for the support they have given me in the last six months. This truly is a great community.

We look forward to welcoming Mr. Malone back next term and continuing to forge ahead for the greater good. I wish you all a safe and restful holiday.

Lee McCrorie  
Acting Assistant Principal





# MISSION & FORMATION

Dear Parents/caregivers

As term three draws to a close and the HSC approaches, we are reminded of how hard both teachers and students have worked over the past months to ensure that our HSC candidates have the very best possible chance of achieving to their potential but must also remember that 'through God all things are possible.' A few weeks ago, the Year 12 cohort completed their trials. It is part of the culture here at Xavier that a group of teachers come together every Thursday morning for quiet reflection and prayer. It is testimony to her depth of empathy for her students that just before the start of the trials, the teacher on prayer that week, Miss Rebolledo, chose to dedicate her prayer session for those year 12 students who were about to sit the trials, suggesting that having been aware of their anxiety the previous days she felt that our prayers might help to ease their stress levels.

On Tuesday, 31st August the Xavier staff were invited to attend an 'after school dinner' hosted by FIAT Team (Miss Fatu, Miss Angeli, Mr Buhagiar, and Mr Faccin) All proceeds were donated to the JRS (Jesuit refugee Service) in response to an appeal for refugees. The meal was prepared and served by the Xavier hospitality students and supervised by Ms Taylor. I would like to extend my gratitude to those involved in the event and for the exquisite manner in which they decorated the College dining room and presented the food.

In line with the theme of 'the plight of refugees' Miss Mazzella is leading our team of Year 7

religion teachers in an educational initiative called XIL project (Xavier Inquiry Learning). As part of this unit of work, the year 7 students are increasing their knowledge about the plight of refugees in society today. The launch took place on Wednesday 22nd August with a visit from our guest speaker, Simon Shahin, a refugee who arrived in Australia 2015. In his



speech he retold the story of what conditions were like in Syria and how welcoming the people have been since his arrival here. The students were treated to an authentic presentation and received first-hand information related to the problems faced by a refugee.



The College gathered on the 15th August for the Mass of the Assumption which, thanks to the generous contribution of time from Fr Chris, the talent from teachers and the choir, under the supervision of Mrs Leehy and Mr Kempis, and assistance from the Eucharist Ministers, was truly a memorable occasion.

Xavier College can certainly be acknowledged as a caring, generous and 'faith promoting' community with a willingness to offer help in areas that lie far afield from our school. As a call for assistance went out from farmers suffering from the repercussions of drought, Miss Phillips wasted no time in offering to care for 9 lambs who had lost their mothers because of the drought conditions in Mudgee. As can be imagined, they quickly became part of our community and are receiving an excessive amount of loving attention from our students. Though our prayers for rain have been answered to some degree, we must not forget the devastating conditions that some Australian farmers are still enduring.



### A PRAYER FOR RAIN

GOD OF COMPASSION, IN THIS TIME OF DROUGHT,  
WE AWAIT AND WATCH FOR YOUR GIFT OF RAIN  
TO WATER THE SOIL, AND MAKE THE BARREN LAND  
COME ALIVE AGAIN.  
WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE ON FARMS AND IN RURAL  
AREAS DEPRIVED OF HARVESTS AND LIVESTOCK,  
LIVELIHOOD AND HOPE.  
SEND ABUNDANT RAIN, WE PRAY, AND TEACH TO BE  
BETTER STEWARDS OF ALL THE BLESSINGS  
YOU PROVIDE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD  
AMEN.



# CURRICULUM

As the term draws to an end, we need to celebrate the great achievements over the past term. Many students have set goals for their learning based on their previous Semesters report grades. This is wonderful to see and will hopefully lead to a constant improvement in grades. If students achieved a 'C' grade in a course for Semester 1, then they are to set a goal of achieving at least a 'B' grade this semester. In this way, students can make gradual improvement over time. All students need to believe that they have the potential to achieve great results by applying themselves both at school and at home consistently.

Year 11 commence their HSC course Week 1, Term 4 and will receive their new timetables at this time. All students have received their booklists and are required to have textbooks and/ or resources for the commencement of the HSC course.

Finally, Year 12, though graduating will be a milestone for yourselves, it is also for your parents. For all of the parents thank you for your partnership with us on this journey. I know that it has not always been easy, but it has definitely been worth it! Your sons and daughters started at Xavier College as nervous twelve year olds and leave with a greater sense of self, maturity, and the skills to make informed choices as adults.

As I have reflected on the year that was, I am so inspired by the staff that have taught and supported the graduating class of 2018. Whether it has been the tutor group teachers chasing absenteeism, Mr Tsahtarlis working with Industrial Technology Timber students on their major works or Mr Kempis practicing the students to help them perform or Mrs Tomic giving up her evenings to finish the Major art works, you can only look back with amazement at each teachers dedication, patience and passion. It is that passion that drives each staff member to want only the very best for the graduating class.

Year 12, personally it has been an absolute pleasure to witness your growth this year and one that I will treasure. I wish each of you happiness and the determination to achieve all that you desire. From here you have so many paths to choose from, may you choose the path that is right for you. That does not necessarily mean that it will be the easiest path, but may it be the right path. I look forward with anticipation to the success of such a vibrant, talented and confident year group.

Good luck and God bless you all.

Mrs Alexei Hawkins  
Director of Learning and Pedagogy





# SHOWCASE 2018

Xavier College celebrated the achievements of students and their Major Works on 11th September. Students from Art, Industrial Tech Timber and Graphics presented a range of works that included a variety of mediums. Students presented works incorporating charcoal, photography, clay, ink, gouache (paint), digital media, 3D printed models, timber furniture, and Computer Aided Drawings (CAD), with additional computer simulated drawings of exploded isometric views on computer monitors.

The evening was hosted by CAPA and TAS with refreshments catered by our Hospitality students. Mrs Tomic, Mr Woodward and Mr Tsahtarlis have provided outstanding support throughout the past year to provide the best opportunities for students to succeed in the completion of their respective projects. The College is truly blessed to have highly skilled and dedicated teachers and the class of 2018 Show Case would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the after school lessons, including weekends and holidays to achieve their very best.

Each year students from the various disciplines are awarded prizes in the following categories: Dave Thompson Award for Art, Industrial Technology Timber Project Award, Industrial Technology Graphics Award, The Peoples Choice Award.

The field was outstanding this year with the quality of work and level of detail for both practical and portfolio components. The winners of each category for 2018 Show Case are:

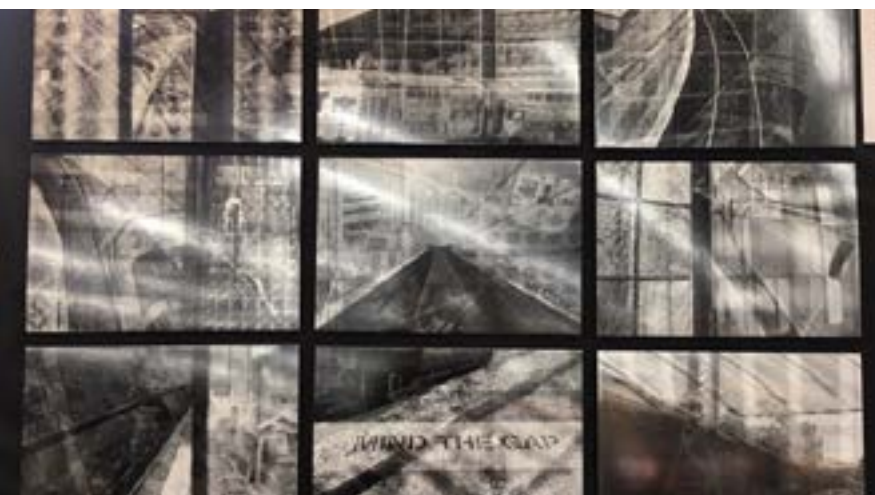
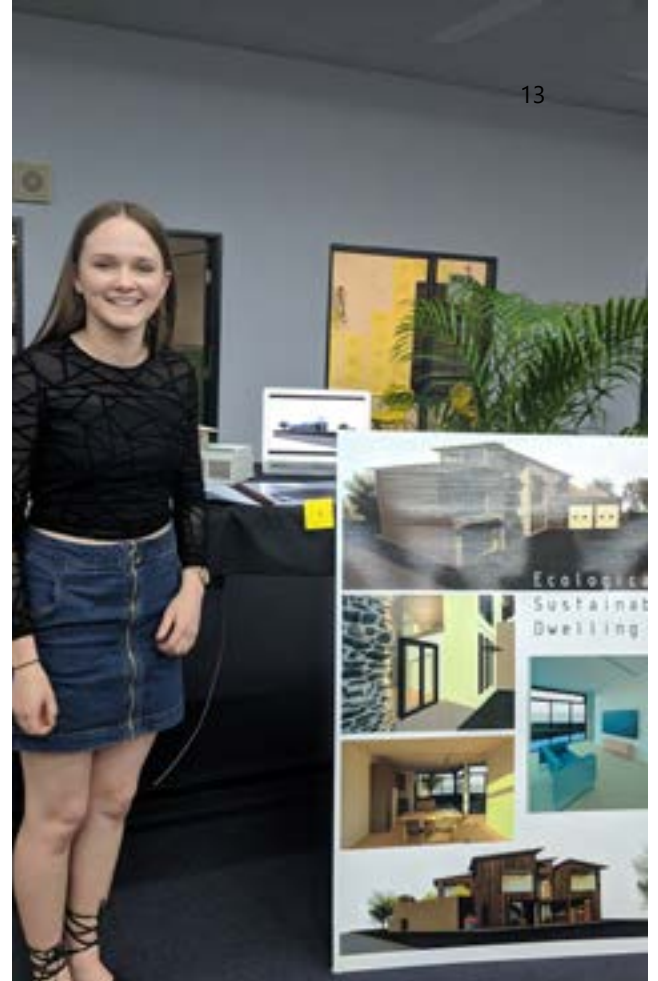
Dave Thompson Art Award – Isaac Western  
Industrial Technology Timber – Blake Sciberras  
Industrial Technology Graphics – Joran Apap  
The Peoples Choice Award – Gab Brebner

Congratulations to our winners for 2018, and to all the students in Show Case. A fantastic display and the college community are very proud of your achievements.

Mr G.Dickson  
Leader of Learning TAS







# MUSICAL 2019

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We would like to officially announce the 2019 Musical for Xavier College will be The Addams Family (Young@Part). Auditions began this week and rehearsals should start in sport time during Term 4. With the cast being announced shortly this should be an amazing show. Performances will be between the 2nd and the 11th of May 2019, so keep the dates free in your calendar.



Mr Hazell  
Director

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# PENRITH EISTEDDFOD

The Xavier College, Key Word Sign Choir recently competed at the City of Penrith Eisteddfod and were awarded medals for their beautiful performances of "A Whole New World" & "Here Comes the Sun". Special mention should be made of the outstanding effort of Year 12 student, Caroline Bellett, who again, rose to the challenge of conducting the choir. Her fellow choir members who are also to be congratulated are Keira Maher, Savannah Sadler, Toni Azzopardi, Jacob McAndrew, Hayley Sultana, Holleigh Edwards, Lachlan Gapes, Jacob Berthaly & Emily Murray. The Key Word Sign choir meets every Tuesday at lunchtime in GL 2 and everyone is welcome to come along and see what it's all about.