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ST THOMAS AQUINAS
 COLLEGE

PO Box 500
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COLLEGE CHRONICLE

Tuesday 29th November 2022

Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week through the virtues program the staff and students will be exploring the Gift Of Understanding. This gift enables us to see more deeply into the mysteries of the faith and judge with certainty all created things. With understanding we comprehend how we need to live as a follower of Our Lord. It allows us to not be confused by all of the conflicting messages in our culture about the right way to live.

I would like to thank the families who have provided constructive feedback in regards to the new fee payment platform. This feedback is extremely helpful in ensuring that the platform remains user friendly and the process as efficient as possible. A reminder that **we require families to have created an account by Thursday 1st December.**

In relation to the College tuition and consolidated fees, I understand for some families the payment of fees can be of concern, so, from the outset, I encourage you to communicate with us. Our aim is for each family to feel comfortable talking to us regarding any finance related matter. My experience has shown me that by dealing with these concerns early, families experiencing financial hardship gain clarity around fees and fee payments, and have their concerns put to ease.

A variation to the level of fees payable may be available to parents in cases of extreme financial hardship. Parents will be required to provide financial information. All applications are reviewed by the College and a financial hardship application can be obtained via parent lounge or the College Business Manager. Please note that all discussions are strictly private and confidential and remain with the Principal and the Finance Team.

Tomorrow night we celebrate the Graduating Class of 2022 with their End of Year Formal. The evening will be attended by staff, students and families and place a fitting full stop at the end of these young adults' learning journey with the College.

The excitement amongst the Primary students is building as



we draw closer to the end of the week. Our Foundation students will star in their Nativity Play this Thursday morning and the Primary students will take the stage for their annual Concert on Friday evening. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diverse talents and hard work that has been completed through the year. I look forward to enjoying both events with you.

A reminder that nomination forms for the 'St Thomas Aquinas Light to the World' award in recognition of successful alumni can be obtained via Liz Alexander and need to be returned by Thursday December 1st.

Finally the College offers its congratulations to the following staff who have been provided with a Position of Leadership for the next two years.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Dean of Boys School | John Smyth |
| Dean of Girls School | Alexis Bell |
| Dean of Primary School | Gillian Murray |
| Individual Needs Coordinator | Muirenn Hogan |
| VCE Coordinator | Emlyn Davis |
| Daily Org/Timetabler | Roman Ramirez |
| Learning Leader - English | Peter Foley |
| Learning Leader - Maths | Alison Morris |
| Learning Leader - Humanities | Emlyn Davis |
| Learning Leader - Science | Leanne McKenzie |
| Learning Leader - Health and PE | Aaron Bell |
| Learning Leader - Languages | Laura Alexander |
| Learning Leader - Arts | Tanya de Castilla |
| Careers Coordinator | Deloraine Keegal |

God bless,
Kieran

Kieran O'Dwyer
Acting Principal

VIRTUE THIS WEEK

GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING

Enables one to see more deeply into the mysteries of the faith and judge with certainty all created things

COLLECT - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.



From the Deputy Principal



Learning and Teaching - Instructional Pathway Part 6

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This week we explore the '**Feedback**' element of the instructional pathway model that is being promoted in the College.

When implemented authentically in a lesson or project the instructional pathway model provides students with:

- **a learning intention** - a goal for students to achieve
- **success criteria** - what does success and achievement look like
- **explicit teaching** - modelling (I do) and guided practice (we do)
- **worked examples** - independent practice (you do)
- **multiple exposures** - students have opportunities to apply their new learning in different contexts
- **questioning** - immediate sources of feedback on their progress and understanding
- **feedback** - to provide feedback on the task, the learning process and how students have self-regulated in addressing the success criteria.

Effective educators will make use of feedback to collect information and evidence about a student's understanding, to assist students to activate and advance their own learning and to evaluate the impact of their own instructional practice. Feedback informs a student and teacher of the student's achievement in relation to the learning intention and success criteria.

Achievement or performance based feedback provides students with information in relation to the outcome and performance of the work undertaken. This type of feedback has three aspects:

1. Feedback on the **task** provides learners with information about the product of their learning
2. Feedback on the **process** provides learners with information about the process they used to complete the learning task
3. Feedback on **self-regulation** provides learners with information about their ability to employ strategies to manage and regulate their own learning.

Another successful form of feedback focuses on the three different perspectives of the past, present and future:

1. "**Feed up**" is feedback that compares and evaluates the learner's current state with the desired learning goal
2. "**Feed back**" is feedback that compares and evaluates the learner's current level with a previous state
3. "**Feed forward**" is feedback that outlines and evaluates the desired learning goal in relation to the learner's current learning level.

These various aspects of feedback can be combined to provide a high impact on student learning and also inform teachers about their level of influence on student learning. The matrix diagram below demonstrates how these forms of feedback can be applied and integrated.

	TASK	PROCESS	SELF-
PAST (Feed back)	What progress has the learner made on goals and content?	What progress has the learner made on task completion? Is there evidence of improvement?	What progress has the learner made on self-regulation strategies?
PRESENT (Feed up)	What goals did the learner reach? What content did the learner understand?	How did the learner complete the task? Is there evidence of how the learner worked?	What self-regulation strategies did the learner successfully apply?
FUTURE (Feed forward)	What goals should be set next? What content should be learnt next?	What tips on task completion should the learner be given next?	What self-regulation strategies should the learner apply next?

Taken from "10 Mindframes for Visible Learning: Teaching for Success" by John Hattie & Klaus Zierer

Finally, educators can empower learners through the fostering of a positive mindset and attitude in relation to mistakes and failure. Students shouldn't see mistakes and failures as something to avoid but as information that

is important to the learning process. Failure is feedback for future success.

Questions parents can ask their children

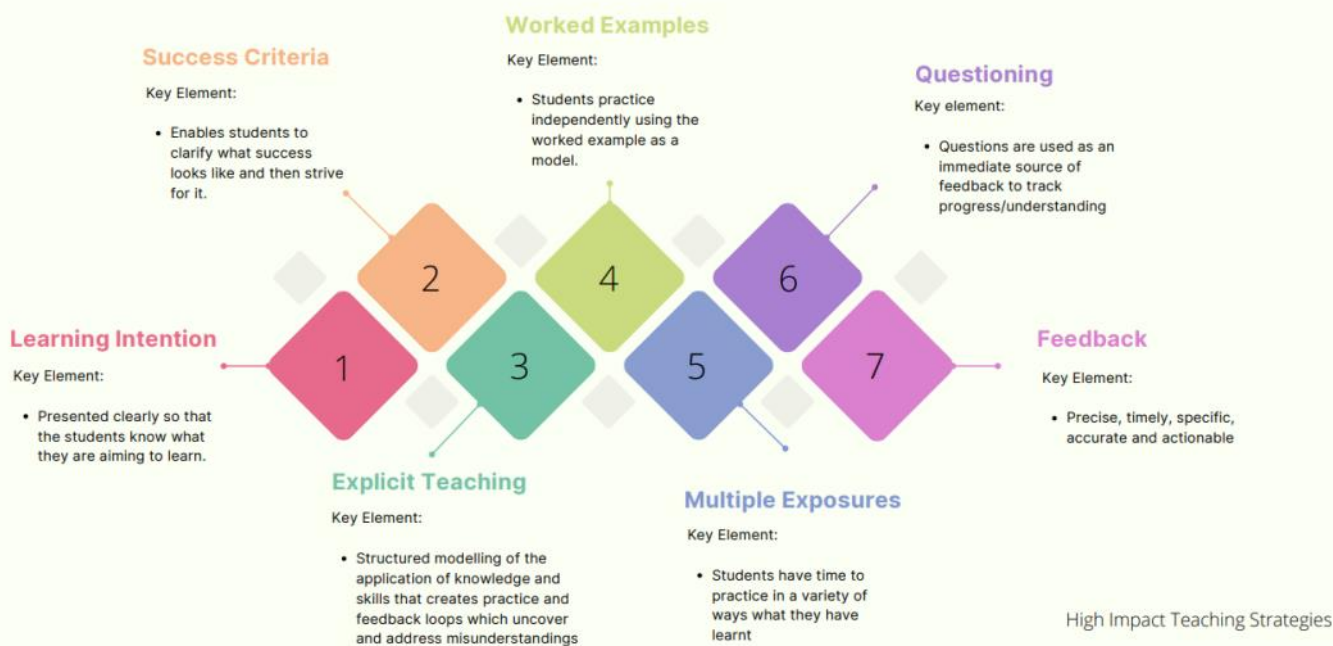
The following are questions parents can use to assist their children to self-reflect on their school day, facilitate conversations about their learning and assist them (through feedback) to develop a positive mindset in relation to challenges and mistakes in their learning:

1. What did you learn today?
2. How did you do?
3. What did you do if you didn't understand something or had a challenge in your learning?
4. How can you improve on your learning?
5. What was a success you had today that you are most happy about?

Next week we will conclude our focus on the instructional pathway by exploring metacognitive strategies that assist students to develop self-awareness of their own learning, to self-regulate and to activate and sustain the motivation to learn.

God bless,
David Williams
Acting Deputy Principal

Instructional Pathway



SCHOOL FEES PAYMENT PARTNERSHIP

We recognise that for many of our families, tuition fees can represent a significant proportion of your family budget and many of our families would welcome greater flexibility around the management of these payments.

We are therefore pleased to announce the College has partnered with a specialist provider, Edstart, to make managing your school fee payments easier. Edstart offers an easy, flexible and zero-cost way for you to pay for your child's education in periodic instalments that suit your family budget, with no credit checks. This new payment option will allow you to spread your fees into weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments over 12 months, with the ability to choose your preferred day for when payments are made. Families will also have the ability to pay annually or termly through Edstart.

With your child's outcomes at the heart of what we do, parent fees are crucial to the College's sustainability. While we put our resources into striving to form in each youth the true and perfect Catholic, Edstart are the experts in their field and are best placed to assist our families moving forward. From next year, all school fees including annual and periodic payments will be made via Edstart. We are always here to help with any concerns and will work closely with Edstart for a smooth transition. To set up your account please visit <https://edstart.com.au/stac>.

We ask that all families set up an Edstart account prior to 1 December 2022.

The process to set up an Edstart account is simple:

1. Visit <https://edstart.com.au/stac> and submit your details.
2. A member of Edstart's team will contact you to finalise the setup of your account.
3. Edstart will pay your fees to the school and provide you with the flexibility of choosing your preferred payment method and frequency.

Primary

GIFT OF PIETY

Carmella Nivet, Mark Wesa,
Patrick Davis, Daniel Hanney,
Molly Taveira, David Ockerse

Perserverence

Verity Gallagher, Cristina Mandarano,
Sophia MacDonald, Lexi Sharkey,
Gus Alexander, Thea Attard

Responsibility

Thea Attard, Gemma Pullen

Secondary Girls

GIFT OF PIETY

Claudia Hanney, Genevieve McLean,
Charlotte Ockerse, Josephine Soefting,
Lauren Elliott, Madeleine Hovens,
Isabelle Higgins, Joanna Verleg

Secondary Boys

GIFT OF PIETY

Daniel de Castella,
Orlando de Castella, William Fahey,
Jake Hanney, Laurence Ockerse,
Aaron Braaksma, Sebastian Fahey,
Braydan Rayner, Andre Elliott,
Raphael Hayward, Julian Hovens

FOOD FRIDAY

The St Gerard's League will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items on the first Friday of each month.

**Our next collection will be
THIS FRIDAY 2nd December**



Food items can be left at the front office, with class teacher or homeroom.
Thank you for your support and generosity.

If at any stage you wish to donate other than on the specified date please contact
Mr Phil Robinson on 0407 925 720



The M.I. Corner

**Please remember to come and visit the
MI Corner
("MILITIA IMMACULATÆ Corner" translation
"Knights of the Immaculata Corner")
set up in the office foyer.**

**You are most welcome to take the
free Blessed Miraculous Medals
to hand out to friends and family.**

**There are scapulars, pamphlets, books and
other literature available.**

*(a small voluntary donation is always
welcome but not necessary)*

For further information visit <https://m-i.info/en/>

**"Through Mary the world's salvation has started,
through her it will be accomplished, too."**

(Saint Louis Mary Grignon of Montfort)

STAC P&F Fundraiser

Refreshment Stall &
Raffle Tickets
for sale at the
Christmas Concert



2nd December at the Christmas
Concert, EFTPOS available.

**NOONE UNIFORM SHOP - NEW
LOCATION**

As of 7th November, Noone Uniform shop will be
operating from a new location in OFFICER.

The new store is in the
One Centre Square Complex on Siding Avenue

ADDRESS: 6/45 Siding Avenue, Officer.

**Secondhand Uniform Shop
Operating Hours**

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
Monday 2:45pm - 3:30pm

If you have items to donate or sell
please drop at uniform shop during these hours.

**The office no longer accepts items therefore
please drop at the shop on a Monday or contact
Michelle on 0468 438 404.**

**Open: Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th of January 2023
Time: 10am to 11am on both days
For any queries please call Michelle Verleg
mobile: 0468438404**



Craft at the Haven

St Francis Xavier

(3rd December)

1506 - 1552

Jesuit Missionary to the Orient

A young Spanish gentleman, in the dangerous days of the Reformation, was making a name for himself as a professor of philosophy at the University of Paris. He was aspiring, apparently, to a high dignity, until Saint Ignatius of Loyola decided to undertake the spiritual conquest of this ardent soul. "What does it profit a man to gain the entire world, if he suffers the loss of his soul?" Ignatius often repeated to the brilliant teacher. The words of Christ, joined to the example of Ignatius and his disciples, prevailed. It was not long before his gifted friend decided to labor for the glory of God, by adopting the evangelical life of an apostle, to which he was indeed called. He was among the first five members of the Society of Jesus, those who with Ignatius made their religious vows in the church of Montmartre in Paris, on the feast of the Assumption in 1534.



in his apostolic endeavors despite opposition and the difficulties of every sort which he encountered. The gift of tongues and miracles accompanied him everywhere; he resurrected several dead persons. And his inexhaustible kindness was not the least of his assets in winning thousands of pagans to the Faith. He baptized so many that his arm became virtually disabled, ten thousand in a single month in the kingdom of Trevancor, where in the same space of time he saw to the building of forty-five churches. At Meliapour, site of the martyrdom of Saint Thomas, he found the marble on which the Apostle was sacrificed, and which exuded blood the first time Mass was said upon it. Passing through various islands, cities and provinces of India, he strengthened his first conquests by additional preaching. He planted crosses in the public squares and overcame all obstacles.

On his way to Rome with the others, handicapped by severe penances he had imposed on himself, he remained in Venice and exercised a brief apostolate by caring for the sick in the city hospital. The others waited for him to regain his ability to walk. These first fervent Jesuits were intending to embark for the Holy Land, but were prevented by a war. In Rome, Francis again went to a hospital to serve the sick; he also visited the prisons to encourage and console the poor inmates, while preparing for ordination with the others, according to the desire of the pope.

Saint Ignatius having remained in Venice, the other five returned there afterwards. Francis was sent by Saint Ignatius to the Orient in 1534, where for twelve years he laboured unceasingly to win souls, sleeping only three hours a night, eating very little, and bearing the Gospel to Hindustan, to Malacca, and as far as Japan. At all times thwarted by jealousy, covetousness, and the carelessness of those who should have helped and encouraged him, he did not slacken

From India he went to Japan; Saint Francis is called Apostle of Japan as well as of India. There the pagan priests opposed and calumniated him, and tried without success to outwit him in debates. Humiliated, they used subtle means to instill dislike for him in the minds of the court authorities. But he won the love as well as the respect of those he evangelized, blessing them with such miracles as filling the hitherto sterile sea of Cangoxima with inexhaustible reserves of fish. The vast kingdom of China appealed to his charity, and he was resolved to risk his life to force an entry, when God took him to Himself. It was on December 2, 1552, that the Apostle of the Indies died on Sancian, an island facing the city of Canton in China, like Moses, in sight of the land of promise.

Reflection: Some are specially called to work for souls; but there is no one who cannot help greatly to win their salvation. Holy example, earnest intercession, the offerings of our sacrifices and works on their behalf, are within the reach of all. What is needed is the spirit which animated Saint Francis Xavier - the desire to make some return to God for His bounties, with much confidence in His paternal love.

2022 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
28 Nov Yr 7-9 Exams	29 Nov Gr 4/5 Aquarium visit Yr 7-9 Exams	30 Nov Year 12 Formal STUDENT FREE DAY	1 Dec Yr 7-9 Exams	2 Dec 6:30pm Primary Concert
5 Dec	6 Dec	7 Dec Secondary Students Activities Day Yr 6 Graduation Mass and Breakfast	8 Dec <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	9 Dec Term Ends Today 8:30am SCHOOL MASS 6:50pm PRESENTATION NIGHT
SUMMER HOLIDAY BREAK				
30 Jan 2023 School commences	31 Jan	1 Feb	2 Feb	3 Feb

OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm
MONDAY - FRIDAY

TERM DATES

2022

4th Term: 3rd October - 9th December

2023

1st Term: 30th January - 5th April

2nd Term: 26th April - 23rd June

3rd Term: 18th July - 15th September

4th Term: 2nd October - 8th December