



Cnr Oatley Ave & Hurstville Rd
Oatley NSW 2223
Subscribe: <https://grcoatley.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: oatleysnr-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 02 8567 3700
Fax: 02 9570 3622



14 November 2017

Principal's Report



Student Leadership Team

Traditionally Term IV is always an exciting one and this year will be no exception. We started with the Induction Ceremony for our new Student Leadership Team

Student leadership at GRC Oatley Senior truly reflects the quality of students we have in our school. At our school, student leadership is expected and practised on a daily basis. The quality of this leadership, especially that demonstrated by the Captains, Vice Captains, SRC Presidents and the SRC, is a critical determinant in creating loyalty, pride and ethics within our school. Good leaders in my estimation should have some qualities and that is the qualities of compassion and kindness. It's about giving respect, not demanding respect. It's about respecting the human rights of everyone, of other people and your own.

On behalf of the school community, I congratulate our outgoing Student Representative Council on their wonderful achievements. They have excelled at ensuring that high quality student leadership, founded on the school's values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence, underpins our school's ethos, and I thank them on behalf of the GRC Oatley community for their outstanding leadership of the student body over the last twelve months.

I am extremely confident that our incoming 2018 SRC will rise to the challenge and build on the strong legacy that this year's student leadership team have left. They will be charged with successfully implementing changes to structures within the school from a student perspective, as well as being the sounding board when students' views on issues relating to their school are required.

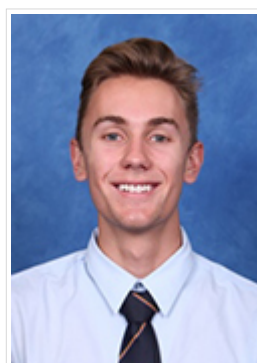
I wish that many more people could have sat on the Selection Panel with me as we listened to the pride with which the students, who were inducted into Student Executive positions,

spoke about their school. The desire to serve and give back to our school was a very humbling thing for a Principal to listen to and a credit to each and every one of them. All of the students demonstrated heightened levels of commitment, care and compassion for others and the responsibility that comes with decision-making that has the potential to impact on so many.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Worner for all his hard work in leading the SRC and for his commitment to student leadership. He has committed a tremendous amount of time and energy into ensuring that student ideas and initiatives not only come to fruition but are successful in achieving what students set out to do. Mr Worner has decided not to continue in this role for 2018 and is handing over the reins to the very capable and enthusiastic Ms Hook.

It is with pleasure and great pride that I announce the following students as the 2018 senior leaders:

2018 SCHOOL CAPTAINS



Caleb Round



Anastasia Gaskell

2018 VICE CAPTAINS



Elena Miovski



Chantal Yu

2018 SRC PRESIDENTS



Ashleigh James



Yasmin Kostoglou

2018 Year 12 Student Representative Council

Thomas Cheah	Juanita Morutare	Charlotte Sutton
Isaac Cooper	Tamara Reynolds	Winnie Tang
Kristy Le	Francis Sarmiento	Kevin Zhao
Teresa Li		

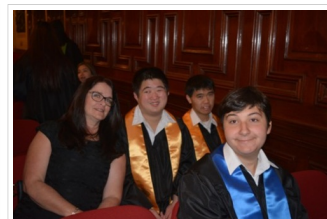


Year 12 End of Year Celebrations

Year 12 Graduation

One of the highlights was last term was the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony which was held at Sydney Town Hall on Friday 22nd September where staff, parents and students celebrated one of the more significant milestones in our students' lives. It is always a pleasure to celebrate the success and achievements

of our student body and also wish them every success for the HSC and their future. A huge thank you to the organisers who always manage to make this an excellent event - Ms Narelle Straney, Ms Lynne Mittwollen, Ms Leanne Roberts, Mr Kate McRae and the CAPA staff. They worked tirelessly to prepare the programs, certificates, the performers and prizes.



Year 12 Formal

The last week of school in Term 3 was memorable for our Year 12 students for a number of reasons. Foremost of these was the night they shopped, prepared and looked forward to for some time, the Year 12 Formal! Makeup artists and hair salons in the local area had obviously been busy during the day as the transformation many undertook was simply amazing. The event kicked off early in the evening at the Four Seasons Hotel and our young men and women arrived right on cue, dressed impeccably, for what was to be an amazing night. The event was well attended by staff, who were keen to celebrate, as is tradition with their Year 12 students. It was a great opportunity to unwind from what had been a busy time for our senior students, and I know many photos, and good memories were taken away from the night.

A special thanks to Mr Worner, who organised the night and to the Year 12 Year Advisors, Mr France, Mr Compton, Mr Lawton and Mr Mordo for the support, organisation and guidance they have tirelessly offered this cohort over their years at GRC Oatley.



External Validation

I wrote in an earlier newsletter that all NSW government schools will undergo a new accountability process known as "External Validation" in the next few years. Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus participated in validation on the 26th October, 2017.

The process was primarily based on self – assessment, using categories (Excelling, Sustaining and Growing or Delivering) against a framework of three domains:

- Teaching
- Learning
- Leadership.

On the 26th October, two principals came to the school for two hours to "validate" our assessment, having considered documents and evidence prior to their arrival. As a taste of what our 180 page document of analysis and evidence contains,

I present the Executive Summary. You may be interested in reading it.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus is part of the multi campus Georges River College. We are committed to our core values of Respect, Responsibility and aiming for Excellence and these underpin all aspects of school life. These values are a driving ethos which is reflected in the school's culture and its programs and practices. As a school of 890 students and 100 teaching and administrative staff, this ethos provides the rationale for our planning and direction in this large and different context. We want students to be challenged academically and we want them to be resilient, effective citizens who embrace the changing world we live in.

On October 26, 2017 our school will participate in External Validation. In preparation for this meeting, the required body of evidence has been prepared, reviewed and annotated. The Executive Summary synthesises that annotated information provided in the body of evidence.

The body of evidence presented by Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus is classified under 8 focus areas:

- Building Student Autonomy
- High Expectations
- Transition
- Student Wellbeing
- Academic Culture
- Curriculum Evaluation
- Cross College Collaboration
- Reading for Meaning Writing with Purpose

At the heart of the school's directions, planning and celebrations, these focus areas have been used by the school to assess itself against the three SEF domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading. The teaching staff considered the SEF elements in a critical, collaborative and honest way. We wanted to consider high leverage pieces of data that would justify our claims – a process that we found both affirming and challenging – and we wanted to consider our feedback in a culture of expecting and continuing to seek improvement. It was the belief of many that 'excellence' cannot be overstated or casually referenced; by its very nature, excellence ought to be rare.

Learning

The results of this validation process indicated that in the SEF domain of Learning, Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus is **Sustaining and Growing**. Evidence is presented to show that positive, respectful relationships through the introduction of 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' - in particular amongst teachers and between

teachers and students - are highly valued and are the foundation of improved and sustained learning. The school believes that growth and innovation could not occur without positive and enduring relationships based on respect. We have presented evidence that demonstrates a commitment to strengthen and deliver on the school's learning priorities to ensure that students are engaged by quality learning experiences. In addition to this, the school's strategic approach to the professional learning of teachers as part of its commitment to building teacher capacity is another reason for improved learning growth for students. The school's professional learning program allows for the trialling of evidence-based fresh ideas directly in the classroom, in a collegial, supportive environment. In conjunction with this, is the school's whole school approach to Wellbeing. Students are immersed in several programs that support the development of their cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing. Finally, while we have made some gains in the areas of assessment and reporting and student performance measures, we believe that these will continue to be a focus moving into our next school plan with particular emphasis on formative assessment in the senior context and the use of data analysis to inform everyday practice.

Teaching

The results of this validation process indicated that in the SEF domain of Teaching, Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus is **Sustaining and Growing**. Evidence will show that specific programs used by teachers – such as ALARM and Building Student Autonomy – have improved the school's academic culture as will the evidence on systems and procedures to collect and analyse HSC data that give teachers practical tools to reflect on their teaching. In addition, the school's professional learning agenda that is embedded across a number of programs, reflects a desire by teachers to learn more explicit ways to assist students with complex and conceptual ideas. Planned and targeted to specific needs, the fortnightly professional learning is collegial and team-based, and is a key feature of the school's success. Our Cross College program "Reading for Meaning Writing with Purpose" is a very specialised program to build the capacity of students to read and write effectively within a differentiated classroom environment. Evidence presented across this element shows that there are explicit systems of collaboration and feedback with an aim of sustaining quality teaching practices and to ensure the ongoing development of all teaching and executive staff. Finally, while we have made some gains in the area of professional standards, we believe that this will be an area of focus moving into our next school plan with particular emphasis on supporting teachers to pursue higher accreditation.

Leading

The results of this validation process indicated that in the SEF domain of Leading, Georges River College Oatley Senior Campus is **Sustaining and Growing**. The school culture of high expectations is a collective responsibility of all staff and driven by the leadership team. Leadership development is a core focus as we build leadership capacity by identifying strengths of staff to drive the school plan. Staff have a sense of ownership of the school plan as all are part of “strategic teams” aligned to the 3 Strategic Directions to make the school vision a reality. These are dynamic and collaborative teams, which provide opportunities for teaching staff to build leadership articulating the purpose of each strategic direction and aspiring to drive school improvement. Evidence will show that the school has used considerable resources to enrich its environment, facilities and curriculum in order to provide for the needs of students and teachers. In particular, our Student Wellbeing programs show the development of leadership skills (in particular resilience, goal setting, personal responsibility, self-reflection and self-awareness) in students who are led by teacher mentors who guide rather than direct. In addition, this process has allowed us to identify that community engagement could be further developed with more opportunities for parents and other organisations to provide feedback on school processes and procedures.

Australian school students are amongst the best educated in the world, have more positive attitudes to school and better relationships with teachers than most western countries. This does not just happen. It reflects the work and skills of teachers. As a community, we need to acknowledge how much our young people benefit from the skills and knowledge, care and understanding and sustained commitment of teachers. World Teachers’ Day reminds us of the importance of all teachers who have touched our lives in some way. We should all take a moment to say thank you.

Anna Girginis
Principal

Higher School Certificate students and exams

Now that the HSC exams are finished, the school hopes all students enjoy a well-earned break. Sitting the HSC is about resilience and facing challenges. It’s an important part of life, allowing us to grow and toughen. I received extremely positive feedback from the HSC Examination Presiding Officer about the behaviour of our students during the examinations – Congratulations Year 12!

Students will need to ensure that all the issued textbooks and resources are returned to the correct faculty in the manner arranged. This is required as part of the sign-out process. We look forward to seeing all of Year 12 again at the end-of-year BBQ on Friday 15th December 2017, to share their joys, achievements and aspirations for the future.

World Teachers’ Day – Friday October 27

World Teachers’ Day celebrates the contribution of teachers to the development of our young people and the success of our nation. I want to acknowledge the teaching staff at GRC Oatley who work very hard, are loyal and dedicated to their cause - excellent education for students - and are a pleasure to work with. We are always in the business of reflecting on improvement. While I would never suggest for one moment that we know all the answers and that there is not more to do, with one hundred teaching and administrative staff, I cannot think of a better collective to deliver terrific things for your children. I am very proud of the staff at this school.