Welcome, and Welcome Back
With the introduction of two Year Levels at once and the addition of 12 new Teaching Staff you would expect that potentially there may have been some ‘hiccups’ for the start of our school year. Well this certainly has not been the case. It is my belief that this opportunity has empowered us as a school to significantly influence the culture and norms that exist within our school. The start of this year has been smooth, welcoming, engaging and purposeful.

Our intent has been clear and has been communicated collectively and consistently across every classroom. Our focus on ensuring that we have positive learning environments in every classroom across our school has been relentless. We have, as a school, agreed on what the expectations are, and these have been built on the foundation of our school’s values of Respect, Learning and Achievement. We have once again raised the bar through our expectations which are being met by our students and this ultimately will translate into students having the maximum potential to achieve academic excellence.

Leadership Investiture
I have apologised to our cohort of Year 12 students for not being able to be at the Investiture Ceremony. However from all reports the ceremony was fitting in recognising those students who make up our seniors and also those who hold positions of responsibility within the school. The new jackets for our Senior Leaders look fantastic and actually fit!

Our guest speaker this year was Sam Bailey who has visited our school once before. However, the messages he shares for all of us were powerful and thought provoking for a whole different group of students. I would like to pass on our thanks from our school community for his address and we hope that our students reflect on his advice and guidance and use it to influence the way that they choose to lead within our school community.

Our Year 12 students pledged their commitment to uphold our school’s vision and values during this ceremony and we wish them all the best in their final year of formal schooling.

Reporting Changes - 2nd Year of Operation
As part of our improvements in relation to Parental and Community Engagement, reporting procedures in our school have been reviewed to develop greater consistency amongst staff, more meaningful understanding of achievement to parents and provide structured and timely feedback to students. This overview will ensure we all understand ‘what’ it is we are reporting and ‘when’ this is to occur.

Some of the key changes could be summarised as:
- Term by Term – Formal reporting of Performance (Effort and Behaviour).
- Semester by Semester – Academic reporting for each KLA.
- The inclusion of embedded ‘Distribution of Achievement’ graph (where a child sits in relation to others’ academic achievements in the cohort).
- Removal of ‘Comments’ for all year levels for all reporting.
- ‘Online’ scheduling for Parent/Teacher Interviews in Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary – SETPlans (Senior Education and Training Plans).

The intention of these reporting changes is to improve the consistency and quality of information given to parents and students, and to provide meaningful feedback to parents and students, which ultimately supports the opportunity for the improvement of students’ academic achievement.

Mid-Term Feedback for Students
Currently mid-term feedback conversations on students’ performances are occurring for each individual student in every class across the school. This will provide feedback to inform students in relation to what they need to do to improve in relation to Effort, Behaviour and Academic improvement. Students who have not meet a ‘Satisfactory’ standard for Effort and/or Behaviour will be contacted by their respective teachers to inform them, and to develop a shared understanding of the issues which need to be addressed for improvement to occur.

Looking forward to continuing success and opportunities for all.

Brett Hallett
Principal
Leading GSHS into 2015

Our Year 12s have begun their final year of schooling in outstanding fashion. Rising to the challenge presented to them at the beginning of Term, they have embraced our non-negotiable conditions of learning and assisted our Staff in implementing them through consistent modelling for our younger students.

Leading our wonderful 2015 cohort are our School Captains, Adam Billsborough and Madelyn Jones. Both have led their first whole school Formal Parades, speaking remarkably well. Supporting them are the Directors and Sports Captains: Pride Director - Nicole Edmonds, Social Director - Bethany Brennan, Finance Director - Amy Gore, Cultural Director- Lachlan Smith and our Sport Captains - Zoe Leahy and Sam McNaughton.

Between them they have a full year ahead of organising Socials, sports days, Expressive Arts Week, the school magazine, ‘Ukurrie’, fundraising events and much more. Supporting them with these activities are our six House Captains, Ryan Johns-Dohnt, Sophie Burdett, Claire Magann, Ally Rowe, Elle Leahy and Brooke Fisher.

Our entire cohort has an extremely busy year of hard work and fun ahead of them and we wish them every success in their final year at GSHS.

Steve Leadbetter
Year Level Coordinator

From the Deputy Principal

Motivational Media visited students in Week 2 this Term and once again provided a thought provoking presentation. This year’s theme was all about putting the jigsaw pieces of life together and how without all of the pieces and a solid foundation, the puzzle would not be complete. Through the powerful video presentation and personal stories used throughout, students were reminded about the importance of making good choices and leaning on those around them for support.

It has been a busy start to the year for our senior students and for me as I get to know the students and parents of our Senior Years.

Last week, the School Investiture Ceremony took place. It was a chance for us to present our School Leaders and Senior students to the wider community. We were treated to a special guest speaker, Sam Bailey, who reminded students that when hard times come knocking it is not their iPod, iPhone, iPad or computer that come and help but their family and friends - an important message to remember. He also shared with us 4 key messages about the lessons he has learnt in life - lessons I am sure will stay with the students.

Senior students have also been listening to a range of guest speakers from a variety of different industries to explore the pathways available to them upon completion of school. These sessions have included a visit from the Defence Force, the Police Force and local businessman, David Eglington.

Attendance remains a focus for us across the whole school and there is some work to be done in our senior years - with our Years 10-12 average just 87% for the Term so far; a long way from our 95% target. A reminder to all students of the importance of attending every day. Just one day a week can have a massive impact, especially during the senior years.

Racheal Redpath
Acting Deputy Principal

Meet the Teachers

We would like to welcome our new teachers for 2015, who have definitely stepped up to the challenge. Pearl Salmon, Meghann Wear, Adam Salmon, Scott Schultz, Drew Fox, Vanessa King, Serena Rider, Nathan Dougherty, Chelsea Dartnell, Jordan Ryan and Sarah Dunne have all joined our teaching staff. Also joining the GSHS team are school-based nurse, Tess Herbert, and our new Acting Deputy Principal, Racheal Redpath.

All new staff members have settled in well to both the community and school and have embraced the busy start to the new year.

Many parents and students took the opportunity to meet the new teachers as well as the returning teachers at our informal Meet the Teachers Evening on Wednesday 11 February which was held in the Administration gardens.

Once again this evening was hosted by the P & C and catering was provided by our school tuckshop, Café@High.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who attended this event and we ask that you contact us sooner rather than later if there are any concerns or issues you or your child are experiencing.
QCE Interviews — Ensuring Success

Year 12 students and their parents have again had the opportunity to have Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and Performance Monitoring interviews. These interviews are put in place to ensure students and their parents understand where the student is currently at and what needs to be done to ensure the best possible outcomes are met during the year.

Students, along with their parents, have had an individual interview with staff to ensure students are opening as many doors as possible during this last year of their secondary education. As a result of the interviews, students are making decisions to broaden their possibilities by: changing subjects (to allow more options to achieve better results), enrolling in a University Course during Year 12 (to open up more doors when leaving school), talking to a particular teacher (to see what can be done to improve their results), etc.

These interviews occur three times throughout Years 11 and 12. Year 11 students meet in July and Year 12 students meet in February and July. This allows us to ensure that each and every student has the greatest possibility of success.

Thank you to parents for making the time to ensure your child makes the most of their final year of secondary education.

Catherine Kerlin, HOD Senior Schooling

Laura Geitz Netball

On Sunday 22 February, 9 girls and their parents drove in the early hours of the morning to get to Toowoomba for the annual Laura Geitz Netball Carnival. These nine girls played in 7 games over the course of the day, against opponents from across the Darling Downs region.

After being sorted into an extremely competitive pool, the girls had to come out firing and ended up fighting back from behind to tie their first game against Lockyer. Throughout the day, the girls put in a massive effort and after smashing Dalby in their Final, they brought home 9th overall.

All girls on the team should be commended on their performance, team work and school spirit. Well done to Laura Jobling, Laura Mulligan, Chelsea Coote, Naomi Smith, Hayley Vaughan, Jess White, Matilda Pickard, Maddie Gorrie and Imogen Clarence. The girls also had the opportunity to meet Laura Geitz who is from the Darling Downs region and began her netball career in a competition similar to this one.

Thank you to Bianca and Bronte Fisher who came down as our main cheerleader and umpire respectively. Bronte was watched throughout the day on her umpiring and was given excellent feedback on her performance. Thank you for your input and support Bronte and Bianca! Lastly, thank you to the parents who came along to support the girls. Your continued support of GSHS Netball is greatly appreciated.

Beth Madsen & Alison Moore
Netball Coaches/ Trainers

School-Based Nurse

Tess Herbert is our new school-based nurse for 2015.

School-based nurses are a great resource for students, parents and teachers, providing confidential advice and support where needed. School Nurses are also often called upon to assist teachers in classroom delivery of health-related curriculum.

School-based nurses work cooperatively with students, teachers and parents to promote positive health and wellbeing within the school environment.

Feel free to visit Tess in A Block at any time about any health-related issue, such as family, friendship or relationship issues, sexual health, puberty, healthy eating, body image, alcohol/drugs, safe partying, cyber-safety, bullying, stress, etc.

Year 7s Make the Move

After countless hours of consultation, discussions, meetings, professional development sessions, decision making and planning, the moment is finally here. In 2015, Year 7 students have joined the high school context.

I can recall lots of discussions with concerned parents about how their children would, or possibly could fare well in a school with 18-year-olds, fear of losing the pastoral care so expertly delivered in a primary setting and having multiple teachers who may not learn their child’s name until Week 6. Reflecting on how the first 4 weeks have gone, I can honestly say that I couldn’t be prouder of how Goondiwindi State High School has delivered, developed and implemented a junior secondary model that takes the best aspects from primary and secondary settings and delivers this to our students.

The feedback from parents, staff and most importantly, our students, has been overwhelmingly glowing. This is put down to three main factors: the deliberate decision making and planning prior to 2015; the hard work, dedication and remarkable capacity of our Year 7 teachers; and the way in which our Year 7 students have taken to (and led) the charge in upholding our conditions of learning, our values in action.

Next week our year 7 students head to Emu Gully, Helidon for a two day Leadership Camp. The camp encompasses an ANZAC theme and teaches leadership, responsibility and problem solving through a range of “out of your comfort zone” activities. I am looking forward to travelling down to see the students in action.

Phil Jenkins
Acting Deputy Principal

‘Like’ us on facebook

Recognising that many of our students and parents are frequent users of Facebook, we are trialing a GSHS Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, you can like our page. This has been created to keep parents aware of whole school happenings and other significant events. Whilst there are other communication methods used within our school such as the newsletter and SMS messages, the Facebook page is designed to “fill the gap” and is a great way to get messages through quickly.
Records in the Pool

Goondiwindi SHS turned it on with another exceptional Swimming Carnival. Colour was the order of the day and participation and involvement came in many forms. There were records broken, dancing and plenty of great sportsmanship. While everyone got in and had a go, it was the champion Cook House who once again took out the trophy. Cunningham followed, with Mitchell closely behind.

The Carnival was well attended with all students enjoying a fantastic sunny day. Big congratulations go to our record breakers. Many records were broken on the day, including some that have stood for over 30 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Age Champion: Braeden Hill</td>
<td>Runners Up: Braeden Schwerin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place: Declan Pickard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Age Champion: Elizabeth Brown</td>
<td>Runners Up: Laura Jobling, Deacon Hilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place: Emma Summersby, Connor Clement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>Age Champion: Emma McNaughton</td>
<td>Runners Up: Felicity Ash, Zac Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place: Imogen Clarence, David Armstrong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place: Bronte Fisher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Age Champion: Maygen Ross, Toby Jessen</td>
<td>Runners Up: Macy Prior, Caleb Linton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place: Carla Doyle, Bailey Soper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>Age Champion: Zoe Leahy, Nick Brown</td>
<td>Runners Up: Lane McNaughton, Angus Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Place: Elle Leahy, Adam Billsborough</td>
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We would especially like to congratulate the two outstanding swimmers of the day. These awards go to the male and female who have earned the most points for their House. This year finished with a brother and sister team.

- **Female Champion:** Elizabeth Brown
- **Male Champion:** Nick Brown

Congratulations to all participants and supporters, and a big thankyou to all of the staff and students who helped out on the day. Well done Gundy State High - another outstanding effort and example of what a fantastic school community we are part of.

*Beth Madsen*
*Sports Coordinator*

Great Sports

This Term has seen an extremely busy start to the sporting year with trials for Border District and Darling Downs Teams well under way. In usual GSHS sporting style we have had a total of 82 students attend the Summer trials, competing in a variety of sports including touch football, tennis, netball, rugby league, soccer, squash, volleyball and basketball.

All our under 18s made it through the Border District touch trials to attend the Darling Downs trials. Many students were also selected from other sports to represent Border District at the Darling Downs Trials.

Congratulations to our sporting students who once again have represented themselves and our school community with great pride!
Mel, our Primary School Chaplain and I attended a prayer retreat during the student-free days at the beginning of Term.

Before Christmas I assisted Ray White Real Estate distribute Christmas gifts for children who may otherwise have no experience of the joy of giving and receiving at Christmas time. Chaplaincy also contributed financially to this as there were less gifts purchased and donated for the older aged children. Thankyou to all community members who contributed gifts.

On the holidays I attended some activities including kayaking at the Botanical Gardens and riding the rapids at Lees Reserve. These were run by Care Goondiwindi, the PCYC and Drug Arm.

Since starting back I have introduced a number of new activities to assist students with joining in and getting to know the school. I have also continued the gym sessions three mornings a week before school, as well as breakfast two mornings at Goondiwindi and one morning at Inglewood. At the school swimming carnivals I provided lollies to the Gundy participants and watermelon for all at Inglewood.

The PCYC lunchtime activities have started strongly at Goondiwindi. We have had to timetable the Year Levels as there were so many keen participants. We have also had a game of Ultimate Frisbee on the oval which all players enjoyed.

Our first day back at school was our Meals on Wheels day. I took my regular students and we completed the run in no time as it is now familiar.

To welcome all our teachers back I provided lolly boxes with a little note coinciding with the various lollies. Each week a different Staffroom is given the M&M dispenser to enjoy the contents throughout the week. As another way to show staff appreciation, at Friday morning tea a name is drawn for a $5 voucher at Laurenz. Massive thanks to Lauren Smith for providing these vouchers for the year.

Lastly I would like to thank the continuing breakfast volunteers and my new homework helper, Karen Stewart who is a parent at Gundy High. We have had one homework session after school so far. Sarah Ellis at the PCYC and Dani Kelly, one of our teachers, have offered to help also. Hopefully it will build up as the year progresses.

Sonia Frost
High School Chaplain
The cast and crew of Goondiwindi High School’s production of Thoroughly Modern Millie have been rehearsing keenly to bring to you a performance you will never forget. The show is on over two nights, Thursday 7 and Friday 8 May. With show-stopping song and dance numbers and hilarious comedy, Thoroughly Modern Millie is a show you won’t want to miss.

Taking place in New York City in 1922, Thoroughly Modern Millie tells the story of young Millie Dillmount, who has just moved to the city in search of a new life for herself. It’s a New York full of intrigue and jazz - a time when women are entering the workforce and the rules of love and social behaviour are changing forever.

Tickets are on sale now from the school office so get your friends and family together to support the talented cast, crew and band of Thoroughly Modern Millie. Ticket prices will be $10 for a high school student, $15 for an adult, $5 for primary school student, and pre-schoolers with no seat will be free. A family ticket, which covers 2 adults and 2 primary-aged students, will be available for $35.