

Guildford Grammar School

2008

annual report





Headmaster's Report

The 2008 school year has seen significant progress being made by the students and staff at Guildford Grammar School, in combination with a number of personal and corporate achievements and developments, some of which will be highlighted in this report.

In terms of developments, the completion of both the One Campus and Boarding Renaissance Projects, and the commencement of the innovative Catalyst Project have dominated our attention over this period. All major components of the One Campus Project have now been completed, with students, families and visitors to the School all benefiting substantially from the upgraded sporting and function facilities, and the considerably safer traffic flow system. The Foundation Pavilion was formally opened on February 5 by the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Roger Herft, in a joint celebration with the annual P&F Sundowner, an event which traditionally marks the commencement of our new school year.

The Catalyst initiative is utilising the planned transition of the Year 7 cohort into the Senior School in 2010 to introduce a restructuring of the entire curriculum for Years 7 to 9 students. Excellent leadership and direction has been given to this program by Mr Clayton Massey who in turn has been rewarded in his work by a Senior School academic staff who have been willing to integrate the various ideas that have been presented in an overwhelmingly constructive and supportive manner. I must also acknowledge the creative contribution that the eight Heads of Faculty and their staff have made to the ideas embodied in the Catalyst Project. A great deal more work will occur in this area over the course of 2009 in preparation for the implementation of Catalyst in 2010.

Enrolments this year have continued the sustained upward trend of the past five years to over 1050 students. The School now has 575 boys enrolled in the Senior School, and 479 boys and girls in the Preparatory School.

The next planned capital expenditure program will be associated with the Catalyst Project and will involve a significant upgrade of academic facilities in the Senior School. The School's investment in information communications technology continues to be substantial in order to maintain leading edge technology and increase student accessibility. The 2008 budget incorporated a 10% ICT increase over that provided in 2007.

Over the course of this year Senior and Preparatory students have continued to achieve success in various academic competitions. Guildford students entered all major national competitions in Mathematics, Science, languages and Geography, enjoying a very high level of success. This year has also seen strong participation from Guildford Grammar School students in a range of intellectually challenging activities and problem-solving competitions. These include Tournament of the Mind, Mock Trial and the F1 Technology and Design Competition.

Over 50 clubs and activities are available to encourage student participation in stimulating co-curricular activities which cover a wide range of interests. In addition, some 14 camps and tours were conducted in the Senior School this year. A sequential outdoor education program extends from Year 2 to Year 10, leading to a major expedition being undertaken in Year 10. International cultural, community service and sporting tours and exchanges have included trips to China, Malaysia, Brunei, France, Germany, Turkey, the USA and Nepal.

The School cadet program, although no longer compulsory, has attracted a record number of participants this year. 2008 was an important year for the Unit as it celebrated its first 100 years.

The beginning of the year saw the Music Department relocated to the heritage-listed Old School House, now referred to as the School of Music. Music classrooms have been equipped with state of the art resources and spacious practice rooms have been provided. The music information technology infrastructure has also been dramatically improved, with state of the art composing software installed on

computer equipment. The appointment of new music staff in the Preparatory School in 2008 has revitalised interest in the junior music program. All students in Years 3-7 receive two classes of music instruction each week, with all Year 5 students participating in the strings program, and all Year 6 and 7 students learning a band instrument. The Preparatory School has also installed a purpose-built, 24-station keyboard laboratory, a facility now used as an integral component of the music curriculum.

The Headmaster's Fund for Excellence continued to support the Artist-in-Residence program this year, giving art students the exciting experience of working alongside a range of professional practising artists for periods of up to three months at a time. Noted Australian painter Jo Darbyshire and sculptor, Pierre Capponi were able to bring a very real dimension to these students studies and personal creative experiences.

I wish to conclude by acknowledging the dedicated work of the School's academic and non-academic staff. Their level of professionalism and commitment to our wonderful school is as good as I have experienced during the period of my Headship of two independent schools.

2008 has once more been a year of optimism, significant progress and exponential growth here at Guildford Grammar School. I trust that next year will deliver more of the same.

Robert Zordan
Headmaster





Key student outcomes

Preparatory School – NAPLAN Results		
Year	% at or above National Benchmark	
Year 3		
	Numeracy	100%
	Reading	90%
	Spelling	91%
	Writing	98%
	Grammar & Punctuation	93%
Year 5		
	Numeracy	98%
	Reading	94%
	Spelling	96%
	Writing	97%
	Grammar & Punctuation	96%
Year 7		
	Numeracy	98%
	Reading	99%
	Spelling	99%
	Writing	91%
	Grammar & Punctuation	95%

Preparatory School – 2008 Literacy & Numeracy Results				
Year Group	Total Students	% Above Spelling Age	% Increase in Spelling Age	% Increase in Maths Stanine
Year 7	90	88	93	81
Year 6	52	72	84	88
Year 5	66	68	95	84
Year 4	48	60	93	93
Year 3	44	72	95	59
Year 2	46	74	100	78
Year 1	43	37	NA	NA

Years 1, 2 & 3 are the formative years where testing is regular and from which accurate records begin.

Although **Above Spelling Age %** is very important; the column which best reflects a value added is the **Increase in Spelling Age %**. Although some students may not be at their chronological age in spelling, they may have made significant progress by increasing their spelling age during the year.

Increase in Maths Stanine is determined by testing the students at the beginning of the year and again at the conclusion of the year.

Preparatory School – Enrichment			
Year	Students receiving Enrichment	% Increase in Reading Accuracy	% Increase in Reading Comprehension
Year 2	46	85%	84%
Year 3	44	93%	93%
Year 4	10	80%	90%
Year 5	12	82%	89%
Year 6	4	100%	100%
Year 7	9	80%	90%

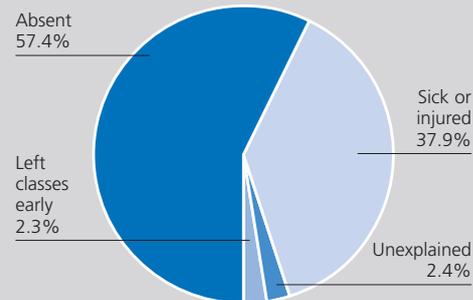
This chart shows the percentage of students identified as needing assistance who have improved their **Reading Accuracy** and **Reading Comprehension** during the year.

Senior student attendance

95.2%

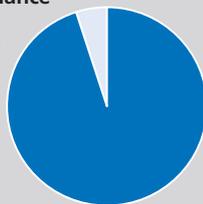


Analysis of senior student absences

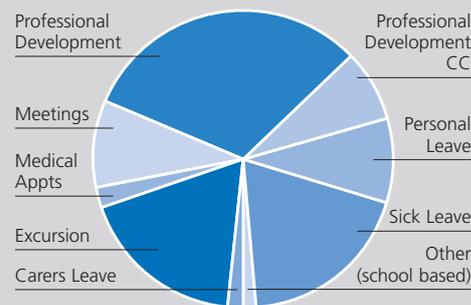


Preparatory school attendance

94.6%



Analysis of staff absences



School Performance Indicators

Staff

Staff retention

In the Preparatory School 94% of the teaching staff of 2008 continued into 2009. In the Senior School there was a 93% retention rate. Of the four Senior School staff departing at the close of 2008, one went to a promotional position at another school; one went into retirement, one left teaching and one transferred to another school.

Staff qualifications

Diploma of Teaching	Bachelor Degree	BA Hons	MA	PhD
<i>Senior School Staff:</i>				
-	41	10	11	1
<i>Preparatory School Staff:</i>				
9	23	-	3	1

Teacher participation in Professional Development

Every teacher at Guildford Grammar School is involved in professional learning throughout the year. Some of it occurs within the school, but a significant amount is delivered at external venues. Some of the PL is delivered to large groups such as the whole of the Preparatory School or the whole of the Senior School; other PL is delivered to subsets, such as a particular Faculty or the teachers involved with a particular year group; while other PL is delivered to individuals. The Professional Learning must align with the School Goals and the Strategic Plan, and covers areas of specific expertise, adoption of innovation, enhanced teaching techniques, and improved response to student needs.

The Council at Guildford Grammar School has always been proactive in budgeting for professional learning for all of its staff, not only the teachers, and while a considerable amount of PL is provided at no cost, in 2008 \$58,674 was spent on PL directly for teachers working in the classroom.



Senior secondary outcomes

In 2008 Guildford Grammar School had 99 Year 12 students, of whom 68 applied to TISC universities, while several entered universities in the Eastern States and overseas. One student received a General Exhibition. 7 students enrolled in full-time TAFE courses, while the remainder directly entered the workforce.

Proportion of Year 9 students retained to Year 12

95% of the Year 9 cohort of 2005 remained with the School until the conclusion of Year 12 in 2008. Of the students who left, the reasons for departure were either financial, enrolment in TAFE or relocation to other parts of Australia.

Post-school destinations

The School only receives formal reporting on post-school destinations from the TISC universities, from the University of Notre Dame, and for full-time February enrolments in TAFE. We make every effort to acquire data about other student destinations from the students themselves and their families. As far as can be determined the 2008 Year 12 student destinations were:

- University 74%
- Full-time TAFE 7%
- Part-time TAFE 8%
- Workforce 9%
- Unknown 2%



Parent satisfaction survey

Parents' level of satisfaction with educational programs, co-curricular programs and pastoral care and underpinning values was as follows:

Educational Programs

- Very Satisfied 65%
- Satisfied 25%
- Not Satisfied 9%
- No Response 1%

Co-curricular Programs

- Very Satisfied 68%
- Satisfied 28%
- Not Satisfied 3%
- No response 1%

Pastoral Care and Underpinning Values

- Very Satisfied 62%
- Satisfied 30%
- Not Satisfied 6%
- No response 2%

Student satisfaction survey

What do you like about your school?

Top responses:

- The school spirit.
- All the co-curricular activities offered.
- All the support we receive from Staff.
- The small classes enabling one-on-one learning.

What don't you like about your school?

Top responses:

- The toilet facilities.
- The long Tuck Shop line.
- Lack of activities with girls' schools.

Staff satisfaction survey

What are Guildford Grammar School's special and distinguishing characteristics?

Top responses:

- Our traditions.
- The strong community spirit within the school.
- The Chapel.
- Pastoral care.

What new initiatives should be introduced?

Top responses:

- a) Anti bullying program in the Prep School.
- b) Redevelopment of the Senior School campus.
- c) A new early learning centre in the Prep school.



Guildford Grammar School

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