Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

Our Mother - Daughter High Tea which we celebrated last Friday is one of the highlights of our social calendar. As can be seen from the photographs on the following pages this was a very happy occasion with the Sophia Centre filled to capacity, beautifully decorated, with an abundance of food provided by very generous parents. Our Dad’s Army were stunning in pink and very attentive as table waiters. It was a lot of fun and a great fund raiser for our new Art Centre.

The event is linked to International Women’s Day with the theme for this year being Make It Happen. How appropriate it was that our students were the “stars of the show”, with the String Ensemble, our College Captains and a recent past student, Genevieve De Michele as the guest speaker. Gen is now a Civil Engineer currently working on the Legacy Way project in Brisbane. She has confidently made her way in a field not always chosen by women and clearly she is passionate about her work and the genuine career path for women that is opening. We loved listening to her story and her words of advice to our younger students. Recalling her days as an MSM girl, Gen commented that she loved her time in the College and she said yes to every opportunity that came her way. Indeed with her choices “she made it happen.”

Elizabeth Baldwin, Dux of the College in 2014 and recently announced as the Outstanding Academic Achiever in Queensland, is another of our students who has “made it happen.” We are thrilled for Elizabeth who we know as a very humble, talented and hardworking student; we are thrilled for her family and of course we are delighted for the acknowledgement of our fine learning community at Mt St Michael’s.

The news release from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) describing the Awards Ceremony, with a lovely natural photo of Elizabeth, is attached at the end of this article. At our staff Monday morning prayer and gathering following the weekend announcement, I commented that particularly in this reflective period of Lent, I am struggling with balancing humility with pride. Yes we are proud and we are rejoicing. The College Staff will celebrate Elizabeth’s success today with a special morning tea.
We are also delighted with the performance of the MSM Swimming Team yesterday, giving their best, being the Runners Up in both the Aggregate and Percentage Trophies. The Year 12s, 17 years Age Group, truly led from the front; however, it was a consistent team effort with strong results in every Age level. Congratulations to all our swimmers, our coaches and supporters and to Calypso Sheridan-McDonnell, who in our unglazed eyes was the “swimmer of the carnival.”

As we move into the final weeks of the term our focus is very much on learning and assessment. Last Monday as I was taking a family for a tour around the College, I was so pleased and almost taken by surprise, at the large numbers of students and staff working in the library and in other classrooms with afternoon tutorials and study. Thank you to our most generous and committed staff for providing this additional tuition on many afternoons and mornings. Well done to all students who are taking up the advice of our recent high achieving graduates, who when speaking at our Opening Assemblies encourage students to make the most of this rich opportunity to take their learning to new levels.

Sincerely,
Alison Terrey

QCE Achievement Award winners announced

Elizabeth Baldwin with her Outstanding Academic Achiever Award trophy

The inaugural Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) Achievement Awards ceremony on Saturday 28 February was a tremendous success. The presence of the Minister for Education, the Honourable Kate Jones MP, added to the sense of occasion on what was already a special day for the students receiving awards, their families and representatives from schools.

Thirty-three Year 12 graduates from the class of 2014 received prizes in six categories. These graduates achieved to an exceptionally high level on a statewide basis and against a range of measures. Their achievements highlight the impressive breadth and depth of learning occurring under the QCE.

Elizabeth Baldwin of Mt St Michael’s College was the overall Outstanding Academic Achiever, receiving a certificate, trophy, and cheque for $1000. All the award winners are listed on the QCAA website where you can also view images of the event and a short video in which some of the graduates reflect on their experience of senior schooling.