

Welcome to Teachers Talking e-newsletter

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TEACHERS TALKING

FORWARD
FROM
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Hello Friend,

During Terms 2, 3 Teachers Talking will focus on teaching for discipleship. As teachers, we are aware that discipleship as 'long obedience in the same direction' is against the flow of modern culture and infinitely harder for our young people, but as Os Guinness says "Discipleship for the advanced modern world is a priority for our time." How do we provide an education where students are raised up to be responsive disciples of Jesus?

A Gospel-shaped education is like a diamond. Diamonds get their brilliance from three things: **Reflection**, **Refraction** and **Dispersion**.

Reflection is that light that bounces off immediately giving the diamond an instantaneous shine. Only a portion of the light hitting a diamond is reflected; the rest travels through it. As the light moves through it, it is scattered and

fractured, creating the 'sparkling diamond'. This is **refraction**. As the light is angled around the inside of the diamond from before passing back towards the top and out through the surface. This rainbow effect, **dispersion**, adds to the shine.

As we know Christ more deeply and are led by His Spirit, His Word enables our imaginations to be liberated to plan and practise education in ways which are distinctive and contrasted to schools grounded in an alternate vision of the good life. Our Schools are to be bearers of the Light.

We trust these Term 2 talks will encourage you as teachers to embrace your significant part in the journey of inspiring students to embrace the path of discipleship.

Matthew 28:19, 20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you to the end of the Age."*

Grace and Peace,

The Team





Number 3

TO BE LIKE THEIR TEACHERS

As love is at the heart of discipleship, love must define the lives of their teachers.

In the Ancient world, disciples were expected to serve their master. Jesus gave radical new meaning to being a serving community. He “*came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:45). He taught that true greatness was found in servanthood (John 13:12) Servanthood is love in practice.

This theological understanding will cause us to think differently from the current secular concepts of teaching where the competency of the teacher is most valued. From our own personal experience, most of us can remember a teacher whose passion for their subject and desire for us to love it lit a fire in our hearts to learn well.

Jesus said when a student is fully trained he will be like his teacher (Luke 6:40). Therefore “*teachers are those who offer their lives to the students as worthy of imitation*”. (R Thompson) Knowledge and skills are then imparted from lives of character and virtue.

Christian staff relating and working together are to embody and give visible expression to the image of Christ to all students. Someone once said the quality of a school never rises above the staff common room. The love and forgiveness expressed by the staff for one another will attest to the reality of God’s presence in the life of the school.

What do your students see?

1. Do you and your colleagues have a shared vision and a shared practice in relation to your educational task?
2. How can you personally contribute to a more collaborative and co-operative team in your area of the school?

3. How do you use your gifts and creativity to build the capacity of your team members?
4. In what practical ways can you serve both your teaching and non-teaching colleagues?

Our children and young people need to see what faithful lives look like and encounter their teachers as people who love them, enacting a larger story of God's grace and truth.

A Prayer to pray for one another:

Lord, help us to love you. Thank you that your Holy Spirit bears the fruit of love in our lives as we walk with you. May we love you with all our hearts, our souls and our strength – with everything that we are and have. May our love for you be over the top! And may we love each other in like measure. Also today we think of our students, particularly those who challenge and disturb. May we love them with your love. And may you draw them into a deep knowledge of yourself today. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

(from *God is one God*– R Thompson)

Grace and Peace

The Team

The Excellence Centre



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