

Parents Association 2018 AGM (21 March 2018)

Headmaster Report

The past twelve months have seen the efforts and achievements of the boys and staff across the full breadth of experience and opportunity that exists at Hutchins rewarded with

Academically, boys have excelled across all learning areas.

The graduating class of 2017 achieved the highest results as a cohort since the introduction of ATARs in 2006 with 7 boys achieving an ATAR above 99 and the highest median ATAR in the past 12 years. The exceptional results are testament to the boys' efforts and discipline to academic studies throughout the year. For some boys, their commitment to academic study placed them amongst the very highest achieving students in Tasmania, while for many others, their hard work culminated in achievements beyond their own expectations.

Boys from Hutchins were listed 37 times for achieving the highest possible score allocated to a pre-tertiary subject. Equally outstanding results were achieved in the Vocational Education and Training courses with all eleven boys who completed a VET qualification moving into an apprenticeship. Overall, The Hutchins School had the highest percentage of students awarded the Tasmanian Certificate of Education from all schools in the State.

In academic competitions, The Hutchins School won the State title in the Year 8 and Year 10 DaVinci Decathlons before representing Tasmania in the National event in Sydney. In what was an outstanding year of achievement in Science, a team of Year 10 boys won the Silver medal in the Junior Young Physicists Tournament in Brisbane while another group of boys attended the International Student Science Conference in Hong Kong. Just last week, a three-man Year 10 Hutchins team placed second in Australia in the International Young Physicists Tournament, with all three boys placing in the top seven individual scores. The outstanding individual results at this national competition one boy selected in the five-member Australian team and a second boy nominated as a reserve for the National team that will compete in Beijing in 2018. Closer to home, Hutchins boys placed first in a number of categories at the University of Tasmania Science Investigations Awards. In business studies, Year 9 students won the state ASX schools' share market competition, the second consecutive year Hutchins has won the state title, and boys in Year 10 won the group division of the CPA Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition from 170 entrants from Years 10 to 12. Hutchins boys also won the State Philosothon competition and the Australian Space Design competition with boys now travelling to Florida, USA in July to represent Australia. Equally impressive results were achieved in English, Mathematics, Geography, Chinese Speaking and Business Studies where significant numbers of boys across the Junior, Middle and Senior School placed in the top 1% in Australia for their respective competitions.

Outside the classroom we enjoyed the return of a Middle School musical, *Bats*, a sell out over three nights, the very successful dramatic productions of *Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* and *Stalig 17*, the outstanding *Dance@Hutchins* showcase involved over 80 boys from the Early Learning Centre through to the Senior School, and a busy arts calendar that featured *Jazz at Hutchins*, *Scott-Power Recital* and a *Music Showcase* concert to name just a few. Who could forget the magical evening of art, performances, and installations that was *The Magenta and Blacker Art Showcase*.

The boys' drive and commitment led them to lift the State title in swimming, hockey, athletics, orienteering, cross country, Tasmanian Schools Match Racing Championships in sailing and this year won

the junior, senior and overall aggregate trophies at the SATIS Head of the River rowing regatta. In Dance, boys won the DanceLife Unite' regionals in Hobart, placed first from 26 schools in the Musical Theatre section of the Brisbane Arts Eisteddfod and placed in the Hip Hop section and the Jazz section from a highly competitive 47 schools.

The individual achievements of boys have been astonishing from Sheng-Yuan Lynch being awarded Distinction in the Licentiate Diploma examination on piano as a 12 year old, this being the highest grade possible at the highest examination level available in the Australian Music Examination Board. Tim Lindsay was awarded the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award and Henry West (2011 leaver) became the 24th Hutchins Old Boy to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

A new initiative in 2017 was the introduction of a Year 2/12 program that featured Year 12 boys reading and playing games with the Year 2 boys throughout the year. Boys across the school supporting younger boys through whole school House activities, community service initiatives that include support for Albi House, Leukaemia Foundation, Cancer Council, Anglicare, Bravehearts, and boys sponsor two children in Uganda while staff contribute to a fund to pay the wages of a teacher in Cambodia.

We have commenced 2018 with a series of initiatives including:

- The development of a comprehensive whole school teaching and learning framework that will include the explicit teaching of higher-order thinking skills and the development of qualities in the boys.
- The commencement of a Rite of Passage program for boys. This program is aimed at expanding the scope and strengthening the development of character in young men that currently features prominently in the Power of 9 program. In 2018, the first phase of the expansion will focus on initiatives tailored to boys in the Middle School that will include strengthening the parent-school partnership.
- We have reviewed all community service initiatives with an aim to move service beyond fundraising to student engagement and service learning. This review is a key element in the expansion of character development in boys and will frame wellbeing initiatives within a context of giving – valuing others and their wellbeing and responding accordingly.
- The creation of home room teachers and greater cooperative learning experiences that reflect an authentic middle school pedagogy have been introduced in 2018 that enhances student motivation, belonging, and encourages each boy to discover his aptitudes and interests. The restructure of the Middle School will culminate in Year 6 boys becoming the first year of Middle School in the years to come.
- 17 classrooms were refurbished across the school over the Summer break including a major refurbishment of Science laboratories in the Senior School
- Continuous online feedback to replace write comments on Year 6 – 12 reports.

I thank the Parents Association for the past year for the support of student led initiatives across the whole school while also funding an electronic scoreboard for the War Memorial Oval as well as important community events including: Blokes and Spokes, Magenta and Blacker and Grandparents' Days held throughout the year, to name just a few.

Rob McEwan

Headmaster