

Term 4, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL

Update



Term 4 Reflection



Term four has come to a close, rounding off the year. Through stress and strain, students have diligently studied for their exams, preparing mentally and spiritually for them. Whether it was a memory verse test or an external that determines university entrance, study has been the top priority this term. Some of us have put God's Word on the backburner, devoting time to the externals.

Even I have found it hard to stay focused on God this term with the dread of exams. Sometimes, I felt that I needed to study chemistry over God's Word, or diving into kinematics right after I got home from church, but this hasn't been the right mindset. One verse to highlight is Colossians 3:2, which reads, 'Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth'. Some people I know haven't been coming to church on Sundays to prioritise their studies. However, Paul here, urges us to focus on godly things as opposed to worldly desires. Jesus also brings up this point in Matthew 6:21, when he says to 'lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven'. Yes, exams are important, but we shouldn't make it our top priority. We should store treasures in heaven and not on earth, because the earth is only temporary. Our success and wealth in this world will fade away eventually.

With the exams done, there are still the worries and stress about the results to come. Have I done well enough? What will happen if I don't pass? These questions are bound to pop up in your head, and not achieving what you hoped for can be gut-wrenching. What is the answer to this? Paul, in Philippians 4:6, tells us. If you are worried about exam results, God will provide peace and guidance, and under Him, there is no need to be anxious. The rest is in His hands.



When we do get our results back, and we do achieve what we wanted, we can give thanks to God. It is only through Him that we can achieve what we want and have what we have today. His love and graciousness to us is inconceivable, and we should be thankful for his blessings to us. Finally, it is also important to remember that we are doing this for God. We aren't getting A's and A*'s to impress others, or to make our parents proud, but we are doing this for God. Have our studies been for God? Or have we studied to get into university, or pass our exams?

—Oswald Kuik

Thanksgiving

Once again, we have been pleased to host our annual Thanksgiving service. God is our good Father who provides for us and protects us. In all things, he is owed great thanks. The central fount of our great joy and gratitude is the reality that God is God; he has sent his Son, Jesus has died for our sins, we have been imputed righteousness through faith alone, and we have assurance that we will live forever with Christ.



Our Scriptures tell us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18,

"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

And again, Ephesians 5:20 says, be filled with the Spirit,

"giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"

In these two verses we see that in every situation, and for everything, God's people are to be giving thanks to him. An abundance of gratitude is an essential Christian attitude, and during this time of the year we love to celebrate what God is doing here at our school.



While we would love to celebrate and thank God for **everything** that he is doing amongst us, such a task is impossible. We are constantly inundated with blessings. We cannot reach out a hand or take a step without grasping or tripping over one of the many gifts God has given us. What this means is that our gratitude will always be an offering up of a series of tokens.

If we imagine each of God's blessings as a drop of water, then each of us finds ourselves standing under the torrent of a mighty waterfall. With a cup in our hand, we lift it up and say, "thank you God for these blessings", then we tip it out and repeat the process.

At our Thanksgiving service we lift up our cups, filled with parents, and families, and teachers and students, we thank God, then we fill another cup. For academic excellence, and leadership, and godly character, we lift up thanks to our heavenly Father.

Our annual Thanksgiving service reminds us of a simple yet profound truth: we are a community that lives under the waterfall of God's unending grace. Each blessing we receive points us back to the goodness of our heavenly Father. Though our gratitude can only ever capture a fraction of his generosity, it is a joy to gather as a school to lift our hearts and voices in thanks. As we move forward, may this spirit of thanksgiving not be confined to one service but overflow into every part of our lives. —Mr. Aloiai

Graduation Dinner

I am excited to start the next chapter in my life which is attending university. I am sad to lose my fellow classmates, but I know God has a plan for my life. Jeremiah 29:11

—*Tinotenda Takawira*

I feel ecstatic and a bit under the weather. Overall I am excited for what the future holds. —*Ropati Laulala-Moala*

Moving onto this new stage of life is both exciting and nerve racking. But whatever happens, it'll be an adventure nonetheless! —*Ruby Carter*

While I'm sad to be leaving, I'm taking with me strong convictions, critical thinking skills, and many fond memories. —*Jessica Goodwin*



Looking back at my years at Manukau Christian School, I can see that it has helped me to grow, not just as a student but as a man. It has helped me to become more diligent in my studies and more responsible as a whole. —*Caleb Harvey*

I will remember all the good memories I had at this school and take them with me in this next part of my journey. —*Tash Mann*

I have benefited greatly from this Christian education, and I look forward to the work that I can do for God's kingdom in the future.

—*Matthew Shallard*

Although it is sad to leave the school I've been in for the last 7 years, I'm looking forward to what the future holds as I move onto university and face the challenges that come with it. —*Vinayak Sharma*

I can't wait to start this new chapter of my life and see where it leads to. —*Mia Wang*

Leaving school is definitely a scary thought but I'm excited for the next step in my life. I'm grateful for MCS and the many great friends I've made along the way.

—*Thomas Fryer*

Though my time at MCS was brief, the memories and lessons will last a lifetime. The unwavering support from staff throughout my journey made an incredible impact, and I am deeply grateful to have spent my final years of school in such an encouraging environment. —*Simran Singh*



Biology Trips

A trip to Auckland Zoo with the AS Level Biology class was truly unforgettable. From the moment we arrived, excitement filled the air. The highlight for many was the giraffes. As we approached their enclosure, we were captivated by the sight of these majestic creatures running gracefully in what looked like a playful game of tag. Their elegance left us all in awe.



Our exploration didn't stop there. We wandered through the rainforest habitat, laughing at the antics of swinging monkeys and marveling at the dazzling colors of vibrant birds. Later, an interactive session brought us face-to-face with lizards, insects, and owls, offering a deeper connection to the incredible diversity of life.

We left the zoo inspired and filled with gratitude for the natural world, cherishing the memory of those running giraffes and the beauty of God's creation. —*Simran Singh*

To bring an end to two years of study, the senior biology students had the opportunity to venture across the Waitemata Harbour to the little island of Tiritiri Matangi. Being passionate biologists we all jumped at the opportunity to see what it looks like for the conservation part of our textbook to be applied in the real world. We enjoyed the relaxing sounds of bird calls and the beautiful sights of the island as we were given a guided tour by a very friendly and knowledgeable guide.

Personally, what I found most interesting was learning about the work that DOC were doing to keep the island afloat. Overall, it was an awesome day filled with many memories and I hardly think we noticed the rain at all. —*Thomas Fryer*



Year 11 Activities

After exams Mrs Smilde planned a day for us to run a mini olympics for the Year twos. Our class split into pairs to run individual games for the kids. Some of the activities included poi toss, elastics, skipping and an obstacle course. The children were competitive and excited, they all were very athletic and listened well to the rules. At the end we were all exhausted from the exercise and the abundance of laughter. As a class we were very thankful to Mrs Smilde for allowing us to do some fun interactive leadership training. —*Stella Carter*

Under Mrs. Smilde's guidance, the Year 11's divided into groups to plan and sculpt some coastline pizzas. Applying our knowledge of coasts, we were instructed to create geographical landforms with accompanying flavors. One group crafted a masterpiece featuring cheese-stuffed stacks, stump, bays, and headlands, complete with an arch above an adorable turtle. The various flavors included cream cheese and pesto, resulting in a winning combo. —*Priscilla John*

We were given the great opportunity to decorate some cakes for English. Mrs Maney baked some cakes before our English session and gave us the ingredients necessary for icing, as well as some sweets and fondant. We were given the choice of any book we had studied in English as the main theme for our cake. All teams worked efficiently and creatively to complete this task. —*Josiah Willis*



Students' Thoughts on Mixed Modules



Throughout this year, the modules have had a modification to its usual structure: instead of being confined so that each different year group have a separate module, the year groups have been mixed.

This allows the student body to have more say in their modules. Under the year-group structure, the students had no say on what modules they could do. But with the mixed year group structure, the teachers could ask the students to choose what modules they would prefer. This would give the students more freedom to do modules they want to do, and gives the teachers insight into which modules are more popular.

Another positive is that different modules can have different sizes. Some modules, like drama, don't work well with a large group of people, whereas sporty-style modules could benefit from a large group. With the new structure, different modules can have different sizes to fit them best.

The year groups socialising is also a positive. Although some are more extroverted, others find it difficult to talk to others on a whim. However, if different year groups meet using modules, they have a shared task to complete. This makes it easier for the quieter ones among us to meet new people, both older and younger than us.

This delightful change to modules has made this year much more interesting and exciting.

—*Elijah Paddison*

This year, the high school introduced an exciting experiment in the much-anticipated Friday modules by having them with mixed year groups! From the hands-on science demo module to the new haunted cosmos, each module included students from different year groups, giving everyone a chance to meet and interact with others they might not have before.



While this worked wonderfully in some modules, such as cooking and drama, it wasn't as effective in others, like international games, where the competitive nature of the activities made it more challenging. As you can imagine, not all Year 9 students were thrilled about facing off against a group of Year 13 boys in rippa rugby. However, in the more laid-back modules, like cooking and drama, the mixed year groups provided a positive and enjoyable end to the week. Senior students had the opportunity to work with younger ones and to get to know them better, as opposed to the normal classes that they take with the same year group.

In the end, the Friday modules this year were even more exciting than before. We all eagerly anticipated the new modules and looked forward to knowing which students we'd be working with. It was a wonderful way to end the week, full of fun and even some learning.

—*Vinayak Sharma*

Students' Thoughts on Mixed Modules

2024 was the year when we finally got to choose our own modules. This could be considered a time for jubilation, but instead there was grumbling over the 'mixed year levels' aspect, ignoring that we have been stuck with the same people every year. Change can be good.

Maybe you personally have never interacted with anyone outside of your year level before this. It is easy to look on people older than you and find them intimidating, or to look at younger students and think them annoying. However, it is not good to judge a book by its cover. We have now gone through a year of mixed-year modules and have had more time to consider and reflect on things.



We all hold the potential to form friendships with students from other years. However, they might never come to be if we do not try. Sticking to our close-knit cliques can be detrimental to our futures, where we become working adults. Once in a work environment, we will have to grow accustomed to dealing with a variety of people. Mixed-year modules, therefore, give us the opportunity to further develop our social skills.

When we consider all of what the past year has brought us, we can conclude that mixed year levels have not been as bad as we initially feared. And remember, you cannot choose your own module whilst remaining together as a year level (unless you wish to go to war with your own classmates).

—*Roseanna Maney*

To help increase communication within different year levels of the high school, this year the teachers decided to do mixed modules. Although the idea is a very thoughtful one, I did not think it was a great one. It was nice to get to know the younger students, but I personally have more fun doing activities with my own year level. Since we have been together for more than 5 years, I know them well. The reason why us seniors are so close is because we have got the time to get to know each other by participating in multiple modules over the year. The year 9s and 10s won't gain the same experience as us if they are constantly being separated from their own classmates. It is also a big change for us seniors as suddenly, we have to do modules with students we don't know after doing it with our own class for many years. Getting to know younger students was a nice opportunity for the high school to know one another, but I would have enjoyed the modules more if I had done it with my class.

—*Tash Mann*



Upcoming North Island Trip



What an amazing way to end our long high school journey. We're looking forward to trying new things, including kayaking on Lake Taupo. It will be a great opportunity to work together for the last time at MCS, after being classmates for so many years. We're incredibly grateful for Mrs Smilde and all the other teachers involved in making this trip possible. —
Mia Wang

After a long, hard year of work, it will be a relaxing time to spend with my fellow classmates and a good end to the year. I'm looking forward to orienteering, kayaking, and a great hike up Tongariro. We have such beauty in nature and it will be great to appreciate it. —*Matthew Shallard*

I'm looking forward to capsizing the kayak. —*Vinayak Sharma*



End of Year Reflection

As we come to the close of another year, let us end with a heart of gratitude. The year has had its many highs and lows, but through it all, God has remained faithful to our small school, and has allowed us all to thrive, regardless of any difficulty.

That is especially true for those of us able to graduate this year. To say we are prepared for the future is rather an understatement. We have all chosen our paths, but I would like us to be reminded of that sobering verse in James, specifically 4:14:

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."



At first glance this verse is rather depressing. It seems to emanate a lack of purpose, a lack of worth. But we know with full assurance that the Bible is clear about our worth as children of God. James' point in this verse is that we are not in control. We can often feel like we have a solid grip on things, but at the end of the day, it is God the Father who holds all in place.

So as we reflect on the year that has been, let us not grow prideful in our own achievements, but let us look to Christ as our one source of strength and blessing. May God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas!

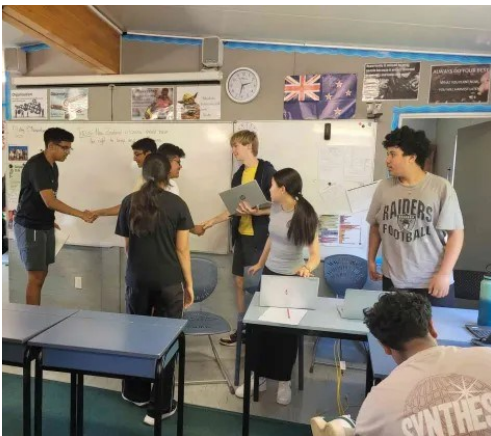
—*Ruby Carter*



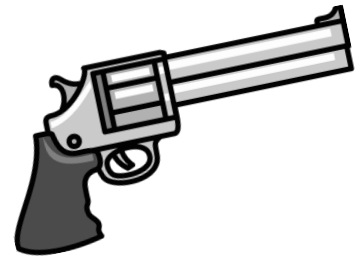
Modules - Debating

I thoroughly enjoyed the debate module this term, as it challenged me to use the critical thinking and effective communication skills we have learnt throughout our high school journey. I appreciated how each session was structured, with opportunities to research, prepare arguments, and present them in front of our group as well as testing our cross-examination points on Mr. Aloiai.

The skills I developed in organizing my thoughts, speaking persuasively, and responding to counter-arguments helped me and those in my group build confidence in public speaking. Overall, the debate module was a great addition to my high school experience. It gave me a platform to express my thoughts and I'll use the skills I learnt outside of school. —*Thandi Chimbo*



In the first half of term 4, I was assigned the debate module. We initially brainstormed debate ideas and the one that stuck the best was around gun ownership, namely, should citizens be able to wield guns themselves? I was personally on the side that guns should be allowed and readily available for anyone and everyone to buy. The other people in my debate and in my team were Liam Jones, Foueti, Khushi and Katelyn.



The debate itself was structured formally with each side being given time for an opening statement, cross-examination, rebuttal, and closing statement which our team logically decided to dish out—with Liam and I being in charge of the cross-examination. In the end we lost, however, the affirmative team on the other debate managed to pull a decisive win leading our high school to still be split down the middle leading a certain teacher's hopes to be left unfulfilled (sorry Mr. A).

—*Aarya Ahlowalia*



Modules – Cooking

Having the chance to be a part of the cooking module with Mrs Prakasa was a great way for us all to keep our minds off of the stressful exam season. We made various delicious and mouth watering items, such as: coconut biscuits, waffles, mixed– vegetable fritters, and even some juicy dumplings. Because we were all able to work together as a team, our dishes turned out amazing!
—Acsah Varghese

We cooked good food. On week three, Oswald, Serena and I had the opportunity to teach the others how to make dumplings. After a long time of mixing, chopping and cooking, the result turned out wonderful. All together, we made one-hundred and twelve appetizing dumplings.

—Caleb Liu

The cooking module has been truly amazing. We have learnt how to make wonderful waffles and brilliant biscuits, and have made many friends along the way.

—Tinotenda Takawira



Modules - Board Games



The board games module is a wonderful escape from our usual day-to-day classes. Our sessions are lively, filled with laughter and competition, as we sit around the tables playing games. Combining strategy, teamwork, and chance, we have great fun in this module. The lively environment creates a sense of community, with players sharing tips and helping each other grow. Cheering for each other and celebrating victories together makes the module one of the most pleasant parts of the week.

This class not only offers students an opportunity to play board games with their peers but also explores new concepts and themes in a very playful manner. The specific challenges in each game inspire problem-solving through critical thinking and creativity — it's a space where students can thrive. Be it engaging your opponents in a strategic game or helping in a cooperative adventure, the satisfaction from these activities ignites curiosity and improves cognitive abilities. Mix in the joy of learning new tactics, and the satisfaction of successfully deploying a plan and you have a recipe for an experience with an infinite amount of enjoyment.

On top of that, the board games module is a great change of scenery and a nice change of pace from the long week of exams and classes. It encourages the students to relax and enjoy a space of fantasy and entertainment. It creates memories far beyond winning and losing, full of free spirits, smiles, and friendships. In the end, the board games class serves an entertainment function, but it is also an opportunity for getting to know others.

—Aaron Jimmy



Word Search

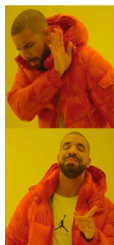
Graduates

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Senior Memes – Graduates

Tash be like:



Taking physics

Going on the end of year physics trip anyway

The pupil of your eye expands as much as 55% while looking at something you love

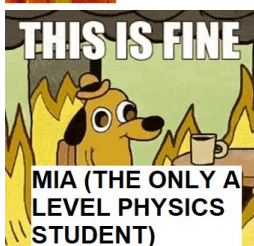


Ropati looking at KFC

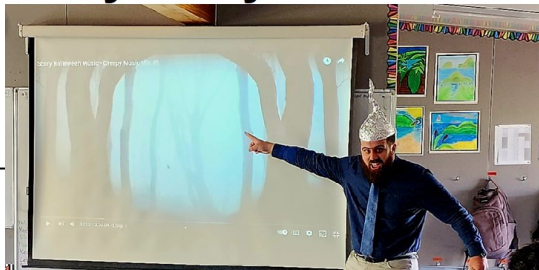
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Simran listening to a conversation:



Spot the difference:
(there is no difference)



No one:
Ruby in 5 years' time:



Tino happy that exams are over

Josiah leaves



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