



Amalgamation Update 11

Week ending July 29, 2011

The amalgamation of Moreton Bay College (MBC) and Moreton Bay Boys' College (MBBC) is a dynamic move for the future of education on the bayside. In an effort to keep our school community informed every step of the way, we discuss a variety of topics relating to the amalgamation in an email to parents every Friday.

Latest news

Getting to know each other

Moreton Bay College held its annual Founders' Day Thanksgiving Service event on Tuesday, July 26, and for the first time MBBC's Senior Leadership Team was in attendance. In the spirit of shared visions and building a future together, past board members from both Colleges were also present. The day's guest speaker, actress and former MBC student Raelee Hill, is also an aunt to students at both schools. After the ceremony, the 2011 MBC Medallist, Ms Annette Allison, welcomed the amalgamation of the two colleges.

Acting Head of College at Moreton Bay Boys' College, Diana Patchett, said the event gave great insight into the living history of MBC. "It really renewed connections between the Colleges," she said.

Board meeting

The newly formed Boards, with common membership, convened for the first time on the evening of Tuesday, July 26. This meeting commenced formal activity of the Boards with Mr Geoff Diehm (Board Chairman), Professor Stephen Gray (Board Deputy-Chairman), Mrs Helen Gabriel (MBBC Board Secretary) and Mr Peter Davey (MBC Board Secretary) being elected or confirmed into the roles shown. The meeting commenced with an icebreaker activity facilitated by organisational psychologist, Dr Mike Allan from Livingstones Australia, which was effective in beginning the process of cohering the group and fostering good working relationships among board members.

One of the first items of business was the appointment of the same auditor for both Colleges as another step towards streamlining reporting and compliance across the two Colleges.

Feedback following the first meeting has been extremely positive, with the board pledging its commitment to working together to deliver good outcomes for both school communities.

World Individual Debating & Public Speaking Championships 2012

As many of you already know, the boys' school hosted this year's World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC). This was the first time in its 24-year history that the event had been held in Australia, which was a major coup for the College and a testament to its international clout.

Following the outstanding success of this year's event, we are very excited to announce that MBBC has once again been selected to host the 2012 Championships. It is an exciting and surprising honour to be selected two years in a row. Ms Naomi Williams will coordinate a group of staff from both Colleges to plan a new WIDPSC program for next year's contingent, which is expected to run from March 29 – April 4, 2012.



Introducing Mrs Helen Gabriel

Mrs Helen Gabriel, formerly the Business Manager at MBC, has been appointed to a cross-campus role as the new Director of Business and Finance at both Colleges and Company Secretary of MBBC.

Mrs Helen Gabriel (Director of Business and Finance for MBC & MBBC)



Moreton Bay Boys' College

Life Adventurers. Life Achievers.



Moreton Bay College

Breadth of mind. Depth of heart.

Helen was educated in country South Australia. She commenced her career in Adelaide in a variety of financial roles in retail, hospitality, IT and commercial services industries while studying accounting part-time, prior to gaining her first role in the education sector as accountant for St Peter's (Boys') College in 1995. In 1998 she commenced at Loreto College in Adelaide as Business Manager. During this time, she gained a Graduate Diploma in Business Management and was a member of the management committee of the Association of School Business Administrators (ASBA SA/NT). In 2006, she relocated to Bundaberg with her husband where she was employed as Business Manager for St Luke's Anglican School. Helen commenced at Moreton Bay College as Business Manager in February 2008. Since then, she has gained her Certificate in Governance Practice and Administration and is again on the management committee of the Association of School Business Administrators in Queensland. Helen is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants, a Member of the Australian Institute of Management and a Member of Chartered Secretaries Australia.

Coming up

Free cybersafety seminar

The impact of bullying continues to be hot topic in the media, with more attention being paid to the growing problem of cyber-bullying. To cast more light on the issue, parents from both Colleges are invited to attend a free cybersafety presentation on Tuesday, August 9 in the MBC Music Centre Concert Hall from 6.30pm to 8pm.

The seminar will be led by Australia's cyber bullying expert, Susan McLean from Cyber Safety Solutions, who has appeared on a range of national television shows including Four Corners, Sunrise and Today Tonight.

Learn how to set appropriate security levels to protect you children when they use popular networking sites like Myspace, Facebook and Twitter, as well as chat rooms and online games. The seminar will also address 'sexting' and the use of mobile phones by young people. This presentation is suitable for all parents whatever the age of your son or daughter. Susan has also been invited to speak to the upper, middle and senior classes at both Colleges in an endeavour to help our students achieve a better understanding of responsible and respectful use of cyber technology.

How to keep up to date

Contact Us

If you have any additional concerns or questions, please email feedback@mbc.qld.edu.au or feedback@mbbc.qld.edu.au and we will endeavour to respond to you as quickly as possible.

Also refer to the detailed [Q&A document](#) on our websites.

Ms Jennifer Haynes
MBC Principal
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