Our Mission

The English Faculty aims to make all students competent articulate communicators, critical and imaginative thinkers and autonomous, reflective and creative learners. The study of English enables students to recognise and use a diversity of approaches and texts to meet the growing array of literacy demands, including higher-order social, aesthetic and cultural literacy. Through reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing experience, ideas and values, students are encouraged to adopt a critical approach to all texts and to distinguish the qualities of texts developing an enjoyment of English and an appreciation of its value and role in learning.

Culture of Thinking

‘Culture of Thinking’ and innovative pedagogy is used to ensure a differentiated curriculum enables all students to reach their personal best. Covey’s ‘Leader in Me’ is used to ensure students develop personal skills which facilitate learning and success not only in English but across all curriculum areas. Specific focuses such as ‘be proactive’, ‘begin with the end in mind’ and ‘put first things first’ are ways of enabling students to take control of their own learning using outcomes as a way of directing their study and preparation. Further ‘think win-win’, ‘seek first to understand then to be understood’ and ‘synergise’ focus attention on interpersonal skills and the value of teamwork. Finally, ‘sharpen the saw’ highlights the imperative of regular and strategic practice.
Incursions / Excursions

All year groups are exposed to a variety of incursions/excursions appropriate to their respective units of work. Some examples in 2010 are as follows:

- Tug Dumbly – performance poet
- Love! Death! A little Madness! – Shakespeare performance
- Techno Bully – play exploring issues of bullying and cyber-bullying
- Indigenous performers
- Drama performances

Significant Annual Events

1. HSC English Extension 2 Showcase evening
2. Poetry evening
3. Book Week Author Visit and Workshop
4. HSC English Extension Workshop with University Academic

Competitions

1. Masada Public Speaking Competition
2. Masada Creative Writing Competition
3. The Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year Competition
4. Write Now Competition – Sydney Writers' Festival
5. Whitlam Writing Matters Competition
6. Dorothea Mc Keller Writing Competition
7. Write4fun Competition
8. What the Dickens Competition

Achievements

Regularly placed in the top 10 schools across the state for all English courses. Some notable achievements are as follows:

2005 – 5th State in English