MISSION STATEMENT
The aim of Staines Memorial College is to provide Christ-centred schooling in an atmosphere of love, respect, peace and discipline which will encourage students to achieve their potential for God.

Principal’s Message
Happy Ending

I have been reading through the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible. It is the story of new beginnings. Genesis is the story of a series of pilgrimages mainly of one family: the family of Abraham, his son, grandsons and great-grandsons. The stories are not dressed up – they include successes and failures, struggles and triumphs.

In Genesis 44 & 45 we read of a family reunion that was a happy ending to many years of sadness. A father (Jacob) discovers his son is alive and not dead as he had been told.

One of our new families has an amazing story of reunion. Husband and wife were separated in a conflict in their homeland and for nearly 9 years did not know of the whereabouts of each other or in fact if either had survived. They were so pleased to be reunited and have a new start in Australia. We gladly welcome the many families new to our community who have had to flee conflict for a new start. We pray you will know God’s peace and the acceptance of our diverse community.

Our God is the God of new starts. He offers us daily the chance to start over with a new (sometimes renewed) focus on the things that matter.

For those continuing their journey with us – welcome back. It is wonderful that you have chosen to continue with us as we partner with you.

For the new families, we trust your time with us will only end when your child finishes year 12.

Fifteen years ago on the 23rd January, Graham, Timothy and Philip Staines (an Ipswich family) were sadly killed as they served God, helping those in need in north-east India. Their legacy is a happy ending.

On Wednesday 22nd we enjoyed a service of celebration to mark ten years as a college and commit ourselves to an even better next ten years. We desire to see more lives changed. We want to see young people leaving our doors having discovered their true identity, to live a life of love for God and His creation.

From small beginnings in Springfield in 2005, on leased land, we commenced 3 tiny classes for Prep to Year 6. Growth was slow until we came to this land, our land, in Redbank Plains. We are now officially a K-12 College with approximately 450 students in our care this year, a growth of almost 300 students in 5 years.

Our promise to parents is that we will help you prepare your child for the future. Furthermore, whatever your understanding of God is when you join us, we desire to see growth in a head and heart understanding of God’s love. We will work and pray to help children in our care discover God’s plan for their life.

Quoting from a book I read recently: “You can try to imagine what the end of your story will be like but God knows it can be greater than anything you imagine. God invented the happy ending. Your journey may be fraught with grief and hardship but if it is God who leads you, your ending will be happy. Ideally we experience a happy life with a happy ending. However I would rather an unhappy journey with a happy ending than a happy journey with an unhappy ending.”

The keys to a happy ending are found in God’s book. I look forward to hearing many happy ending stories from the families in our community.

Most importantly I look forward to hearing God say at the end of my life “well done good and faithful servant”.

(Note: There are many happy stories from last year’s Year 12 cohort and we will reference this in future newsletters.)

Mr. Norton Sands
Principal

Some Prayer Points
- Pray for all the new students at the College, that they would settle into the College
- Please pray for the children in the Hostels in Orissa that we support – for their health and education. Give thanks for their carers.

Diary Dates:
4 Feb - Welcome BBQ
6 Feb - Volunteer Induction
11 Feb - Volunteer Induction
17 Feb - Ladies Afternoon Tea
28 Feb - Working Bee
5 Mar - Twilight Tours & Movie Night
25 Mar - Photo Day
1 Apr - Cross Country Carnival
2 Apr - End of Term 1

Keep your eye out for more...
Uniform Shop—2015

Regular hours for the Uniform Shop during term time is the following:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8am to 9am

Stock Update: We are expecting new stock to arrive each week.

You may have noticed there are a few students with the new style Sports Polo Shirts. Very late in December, our uniform supplier advised us the beige fabric used in the polo shirts was discontinued. We have ordered a very small supply of the new polo shirts for the shirt sizes that we had no stock in. As the current supplies run out, they will be replaced with the new version shirts. There is a 2 year phase in for the new Polo Shirts.

2015 Stationery Lists

If your child is missing any items from the Stationery List, a note will be sent home within the next week. Please communicate with your child’s teacher regarding the purchase of stationery.

Swimming Lessons

The Upper Primary students (classes 3D to 6H) start swimming lessons this term. This will be every Tuesday commencing on the 24th February for 6 weeks. Notes will be sent home this week with more information.

Swimming Lessons for the Prep to 2/3J classes will remain in Term 3.

Update details

As it is a new school year, please update your family details including email addresses and emergency contact details.

We have started communicating information by email rather than wasting trees. If you haven’t received an email from the College in the last week, please contact us to update your details.

Uniform Standards

As College starts back for the year, it is timely to send out a reminder of our policy on piercings and jewellery. The College standard, as written in our current dress code policy, is as follows:

- Allowable jewellery for females is one pair of plain (silver or gold) small sleepers or studs worn in the ear lobes ONLY, and a watch and a medic-alert neck chain or bracelet where this is required. For sport, and in some practical classes, removal of the earrings and watch will usually be required. Care of the items remains the responsibility of the student.

- Allowable jewellery for males is a watch. A medic-alert neck chain or bracelet may be also worn where this is required. For sport, and in some practical classes, removal of the watch will usually be required. Care of such item remains the responsibility of the student.

Other visible body piercing is not acceptable. Students who wear additional jewellery will be asked to remove the items. This includes new piercings. This jewellery will be handed into Student Services. The College accepts no responsibility for these items.

Peanut Free School

Staines Memorial College is a peanut free school. Please do not send peanut products in lunches as we have students who are highly allergic to peanuts.

Volunteer Training

Thank you to all our families who have enquired about Volunteering at the College.

Every year all new volunteers must complete a Volunteer Induction, including Child Protection, before commencing to help around the College. This must be completed even if you have participated in similar programs in previous years or through your church or other organization.

We have two Volunteers Induction sessions coming up that we would like to invite you to attend.

Friday 6 February 9:30-10:15am
Monday 11 February 2:15-3pm

Please RSVP to the College Administration on 3814 8600.

Working Bee

The first Working Bee for 2015 will be on Saturday morning the 28th February, 7-10am. All help is appreciated and morning tea is provided. We will be mainly laying topsoil, planting gardens and weeding.

Please bring appropriate outdoor clothing, garden forks, shovels and wheel barrows, hats and sunscreen.

Please RSVP to the College Administration if you are able to attend.

Welcome to Kindy

We welcome all new Kindergarten children into the Kindy program. We hear that they have been having fun in the new learning space.
**Christianity Explained**

**Duration:** A weekly one hour session held over 6 weeks  
**Where:** Staines Memorial College  
**When:** To be decided based on availability of participants  
**Presented by:** SMC Chaplains

The good news of Christianity explained in this short six week course may surprise you and will equip you to know what this life is all about, how you can have a real and vibrant relationship with God and what your eternal destiny is. During the course participants will not be put on the spot (i.e. Asked to read out loud or to pray) and there will be the opportunity to take part in discussion and ask questions.

We encourage all new families to attend. The course will start in the week commencing 16th February. (Times decided with the participants.)

For more information or to RSVP contact Peter Jenyns on 3814 8611 by **Wednesday 11th February**.

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**New number SMS**

The school has a new number from which SMS’s will come. The new number is 0438 593 239. Please save this number to your phone. Absentee SMS’s and Emergency details will come from this number.

Previously you could not reply to SMS’s. This is now possible for your convenience. Please include your child’s fullname in the reply.

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**Absentee Line**

When your child will be absent from school, please call or email the Absentee Line. Please state your child's name and class and a brief reason for absence. The phone number is **38148606** or email studentabsences@staines.qld.edu.au. An SMS will be sent if notification of absence is not received by 9am.

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**Chaplain’s Spot**

Hi everyone, and welcome back to a brand new school year. We hope you all had a great break and are ready to face all that God has in store for you for 2015.

For families new to Staines, this is to let you know about our Chaplaincy Team.

Peter Jenyns is at Staines five days a week and runs a variety of different groups for the primary school children and high school boys. Peter also organises an annual Father and Son Getaway, as well as other fun and/ or challenging events.

Debey Green works primarily with supporting upper primary and high school girls and their mums, and is at school on Tuesdays. She also holds a morning or afternoon tea once a term for mums, grandma’s and other caregivers to get to know each other, as well as two Mum & Daughter events each year.

Marlene Foote, who works on Wednesdays, is our school counselor and is available to see children who are referred to her.

For each of us, our vision is to create a caring, family like, community within our school that enables our students to feel valued as they work towards becoming all that our Creator planned for them to be.

So please be encouraged to contact us for anything you may want to chat about concerning your child.

Look forward to working alongside you as you parent your children.

- Mrs Green,  
Chaplain Peter  
and Mrs Foote
College Newsletters

In our transition to sending home less paper, Newsletters will be sent home by email and will be available on the College website. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available from Reception.

Faith in Action News

“People who practically want to make a difference”

A great team of parents meet regularly to plan activities for students and seek ways to raise funds. When everyone does their part, it makes a huge difference. We hope to see you working around the College for the benefit of the students.

The Faith in Action Team meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:30pm in the Resource Centre. The meetings only go for 30 mins.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 3rd March at 2:30pm.

Please come along and share some fundraising ideas for 2015. Please contact Christine Hoerlein in the College Administration for further details.

School Hours

A reminder that the regular school day remains 8:30am-3pm.

Please note, there is no outside school hours care at Staines Memorial College. Do not drop your children at school prior to 8am. Teacher supervision commences at 8am.

District Carnivals 2015

If you wish your child to compete in the Ipswich District Carnivals for Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming please contact Miss Parlett before our school carnivals so she can nominate students for events they qualify for.

Ladies Afternoon Tea

Please come along to our ‘Welcome to the New Year’ afternoon tea with Chaplain Debey Green. Enjoy some yummy food while you get a chance to meet and mix with other mums, caregivers and grandmas.

Date: Tuesday 17th February 2015
Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
Where: SMC Chapel
RSVP: 13th Feb to Mrs Green or the Administration on 3814 8600

Look forward to seeing some familiar faces and also meeting those new to the school.

Father Son BBQ

With Nerf Battle

An opportunity for Fathers and Sons to get together for good food and some fun

When: Saturday 21st February from 4pm for an early dinner
Where: ‘River Heart Parklands’
Address: 20 Bremer Street, Ipswich. We will be in the ‘Discovery Forest’ section of the parklands. Car park is where King Edward Parade turns into Blackall Street

What to bring: Nerf guns.

BBQ food is provided (no cost) but participants can contribute with salad, drinks or snacks if desired.

For catering purposes please RSVP to Chaplain Peter Jenyns by 2pm Friday 20th February on 3814 8611.

Father Son Camp

Date Claimer: 19th-21st September

Put the date in your diary for September 2015. The Father Son Camp will again be held at Lake Somerset Holiday Park and will cost $40 per person which covers all meals and camp site costs.

For details, see Chaplain Peter or keep your eyes out in future Newsletters.

School Immunisation Program

This year Ipswich City Council is providing free vaccinations for all Year 8 and Year 10 students, on Thursday 5th March, as part of Queensland Health’s annual School Immunisation Program.

Year 8 students are being offered vaccination to protect against human papillomavirus (HPV), varicella (Chicken Pox) and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

Year 10 students are being offered protection against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained registered nurses.

Please read the information carefully, sign the consent form and return to the College by 9th February.

Parents are encouraged to ensure their children have breakfast on the morning on the vaccination.

For more information about diseases, vaccines or the School Immunisation Program, visit www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-proceedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/default.asp or call 13 Health (13432584)

2014 Year Book

Usually the Year Book is due to be available for collection at the Meet the Teacher Day in January. This year, the 2014 Year Book will be delayed. Keep an eye out in the Newsletter for information.