

JULY 25, 2017

GT ONLINE GAZETTE

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ONLINE SELECTIVE PROGRAM



IN THIS ISSUE

MAY RESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM FEEDBACK SURVEYS

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

ROADMAP TO SUCCESS TRIAL PROGRAM

UPCOMING EVENTS: COMPETITIONS RESIDENTIAL CAMP

Residential Highlights

Once again it was wonderful to spend a week with the online students at the May Residential Program (affectionately known as 'camp'). As always, it was a great opportunity for students to further develop their relationships with other students and teachers. This has shown to have a positive impact on the interactions that occur once the students return to their home school and back to their online lessons.

It is called a residential program, as it is an integral part of the online courses, but is delivered in a residential setting. Students participate in curriculum activities, which are part of the courses being taught, as well as social and cultural activities.

This year we implemented GT Online T-shirts, which the student wore with pride!! They looked great and gave the program a recognised presence when the students were on excursions and visiting Perth Modern School.

(continued on p2)

Program Coordinator: Narina Christensen
p: 9380 0518 m: 0438 990 679
e: narina.christensen@education.wa.edu.au
www.gtonline.wa.edu.au

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Residential Highlights cont..

I acknowledge the students for really getting into the spirit of the Comic Con event - their costumes were amazing!! I appreciate all of the effort that went into preparing for this before camp (I'm sure some acknowledgment should be given to parents who helped as well).

Our Maths/Science students spent the day at Perth Modern School to do their practical laboratory investigations, whilst the English/HASS students visited the Art Gallery of WA to explore the narratives in paintings, and then onto the Constitution Centre of WA to learn more about the referendum process in governments.



When we visited the Gravity Discovery Centre and Observatory, we were blessed with great weather and clear skies for the Observatory viewing in the evening. The Gravity Tower (pictured) required some stamina to climb all the stairs to the top, but the students had fun dropping the water balloons whilst investigating theories of gravity. At the Observatory we viewed Saturn, Jupiter, the Moon and other star clusters. In this digital age, the students were even able to take a 'Moon Selfie' through one of the telescopes.

A big thank you to our parent support team, Joanne Cook and Kristen McGregor, who were invaluable in the smooth running of the residential. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the teaching staff for their preparation of camp activities and giving up a restful night of sleep to stay overnight. Without these people, the residential would not be possible.

GT Online Feedback Surveys

In a couple of weeks I will be asking students, parents and school coordinators, to complete a program survey to provide feedback about all elements of the online program to assist in our future planning and development. This is not compulsory, but I would really value as much feedback from the different stakeholders in this program. Everyone's opinions and views are important to us. You will receive an email with the link to access the survey.

What
do you
think?

Celebrating Student Success

Australian Society for Medical Research Competition

The GT Online Science students participated in the Australian Society for Medical Research Competition. The ASMR is the peak professional society representing Australian health and medical research.

Congratulations to Sophie Sambell from Christmas Island for being the 1st prize winner in Western Australia, for the Year 9/10 category. She will be awarded a certificate and a voucher.



Science Competitions

Big Science Competition

High Distinction

Hannah Sambell, Luka Milbourne, Nathan Havord, Rory Cusworth, Edie Simpson, Flynn Thompson

Distinction

Cael Robson, Charlotte Hoyes, George Bowyer, Iman Anderson, Jasmine Caldwell, Krosby Readhead, Maya Gibson, Aled Phillips Johns, Jed Vukomanovic, Tekira Wilde, Leah Barrett-Lennard, Nicholas Parker

ICAS - Science

High Distinction

Jasmine Caldwell, Luka Milbourne, Nathan Havord, Rory Cusworth, Matthew Backhouse

Distinction

Baden Clarke, Jack Crago, Cael Robson, Charlotte Hoyes, Krosby Readhead, Bree-Anna Burton, Aled Phillips Johns, Edie Simpson, Jed Vukomanovic, Leah Barrett-Lennard, Uluka Luscombe, Storm Wooltorton, Nicholas Parker

Humanities & Social Sciences Competitions

Australian Geography Competition

High Distinction

Luka Milbourne (Top 9% in Australia), Jack Crago, Samuel Cameron, Eve Reynolds, Cael Robson, Dexter Anderson, Bree Potter, Leah Barrett-Lennard, Megan McDougall

Distinction

Anthony Sims, Julianne Ramiro, Amara Sinclair-Hill, Isabell Chambers, Emily-Rose Lochore, Mitch Cook, James Mannes, Max Ayres

National History Challenge

Students submitted an essay last term for the National History Challenge and the following students have been selected to enter the competition. The judging will take place in September.

Luka Milbourne, Ellea White, Matilda Simpson, Samuel Cameron, Nathan Mortimore, Sophia Gunning, Tekira Wilde, Zoe Taylor, Indigo Bew, Megan McDougall, Mitch Cook, James Mannes

Maths Competition

In Term 2, the GT Online Maths Students were offered the opportunity to participate in the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians. This was a voluntary extension opportunity over a few weeks and the students who took up the challenge should be commended on their participation.

HIGH DISTINCTION

Nathan Havord
Ellea White

DISTINCTION

Charlotte Hoyes
Flynn Thompson

CREDIT

Lindsey Reed
Andrew Kloppers
Edie Simpson
Sophie Buller

Success Coaching Trial Program

The achievement and satisfaction of our students is always at the forefront of what we do in the GT Online program. Being an online learner requires the students to develop effective self-management skills to keep on top of their studies. To assist in this process, teachers provide organisational elements and scaffolding within the courses, and I have been implementing some self-management and success-based training activities during the residential programs. However, I have wanted to develop a support program that is ongoing throughout the year.

Recently I became aware of a program called 'Coaching Young People for Success' and have now completed the training to become an accredited leader of the program. I am looking to develop an ongoing support program for our students which will utilise components of this coaching program, as well as practical activities for students to do, which will improve their organisational skills in the GT Online program.

The 'Coaching Young People for Success' program has been mapped against the Australian National Curriculum Framework, and has identified four of the seven capabilities that best align with the goals of the program. They are Critical and Creative thinking; Personal and Social Competence, Inter cultural Understanding; and Communication Technology Competence.

I have called for volunteers from the online student body to participate in this trial program. The students will participate in an hour SABA session each week. These sessions will incorporate some self-awareness activities as well as weekly planning tasks.

As I am very aware that many students are already very busy with their online studies, regular schoolwork and outside interests, I encouraged them to consider this before saying yes to participating. Over a dozen students have expressed interest in participating, and many others are interested but would prefer to wait until next year as they already have a lot of commitments this semester.

At the end of this trial I will use feedback from the participating students, online teachers and parents, to determine how to implement a program like this moving forward. I will have a better idea on how and when to implement the program, to which year levels, over what time frame, how often, etc.



www.coachingyoungpeopleforsuccess.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 27 AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

AUG 15 SCIENCE WORLD SERIES EDUCATION PERFECT

SEPT 12 MATHS OLYMPIAD FOR SELECTED STUDENTS

SEPT 22 NOVEMBER RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FORMS DUE

NOV 6 SCIENCE IQ YEAR 8

NOV 13-17 NOVEMBER RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM (CAMP)