Eamon Hannan – Principal

Year 11 Camp
Thank you to all staff and Year 11 students involved in the camp last week. Students had the opportunity to be inducted into the traditions of the college especially finding out about the charisms of the patrons of their House. They also as mentioned last week had seminars about the first three habits of the successful teenager. Students were also challenged to grow up and to think of others. In between these opportunities students also had quite a deal of fun in their chosen activities and in participation in game sessions. We need to stay a big “thank you” to Mrs Tracey McLeod, Mr Sean Geoghegan, Ms Fraser, Ms Kerry Hine and Mr Mark Casey, and Mr Dean Andric and Mr Ashley Montgomery for their preparation and running of the camp and presentations. Thank you also to all staff who gave up time with their own families to support the camp. Congratulations to the students whose behaviour and engagement in the camp was first rate. The college received many compliments regarding our students deportment and behaviour whilst travelling and on the island.

QCS and Prepare for Work
Thank you to staff and Year 12 students who were involved in the preparation for QCS and work sessions last week. Special thanks to Ms Edna Galvin and Mr Peter Scott who organised the QCS preparation days and to Mr French and helpers who ran the prepare for work sessions. The QCS preparation week is an important part of our program of preparation.

Cross Country Champions
Congratulations to our cross country team who won the championship for the eighth time. Mercy College won the juniors so that the Mercy-St Patrick’s college combination won the overall championship.

Three weeks until exams
There are now three weeks until exams begin. There are a lot of assignments in process and due shortly. Students need to focus and get down to four to five weeks of intense work prior to the end of term.

School Review and Improvement – Validation Phase
Please complete the surveys from the link which has been emailed to you from MyYardstick.com who have been contracted by the Diocesan Catholic Education Office to conduct the survey on behalf of the college. This is part of the validation phase of the five year school review and improvement cycle.

St Joseph’s Cathedral Restoration Fund
Information and donation envelopes were sent home regarding the St Joseph’s Cathedral Restoration Fund Appeal. St Joseph’s Cathedral in Rockhampton is the mother church for all parishes in our diocese. Those Catholics who built and maintained the church in the late 1800’s and twentieth century have passed it on to this generation. It is our turn to support the restoration effort so that the cathedral will continue to be a beacon of the church throughout our diocese for future generations. I encourage you to give generously. Donations are tax deductible.

St Patrick’s Family
Please keep Ms Amarlie Carroll and her family in your prayers. Ms Carroll has recently had a diagnosis that will require surgery and ongoing treatment in Brisbane over coming months.
Readings this Sunday – The Feast of the Ascension

Reading 1 Acts 1:1-11 ...This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Responsorial Psalm Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Reading 2 Eph 1:17-23 ...May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, or Eph 4:1-13 ...live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love. Gospel Mk 16:15-20... Jesus said to his disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

Kea McNeill – Campus Minister

Last Sunday the 13th of May was Mother’s Day. It is the day designated to focus on the sacrifices of our mothers and to say thank you. In every generation one of the most difficult responsibilities in our world is the responsibility of a conscientious mother.

A Prayer for mothers

She was a new mother. 
Her baby meant the world to her. 
She would protect her new baby in every way possible

She was still a mother. 
Her young child thrived and was precious to her. 
She would protect her young child by making sure her child was safe.

She was a dedicated mother. ... 
Her teenage child was very important to her. 
She would protect her teenager by sharing her fears about the choices offered by the world. 
Her advice was often questioned and debated by her child.

She was a proud mother. ... her adult child was very dear to her. 
She would help her adult child to face the challenges with loving support.

Finally..., she was a loving, elderly mother. 
She was ninety-three years old. 
Her child was nearly seventy. 
One day, the mother was told she was very, very ill. 
She could not bring herself to tell her child. 
She still wanted to protect her child from such pain.

Why?

Because she was still a mother...at any age.

We thank you, Creator of us all, for our mothers.

I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth.

Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace.

Bless her this day with your love.

Amen

A reminder to music ministry students that we will be singing at St Patrick’s Church this Sunday the 20th May, practice will be from 5pm with Mass commencing at 6pm. All are welcome to attend.
Edna Galvin – Assistant to the Principal: Curriculum

United Nations – Mackay Student Forum
Kate Tolo, Nicole Uren and Sam Lenz are to be congratulated for representing the College in the United Nations Student Forum. Kate has been a very busy Community Service Chair for 2012 and she should be acknowledged for her excellent work. Sam was awarded the Best Negotiator at the forum. Well done to both students!

Rostrum
Congratulations to John Hannan for winning the District Final of Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition with the speech on – Out of the Shadows.

Movers and Shakers
Congratulations to Sheridan Scott and Georgina Staines who attend the Youth Leadership programme – ‘Movers and Shakers’.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to engage in a variety of Christian and Leadership discussions with young people from all over the State.

Mark Gibbs - Assistant Principal Administration

Our Language makes a Difference

I recently read an article by Jonathan Doyle (attached) which is titled “the Tone of the Home”. In it he discusses how the language we use around young people is powerful in shaping their experiences of life. The most recent research in the fields of neuroscience and psychopharmacology indicate that language impacts on brain chemistry and the central nervous system.

He is not referring to the presence or absence of so-called “bad” language, but rather the language with which each family deals with matters such as adversity and success, tolerance, life satisfaction and so on. In his family, for example, he has banned the use of the word “problem” which can be interpreted as both negative and passive. Instead he insists on the word “challenge” which implies a need to actively respond and find a solution. The point of the article is that what we say not only reflects what we think, but it also shapes what we think. In other words, what you say can change what you feel and what you think, and therefore what our children feel and think.

If you have time to read the attached article, you may also be interested in visiting the site for Positive Psychology by well-known psychologist Martin Seligman who provided the inspiration for Doyle’s article. His website focuses on how we can manage our happiness to best fulfil our potential and life expectancy.

(http://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/Default.aspx)
INFORMATION NIGHT
For the SOUTH AFRICA TRIP will take place on Monday the 4th of June at 7pm in the College Hall. All travellers must attend.

Bianca Johnston – Cultural Coordinator

Mackay Musical Comedy Players present “The Sound of Music”

We invite students to come along and attend the Mackay Comedy Players musical production “The Sound of Music”, which will be held at the Mackay Entertainment Centre from Thursday 17th May to Saturday 19th May.

This is a great opportunity for our students to attend and explore musical theatre and to support the St Patrick’s students and staff involved in this production.

Sound of Music sees a young nun too high-spirited for the religious life, who is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the children and her generosity of spirit gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain. Upon returning from their honeymoon they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the Captain's immediate service in their navy. The family narrowly escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II providing one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre. The motion picture version starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer remains the most popular movie musical of all time, with such classic songs as Do-Re-Mi, My Favourite Things, Sixteen Going on Seventeen and Edelweiss.

For further information please contact the MECC.

Dates: 17th – 19th May
Venue: MECC Auditorium
Prices: Adult $42 | Friend of MECC $35 | Concession $32 | Group of 6+ $35 | Family4 $27.50 Child U12 $19

Handbell Workshops / Training: The Handbell Society of Australasia (HSA) is bringing the International Handbell Clinician and Conductor, Debbie Rice to Mackay to (i) workshop St Patrick’s College Ringers and (ii) offer the first HSA accredited: “HSA Handbell Musician Certificate”. This is a wonderful opportunity for St Patrick’s handbell ringers and one which is not available to secondary students in any other region in Australia. Debbie Rice is a professor and lecturer at the Concordia University, Edmonton, Canada; Executive Director of the World International Handbell Committee (UK, USA, Canada, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Australasia); an International Festival Director; and an International Adjudicator at Festival competitions.

(i) Compulsory Workshop: St Patrick’s Handbell Ringers: Trainer Debbie Rice

Where: St Patrick’s College Handbell Rehearsal Room
Date: Wednesday 6th June, 2012
Workshop time: 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
“Handbell Musician Certificate” Training and optional Assessment

This is the first time the “HSA Handbell Musician Certificate” has been offered in Australasia. The certificate has just been developed by Mrs Carmel Daveson, HSA President, Debbie Rice and the membership of the HSA Musician Education and Training Committee.

Participants in the course can do the training only and receive a “certificate of participation” or do the training and assessment and receive the “HSA Handbell Musician Certificate. If they are not successful in the assessment this time, Mrs Daveson can assess them later in the year and provide a certificate which can be used as part of the student’s curricula vitae.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where:</th>
<th>St Patrick’s College Hall, River Street, Mackay (near St Patrick’s Catholic Church)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Friday night 8th June 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival time:</td>
<td>6.30 pm for a 6.45 pm start. Finishing time 9.45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$30 for Training Only; $20 for Assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The registration forms are available from Mrs Bianca Johnston. For more information please feel free to contact by email Mrs Carmel Daveson at carmel@ehw.net.au or telephone her on 0408728952.

Watch this space for further information. All handbell students are invited and encouraged to participate in this weekend course.

CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLE UNIFORM LIST

All Co-curricular ensembles require performance uniforms. Please find an outline of the uniform requirements below.

**Choir:**

**Female students** are required to wear:

**Blouse** - Poly-Shantung (Rich Red). Covered buttons down the centre front. Lining not necessary, however the garment will keep its shape better if lined. Perspiration shield essential.

**Skirt** - Micro crepe – navy. Darted or elastic-waisted. Lining not essential but definitely preferred. Kick-pleat high enough to allow movement. Comfortable fit. Must NOT be tight! (Length – 10 cm from the floor with shoes on)

**Accessories** -

Shoes - black with low heels (school shoes are fine). No high heels or strappy sandals. Black stockings (essential), gold jewellery only and black or red hair accessories.

Patterns are available for loan at reception. Female Choir uniform material available at Needleworx, corner Sams and Willets Roads, North Mackay. Ph: 49421644

**Male students** are required to wear: the long black dress pants, a white long sleeve collared business shirt (with school tie), a school blazer with polished black school shoes and black socks.

**Stage Band, Handbell and Percussion Ensembles:**

Students are required to wear long black dress pants, a long sleeve collared black dress shirt with enclosed black shoes and black socks. Performance accessories will be supplied when required.

Debating Report

The final round of the Interschool senior debating competition was held at St Pat’s last night. The topic was “that we should be afraid of the internet”, and all teams found plenty of inspiration.

This round was an impromptu debate, which means that teams were given their topic and a classroom an hour before the starting time. No coaches, computers or mobile phones allowed, though each team could use a dictionary. Impromptu debates are a particularly effective
learning experience as students are required to pool their prior knowledge of a topic and organise it into a logically sequenced presentation.

They then have to “think on their feet” much more than a normal, more thoroughly prepared debate. Many speakers last night managed to make it very amusing as well. St Pat’s Red (our year 11s) continued to impress with a very polished performance, defeating Calen SHS. The other two teams, St Pat’s White and St Pat’s Gold argued against each other. The rivalry brought out the best in both teams with many witty and pointed exchanges. Eventually St Pat’s Gold (negative) won the evening in a close contest.

The next competition evening will be the semi-finals on 19 June involving the top two teams in each pool. According to local rules, if two St Pat’s teams make the top four, they will have to debate each other.

**St Pat’s Gold:** Caitlin Geoghegan, Sam Lenz, Megan Comben, Imagination Brauer,  
**Coach:** Mr Mark Gibbs

**St Pat’s Red:** Sheridan Scott, Emma March, Siobhan Gibbs, Ben Muscat, Chairperson: Megan Brown  
**Coach:** Ms Edna Galvin

**St Pat’s Blue:** Alexandra Dowton, Jordyn Price, Sarah Ryan, Katie Norbury  
**Coach:** Ms Natalie Pyke

**CO-CURRICULAR ARTS CALENDER:**

**Wednesday 16th May:**  
Music and Drama excursion to MECC for Mackay Musical Comedy Players production of ‘Sound of Music’

**Wednesday 6th June:**  
Handbell workshop / rehearsal with Debbie Rice 3:00pm – 5:30pm

**Friday 8th - Sunday 10th June:**  
Handbell ringers participate in Handbell workshops and Concert

**Tuesday 10th – Friday 20th July:**  
Secondary Schools Choral Festival (Concert Friday evening)

**Tuesday 17th July:**  
Stage Band perform at Matsura Welcome Function at MECC

**Thursday 19th – Saturday 21st July:**  
Halliday Bay Co-Curricular Arts Camp

**Friday 17th – 19th August:**  
Mackay Orchestra and Band Competition (Stage Band, Percussion and Handbells).

**Sunday 9th September:**  
Choir, Handbells, Percussion, Stage Band and music students perform at Holy Trinity Church Concert Series.

---

**Brendon Brauer – Sport**

**St Pat’s Senior Cross Country Champions**

Our cross country team has once again been crowned senior cross country champions after our team travelled to the Sarina Golf Club on Monday for the Mackay District trials. The outstanding performance of the eighteen runners who attended the trials has ensured St Pat’s remains senior champions for the eighth year in a row. All team members who competed at this event should feel very proud of this achievement.

St Pat’s also combined with Mercy College to take out the combined aggregate after Mercy College was crowned junior champions. This result will no doubt ensure St Pat’s remains competitive in cross country running for years to come.
The Capricornia trial will be held at the Sarina Golf Club on Monday, June 4. Students must ensure that they have returned their medical form and levy by Wednesday May 23 if they intend on competing at these trials. Reserves will be offered a place in the team after this date.

**Students who have qualified for the Capricornia trials are as follows:**

**16yrs Girls**
- Sophie Webb-Smith 2nd
- Imagination Carlyle-Brauer 4th
- Jordyn Mulherin 5th

**17yrs Girls**
- Brianna Hutchinson 2nd
- Anthea Ford 6th

**19yrs Boys**
- Dom McDermott 1st
- David Suttle 2nd

**16yrs Boys**
- Sean Nicoll 1st
- Tomas Richards 6th

**17yrs Boys**
- Lachlan Pierpoint 2nd
- Daniel Coleman 5th

Other students who competed on the day and contributed to our team point score were:
- Montana Saron, Emily Smith, Brennan Tolson, Riley Capra, Sunniva Aknes, Shannon Bella, Shakara Rose.

**St Pat’s Rugby League**

Congratulations to the St Pat’s First XIII Rugby League Squad for their win against Mackay SHS in the Super 10’s competition. The coaching staff and players were happy to secure the win despite a patchy performance that indicates the team will need to work hard over the coming weeks as they prepare for the Confraternity Shield and other Super 10’s games. Apart from the last ten minutes of the first and second half, the team looked in control. A number of missed tackles and dropped balls allowed Mackay SHS to build pressure in the final ten minutes of both halves which resulted in the game being decided by four points.

The St Pat’s coaching staff are hoping to improve on this result to ensure the team remains competitive when they come up against some quality teams in the Super 10’s.

**Vicki Wilson Cup**

The Mackay Round Robin Vicki Wilson Cup competition will be played at Mackay SHS on Friday with both the St Pat’s First VII and Second VII teams involved. Both teams will be up against some strong opposition with Mackay’s best schoolgirl netball teams involved in this carnival. All schools are to arrive at 9.00am with games to commence at 9.30am. Good luck to all girls involved.

**State Titles**

A number of St Pat’s students will represent the Capricornia Region at state titles events this week. Good luck to the following students:

**Capricornia Rugby League 19yrs (Maroochydore)**
- Scott Schulte
- Brayden Gaviglio

**Capricornia Football 19yrs (Cairns)**
- Daniel McDonald
- Cameron Stewart
- Emily Smith
- Hannah Giannangelo

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Vicki Wilson Cup Carnival (Mackay Division)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>Capricornia Cross Country trials (Sarina)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>QISSN (Netball) and Confraternity Shield (Rugby League) Carnival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Netball Draw for Wednesday 23 May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Umpire Duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
<td>MSHS Eleven v MNSHS Diamonds</td>
<td>HSC Blue/SPC White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MNSHS Suns v PHS</td>
<td>Mirani Matrix/SPC Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.35 pm</td>
<td>HSC Blue v SPC White</td>
<td>SPC Green/SPC Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mirani Matrix v SPC Black</td>
<td>MNSHS Suns/PSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MSHS A v MSHS B</td>
<td>HSC Stars/SPC Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.25 pm</td>
<td>SPC Blue v Mirani Maestro</td>
<td>MNSHS Stars/Mercy Firsts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MNSHS Stars v Mercy Firsts</td>
<td>SPC Blue/Mirani Maestro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SPC Green v SPC Red</td>
<td>MNSHS Elevens/MNSHS Diamonds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edie Weiss – Guidance/Career Officer

Salvation Army Red Shield Door Knock Appeal

*Sunday 20 May, 8.30am to 11.30 am. Meet at Bridge Road Post Office.*

Students are encouraged to sign on for this great community service opportunity for a very worthy cause. Just three hours on a Sunday morning will make a big difference to the needy. Sign on in the Counsellor’s office or with Kate Tolo.

Relay for Life

*Saturday 26 May from 1.00 to 4.00pm, Queens Park.*

Students are invited to volunteer to set up, serve and clear the afternoon tea for cancer survivors at the Relay for Life. St Pat’s students have a great reputation for helping at this event each year, and it is very humbling to be able to support the survivors.

St Pat’s Staff have a team in the Relay and students will soon be asked to support their fundraising by writing a dedication on their banner, thus involving the whole school community in our effort to celebrate, remember and fight back. There are once again many students involved in Relay for Life teams with family, friends, work, sports etc. We encourage their effort and remind them that it is a requirement of Relay for Life that they have two adult supervisors at all times. St Patrick’s staff members are not supervising students at the event.

Russell French – Prepare For Work

On Wednesday May 9 and Thursday May 10, 50 year 12 students from the College’s Ready For Work group engaged in the group training exercise ‘PLANKS’ and listening to addresses from a range of guest speakers with both information and advice to assist them in their transition from school life to life in the world of work and independence. The aim of the ‘PLANKS’ activity is to foster and develop: Teamwork, Initiative, Team Leadership and Self Evaluation. Peers from the group observe the exercise and provide feedback on their observations. Outcomes were positive over the range of objectives with all students gaining a better insight into the requirements of working successfully as a team.

The guest speakers were from different backgrounds, professions and industries. The students were very attentive and asked relevant questions of all speakers.

The speakers in order of attendance were: Mike McGrath, marketing manager for Geoff Walsh Engine parts and a director of MAIN who spoke of his pathway since year 12 to now, his successes, disappointments and future goals and the need and value of goal settings.

Mr Greg Strohal from the Juvenile Justice system spoke on a number of topics with the main topic being an explanation of how the Justice system operates – students were surprised to find out that all mobile ‘phone operations are recorded and can be used in evidence.
Mr Peter Houghton, proprietor of City Gates and Fencing spoke of employer/employee relationships and the reality of gaining and retaining employment. He also spoke of the value of having a “Life Map” and finished his address with a recital of the poem ‘The Man in the Mirror’ which he has used as a personal motivating tool.

Miss Brodie Raymond, office administrator and Mr Jeff Loro a HR and project manager from Mastermyne, both successful young people, outlined their pathway to employment and their roles with the company. They spoke positively about the prospects on offer to young people who are prepared to do what has to be done to gain careers that are both personally rewarding and well paid.

Mrs Josie Comerford, a partner in Hugh Reilly Real Estate, rentals branch, spoke of the intricacies, responsibilities and costs of being a residential renter. Before Mrs Comerford’s address, many of the group indicated a desire to move out of home after gaining employment; when asked the same question following the informative talk none indicated a desire to move out of home in the immediate future.

Mr Keith Day, an insurance loss adjustor with 40 years’ experience in the field commenced his address on the origins of insurance and outlined the many types of insurance cover available. He told them of the consequences of not being honest when obtaining insurance (lack of foreclosure) and in the event of making a claim. He advised them to read their contract carefully, even if there are 30 pages or more so as to be sure they are going to have cover of their risks.

Mr Ross Newton gave good advice on the do’s and don’ts when purchasing a used car and offered for students who might be buying privately to visit his office and have his secretary carry out a PPSR for the cost of the search and no extra charge. Ross prepared, printed and gave to the entire group a document titled “BUYING YOUR FIRST CAR “which lists “THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN BUYING YOUR FIRST CAR”.

Mr Newton was accompanied by Mr Mike Cunningham from United Finance who gave advice and tips on the best places to obtain finance and the places to avoid. The student group listened intently and asked all of the speakers positive and relevant questions which were all answered to their satisfaction.
Japanese Culture

You will notice the Noren (Curtain) outside B2 has changed, and has the imprint of 6 famous Sumo champions. This noren will be hung on days when Sumo are competing in Tokyo. Sumo originated in ancient times as a performance to entertain the Shinto Gods. Six tournaments are held every year in Japan, each one lasting 15 days. Three of the tournaments are held in Tokyo (January, May, September), and one each in Osaka (March), Nagoya (July) and Fukuoka (November). You can enjoy sumo bouts on Youtube.

Woolworths Earn & Learn is on Again

It’s simple to participate in the Earn & Learn program, from the 9th May when you shop at Woolworths you can collect the stickers from the checkout operator, and then simply send them into reception and we will attach them to the cards which have been supplied by Woolworths. The more stickers we receive the more equipment we can purchase for St Patrick’s College.

Have you got your tickets yet for Mercy College’s Dear Edwina musical?

Bring the family and friends for an entertaining evening of song and dance for the whole family.

Tickets are available from the finance office - phone 4969 4199.

Adults: $25.00
Pensioners and students: $15.00
Children: $5.00
Hamilton Island
THE KNOWLEDGE PROJECT
Term 2, Week 5

Religion
Muhammad

Muhammad was the final prophet of God on Earth according to followers of Islam. Like all Arabs, Muhammad’s lineage can be traced back to Ishmael, the first son of Abraham. Muslims believe that Muhammad’s revelations followed those of other prophets such as Moses and Jesus Christ.

Muhammad was born in Mecca (modern day Saudi Arabia) around 570 AD. Around the age of forty, Muhammad, who was known to be reflective and contemplative, went to the cave of al-Hira, near Mecca, where he had a vision. In this vision, the angel Gabriel spoke to him and commanded him to memorise and recite verses, which later made up the Quran or Koran. Gabriel visited Muhammad throughout his remaining twenty-three years, and Muhammad began to preach Gabriel’s teachings. A central tenet (belief) of Muhammad’s teachings was monotheism, the belief that God is One, indivisible entity. While Christians are also monotheists, Muslims (and Jews) believe that the key Christian doctrine of the Trinity, (God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit) violates this core belief.

Mecca houses the Masjid al-Haram, the largest mosque in the world. The mosque surrounds the Kaaba, which Muslims turn towards while offering daily prayer. This mosque is also commonly known as the Haram or Grand Mosque.

Another key difference surrounds the status of Jesus. Christians (and thus Catholics) believe that Jesus was ‘the Christ’ (meaning the anointed one) and that he was Divine. Jesus, for Christians was God - who became a man and walked among men. (Christians use the term ‘incarnation’ to describe the phenomenon of spirit-becoming-flesh) For Christians, God’s process of revealing himself to man reached its peak in the person of Jesus. For Muslims, the final episode in that process only happened approximately 600 years later, and only with the words of the prophet Muhammad. Muslims see Jesus as a prophet, an important messenger of God, and revere and respect him as such, but reject the core Christian belief that he was God.

Muhammad died in Medina at age sixty-three. According to oral tradition, at the time of his death, the angel Gabriel once again appeared before him. Gabriel took Muhammad on his horse from Mecca to Jerusalem (in modern day Israel). There Muhammad met Abraham, Moses and Jesus, before riding the angel’s horse into heaven. This final ascension occurred from the Temple Mount, (below) now the third holiest site in Islam (after Mecca and Medina).
History

The Spread of Islam

After the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 623 AD, the religion that he founded in Mecca spread with astonishing speed throughout the Middle East. Muslim armies carrying his banner conquered the Arabian peninsula, Persia, Syria, Armenia, Egypt, North Africa, and Afghanistan. In 711 AD, less than a century after the prophet’s death, his followers conquered modern day Spain, bringing Islam to Europe.

Stretched over three continents, the Islamic Empire, or caliphate struggled to maintain its fragile unity. The capital moved from remote Mecca to Damascus, the oldest city on earth (and capital of modern day Syria) and the caliphate built splendid mosques to cement their rule. During the medieval period, the Muslim world flourished. Scientists, poets, and mathematicians turned Baghdad (capital of modern day Iraq) into a fabled city of romance and learning. During this period Islamic scholars were more scientifically advanced than their European counterparts, and many English words related to science and math, including ‘algebra’ and ‘chemistry’ are derived from Arabic.

To Christian Europe, still in the midst of its Dark Ages, the success of Islam was terrifying. Muslim armies reached France from Spain before finally being turned back by the Franks under their leader Charles Martel in 732. Some historians see that battle as a turning point in history, one that prevented the further spread of Islam in Europe. The destruction of the Abbasid Caliphate, however, came from the East. In 1258, Baghdad was captured by an invading Mongol army. The Mongols torched the city’s great libraries and murdered as many as a million of its inhabitants. The Mongol leader, a grandson of Genghis Khan, executed the last caliph by rolling him up inside a carpet and letting his horses stomp him to death.

The Caliphate of Andalusia (in modern Spain) survived for two more centuries after the end of the Abbasid Caliphate. At its peak, in the 9th - 10th centuries, the Andalusian Caliphate boasted a wealthy and diverse population. Commerce, science and mathematics, the arts, and learning all flourished, making Muslim Spain a symbol for some of the most acclaimed aspects of Muslim culture, including architecture, libraries, literature, and scientific innovation. The last of the Spanish Muslim kingdoms, in Granada, fell in 1492 to the forces of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, who expelled the Muslim population and appropriated Muslim property. Many castles and buildings remain as a testimony to the centuries of Muslim domination in Spain.
In general parlance, "idealism" is also used to describe a person's high ideals (principles or values actively pursued as a goal), sometimes with the connotation that those ideals are unrealisable or impractical.

In philosophy, Idealism is the doctrine that ideas or thoughts make up fundamental reality. Essentially, it is any philosophy which argues that the only thing actually knowable is consciousness (or the contents of consciousness), whereas we never can be sure that matter or anything in the outside world really exists. Thus, the only real things are mental entities, not physical things (which exist only in the sense that they are perceived).

In philosophy, an idealist is someone who believes that reality depends upon the mind. Idealism stands in direct contrast to Materialism (which hold that the only thing that can be truly proven to exist is physical matter). It is also contrasted with Realism (which holds that things have an absolute existence prior to, and independent of, our knowledge or perceptions).

When idealists claim that something depends upon the mind, they are claiming that the thing would not exist if there were not minds that thought of it. This is a radical position. In ordinary life, we take it for granted that there is a world of objects, and there is a way those objects are, independent of what we think about them. Scholars used to think of the history of philosophy as a long debate between realists and idealists. According to this line of thought, Aristotle was the first realist and Plato the first idealist. However few historians of philosophy would accept this today.

The famous German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) acknowledged there are things that do not depend on the human mind for existence. Kant called them "things in themselves." However he insisted that the objects we actually experience are not the things in themselves, but the mere appearance of those things in themselves. And that appearance exists only in our minds. The dictum of all genuine idealists, is contained in this formula:

“All knowledge through the senses and experience is nothing but sheer illusion, and only in the ideas of the pure understanding and reason is there truth.”
Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) was a mathematician and physicist and one of the foremost intellects of all time. Born in England, he attended Cambridge University and never married. He was regarded by friends as a modest man of simple tastes.

Newton has been regarded for almost 300 years as the founding father of modern physical science, but also investigated theology, chemistry, mathematical research and philosophy.

According to the well-known story, it was on seeing an apple fall in his orchard at some time during 1665 or 1666 that Newton conceived that the same force governed the motion of the moon and the apple. He then calculated the force required to hold the moon in orbit. That force, of course, is called gravity, and he used mathematical concepts around gravity to explain the workings of the universe.

He also constructed the reflecting telescope.

His greatest legacy is what is known as his three laws of physics:

Law one: Objects at rest will stay at rest and objects in motion will stay in motion in a straight line unless acted upon by an unbalanced force

Law two: Force is equal to mass times acceleration

Law three: For every action there is always an opposite and equal reaction.

Newton’s laws have formed the theoretical basis for flight and especially rocket research and development. Newton was buried with great ceremony in Westminster Abbey, the first scientist to be accorded this honour.
**Visual Art**  
**Raphael**

Raffaelo Sanzio was the youngest of the three giants of the High Renaissance. He was born in Urbino in 1483 and received his first instruction in the techniques of painting from his father, Giovanni Santi, a minor artist. His patron Federico introduced him to the works of such artists as Paolo Uccello and Luca Signorelli. At seventeen, his father sent him to be apprenticed to Perugino.

Raphael embodied the spirit of the High Renaissance and his works were clearly organized with an avoidance of excessive detail. He initially idealised the women of Perugia, with their contemplative expressions and small mouths until under the influence of Leonardo and Michelangelo, he developed his own style, first expressed in the famous Sposalizo (Marriage of the Virgin) in 1504. (right)

One of his most famous early works was the The Mond Crucifixion (left). Raphael led a nomadic artistic life, travelling to various northern Italian centres, but spent a considerable amount of time in Florence, which was a major centre for art at the time.

In 1508, however, he moved to Rome where he was commissioned by Pope Julius II to fresco the Pope’s private library. Two sections are illustrated below. While there, he witnessed Michelangelo creating the ceiling of The Sistine Chapel, which had a profound effect on him. He was renowned for being able to adapt his style to absorb the influences of other artists. He was also enormously productive, with many of his works surviving to the present time.

---

**The Parnassus 1511**

**School of Athens 1511**
The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha is the full title of the famous novel also simply known as Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes. The novel follows the adventures of Alonso Quijano, who has decided to revive the world of knightly chivalry. His squire, Sancho Panza, is a simple but pragmatic farmer who often brings Alonso down to earth with his earthy humour.

Alonso sets off to defend the helpless and destroy the wicked on his ancient horse, Rocinante, and succeeds in consistently misreading and misjudging situations so that in most cases he does more harm than good. Among other things, he frees a wicked galley slave who tricks him, and he hands an innocent boy over to a wicked farmer simply because the farmer swears to do good. At one stage he charges windmills, mistaking them for giants. Hence the phrase tilting at windmills, which refers to a useless activity. Throughout, Sancho continues to play the patient straight man who tries to keep Alonso out of trouble. However, it becomes apparent that Alonso is well-intentioned but hopelessly out of his depth and two of his friends, a priest and a barber, find him and drag him home. Thus the first part ends.

Later, Alonso falls under the control of a Duke and Duchess who play tricks on him for their amusement, setting him impossible tasks in the name of chivalry. At one stage they convince him that to break an evil enchantment he must whip himself 3,300 times on his naked backside. On another occasion they make him governor of a fictitious island and then organise an invasion which he must attempt to repel.

In the end Alonso dies defeated, vowing that chivalry is dead, which is the main point of the novel.

Miguel Cervantes (1547-1616) wrote Don Quixote, his most famous work, when he was 58 years old. His life was marked by tragedy, with his father being imprisoned because of debts, forcing him to join the army. He lost the use of his left hand because of a musket shot in a battle. Later he was kidnapped by pirates and held to ransom. It was some years before his family raised the money to free him. His writing did not generate enough money to feed his family and he followed his father into a debtor’s prison.
Wagner’s massive contribution to opera would earn him a place near the top of the list of the most influential men of the nineteenth century. But more important, perhaps, is his contribution to art overall, embodied by his concept of Gesamtkunstwerk – the idea of a total art work that unites music, art, movement, theatre, poetry, and philosophy.

The fiery passion of the 19th century romantic-era music, like the literature, art, and thought of the time, was a reaction to the preceding classical period, dominated by cool logic and reason. Where the music of Mozart and Haydn was meant to be pleasant, inspiring, balanced, and lasting, romantics, like Beethoven and Wagner put a higher premium on personal emotional expression. The romantics also had a devoted respect for history, mythology, magic, mysticism, and heroism. Wagner saw himself as embodying the spirit of German music. He was a ruthlessly competitive egomaniac as well as being fervently nationalistic. His ideas regarding the inherent superiority of German music went hand in hand with his virulent anti-semitism. He attacked his Jewish contemporaries, even some like the composer Giacomo Meyerbeer, who had once been his friend.

Wagner’s operas were obsessed with Norse and medieval mythology, full of music that demanded impressive range, stamina, and power from its singers. Wagner inspired conflict in listeners like no other composer before him. Some people loved his music, but hated his loathsome character. The popularity of Wagner’s music during the latter half of the 20th century was affected by the fact that one of the biggest fans of his music was none other than Adolf Hitler.

While Richard Wagner lived decades before the birth of Nazism, his influence on the National Socialist movement and especially on its leader was enormous. Wagner wrote that Jewish music is bereft of all expression, characterized by coldness and indifference, triviality and nonsense. The Jew, he claimed, has no true passion to impel him to artistic creation. The Jewish composer, according to Wagner, makes a confused heap of the forms and styles of all ages and masters. To admit a Jew into the world of art results in pernicious consequences. In Deutsche Kunst und Deutsche Politik, Wagner spoke of the “harmful influence of Jewry on the morality of the nation,” adding that the subversive power of Jewry stands in contrast to the German psyche. All these ideas, together with the ultranationalistic character of his operas, especially "The Ring," provided a fertile feeding ground for Nazi ideology. Listen to ‘The Ride of the Valkyrie’ and the ‘Funeral March of Siegfried’ on Youtube.
Knowledge Project - Part 9
St Patrick’s College

ACROSS
1 Holds that the only thing that can be truly proven to exist is physical matter.
5 The idea of a total work that unitas, music, art, movement, theatre, poetry and philosophy.
6 A German philosopher who acknowledged that there are things that do not depend on the human mind for existence.
7 Wagner’s ideas regarding the inherent superiority of German music went hand in hand with his virulent anti-
9 Holds that things have an absolute existence prior to, and independent of, our knowledge or perceptions.
14 King whose armies defeated the last of the Spanish Muslim kingdoms.
15 For every action there is always an opposite and equal ___.
16 The largest mosque in the world surrounds this.
17 The final prophet according to followers of Islam.
18 This happened to Cervantes.
19 Final resting place of the final prophet of Islam.
20 Wagner’s opera was obsessed with ____ mythology.
21 Muslims see Jesus as a _____.

DOWN
2 Caliphate which boasted a wealthy and diverse population in what is now modern Spain.
3 A central tenet of Islam.
4 Near the top of the list of the most influential men of opera of the nineteenth century.
7 Islamic scholars were more ____ advanced than their Christian counterparts during the Medieval period.
8 The youngest of three giant artists of the High Renaissance.
10 Period during which the Muslim world flourished.
11 The founder of modern physics.
12 Creator of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
13 The Christian phenomenon of spirit-becoming-flesh.
16 Name for an Islamic empire.
17 A doctrine that ideas or thoughts make up fundamental reality.
19 Character in a famous novel by Cervantes.
20 ___________