MEDIA ALERT

Excellent Japanese Teacher at HSC

Languages Coordinator at Holy Spirit College, Mrs Karen Hurford, has been awarded the 2016 MLTAQ Award for Excellence in Teaching. Ms Kathryn Tominaga, President of the MLTAQ (Modern Language Teachers’ Association of Queensland) said “We were impressed by Mrs Hurford’s tremendous commitment to Languages teaching and learning and to developing and growing community connections to enhance the language learning experience for her students.”

Mrs Hurford received her award at the MLTAQ Awards Dinner on Saturday 15 October.

Dr John Lyons, Principal of Holy Spirit College, said “We are very proud of Karen’s achievements. HSC is very fortunate to have Karen as part of our staff. Her dedication to quality teaching and the Languages program at Holy Spirit College is paramount to our students’ success.”

HSC students of Japanese were awarded the top three places at the Matsuura-Mackay Japanese Speech Contest on 9 August. Jamie Bornman (Year 10) was awarded Best Overall Speaker and 1st place. Morgan Dray (Year 10) received 2nd place and Brianna Gierke (Year 11) placed 3rd.

Three HSC students, Keely Shepherd, Madelyn Dalglish and Hannah Ross, travelled to Japan over the September school holidays as part of the Matsuura-Mackay Sister-City Youth Ambassador Program.

Ms Karen Hurford has a special connection with teaching Japanese language and culture. Ms Hurford lived in Japan for almost fifteen years in Nagoya, in Central Japan and taught English from kindergarten through to University students.

Each year, Ms Hurford organises a group of Japanese students from Nagoya to visit the College for approximately three weeks. These student visitors attend classes at the College and to experience life in Australia with their HSC host families.

Students in Years 9 to 12 celebrated various aspects of Japanese culture at the HSC Japan Festival held at the College from 8-12 August. This week is an extended learning program for students who have chosen to continue learning Japanese. Students engaged in activities that focussed on extending the vocabulary and language functions taught in class.

Japan Day was celebrated on 8 August at the College. Year 8 students participated in activities including calligraphy, wearing traditional clothes, learning about various festivals and sports. All activities included students using and extending the Japanese language taught in class. The Year 8 students are encouraged to wear Harajuku style free dress.

Students studying Japanese in Years 9 to 12 are invited each year to participate in the annual Iron Chef Cook-Off. Students are provided with a selection of ingredients and a recipe written in Japanese, then given the challenge to cook the dish.
HSC regularly hosts voluntary Japanese native speakers to assist with Japanese classes as part of an important initiative of Ms Hurford.

HSC Languages Coordinator, Ms Karen Hurford, awarded the 2016 MLTAQ Award for Excellence in Teaching. Pictured with students in her Year 10 Japanese class (l-r): Giastine Mendoza, Jamie Bornman, Morgan Dray, Ms Karen Hurford, Alyssa Wood, Mao Harano, Keely Shepherd, Hannah Taylor and Hannah Ross.

Karen Hurford accepted the Excellence in Teaching Award at the Modern Language Teachers’ Association of Queensland Awards Dinner on 15 October.