

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF OUR PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Primary Coordinator is one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever experienced. It helps me create connections with members of the entire Mater Dei community and combines the best of two worlds: administration and pastoral care.

Mondays see me working on administration and responding to incidents and emergencies as the School Executive "on call". There is never a dull moment and it helps to have a sense of humour! Tuesdays I make headway on my paperwork. I am responsible for curriculum implementation, assessment, reporting and student welfare. I ensure our Curriculum in K-6 complies with the Board of Studies criteria and matches our students' needs. I am also a member of the Education Committee and the School Executive, the latter meeting weekly with the Principal, Assistant Principal, Religious Education Coordinator and Secondary Coordinator (Alison Meani, pictured below) to discuss and decide on actions relating to education and pastoral care.

Organising the Inclusive Schooling Program, which integrates our students with peers from local Catholic Primary Schools, is one of my favourite tasks. The children spend an hour a fortnight in combined classes for activities like sport, art and dance. The program improves our students' social skills while the mainstream students learn by experiencing children with different abilities.

Between Wednesday and Friday the fun really starts. I am Pastoral Teacher of Primary G, a job I share with Shannon Stanizzo. Some of my most memorable moments happen on Thursdays during weekly swimming lessons when students particularly enjoy seeing who can wet Mrs Gibbs the most! I don't think I could ever not teach - being in the classroom "keeps it real" for me.

I am looking forward to our move to the new building. It will be fantastic to work in wonderful, new teaching and learning spaces.

Since beginning my time at Mater Dei I have learnt very quickly that the term "I can be flexible" becomes part of every job you undertake.

