

# Twelve years in the chair



Mercedes College principal Peter Daw.

Peter Daw has been the principal of Mercedes College for the past 12 years. He spoke to reporter **Celeste Villaini** about his role at the school.

## WHAT made you decide to work in the education field?

I knew I wanted to be a secondary school teacher. I had a pretty good experience at school myself and had some pretty inspiring teachers.

## What's been your proudest moment as an educator?

It was a very proud moment to be appointed principal of Mercedes College.

## To date, what has been your most challenging moment as a teacher?

I think there have been times where you feel the Catholic (school) system is not being valued enough.

## If there is one piece of advice you can give to students, what would it be?

I think it is to be filled with hope, be absolutely confident in your abilities.

## How has the job of teaching changed since you started your career?

Information technology has caused teaching to change.

## If you weren't a teacher, what would be your ideal job?

I was really tempted to do was medicine. I am not saying I would have got there, but I would have liked to be a doctor if not a teacher.

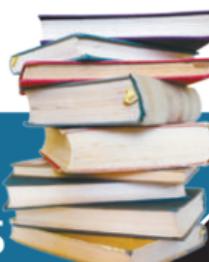
## Have you ever failed an exam?

I did. I failed history in Year 12 and to this day I am not quite certain how because I had worked hard all the way through.

## What was your best subject at school? And your worst?

Biology and chemistry were my two favourites for sure. My worst, well I was not a

## A MATTER OF PRINCIPALS



great scholar when it came to languages. I still remember in Year 9 French the teacher telling me I had the worst accent he had ever heard.

## What was your nickname at school and why?

I was Dawsy.

## What do you get up to in the school holidays?

I have a couple of beautiful little grandchildren who I try to find as much time as possible to enjoy. A little boy Max, who is three years old, and Poppy, who has just turned 10 months. They are both so gorgeous.

## What's in your lunch box?

This is bad, I don't eat lunch. I have a little cupboard where I have a cup of soup from time to time, but one of the challenges of being a principal is having no time.

## What is your favourite song?

One of my favourites is *Never Tear Us Apart* (INXS) because I am a Port Adelaide man.

## What is your favourite movie?

*Apocalypse Now*, a Vietnam War movie.

## What is your favourite TV show?

I am a *Game of Thrones* man and I am very excited because I think the new season is coming out soon.

## What is your favourite book?

The book I'm reading at the moment is called *Presumed Missing* – a thriller about a young woman who has disappeared. But I like to keep up-to-date with what the kids are reading too.

For the full interview head to [www.facebook.com/messengereast](https://www.facebook.com/messengereast)