The power of a little self belief

A MATTER OF PRINCIPALS

We sat down for a chat with St Ignatius College principal
Father Rob Davoren, who has worked at the school for 17 years.

What made you decide to work in education?
I'm an old scholar of the college and I was pretty impressed with what the Jesuits were doing at that time. It is a pretty exciting field to be in where you are working with young people and helping them to grow into wonderful young men and women.

What’s been your proudest moment in education?
It is hard to pinpoint particular occasions, but times when I am very proud is when I hear about what our old scholars are doing. Whether it is by way of people working overseas in orphanages or seeking to do some really good things with their lives which include other people.

If there is one piece of advice you could impart on students, what would it be?
It is probably a case of trusting yourself that you have got more in you than you probably have. The old thing about dusting yourself off if you fail and get back on the horse again. By getting them to believe in themselves and to realise the resources around them is a main message I would have.

If you weren’t a teacher, what would be your ideal job?
Any job where I was able to engage with people. I enjoy technology myself, although I don’t get much time for it. I have really enjoyed my time as a Jesuit priest as it teaches you so much. I suppose one advantage of being a Jesuit is that I can go off, be a parish priest, work in the mission and work with refugees.

What was your best subject at school? And your worst?
I enjoyed economics, history and geography. I wasn’t too good at maths as it was always a challenge.

Were you ever sent to the principal’s office?
Yes, I think I probably was. In fact, I remember my Year 9 days with some embarrassment. I’m just glad that the present students don’t know what I got up to.

What do you enjoy doing in your school holidays?
I enjoy travelling, walking, being on the beach and catching up with friends.