



World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 27th October 2023
worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

Inspiring mathematical understanding and nurturing growth in students

After post-doctoral work in mathematical finance and non-linear dynamical systems, Dr Thomas Mollee decided to bring his interest in mathematics to the classroom.

Thomas has been teaching for 7 years and is currently at Ipswich Grammar School.

“I chose teaching as a career because I enjoy explaining how mathematical concepts and techniques are related to one another,” Thomas said.

“It is the interconnectedness of mathematical ideas that makes the subject interesting to me, and hopefully I can pass some of that understanding and interest on to my students.”

Before starting his teaching journey, Thomas pursued a PhD in mathematics and held post-doctoral positions in mathematical finance and non-linear dynamical systems in Australia and Japan.

“What I really enjoy about my job is the other teachers I am fortunate to work with,” he said

“All of them are exceptional at what they do, and they constantly inspire their students to give their best, respect one another, and to improve academically.”

Seeing the gradual development and understanding of students is Thomas' favourite part of teaching.

“By the time they get to Year 12, they are independent workers,” he said.

“They know how to handle unfamiliar problems and are not scared to try something in order to solve a problem.

“We also get a glimpse of the adults the students will become.

“What is always memorable is the final day of school for the Year 12 students, with the mixture of happiness and sadness of both the students and their parents.

“They can also get reflective and talk about what they enjoyed about their classes, which is nice to hear.”

Offering advice to aspiring teachers or career changers, Thomas encourages them to seek support from colleagues and reminds them that all students are different.

“Be aware that when you first start teaching, you may feel overwhelmed by the number of things you need to do,” he said.

“Remember, your colleagues have been through it and can be a great help in a number of ways. Also, keep in mind students are not predictable. They will find ways to surprise you.”

Dr Thomas Mollee
Ipswich Grammar School
Ipswich