



Teaching through every moment

# World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 28th October 2022  
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## Research scientist makes a change to teaching with kindness

After an impressive career as a research scientist examining the genetics of Parkinson's Disease, Clare Gilliland has swapped her lab coat for a white board marker.

Clare undertook a Biomedical Science degree and worked as a research scientist before deciding to pursue her passion for teaching.

"I decided teaching is where my heart was," she said.

"But it was important to me to maintain my connection and passion for science so I decided to become a maths and science teacher.

"I graduated as a maths and science teacher in 2014 and today I'm a curriculum leader in Religious Education at St Peter Claver College in Riverview."

After 8 years in the profession, Clare still loves teaching, especially for the moments when she can bring about change.

"I love being able to challenge students' perception of themselves and their ability to learn," she said.

"So many of our students have fixed mindsets about their abilities and I just love that moment when I know something I have said about how they learn, and what I think they can achieve which is different from their own thinking, causes them to stop and challenge themselves.

"It's a tremendously satisfying moment."

Clare has a drive for influencing others to build a cohesive and kind society.

"Kindness is what I want to see more of in this world, and it must start with me," she said.

"Much of my ideal of kindness is about setting the example of how to be kind, so that my students can see how kindness can be transformative in their lives, and the lives of others.

"Greeting each student by name, remembering details about their lives so I can ask how their lizard is going, or find out how futsal went on the weekend, or celebrate when they receive a promotion at cadets, they make a real difference to how a student's day will turn out.

"My students know I care about them as people, and that I care that they achieve success in the classroom with me. It doesn't take much to be kind and to treat my students how I expect them to treat me and each other. The reward is that I have a safe and happy classroom where my students learn."

**Clare Gilliland**

St Peter Claver College – Ipswich QLD