
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 1.24

Monday 6 February 2024



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

Welcome to 2024 and St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

It is with a heart filled with honour and excitement that I reach out to you for the first time as the new principal of St. Mary's Catholic College. As I reflect on my inaugural week, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve such a vibrant welcoming community, one steeped in rich traditions and guided by a legacy of profound commitment to education and faith.

I wish to pay tribute to the indelible imprint left by Father Julian Tennison Woods, Mary McKillop, and the Josephite Sisters whose tireless dedication continues to shape the ethos of our college. Their unwavering belief in the transformative power of education, coupled with their deep-rooted faith, serves as a guiding light for us all. Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge the tremendous legacy of Mr. Larry Keating, whose visionary leadership has guided St. Mary's for the past two decades. His steadfast commitment to excellence has helped lay the foundation upon which we stand today, and for that, we are very grateful.

In my first days here, I have been overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality extended to me by our dedicated staff and vibrant community. Together, we share a common purpose: "ready to Serve" and to nurture the God-given talents of our students and empower them to become compassionate, empathetic leaders ready to make a positive difference in the world.

It was a joyous occasion to welcome our newest members, the Year 7 cohort, as they embarked on their journey at St. Mary's. Guided by their Year 10 peer support students and staff, and joined by our Year 11 students, they were enveloped in a spirit of camaraderie and support. Together, we celebrated a beautiful opening liturgy under the diocesan theme "Come Follow Me," reminding us all to emulate the heart of Jesus and live lives filled with love and compassion.

As we welcomed back our entire school community, the air was charged with excitement and enthusiasm. Our whole school assembly gave opportunity to encourage our community to stand poised to embrace the opportunities that await us in growth, learning, and spiritual development.

May this year be marked by moments of profound growth, transformative learning, and boundless opportunity. Together, let us make it a year to remember—one filled with shared triumphs, cherished memories, and a collective sense of pride in all that we achieve.

Parent, Teacher and Student Partnership in Learning

Parents are integral partners in the learning journey of our students. Together with our dedicated staff, we all play a pivotal role in shaping not only the academic but also the personal growth of each student entrusted to our care.

Research consistently underscores the vital importance of parental engagement in supporting learning at home. We recognize that the home environment serves as a crucial foundation for academic success and holistic development. As such, we encourage and value the active involvement of parents in their children's educational pursuits.

Furthermore, we uphold the expectation that our teachers maintain a deep understanding of each student's individual learning journey. It is imperative that we know where each student is at with their learning and are equipped to provide tailored support and challenge accordingly.

We are committed to fostering an environment where all students are challenged to reach their full potential. We believe in setting high expectations and providing the necessary support to help students meet and exceed these expectations. Through collaboration between staff, parents, and students, we strive to create a dynamic learning community where every individual is empowered to thrive.

Together, let us continue to work hand in hand to inspire, motivate, and guide our students towards a future filled with limitless possibilities.

Blessings

Brett Donohoe
Principal

STAFF COMMITMENT

The staff, at St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead, is committed to honouring our community's core values and beliefs by ensuring that our College Community is:

- **A Christ-centred place. That is a place inspired by the reality of God's love as revealed in the life of Jesus.** A place of compassion and care; a place of forgiveness; a reconciling and redemptive place, a positive place offering hope in the midst of a world given to despondency, despair and fear. A place nurturing gentleness of spirit through compassionate care and sensitivity and resilience through healthy challenge. Above all else, a place where all community members experience care modelled on the compassionate heart of Jesus.
- **A place of inclusion and wholeness.** That is, a place recognising and affirming each individual in their uniqueness as images of a loving God; a place recognising, welcoming and esteeming difference and honouring each person in their wholeness and a place where there is absolute respect for the dignity and worth of each person.
- **A place of safety and respect.** That is, a disciplined place. A place where high standards and expectations are set and consistently enforced, and where boundaries are set around students' behaviour. A place where students are challenged to recognise that there is right and wrong and that their choices do have consequences. A place practising Restorative Justice.
- **A place that will make demands of students.** That is, a place recognising that healthy challenge is integral to the process of human formation and learning and that this demands that students must be challenged to not only give of their personal best, but strive to exceed it, as people, as learners and as members of a community.
- **A place of learning.** That is, a place where the educators are totally committed to living out a fundamental belief that **"every student can learn and every student has the right to learn"**; a place where teachers see themselves as learners and are committed to engaging in purposeful, shared (collaborative), motivating and authoritative learning and leadership at all levels of the organisation. A generative place nurturing a culture of continuous improvement in wellbeing, learning and leading.



ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
GATESHEAD

February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers/Community Members

It is with excitement and honour that I welcome you to St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead. St Mary's is a Year 7-12 co-educational secondary college established in 1964 by the sisters of St Joseph and inspired by the vision of Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tennison Woods. The College maintains strong connections with its Josephite heritage and is inspired by service, justice, and a love of learning.

St Mary's is committed to the holistic development of each child. We provide opportunity for all students to engage in a broad range of academic, cultural, social, and sporting endeavours. We emphasise values of personal responsibility and collaboration, creative and critical thinking, and a commitment to achieving personal best.

Our motto, "Ready to Serve", is central to college life where our values are steeped in Josephite traditions. Equipped with knowledge and skills, it is our hope they leave the College as competent, reflective, and compassionate future community leaders, ready to make a positive difference in the world.

St Mary's is a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community. We are a community where positive relationships are believed integral to fostering a strong sense of belonging and connectedness. Staff are passionate about knowing each student and how they learn. We appreciate the uniqueness of each child and believe that everyone can be challenged and achieve success with the right level of care and support.

The students are at the heart of everything we do at the College. We pride ourselves on partnering with parents and carers to find genuine fulfilment, joy, and success in their child's lives and empowering them to be the fine young adults of tomorrow.

With kind regards

Brett Donohoe
Principal

Staffing Changes

The depth of professional capital possessed by the teacher support and teaching staff continues to be further enhanced with the following new appointments to staff:

New Appointments to Permanent Teaching Staff for 2024

- Mr Brett Donohoe – Principal – from St Bede's Chisholm
- Ms Celia Kemeny, English – from San Clemente Mayfield
- Dr Chris Stevens, Learning Support Coordinator – from St Joseph's Lochinvar
- Ms Michelle Lund, Science Leader of Learning – from St Paul's Booragul
- Ms Anne-Maree Artis, PDHPE – from temporary member of staff
- Mrs Rebecca Morrice, Administration Coordinator – was temporarily appointed at St Mary's
- Mr Bradley Trost, Learning Support Teacher – was temporarily appointed at St Mary's
- Mr Kyle Clarence, Religion – was temporarily appointed at St Mary's
- Mrs Christina Hookway, Mathematics (1.0 FTE)

New Appointments to Temporary Teaching Staff for 2024

- Mrs Rosemary Laughton, HSIE (0.2FTE) and Library (0.2FTE) – Current temporary member of staff
- Ms Leah McGovern, Science (0.8FTE) - Current temporary member of staff
- Mrs Jaqueline McInherny, PDHPE (0.5FTE) – Current temporary member of staff
- Mrs Kate D'Arcy, Mathematics (0.4FTE) – Current temporary member of staff
- Mr Declan Meagher, Learning Support Teacher (1.0FTE)
- Mr Wayne Caruana, Religion (0.7)
- Mr Heaton Quick, Learning Support Assistant
- Ms Lisa Turner, Learning Support Assistant
- Ms Lil Marsh, Music (part-time)

Returning from Leave and Secondment

Mrs Mel Schultz, PDHPE (0.5 FTE Job-share)

New Internal Appointments

- Mrs Tracy Carpenter – Re-appointed Pedagogical Mentor
- Mrs Louise Henderson – Re-appointed to Acting Gifted Education Mentor
- Mr John Hepworth – reappointed to Numeracy Coordinator
- Mrs Rosalind Dunn – reappointed to Literacy Coordinator
- Ms Brittany Avery - reappointed to Compass Coordinator
- Mrs Tarryn Wilson – WHS Coordinator continuing
- Mrs Louise Hatcher – Leader Student Pastoral Council
- Mr Kyle Clarence – Ministry Coordinator (Monday)

Leaders of Wellbeing – 2024 Allocations

- Year 7 - Ms Sharon Smith
- Year 8 - Mrs Maryanne Murray
- Year 9 - Mrs Ruth McCrae
- Year 10 - Ms Katrina Brennan
- Year 11 - Mr Daniel Beckett
- Year 12 - Mr Gerard Cushan

Job Share Arrangements (from commencement of Term 1, 2024)

- Science - Mrs Anna Matthews (Permanent) / Mrs Leah McGovern (Temporary) – continuing
- Science – Mrs Katrina Piper (Permanent) / Mrs Amy Lavis (Permanent) – continuing
- HSIE – Mrs Nikki Lorenz (Permanent) / Mrs Rosemary Laughton (Temporary) – continuing
- Library – Mrs Rosalind Dunn (Permanent) / Mrs Rosemary Laughton (Temporary) – continuing
- Ministry Coordinator – Mrs Deanna Addicoat/Mr Kyle Clarence – new
- Sports Coordinator – Mrs Annette Morgan/Ms Natasha Convery - new
- Mathematics – Mrs Michelle Manditch (Temp) / Mrs Kate D’Arcy (Temporary) – continuing

Support Staff Changes – 2024

- Mrs Chris Shaw – permanent amendment from 5 to 4 days per week
- Mrs Kayla Bevan – temporary amendment from 3 to 1 day per week
- Mrs Annette Ryan – temporary appointment of Admin Support team member (Reception)
- Cafeteria – appointment of Mrs Nicole Suprano – part time permanent position
- Food Technology – appointment of Ms Maisie Harrison – part time permanent position

School Counsellors

Alex Kenny and Amanda Pilley

SPC Coordinator

Louise Hatcher

“Linked-In” (Pastoral Support Person) (Employee of Catholic Care Social Services, based at St Mary’s)

Joanne Relf



OUR VISION

'I am the servant of the Lord' Mary answered 'May your word to me be fulfilled' Lk1:38

To be a place of learning, growth and hope centred on and nourished by the love of Jesus Christ

OUR MISSION

'I came that you may have life and have it to the full' Jn10:10

Inspired by the gifts of the spirit and built on the foundation of the Josephite Sisters.
We strive to be a welcoming Community, educating for the fullness of life for all
on the pillars of safety, respect, learning and service.

OUR MANTRA

Be Safe, Be a Learner, Be Respectful

OUR MOTTO

"Ready to Serve"

Our Story Thus Far:

1964	St Mary's High School, Gateshead, founded by the Josephite Sisters as a Year 7 to 10 girls' school with 156 students
1965	The first lay teacher begins (Mrs Audrey Steinmetz)
1966	The enrolment was 195 students and Mrs Catherine Beezley was appointed to the staff
1983	St Mary's transitions to a co-educational community, enrolling boys in Year 7
1985	Mrs Helene Hemphill (Principal) and Mr Larry Keating (Assistant Principal) constitute the first lay administration of the school
2015	Announcement that St Mary's will be growing into a Year 7-12 College commencing 2018
2017	St Mary's High School, Gateshead becomes St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead
2018	Year 11 begin
2019	We celebrated our first graduating Year 12 class
2020	Completion of Stage 2 buildings
2021	Move to new buildings
2022	Planning for stages 3-4. Submission of required revision to DA to Lake Macquarie Council (LMCC)
2023	DA received from LMCC and submission of Commonwealth Government Funding Application. Construction planned to commence in Term 4 – Stages 3, 4 and 5 of the site re-development
2024	Stages 3, 4 and 5 construction
2025	Occupancy of new facilities

MINISTRY

The beginning of a new year, and a new school year brings joy, anticipation, excitement, a little anxiety. It is the beginning of a new journey, to places unknown, in the companionship of those we know and those we are yet to know. Some of these people we will love, some we will tolerate and others we will be glad to leave behind at journey's end. In this journey we learn tolerance, grace, compassion, and empathy. Some journeys are unexpected, others planned for years. Each brings the opportunity for growth.

Follow Me

***Take a moment to read Matthew's Gospel, and ask yourself the question; What does this mean for me.
A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (4:18-22)***

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

In Matthew's Gospel, we encounter that pivotal moment when Jesus invites the disciples with a simple yet profound invitation: “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” This call resonates through time, transcending the shores of the Sea of Galilee to reach the depths of our own hearts.

Jesus doesn't choose scholars or the elite; instead, He calls fishermen—ordinary individuals engaged in everyday life. This underscores the universal nature of His invitation, embracing everyone regardless of their background or status. The call to “follow me” isn't just a geographical journey; it unfolds as a journey of encounter and transformation.

The immediacy of their response is striking. These fishermen, familiar with the ebb and flow of the sea, leave their nets and follow Jesus without hesitation. Their readiness to abandon the familiar signifies a profound trust in the One who calls. It challenges us to reflect on our own readiness to respond to the calls in our lives, the invitations to step into the unknown with faith.

The promise embedded in Jesus' words is captivating. “I will make you fishers of people.” It is an assurance that in following Him, our lives will take on a new purpose — God's purpose. The call isn't just about leaving something behind; it's an invitation to embrace a higher calling, becoming instruments of God's transformative love in the lives of others. In the language of St Mary's Catholic College: To be always Ready To Serve.

DeAnna Addicoat
Ministry Coordinator

YEAR 7 2024 – FIRST DAY!



PARKING IN, ENTERING AND LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Please note the following important information:

- The vehicular entrance to the College from the Pacific Highway is one way only. All vehicles using this entry must exit the campus via Alvestor Close at the rear of the College or by driving underneath the new Administration building through the car park back onto the Pacific Highway
- Open from 6:45am – 9:15am and from 3:20pm – 5:00pm Monday to Friday. For access outside these times please telephone the College (4944 4800).
- A “kiss and ride” section is established on the internal road between the Josephite Centre (Hall) and main buildings of the College
- The “kiss and ride” sections are **not** parking areas and are **only to be used to drop off and collect students**.

When entering the campus, please be aware that student safety is our priority. Please observe the above procedures, reduce your speed, and take every precaution to ensure the safety of pedestrians. Please be aware of the pedestrian crossing on the service road between the College to The Josephite Centre and demountable classrooms.

Finally, please do not park in St Paul's Primary School car park, the right hand side of Alvestor Close as you exit College grounds, or across our neighbours' driveways. Your support is appreciated.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Students have been issued with their Student Handbook. Parents, please review this document with your child and impress on them the importance of using it, each day, to record important notes. Please regularly monitor that this is happening. In addition, please emphasise to your child that the daily completion of homework is **MANDATORY** for all students. More will be said about this requirement in a subsequent Newsletter.

2024 SCHOOL FEES, ACCOUNTS AND CONCESSIONS

A detailed schedule of 2024 School Fees is now available from the Finance Office.

Families seeking a concession on fees **MUST** contact the School Finance Officers to make an appointment to meet with Mr Donohoe to agree on the concession.

PLEASE NOTE, ALL 2023 CONCESSIONS ON FEES HAVE TO BE RE-NEGOTIATED FOR 2024

Should you require a concession, **please** contact the Finance Office as soon as possible – 4944 4804.

STUDENTS WHO ARE UNWELL

St Mary's has a duty of care to all students while they are on College grounds. Please remind your child that if they feel unwell, they must notify their teacher in the first instance. The teacher will write them a note of authorisation to leave class and go to sickbay. Your child will be triaged at Sick Bay and you will be notified by a member of Student Services if your child needs to be collected from the College. Please note – Panadol is no longer being administered at St Mary's.

ENFORCING UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

It is a requirement of attendance at our school that students wear the full school uniform and wear it correctly, at all times. ***When a student is not in uniform, she/he is expected to have a note of explanation.*** The note must be shown to their roll-call teacher. It must be signed by you, as parent/guardian, dated and indicate why and for how long your child will be out of uniform.

If a student does not have a note of explanation, then she/he will be placed on detention at lunchtime and issued with a "Uniform Infringement Notice" to take home, to be signed by a parent/carer and returned to the relevant Leader of Student Wellbeing the next day. We ask for your support by acknowledging receipt of the notice and doing all that you can to ensure that the situation is rectified promptly. **In situations of financial hardship and where a prompt response is difficult, appropriate support will be provided once the school is made aware of the situation.**

You are reminded that there must be no 'mixing and matching' of new uniform items. **We trust in your total support for the efforts of the staff in gaining students complete compliance with uniform requirements.**

ST. MARY'S NAVY SOFT SHELL JACKETS

Has your child mislaid their jacket? We have numerous jackets at Student Services with no names in them. Please have your child visit Student Services to claim their jacket. ***Please ensure your child's name is in their jacket, thank you!***

UNIFORM

Information can be located on Compass regarding Uniform requirements for 2024. This information can also be found on the College website –

<https://www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au/parent-information/uniform/>

The information provided is especially pertinent to students currently in Year 9 who will be transitioning to Year 10 and to any child who will be newly enrolled in 2024. Current Year 9 2024 parents are requested to note that students will require blazer and trousers for formal occasions from the beginning of Term 1 2025 and throughout the year.

The Uniform shop can be contacted on 0435 954 372 or stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au

Uniform Shop Hours:

Tuesday 8.30am to 10.30am
Wednesday 8.30am to 10.30am
Thursday 12.45pm to 3.30pm

MOBILE PHONES

Student mobile phones must be switched off and stowed in their bag from the commencement of school until the end of the school day. If a student disregards this instruction, their phone will be held at Student Services and collected by the student at the end of the day. Should a phone be confiscated three times, the parent/carer will be requested to collect the phone from student services. If required, please contact the College for a copy of the Mobile Phone Policy.

STUDENT ID CARD

School photo day will occur **Thursday 8 February** with catch up day scheduled for **Tuesday 13 February**. Each student will have their photo taken regardless of whether they will be purchasing photos or not. This photo will then be used to create a Student ID Card which is used for borrowing from the Library and receiving books from Book-hire and for access to the photocopiers. Current Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 students - please keep your old ID card until your new one is distributed.

COMPASS

St Mary's uses the "Compass" Administration/Wellbeing system. Compass is used to convey ALL College information. Please ensure you have an account.

Log-in details for parents/carers have been emailed to parents. If you have not received your message and your Compass account is still inactive, please contact the College and we will arrange for another email to be sent to you. Please see below notes for your information:

- Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the information contained in Compass by accessing the "Parent Portal – Compass: User Guide" from the College website.
- Parents/carers will have the capability through Compass to reset their password in the event they have forgotten it or want to change it. If you have any difficulties, please contact Student Services or Reception.
- Only residential parents/carers have access to the Compass Parent Portal. **You also require separate email addresses for separate Compass accounts** – an email address shared between two people is regarded as a Compass security breach and will not allow access to the account.
- **Updating Compass Details**
New users when logging on to Compass are given the opportunity to update their details. It has been noted that some parents have updated their mobile phone number by taking out the gaps within the phone number. This is not required. The system requires phone numbers to be in this format, ie. XXXX XXX XXX.
- **Reminder! PLEASE ONLY EXPLAIN WHOLE DAY ABSENCES – PLEASE DO NOT REPORT PARTIAL ABSENCES through the Compass App. Reporting partial absences will cause inconsistencies with your child's attendance.** Please telephone Student Services or email admin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au to advise partial absences.
- SMS's are sent to parents of students who are absent at 9.40am each weekday morning. You will receive a text message if your child was not present during roll call and/or Period 1. **Please phone or email the school to explain your child's absence if you receive a text. Please do not respond by return of text, the Compass system does not accept them.**
- Please notify the College beforehand if your child is going to arrive late; you will however still receive an SMS. The arrival time of the student will be logged as an explained absence when they present to Student Services on their arrival. Your notification is accepted as an explanation.
- If you receive an SMS even though your child is in attendance at school, this may be because they have arrived late and have not signed in at Student Services. **Please kindly remind your child that they must report to Student Services if they arrive late to school (8.50am or later) so that their attendance is recorded, otherwise they may continue to be marked as absent.** In the event you receive a communication from the school inadvertently, please call Student Services 4944 4800 and this will be investigated.
- In line with Government legislation, please ensure your child's absence is explained within 7 days of the absence date otherwise the absence is recorded as unexplained and will remain unexplained even if a note is later received.

Qkr! APP

In this newsletter you will find the instructions for Qkr! This easy to use phone app gives you the flexibility to place orders for Canteen from your phone. You may make numerous orders in advance. It also reduces the need for your child to bring cash to school. **Please remember to amend your child's year group on the Qkr! app to aid the timely collection of their order.**

If you require further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Finance Office.

FINANCE NEWS

The CSO is in the process of emailing Fee Statements to parents.

2023 School fees were expected to be finalised by November 2023, unless an **agreed payment arrangement was established with the Principal.**

- Any school fees that are outstanding, without an agreed payment arrangement with the Principal, will be actioned per the Diocesan Fee Collection Policy.
- For those families experiencing financial hardship it is not too late to contact the school office to arrange an appointment with the Principal or Finance Office, to discuss payment options.
- For those families showing a credit balance on their statement, these credits will be applied when 2024 School Fees are generated.
- Payments can be made via BPay, direct debit or credit card over the phone through the Finance Office – 4944 4804.
- If you are the holder of a Pension or Health Care Card, please provide a copy to the Finance Office for the discounted tuition fee component to be applied.

For fee payers wishing to establish a new direct debit or adjust their existing direct debit, please phone our Finance Office on 4944 4804.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

In 2012, the Government introduced new non-attendance requirements in all NSW schools. The following information was provided for parents at that time and is again provided as a reminder of the attendance responsibilities to be addressed by parents and students:

EARLY LEAVER PASS

If your child requires to leave school early on a regular basis, ie. extra-curricular sport training each Thursday afternoon, they will be issued with an **"Early Leaver Pass"**. To request a pass, please send a letter to the Principal via Reception. The request will be considered and if approved the pass will be issued to the student. The request must be signed by a parent/carer and clearly state the day(s) and times(s) when the early release is required.

STUDENTS LATE ARRIVAL OR LEAVING EARLY

If students arrive after roll call has commenced, **they must present to Student Services to sign in.** A note is required to explain lateness otherwise will remain unexplained.

If a student is required to leave early, Parents/Carers are to provide a permission note to their child which is presented to their teacher and Student Services prior to them leaving. Parents/carers must present themselves to Student Services to sign out and collect their child.

EARLY LEAVERS - FRIDAY SPORT DAY

NO student will be allowed to leave the school grounds before Sport or within Sport timeframe without a PERMISSION NOTE presented to Mr Frize by Thursday 3pm. Students must be collected from Student Services in person by a parent, guardian or carer **in person.**

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

As parents, you are responsible for:

- **Enrolling** your children of compulsory school age (6-17 years of age) in a government or registered non-government school or registering them with the NSW Education Standards Authority for home schooling;
- **Ensuring** that your children attend school regularly;
- **Explaining** to the school the reasons for absences of your children and doing so ***within seven (7) days***
- **Taking** measures to resolve attendance issues involving your children

Non-attendance requirements were introduced in all NSW schools in 2012 and the NSW Education Standards Authority and the Catholic School system are very strict on the application of these new requirements. All schools have revised their attendance monitoring procedures and it is vital that all families become familiar with and know how to apply for and provide explanations on all occasions when your children are absent from school, late in arriving at school or have to leave early from school.

Please note and comply with the following:

- All absences from school **MUST** be explained within **7 days otherwise it will remain as an UNEXPLAINED absence**
- Sport **is compulsory** and absences from sport will be strictly monitored
- Late arrival at school or early departure from school **requires a note of explanation signed and dated by parents**
- If your family holiday is during school time you **MUST** inform the school Principal in advance and request a Certificate of Extended leave. (You are encouraged **NOT** to withdraw your children from school for family holidays). The Certificate of Extended Leave is authorised by the Principal and you will be required to carry a signed copy during the entirety of the leave period.
- ***Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.*** The Principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school. Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified. For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness. If Principals don't consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

VOLUNTEER'S WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)

At St Mary's we greatly value the contribution our volunteers make to our community. Without your assistance we would not be able to adequately operate the canteen or support a number of sporting and cultural events. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer for our Cafeteria please click on the following link for the Volunteer Registration form: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>.

DISABILITY PROVISIONS

Disability Provisions applications for HSC exams are now open. Any student considering applying for these provisions please contact **Mrs Michelle Van Vlimmeren** or **Mr Brad Trost** to discuss their eligibility. The closing date for applications is the last day of Term 1. Please note that SMCC does not make decisions about applications. The NSW Government Education Standards Authority (NESA) make determinations based on evidence supplied in applications.

BUS PASS USE FOR SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

Should your child attend a school excursion where an Opal card is required, they are not to use their Student Bus Travel card. They must obtain a separate Opal card for these journeys (together with the concession card if 16 or over – contact Student Services for details).

BUS PASS CONCESSION CARDS FOR STUDENTS 16 YEARS AND OVER

Students 16 years of age or older require a concession card in order to obtain a concession fare on public transport. If your child requires a concession card, please contact Student Services.

BUS ROUTES

Families are requested to check the Newcastle Transport Website to reacquaint yourselves with relevant bus routes:

2024 Bus Route Instructions

- In Chrome (not Internet Explorer), type in "Newcastle Buses plan your trip" (if you scroll down this page and type in the school name, it downloads a map and a PDF bus stop list – only limited stops are displayed)

OR:

- Under the Plan your trip tab click on Trip Planner
- Type in pick up point – ie St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead
- Destination – eg. Swansea (or vice versa depending on AM or PM)
- Click on Leaving now and type in the approximate leaving time eg. 15:00
- Click on Refine
- Click on School Bus
- Click on Fewest Changes
- You should now have a list of school bus numbers (make note of these numbers as when you leave this page you can't get back to it without following the previous 6 steps)
- Under the Plan tab - Click on Routes and Timetables
- Type in the bus number – here you can print out pdf timetables

Finally, please ensure that your child has a Student Opal card and they are reminded to Tap On and Tap Off. The data collated from the use of Opal Cards is the primary determiner in having additional services put on our network.

Year 7 – 10 Awards 2023

Please find below the 2023 Year 7 to 10 Major Award Winners. Congratulations extend to each student on a fantastic effort last year – may the great work continue this year.

Year 10	
Citizenship Award	Ben Breasley
All Rounder Award	James Bernasconi
ADF Long Tan Leadership Award	Isabelle McCurdy
ADF Future Innovators Award	Ben Breasley
Sporting Excellence Award	Ruby Jones
Sporting Excellence Award	Stevie Botham
Principals Award	Claire Rayner-Howson
Student Pastoral Council	Zara Davey, Kate Erby, Victoria Owen, Addison Skinner
Year 9	
Citizenship Award	Georgia Hogan
All Rounder Award	Henry Barnett
Sporting Excellence Award	Kaitlin Rees
Sporting Excellence Award	Eva Potts
Principals Award	Talia Higgins
Student Pastoral Council	Henry Barnett
Year 8	
Citizenship Award	Henry Davey
All Rounder Award	Lacey Joyce
Sporting Excellence Award	Emily Jack
Sporting Excellence Award	Jacob Lynch
Principals Award	Victoria Chong
Student Pastoral Council	Victoria Chong, Boycie Hill, Sonny Matzen, Oryn Murphy
Year 7	
Citizenship Award	Lily Miller
All Rounder Award	Hamish Kirkman
Sporting Excellence Award	Hamish Kirkman
Principals Award	Nate Korsman
Student Pastoral Council	Zac Armit, Charli Cummings, Amelia Fox, Annie Hardie, Maggie Hardie, Nate Korsman, Ruby Lloyd, Chelsea Lush, Lily Miller, Samara Oakley

NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2024 the following vaccines will be offered:

Years	Vaccine	Number of Doses	Date of vaccination
Year 7	Human Papillomavirus (HPV9) vaccine	Single dose	29 May 2024
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine	Single dose	
Year 10	Meningococcal ACWY vaccine	Single dose	6 March 2024
Catch-up vaccinations for all years will occur on 20 November 2024			

We will distribute a leaflet containing a URL and a QR code to all Year 7 and Year 10 parents in the coming days which will provide access to an online Parent Information, privacy statement and consent form.

To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- Enter the URL into your browser, select the School Vaccination Program tile and follow instructions.
- read all the information provided
- complete the online consent form and give consent for which vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

To improve vaccination completion, students whose parents/guardians have provided consent while in Year 7 or Year 10 and who miss vaccine doses at any clinic, will be opportunistically offered these vaccines at each clinic visit throughout 2024 (Year 7 or 10) & 2025 (Year 8 or 11).

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by amending their student's online consent. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/withdraw_consent.aspx

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to parents by SMS once a student has been vaccinated. Parents/guardians should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this SMS notification.

NOTE: If you experience difficulty with accessing the online consent package, please speak with the School Vaccination Coordinator – Debbie Carter.

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen is open every day, with a fabulous selection of delicious hot and cold foods, ice cold drinks and flavoured milk. We work very hard to have the best Canteen in the Diocese and pride ourselves on having something to satisfy everyone's palate.

We are open at 8.30am every morning before school and a little earlier on a Friday morning, for students and staff to purchase something or order lunch, if you haven't been able to access the online App. We have hot cheese or cheese and bacon rolls for sale every morning, if you need a little something before school.

The **Qkr App** is our online ordering app. It's very easy to use. Please download using the instructions included in this newsletter – that way you then won't have to wait in line to purchase your lunch.

While students cannot use their mobile phones to pay, we do take EFTPOS and cash payments.

If any lovely parents would like to give up a little bit of time once a month to help in canteen, it would be very much appreciated! Please see the 'Volunteers' advert in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone's happy faces in 2024!

Deb Tserepas
Canteen Supervisor

Canteen News

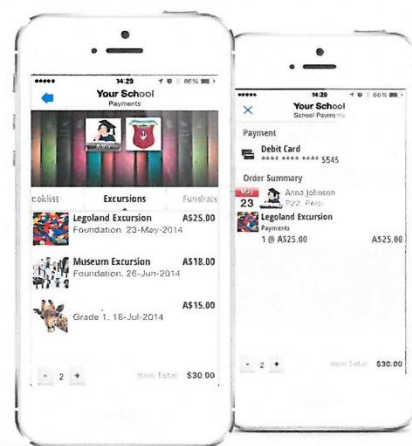
- The Canteen roster now has a dedicated Facebook page. The Facebook is a closed group page, the name is St Mary's Catholic College Canteen Volunteers. Please search and request to join.
- **Please remember to alter your child's year on Qkr! This helps us to get your child's order to them more quickly.**

For quicker, hassle-free canteen and school payments, try *Qkr!* today



Introducing *Qkr!* (pronounced 'quicker') by MasterCard: the easy-to-use phone app that gives you the flexibility to place orders at a time and place that suits you. *Qkr!*:

- Saves you time by letting you order and pay for school items directly from your phone;
- Reduces the need for your child to bring cash to school;
- Reduces the time school staff spend on administrative tasks



Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

Scan the QR code or search for our school name. Our school will also appear in "Locations Nearby" if you are within 4kms of the school

Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing your school menu, you will be prompted to register your child. This allows you to make school orders on their behalf.

Scan QR code provided by your school

If within 4kms of the school, you can select from "Locations Nearby"

Or search for our school name



Now you're ready to order and pay for meals and other items...



CANTEEN PRICE LIST 2024 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2024



SANDWICHES

Buttered	\$2.00
Vegemite	\$2.50
Egg	\$3.50
Egg & Lettuce	\$4.00
Cheese	\$3.50
Cheese & Tomato	\$4.00
Ham & Pickle	\$4.50
Ham & Cheese	\$5.00
Ham, Cheese, Pineapple	\$5.50
Ham, Cheese, Tomato	\$5.50
Tomato	\$3.00
Salad Works	\$5.00
Chicken	\$5.00
Chicken/Ham/Turkey & Salad	\$6.00
Gourmet Turkey/Ham Salad	\$7.50
Tuna	\$4.00
Salmon	\$5.00
Full Salad Roll	\$6.00

ROLLS Add \$1.00

SALAD PACKS (Order in Winter)

Vegetarian	\$4.00
Chick/Ham/Tuna/Turkey Salad	\$5.50
Gourmet Vegetarian	\$6.50
Gourmet Meat/Tuna	\$7.50
Chicken Caesar Salad	\$5.50
Greek Salad	\$6.50

WRAPS

Chilli Chicken & Salad	\$7.00
½ Chilli Chicken Salad	\$4.00
Roasted Chicken & Salad	\$7.00
1/2 Chicken & Salad	\$4.00
Ham & Salad	\$7.00
1/2 Ham & Salad	\$4.00
Full Salad (no Half)	\$5.00
Chicken, Mayo & Lettuce	\$7.00
½ Chicken, Mayo, Lettuce	\$4.00
½ Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$5.00

HOT FOOD

Pies	\$4.50
Cheese Pie	\$5.00
Cheese and Bacon Pie	\$5.00
Beef Curry Pie	\$5.00
Sausage Roll	\$3.50
Cheese and Bacon Sausage Roll	\$4.00
Party Pie	\$2.50
Spinach & Fetta Triangle	\$4.50
½ Chicken BBQ Wrap	\$3.00
Vegetarian Spring Rolls (4)	\$2.50
Chicken Goujons (8)	\$4.50

Last update 01/02/2024

HOT FOOD continued

Chicken Burgers -	
Crumbed/Flame Grilled	\$5.00
Chicken Schnitzel Burger	\$6.50
Hawaiian Schnitzel Burger	\$6.50
Crumbed Fish Burger	\$5.00
Caesar Schnitzel Burger	\$6.50
Cheeseburger (Beef)	\$5.00
Colossal Burger (Beef)	\$6.50
Chicken & Gravy Roll	\$4.50
Hot Cheese/Cheese & Bacon Roll	\$3.00
Hot Dogs	\$2.50
Potato Wedges	\$5.00
Italian Sausage Roll	\$2.00
Fish Fingers	\$2.50
Cheesy Mac	\$4.00
Fried Rice	\$4.00
Pizza Roll	\$3.00
Dumplings Pork/Chick/Vegetable/Prawn	\$4.00

DRINKS

600ml Water	\$2.00
750ml Water	\$2.80
Milk FM Flavoured Large	\$3.50
Milk FM Flavoured Small	\$2.50
300ml Real Iced Coffee	\$2.50
500ml Real Flavoured Milk	\$4.00
500ml Aloe Chill	\$3.00
375ml Juice	\$3.00
250ml Glee	\$2.20
500ml Juice Bombs	\$3.50
Up n Go	\$2.50
Lipton Iced Tea	\$4.00
Poppers	\$1.50
Waterfords Mineral Water	\$3.50
Powerade	\$4.50

EFTPOS AVAILABLE (MINIMUM PURCHASE \$2.00)

LUNCH/RECESS ORDERS MUST BE ORDERED BEFORE SCHOOL FROM THE CANTEEN or ONLINE WITH QKR! BEFORE 8.45am

WINTER SPECIALS Terms 2+3

Meatball Sub	\$4.50
Soup (Homemade)	\$5.00
+ bread roll	\$6.00

SUMMER SPECIALS Terms 1+4

Large Fruit Salad	\$5.00
Small Fruit Tub	\$4.00

Term 1 Calendar 2024

Week 2 (B Week)	
Tues 6 Feb	Extended PLM – students will be released at 2.40pm. Supervision of students and bus duty as normal.
Wed 7 Feb	Opening Assembly including Recognition of Awards 12.00 midday
Thurs 8 Feb	School Photo Day – formal uniform required
Week 3 (A Week)	
Tues 13 Feb	School Photo Day – catch-ups and Year 12 Formal Photo Launch of Project Compassion – Cathedral
Wed 14 Feb	Ash Wednesday College Assembly Ash Wednesday menu only available from Canteen (no meat products)
Thurs 15 Feb	Drama on Stage excursion - tbc
Fri 16 Feb	Newsletter 2.24
Sat 17 Feb to Tues 20 Feb	JJAM Retreat – College Leaders
Week 4 (B Week)	
Tues 20 Feb	Extended PLM – students will be released at 2.40pm. Supervision of students and bus duty as normal.
Thurs 22 Feb	Swimming Carnival
Week 5 (A Week)	
Mon 26 Feb	Year 12 HSC Information Evening
Tues 27 Feb	Year 11 Study Skills Day - TBC
Wed 28 Feb	Year 12 Food Tech excursion - TBC
Fri 1 March	Newsletter 3.24
Week 6 (B Week)	
Tues 5 March	Extended PLM – students will be released at 2.40pm. Supervision of students and bus duty as normal.
Wed 6 March	Year 10 Immunisations
Week 7 (A Week)	
Wed 13 March	NAPLAN Testing window
Thurs 14 and Fri 15 March	Surfest
Fri 15 March	Newsletter 4.24
Week 8 (B Week)	
Mon 18 March	NAPLAN Testing window – continued Year 10 Formation Day - TBC
Tues 19 March	NAPLAN – catch ups Year 8 Formation Day – TBC Extended PLM – students will be released at 2.40pm. Supervision of students and bus duty as normal.
Wed 20 March	Year 9 Formation Day - TBC
Week 9 (A Week)	
Tues 26 March	Year 10 PPEP Talk
Thurs 28 March	U14 Boys Rugby League Newsletter 5.24
Fri 29 March	Good Friday – Pupil Free
Week 10 – (B Week)	
Mon 1 April	Easter Monday – Pupil Free
Tues 2 April	Year 11 Biology excursion Year 10 MS Testing Round 1
Thurs 4 April	Year 7-11 Parent Student Teacher conferences
Fri 5 April	Year 7-11 Parent Student Teacher conferences – Pupil Free Day
Week 11 – (A Week)	
Tues 9 April	Combined Schools ANZAC Event
Wed 10 April	Science & Engineering Challenge
Thurs 11 April	Year 10 Luna Park excursion
Fri 12 April	Newsletter 6.24 End of Term 1
TERM 2 - Week 1 – (A Week)	
Mon 29 April	Return to school for Term 2