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# St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 12.23

Friday 4 August 2023



ST MARY'S  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
GATESHEAD

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

***“Leadership is about people in everyday settings, whether or not holding positions of power, working together on common goals.”***

*(MacBeath et al Strengthening the Connections between Leadership and Learning, 2018 p88)*

When **leadership** is understood in terms of collaborative action or practice, rather than a formal position of responsibility or power, then colleagues work together as equals. As a learning community, all teachers at St Mary's, regardless of formal roles or positions, are committed to working alongside each other as **teacher leaders**, as they seek to develop practice and knowledge. In our daily interactions, and structured Professional Learning Meetings, we, as colleagues, share expertise, passion, questions, failures and successes. It is in this state, where teachers move between being both *learners and leaders of learning*, that self-efficacy, skills and knowledge are developed.

Most importantly, as learners, teachers and leaders, we seek to model what we ask of our students- that they, too, are able to act as both **learners AND leaders of learning - together**.

In her 2023 research, Susan Lovett explored the concept of teacher leadership:

***“Teachers who share insights and questions of practice with each other demonstrate a professional maturity which intersects with and is manifest through leadership actions. Their sharing of influence can benefit others as well as provide satisfactions at a personal level, when learning is a mutual activity made in the interests of students and their learning.”*** *(Leading & Managing Vol29, No 1, 2023 p3)*

***“When teachers engage in shared conversations with colleagues in the flow of daily practice, their reciprocal dialogue creates the impetus for actions which can be undertaken together.”*** *(Leading & Managing Vol29, No 1, 2023 p6)*

This concept, of teachers leading each other in best practice, underpins the model for learning at St Mary's. As you are aware, each fortnight teachers come together to collaborate in Professional Learning Meetings. Here teachers share in leading their colleagues, through direct instruction and collaborative practice, in areas such as Literacy, Writing, Numeracy, assessment strategies, critical and creative thinking strategies, technology and data analysis. In Faculty Meetings, teachers act as leaders sharing expertise, resources, pedagogy, data and evidence, all the while seeking feedback, solving problems and answering questions about their own practice – and their students' learning. In Learning Teams, before and after school, teachers lead each other in Case Managements Meetings, developing professional learning content for their colleagues, writing units of work collaboratively, and benchmarking.

Continued ....

As staff at St Mary's, and in one with our mantra - *Be Safe Be Respectful Be a Learner* – we are committed to lifelong learning and a growth mindset.

Further, it is this mindset, and the concept of leadership as “collaborative action”, that we seek to develop in our students - where ALL students are **leaders of learning**; where all students can collaborate in a dynamic, thriving learning environment; where it is safe to ask questions, seek solutions and learn together; where the sharing of one's self – skills, gifts and knowledge – is an act of service to the other. This is the learning community we seek to be, one that learns and leads together.

### **Update re Mr Larry Keating, Principal**

Further to the update in our last newsletter and communication provided by Mr Steve Lemos, Head of Catholic Schools, our Principal, Mr Larry Keating will be on extended leave for the remainder of 2023 as he cares for and supports his wife, Anne. Following this Leave, Larry will then transition to retirement.

Larry will remain available to Year 12 students undertaking their HSC and can be found in the café every Thursday morning until the HSC for guidance or advice.

While Mr Keating is on Leave, Mrs Cathy O’Gorman is the Acting Principal and can be contacted for any information or issues. More details will be provided when a permanent appointment is confirmed.

As a reminder, Ms Belinda Flood is currently the Acting Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching, and Mrs Nikki Lorenz is the Acting Leader of Learning HSIE.

Blessings

**Cathy O’Gorman**  
**Principal (Acting)**

## UPDATE - BOB SHERIDAN'S BIKE ODYSSEY – CEDUNA (SA) TO YANCO (NSW)

Since leaving Ceduna, Bob has journeyed 1500km to Yanco. The following is Bob's account of that journey:

*"Hi Larry*

*A lot has happened in 2 weeks. The weather is now freezing cold in the morning and doesn't warm up until midday. The coldest start was -3° and max out at 9°. Still I rug up and go. One day I did 213kms. A very cold start but it warmed up and there was a beautiful wind blowing at my back.*

*In 2 weeks, I've travelled from Ceduna in South Australia to Yanco in NSW. 1500ks. I've crossed the SA Victoria border at Renmark and the Victoria NSW border at Mildura. I've now travelled across all mainland states and the NT. On Wednesday traveling across the Hay Plains from Hay to Darlington Point was probably my toughest day. A real challenge. It was pea soup thick fog, very cold and I felt very lonely. I got through this by recalling all the support I received along the way especially from the SMCCG community. Days like this test resilience and determination.*

*I taught at YAHS in the 80s and it's great to come back here. On Thursday 2 students I taught rode with me from DP to the school - an honour to ride with them. On arrival at school, I was invited to speak at the assembly. On Friday I did seminars with all year groups talking about Bob Sheridan's Bike Odyssey. On Monday and Tuesday, I'm riding to west Wyalong with students I taught.*

*It's coming to an end now and it's all a bit surreal. I'm getting ready for the return to Newcastle on Sunday August 13. If anyone wants to join me (staff and students) to ride for part of the last day then send me a message. I would be honoured to for this to happen.*

*This will be my last update. I thank everyone for supporting me along the way.*

*Cheers*

*Bob Sheridan"*



### The Final Stages of Bob's Odyssey

As I pen this article on Wednesday, 2 August, Bob is "on the road again" cycling from West Wyalong to Parkes, his mother's home town; where he will be reunited with family members and rest in their company for a day. He will then cycle to Dubbo where he will also rest in the company of family members and re-connect with other cyclists, who he has cycled with on the "Zoo to Zoo" ride, and who will ride with him to Newcastle.

Bob plans to be in Gulgong on Friday, 11 August; Denman on Saturday, 12 August and commence the final stage of his remarkable Odyssey from Denman to Newcastle early in the morning of Sunday 13 August arriving at Nobby's Beach about lunch time.

### An Invitation to Ride with Bob

If you wish to accept Bob's invitation to ride with him on the final stage of his Odyssey to Nobby's, please inform Debbie Carter on [debbie.carter@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:debbie.carter@mn.catholic.edu.au), and details about the timing and where you can join Bob will be communicated to you at the end of next week. Bob would be delighted to have St Mary's riders completing the Odyssey with him.

### Bob's Arrival at St Mary's – Monday 14 August

Bob plans to ride into the College grounds on Monday 14 August. In recognition of his amazing Odyssey and in support of the Black Dog Institute (BDI) and their research into mental health and suicide prevention, students are encouraged to wear crazy socks to school which are available to purchase from "The Green" next to the Grand Staircase from Monday 7 August. Funds raised from the sale of the socks will be donated to the Black Dog Institute. If you are able to make a donation in support of Bob's fundraising for the work of BDI, please forward it to the Finance Office at the College or electronically via the link below:

<https://www.teamblackdog.org.au/fundraisers/robertsheridan/bob-sheridan--s-bike-odyssey>

[www.teamblackdog.org.au](http://www.teamblackdog.org.au)

## A Bike Odyssey becoming a transforming Odyssey of Hope

On 11 April, 2023, Bob embarked on a bike odyssey that over the next 4 months would see him cycling approximately 11,100 kilometres. It is a truly remarkable personal achievement however it is important to understand that Bob did not embrace the adversity, pain, suffering and struggle demanded of him during the past 4 months to satisfy his ego. His goal has always been, and continues to be, to help others. He has fully internalised that meaning in life comes out of what we do for others. He understands, ever so deeply, that our prime purpose in life is to help others.

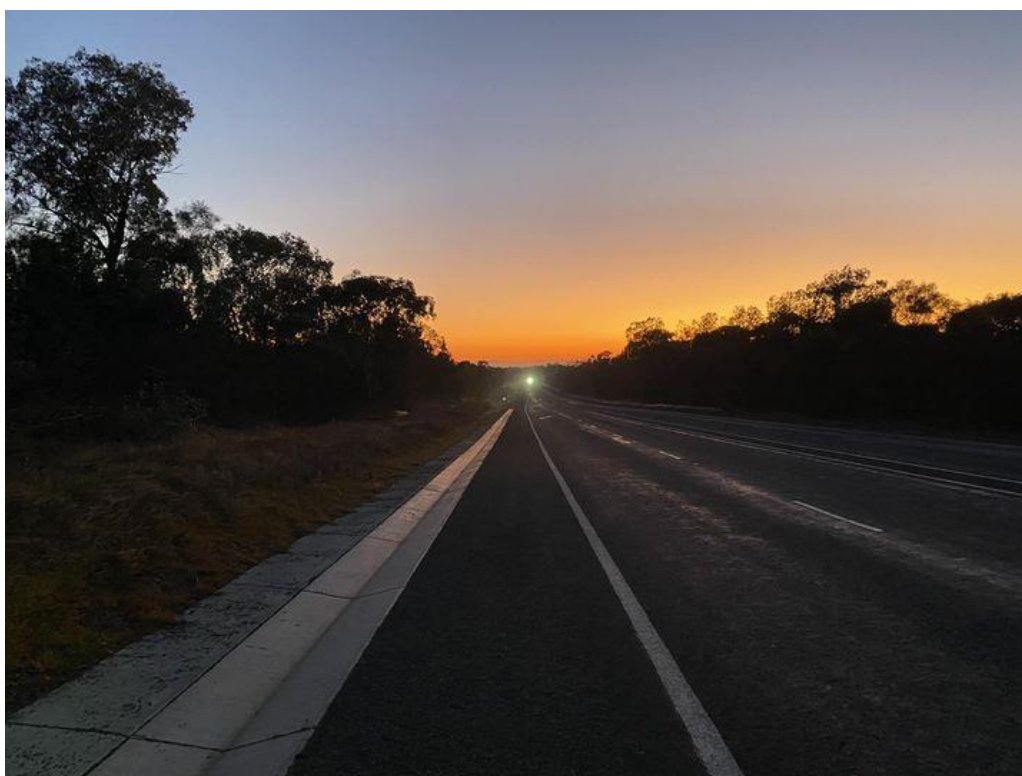
Bob has embraced his bike odyssey to raise funds to help people who, like himself, have suffered or are suffering with issues of mental health. He was scarred and tormented by the abuse he suffered as a young student at school. He has had to deal with and endure the deep emotional pain and shame of it. In his struggle he has had the support and comfort of family and friends and the staff at the Black Dog Institute (BDI). This has enabled him to find the “limitless boundaries of his new, strong self.” It has enabled him to be liberated from suffering. He has not given in to victimhood, to bitterness, despondency, or despair, and has not settled for less than the fully alive person he has meant to be and has come to be. A person who is giving back to those who have provided invaluable assistance in liberating him from the trauma of his past.

Bob's act in giving back, by undertaking a bike odyssey, has in fact become an ODYSSEY OF HOPE. There are lessons here for each of us. We all struggle in life. There is no life without struggle. Struggle demands that we make a choice we either give into the pain of it and remain entrapped in the past or, like Bob, we make a choice to depth the wellspring of our inner being and move forward in life and become the fully alive person we are meant to be.

We have had the opportunity to learn so much about life, our humanness, and the beauty of our natural environment by sharing in and reflecting on Bob's accounts of his experiences “on the road”. I'm certain you join with me in expressing our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to him for giving so much of himself for the good and care of others. He IS a true servant of human goodness, a beacon of hope for those trapped in the darkness of their emotional hurt, pain, and deep sense of shame. His struggle should be a reminder to each of us that no matter the depth of the struggle there is a capacity for endurance in the human heart.

Blessings

**Larry Keating**  
Principal







- Socks on sale each lunchtime from Monday 7 August
- Choose your socks for a donation of \$5.00
- **Be quick to pick! Limited stocks of socks!**
- Socks delivered to roll call on Monday 14 August – CRAZY SOCK DAY!
- Please donate a gold coin if you wish to wear your own socks
- All money raised goes to the Black Dog Institute

***WEAR YOUR SOCKS LOUD AND PROUD IN  
HONOUR OF MR SHERIDAN'S AMAZING  
BIKE ODYSSEY***



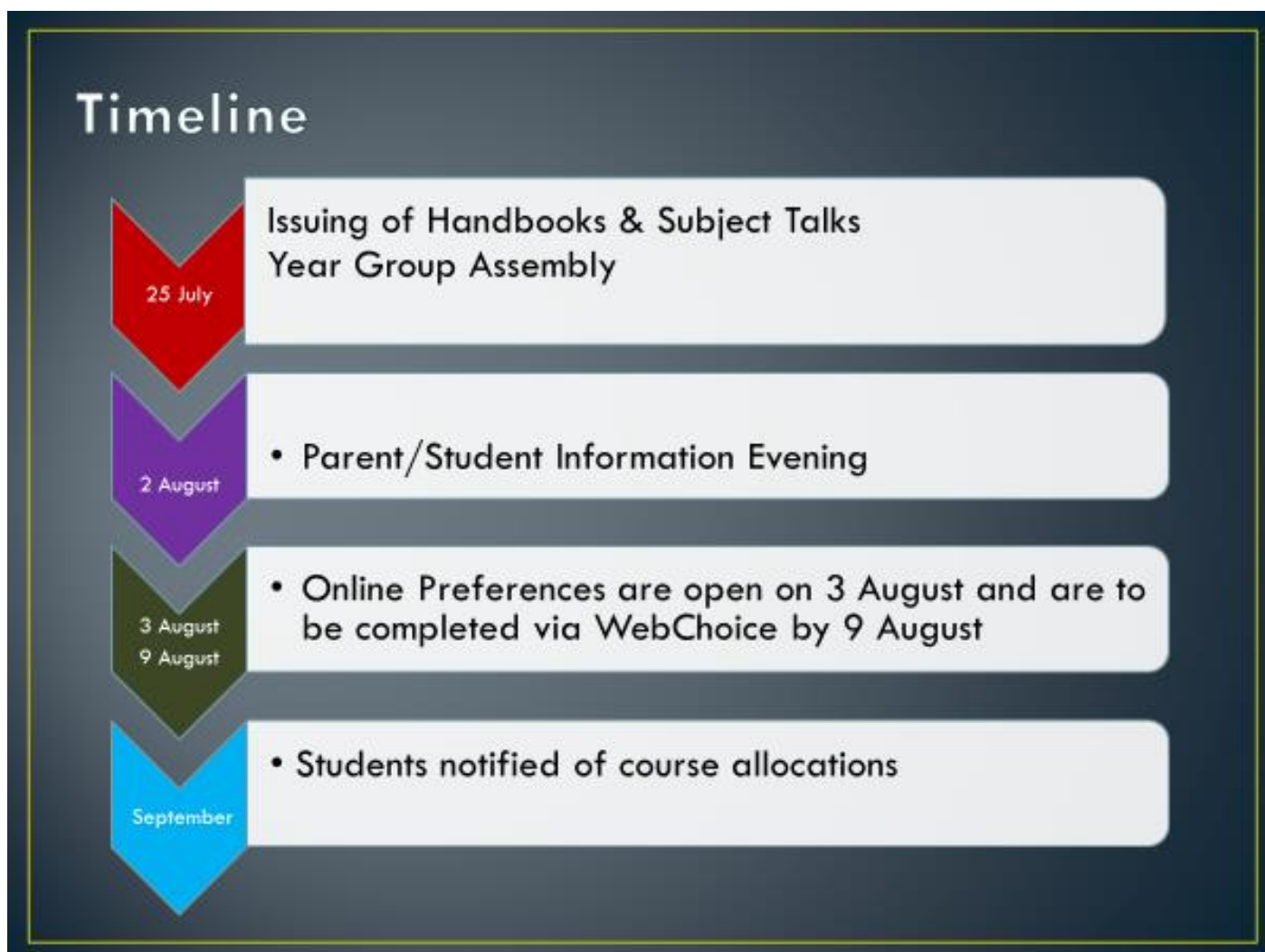
## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – LEARNING & TEACHING

Recently Year 8 have been involved in subject talks and issued with an Additional Courses of Study Handbook for Elective Course choices for 2024/25.

Detailed instructions can be found in the handbook and explanations were provided at the Wednesday Information Evening for students and their families.

We ask that students complete this online process via Edval WebChoice. This information will be provided via the student's school email account, with instructions and individual Web Codes. Once completed, a printout is to be returned to Student Services by the date indicated, signed by the parent/carer.

Some important check-in points regarding the course selection process can be found below:



**Belinda Flood**  
Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching (Acting)

Trial HSC – Week 2

**YEAR 12 TRIAL EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2023**



	Monday 7/8			Tuesday 8/8			Wednesday 9/8			Thursday 10/8			Friday 11/8		
	Time	Exam	Venue	Time	Exam	Venue	Time	Exam	Venue	Time	Exam	Venue	Time	Exam	Venue
<b>AM</b>	8:50-11:30 2½ Hours	Mathematics Standard 2 (58)	TJC	8:55-12:00 3 Hours	Information Processes and Tech (3)	TJC	8:55-12:00 3 Hours	Biology (35)	TJC	8:55-12:00 3 Hours	PDHPE (27)	TJC	8:55-12:00 3 Hours	Legal Studies (14)	D6
	8:50-11:00 2 Hours	Mathematics Standard 1 (1)	TJC	8:55-12:00 3 Hours	Modern History (10)	TJC	8:55-12:05 3 Hours + 10mins reading	Mathematics Extension 2	TJC	8:55-10:30 1½ Hours	Mathematics Extension 2	TJC	8:55-10:30 1½ Hours	Visual Arts (7)	D6
	8:50-12:00 3 Hours	Mathematics Advanced (28)	TJC				8:55-11:30 2½ Hours	Japanese Beginners (1)	D8						
<b>PM</b>	12:55-4:00 3 Hours	Community & Family Studies (26)	TJC	12:55 – 4:00 3 Hours	Earth & Environment (7)	TJC	12:55-4:00 3 Hours	Engineering Studies (15)	TJC	12:55-4:00 3 Hours	Food Technology (7)	D7	12:50-3:00 2 Hours	Mathematics Extension 1 (13)	D7
				12:55 – 4:00 3 Hours	Physics (17)	TJC	12:55-3:00 2 Hours	Extension English 1 (5)	TJC						
				12:55-3:00 2 Hours	Society & Culture (5)	TJC									

**Disability provisions will occur in D6, D7 & D8**



Trial HSC – Final Day

Monday 14/8			
	Time	Exam	Venue
AM	8:55-12:00 3 Hours	Economics (2)	117
	8:55-11:00 2 Hours	Business Services VET (4)	117
	8:55-11.00 2 Hours	History Extension 2 (5)	117
	9am – 3pm	Hospitality VET Practical	102
PM	12-3:00pm	Cath Up Exams	APT&L

**Upcoming Webinar: Online Relationships and Consent**

The Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT in collaboration with eSafety are presenting a free 30-minute webinar.

Online relationships and consent: Sending nudes and sexting

This 30-minute webinar is designed for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

It will cover:

- the impact of sharing nude images without consent
- practical suggestions for starting the chat about respectful relationships, consent and pressure to send nudes
- where to get support for a young person who has experienced abuse.

**Date and time:** Tuesday 15 August 7.30pm – 8.00pm

**Register:** <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5491931265697591563>



QR Code:





## How to Bounce Back from a Disappointing Assignment Mark

We've all been there – eagerly awaiting the results of an assignment we thought we had slayed, only to be disheartened by a disappointing mark. It's completely normal to feel down at first but remember, setbacks are opportunities for growth and improvement. Here are some steps you can take to handle a disappointing assignment mark and turn it into a learning experience:

### 1. Analyse and Understand the Feedback:

When you receive your assignment back, take the time to review the feedback provided by your teacher.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Did you meet all the criteria outlined in the assignment?
- What specific feedback did your teacher provide?
- Do you fully comprehend the feedback given?
- Can you identify the reasons behind the mark you received?

If you're unsure about any aspect of the feedback, don't hesitate to ask your teacher for further clarification. Understanding where you went wrong is crucial to avoid repeating the same mistakes in the future.

### 2. Choose to Accept or Challenge:

Once you've gained a clear understanding of the feedback, you have two options: accept the grade or challenge it.

- *Accept:* If you realize that the mark reflects your performance accurately, don't dwell on it too much. Acknowledge that everyone makes mistakes, and view this experience as an opportunity for growth. Embrace the mindset that successful individuals use failures as stepping stones toward improvement.

- *Challenge:* If you genuinely believe that the mark awarded does not align with your efforts and adherence to the criteria, approach your teacher respectfully and express your viewpoint. Politely ask if they would reconsider the mark while providing evidence to support your case. Remember, advocating for yourself should always be done with respect.

### 3. Learn and Adapt:

Improvement comes from learning from your mistakes and taking action to rectify them. Make a conscious effort to identify where you went wrong and devise a plan to correct it. Consider these steps:

- *Re-do the Assignment:* If you have the dedication and time, consider revisiting parts of the assignment and resubmitting them. Revising your work not only demonstrates your commitment but also helps you apply the feedback effectively.

- *Seek Inspiration:* Ask your teacher if you can examine assignments from students who received top grades. Analyse their work to understand what elements contributed to their success and identify areas where your assignment fell short.

- *Seek Early Feedback:* For your next assignment, share your plan or draft with your teacher before the submission deadline. This proactive approach allows you to receive valuable feedback early on, giving you ample time to make improvements.

Remember, your academic journey is about learning and growth. Embrace every assignment, whether successful or disappointing, as a chance to hone your skills and become a better student. Stay persistent, and don't let setbacks define your capabilities. With a positive attitude and willingness to learn, you'll be better prepared to face future challenges and achieve your goals. Keep striving for excellence and improvement.

Our school's subscription details to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) are –

Username:

Password:

# ICAS

The ICAS Competition starts next week on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August and will run until Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August. These globally renowned assessments give students the opportunity to challenge themselves and receive recognition for academic achievement. Each assessment celebrates students' accomplishments by providing opportunities for recognition and development. Every student who participates will receive a printed certificate and an online results report. Top performers will be eligible for medals. This year over 100 students from Years 7-10 at St Mary's will be participating, including students in the top Year 10 English classes and the top Maths classes in Years 9 and 10.

All ICAS competitions are now online. Students are asked to ensure their device is fully charged for each subject. Students sitting the Writing and Spelling components need to download the lockdown browser before their scheduled day. You will find handy installation videos and guides on Janison Replay via this website <https://www.icasassessments.com/support-locked-down-browser/>

The ICAS competitions will take place at the following times.

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME	ROOM
Writing	Year 10 ENGO Year 10 ENGL Years 7-9	7 <sup>th</sup> August	Period 1 Period 3 Period 4	223
Digital Technology	Year 7	9 <sup>th</sup> August	Period 4	223
English	Years 7-9	16 <sup>th</sup> August	Period 2	223
Science	Years 7-9	21 <sup>st</sup> August	Period 3	223
Spelling	Year 7	21 <sup>st</sup> August	Period 4	223
Maths	Year 9 Year 10 Year 7 and 8	28 <sup>th</sup> August  29 <sup>th</sup> August	Period 4 Period 3 Period 4	222

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting our students with high potential.

**Louise Henderson**  
**Gifted Education Mentor**



## Careers Corner

### Year 12:

#### Direct Entry Scheme (Early Entry Programs)

All Year 12 students applying for university are recommended to also apply for the School Recommendation Schemes (SRS) through UAC. Students can apply once they have completed their UAC application. Applying for SRS is free. Students can also apply directly to some universities for early entry. Please keep in mind universities have many entry points and offer different schemes. I have only listed the upcoming direct (early) entry schemes. Students are encouraged to research all possible schemes.

<https://www.uac.edu.au/current-applicants/schools-recommendation-schemes>

UNIVERSITY SCHEME	CLOSING DATE:
Avondale <a href="https://www.avondale.edu.au/study/apply/early-admission/">https://www.avondale.edu.au/study/apply/early-admission/</a>	21 <sup>st</sup> August
Charles Sturt University Advantage <a href="https://study.csu.edu.au/information-for/school-leavers/charles-sturt-advantage">https://study.csu.edu.au/information-for/school-leavers/charles-sturt-advantage</a>	31 <sup>st</sup> August
Southern Cross University <a href="https://www.scu.edu.au/study/high-school-students/entry-pathways/early-offer/">https://www.scu.edu.au/study/high-school-students/entry-pathways/early-offer/</a>	30 <sup>th</sup> September
University of New England- UNE Direct <a href="https://www.une.edu.au/study/study-on-campus/early-entry">https://www.une.edu.au/study/study-on-campus/early-entry</a>	15 <sup>th</sup> September
University of Newcastle <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/early">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/early</a>	29 <sup>th</sup> August
University of Technology -Early Entry <a href="https://www.uts.edu.au/study/undergraduate/admission-requirements/admissions-schemes/uts-early-entry-program">https://www.uts.edu.au/study/undergraduate/admission-requirements/admissions-schemes/uts-early-entry-program</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> September
University of Wollongong <a href="https://www.uow.edu.au/early-admission/">https://www.uow.edu.au/early-admission/</a>	11 <sup>th</sup> August
Western Sydney University <a href="https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/study/application-pathways/hsc-true-reward">https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/study/application-pathways/hsc-true-reward</a>	RND1: 6 <sup>th</sup> September See websites for other rounds

**Information sessions will run at school during lunchtime after Year 12 have completed their HSC Trials.**

WEEK	Information Sessions
Week 5 Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Q and A Session on University Pathways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UAC Application-Preferencing</li> <li>• University Processes-General Info &amp; Scholarships</li> </ul>
Week 6 Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	UAC Schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EAS, SRS and Equity Scholarships</li> </ul>
Week 7 Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	VOCATIONAL PATHWAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeships and Traineeships</li> </ul>

### Year 11 and 12

Please use the UAC link below for upcoming university open days across the state:

<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/open-days>

**Year 10**

- **St. Nicholas Pathways- School Based Traineeship-Early Childhood Education**

The SBAT program allows students to gain entry-level qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care (CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care) while completing their HSC, providing them with a qualification that can lead directly to employment as well as an opportunity to continue their learning pathway with advanced entry into university.

Training will be complemented by 100 days of paid on-the-job training across our St Nicholas Early Education centres and St Nicholas OOSH services.

<https://stnicholaspathways.org.au/sbat-program>      **Application CLOSE: 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

- **EVET**

Any Year 10 student who is interested in studying a vocational course at TAFE (**EVET**) as part of their pattern of study in Year 11 next year, would have by now met with Ms Finlay and collected an Expression of Interest Form. Please note students who have chosen to study a VET course at school for example Business Services, Construction, Hospitality or Skills for Work DO NOT need to complete this process.

If any student is still interested and has not collected an EOI Form, please email Ms Finlay, as Expression of Interest Form **MUST** be completed and submitted by next **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August (WEEK 4)**.

- **Year 10 Work Experience**

Permission notes and \$20 insurance due to the Finance Office Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Ms Finlay and Ms Dews  
Careers Advisers

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**Aspire**

Last Wednesday, Miss Weekes and myself took 36 enthusiastic Year 9 elective Music and Drama students to the Civic Theatre to see what the award winning Aspire team had prepared for us for 2023. The show was called "The Pirate Code" and featured an incredibly talented cast of singers, dancers, actors, musicians, and production students from all over the Diocese. This year saw many of our students in lead roles. Here is what two students thought of the production:

*"Watching Aspire was a great opportunity as I was able to see my peers on stage. The show was also a great experience as the set design was well planned and executed. I also enjoyed seeing the talent from lots of different schools."* **Saoirse Vickers**

*"My experience with Aspire has been absolutely amazing. During the start of the show the lights dulled and left us in darkness, everybody screamed. Percussion, music and laughter filled the theatre. One of my friends sitting next to me kept shaking my arm with delight and absolute amazement at the acting, music, dance, and one evil particular pirate in general which she continued to crush on for the rest of the show. Whilst watching I kept my eyes peeled for my good friend Chloe, she played one of the many pirates pretending to be a man and it was hilarious. The show was very humorous and well planned, everyone from our school did an amazing job and should be very proud of themselves."* **Kiera Watts**

If this has inspired you for the 2024 production, please see the following page. Go on.... break a leg!\* 😊

**Steve Walter**  
**Music Teacher**

\* Origin in theatres - A community known to be a bit superstitious, they believed that if you wished someone "good luck" it would actually bring the performer bad luck, so they decided to tell one another to "break a leg" that way the opposite would happen – the performer would give a flawless performance. (Taken from Amazing Talker)







# AUDITIONS 2024

Registrations for the ASPIRE 2024 auditions are now open for students from Year 4 to Year 12. The auditions will be held at the Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre NEX, King St Newcastle (West's Newcastle).

Registrations for auditions close on Friday 22 September 2023. Once we receive your registration, you will receive all relevant audition information during the first week of the holidays. This will include the audition dates and times.

## ENSEMBLES

### DANCE AUDITION

Monday 23 October 2023

The audition is entirely workshop based. You will be taken through some skills-based exercises before learning some new choreography. You may have an opportunity to add your own choreography so it's a good idea to have some ideas ready about what you might like to do.

### 2024 ASPIRE AUDITION FORM



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: <http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIREAuditions>
2. Fill in the form to apply

### INSTRUMENTAL AUDITION

Monday 23 October 2023

All instrumental auditions are 10 minutes. You are required to prepare a short piece that you feel shows your ability. After performing your piece for the panel, you will either be given some sight reading, then asked to perform some scales or asked to improvise around some chords accompanied by another instrument.

### DRAMA AUDITION

Tuesday 24 October and  
Wednesday 25 October 2023

The drama auditions are comprised of a half hour workshop comprising of a series of drama exercises in movement, voice, character work and devising (creating short scenes). Students will also be required to prepare a short one-minute monologue. A list of topics for Junior applicants will be on the ASPIRE website from Week 7 of Term 3, whilst Senior applicants will be required to source a monologue of their choice.

### VOCAL AUDITION

Thursday 26 October 2023

For the one-hour vocal audition, you will be placed in a group of up to 20 students of similar age. The first part of the audition will comprise learning a new song as a group and some simple movement to go with it. This allows us to see how well you pick up new music, lyrics and movement and place them together, but it will also be fun! In the second half of the audition everyone will be required to sing the first verse and chorus of one of the ten selected songs. The list of songs will be available on the ASPIRE website at the end of term 3 2022. You will be required to sing with the backing track (we provide). A link will be provided to each applicant so they can practice.

For more details go to [aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au](http://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au)



### Aboriginal Education

#### 'For Our Elders' - Weaving Sessions

This year's theme for NAIDOC is 'For Our Elders'. This week students in Yr 8 & Yr 9 had the opportunity to learn weaving with Aunty Doss, Aunty Carol and Aunty Marg, elders from Bahtabah Local Area Land Council.

The Aunties were very impressed not only with the quality of the bracelets but also the respect shown by all the students!



#### Lunch Time Weaving Sessions

After the success of the weaving sessions with the Aunties students will have the opportunity to sit quietly and weave in the Library at lunch for the next three Thursdays.



#### St Mary's NAIDOC Assembly

St Mary's will be celebrating NAIDOC Week on Wednesday 16 August at 12.00pm. Students from the Yr7/8 Dance group will perform again and be joined by dancers from Yr 9/10 currently preparing with Mr Roo Faulkner. All community members are invited to attend.

#### Food Technology Lessons – Bush Tucker

Students in Mrs Field's Food Technology Yr 9 class explored the importance of native ingredients traditionally and with current cuisine.



*Paul McKay*  
**Aboriginal Education Teacher**



## Year 9 News

### Year 9 Olympian Presentation

Last Tuesday Matthew Gray, 3-time Olympic Archer, spoke to Year 9 about goal setting and how to achieve their goals through hard work, perseverance, organisation and focus. He spoke to them about his 3 Olympic campaigns and the reasons for his successes and failures and passed around his Commonwealth Gold Medal. It was a fantastic presentation that included inspirational videos of Olympic athletes in all sports, showing the wave of emotions experienced with wins, losses, and injuries. I hope Year 9 took something from Matthew's talk, primarily the value of pursuing a personal goal whether that be academic, sporting, in the creative arts or just a personal goal for their formation as young men and women.



**Katrina Brennan**  
**Leader of Wellbeing – Year 9**


# DioSpeaks

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS YR 7-11


<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 29th August 2023
<b>Time</b>	9am – 2pm
<b>Venue</b>	Catholic Schools Office 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West

**Prizes will be awarded to students who place 1st and 2nd in each year group:**

1ST - \$50 JB HiFi voucher  
 2ND - \$25 JB HiFi voucher



**To register your interest  
 speak to your English teacher.**



**Catholic  
 Schools Office**  
DIOCESE OF MARELLAND-NEWCASTLE

## Library Matters

And the new term is off and racing! This is actually my favourite term in the whole year. Why? Because so many great events take place in the next ten weeks. But before I begin on this term, I want to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Turvey's **VET Skills for the Workplace** class for their assistance at the end of Term 2. These students underwent some initial training and then were able to complete several operational tasks in the library setting. They were a huge help in doing all the preparation work in getting class sets of English novels together and lending them out to each student.

Now, this may sound quite specific, but there are many transferable skills undertaken in this process that can be used across a range of workplaces. This task was broken down into a range of activities. It required planning, searching and locating class lists and book titles, determining the quantities required and then using the Library management system and extending their ICT skills in locating the student, scanning resources and then placing them in the class categories. The team also had a go at preparing some of our new books, getting them ready for borrowing.



Term 3 sees the wrapping up of the **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge**! We have a number of students making their way through the challenge, which is great to see. Can I remind students that I will need their completed Reading Log dropped to me by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August**. I can then enter your books on to their records for them. Alternatively, if you have entered your books online yourself, please email me by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August advising me that your record is complete and ready for validation.





Did you know it was **Harry Potter's Birthday on 31<sup>st</sup> July**? We had a great time celebrating with an amazing display in the library and a Trivia Kahoot. Thanks Ms Melissa Watt and Mr Shane Abell for their help with the display. **Congratulations to Annie Hardie in Year 7 who was our Kahoot Winner.**








**Mrs Rosalind Dunn**  
Teacher Librarian





**INVITING  
ALL  
MUSICIANS  
&  
VOCALISTS**

**DO YOU HAVE A GIFT TO SING OR PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE YOUR GIFTS TO BUILD A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH  
GOD?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS AND JOIN AN AWESOME  
COMMUNITY?**

**IF YOU ANSWERED YES, WE WOULD LOVE TO INVITE YOU ALONG TO AN INFO  
SESSION FOR AN EXCITING NEW CATHOLIC PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST, 5.30PM-7.00PM  
CAFE AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, 47-49 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, GATESHEAD**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED  
FOR MORE INFORMATION P 0466 140 066**





EXUBERANT CATHOLIC  
*Praise & Worship*  
NIGHT

Join us for a meeting on  
23 August to discuss all of the  
exciting possibilities for this  
new event, 5.30pm-7.00pm  
Refreshments will be provided  
Cafe at St Mary's Catholic College, 47-49 Pacific Highway,  
Gateshead, 0466 140 066





# NEST PROGRAM

**Interested in learning easy cooking skills  
Bored with eating the same dinner  
Then come and check out our program where you can  
begin your culinary journey.**

**14-18 years olds**

**THE NEXT SESSION STARTS ON WEDNESDAY  
23RD OF AUGUST**

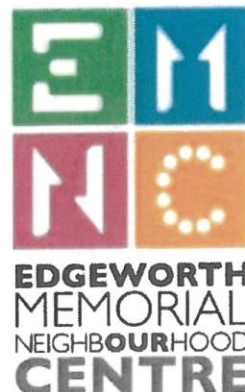
**IT WILL RUN WEEKLY FOR 5 WEEKS**

**FROM 4-6PM**

**CONTACT AMY FOR EOI**

**PHONE: 02 40721004**

**EMAIL: [youth@emnc.org.au](mailto:youth@emnc.org.au)**



<b>TERM 3 2023</b>	
<b>Week 4 (B Week)</b>	
Mon 7 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 7 (2024) Interviews – all week (week 2)</li> <li>Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations – all week</li> </ul>
Tues 8 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Assemblies</li> <li>Extended PLM – Students released at 2.40pm</li> <li>Feast of Mary Mackillop Event</li> </ul>
Wed 9 August	ICAS Digital Technologies
Thurs 10 August	Year 10 Oppenheimer Cinema Excursion
<b>Week 5 (A Week)</b>	
Mon 14 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 7 (2024) Interviews conclude today</li> <li>Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations conclude today</li> <li>NSWCCC Netball Championships – Penrith - TBC</li> </ul>
Tues 15 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Assembly</li> </ul>
Thurs 17 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baiame Caves Catholic Thought excursion</li> <li>Newsletter 13.23 published</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6 (B Week)</b>	
Mon 21 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICAS Science</li> <li>ICAS Spelling</li> </ul>
Tues 22 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Assemblies</li> <li>Extended PLM – Students released at 2.40pm</li> <li>Solar Buddy Light for Learning event</li> </ul>
Wed 23 August	Bstreetsmart Driver Education Forum
Thurs 24 August	Risk & Dare Josephite Justice Gathering
<b>Week 7 (A Week)</b>	
Mon 28 August	ICAS Maths
Tues 29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College Assembly</li> <li>ICAS Maths</li> </ul>
Wed 30 August	Josephite Colloquium
Thurs 31 August	Courage for Care program TBC
Fri 1 September	Newsletter 14.23 published
<b>Week 8 (B Week)</b>	
Mon 4 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 11 Exam Block (all week)</li> <li>Year 10 Work Experience Week (all week)</li> </ul>
Tues 5 September	Year Assemblies
Wed 6 September	Year 7 Immunisations – 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose
Thurs 7 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landcare</li> <li>Geography Fieldwork Trip – Eleebana and Speers Point</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9 (A Week)</b>	
Mon 11 September	Year 11 Exam Block (all week)
Tues 12 September	College Assembly
Wed 13 September	Year 10 Religious Literacy Testing
Thurs 14 September	R U Ok Day
Fri 15 September	Newsletter 15.23 published
<b>Week 10 (B Week)</b>	
Mon 18 September	Year 11 Exam Block concludes today
Tues 19 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 12 Graduation Mass</li> <li>Year Assemblies</li> </ul>
Wed 20 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 12 Reports published</li> <li>Year 12 Graduation and Awards Ceremony</li> <li>Oztag State Championships</li> </ul>
Fr 22 September	End of Term 3

We would love to feature your child's special achievements in the Newsletter, whether it is a school event or not. If your child has made it through to CCC, please let us know. Please share with us your stories and photos by sending to:

[debbie.carter@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:debbie.carter@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Thank you.