
St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 1.23

Monday 6 February 2023



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

Welcome to 2023 and St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the 2023 academic year. It is a special blessing to be able to welcome those of you (students, parents/carers, support staff and teaching staff) joining our community for the first time: I welcome you in a spirit of gratitude and thanks.

Gratitude and thanks to our loving God for the opportunity we have been given to gather "in community" to collaborate with, learn from, nurture, support and challenge each other in our shared process of education. A process of education placing the person of Jesus Christ at the centre of our daily endeavours. Gratitude and thanks to parents for privileging us (the staff) with the awesome responsibility of partnering you in the care, education and formation of your adolescent children. Gratitude and thanks to the new members of the teacher support and teaching staff for affirming the good work of continuing staff members by seeking employment in our school and gifting us with a depth of professional knowledge and skill which will further enhance our rich professional capital and advantage the education of **OUR** students.

In this, the 59th year of Catholic schooling at St Mary's Gateshead, we gather on the traditional land of the Awabakal people to build on the legacy of the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar, who established our community in 1964. They established not only a school, but a life-giving "spirit of community" centred on, inspired and nourished by God's love, as revealed in the human Jesus. Beginning in 1964, incredibly generous, caring and visionary women, the Sisters of St Joseph, embraced the role of servants, "in community", to establish the foundations and ignite a missionary flame which is enlivening, inspiring and welcoming of "new beginnings". A flame which is now enabling a very successful transition to a renewed vision of our community as St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead, a Year 7-12 Catholic College.

The ongoing improvement in our Higher School Certificate (HSC) results, since our first HSC class in 2019, has been highly commendable. Indeed, the results achieved by our 2022 HSC class, like those of our 2021 class, were outstanding. The 2022 and 2021 HSC results represent a triumph over adversity. Our students and teachers, supported by parents had to contend not only with the immense disruption and dislocation to studies caused by COVID, but also disruptions resulting from 5 years of continuous building (2016-2020), as part of the redevelopment of the College to accommodate the transition to Years 11 and 12

Vital factors underpinning the achievements of our first four HSC classes and which are the keys to success for students and teachers have been: our ongoing commitment to building relational trust; prioritising relationships and promoting the wellbeing of all community members and especially that of our students, and deepening their sense of belonging and connectedness to our community which in turn builds trust and enhances collaboration (lots of conversations) about teaching and learning and wellbeing.

We live in times of immense insecurities and uncertainties for so many people. We are still having to contend with the anxiety and disruption to our lives caused by COVID, and challenging economic times. Writing in “The Conversation”, in early 2020, Prof. Andy Hargraves, Research Professor in Education, at Boston College, stated that:

“It’s now clear that without their teachers’ care and support, it is hard for many young people to stay well and focussed. Being well, we all appreciate, isn’t an alternative to being successful. It’s an essential pre-condition for achievement especially among our most vulnerable children.”

Caring for each other (parents/carers and teachers) and promoting the mental health and wellbeing of our young people, is a critical need at this time of massive upheaval in their lives and ours. Ours is a partnership in education and just as our students need their teachers’ care and support, they need it even more from you, their parents/carers, their first and primary educators. We will always support you but we can’t replace you.

It is ever so vital, in 2023, that we work together, in a spirit of love and care, to encourage our young people to “get up and go on” and support them in the process. To be called together in a community to educate our young people is an incredible gift. In “Educating for Life – A spiritual vision for every Teacher & Parent”, 1998 Thomas Groome, states that “to be an educator is a sacred privilege and an awesome responsibility”. May **we** accept the challenge to honour the shared gift we have as educators and, with God’s grace and blessings, may **we** do it well.

Blessings

Larry Keating
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.

Larry Keating
Principal

THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS AND STAFF – SETTING AND CONSISTENTLY ENFORCING HIGH STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS

As a staff, we are so very aware of the critical importance of setting high standards and expectations for our students in all dimensions of College life. ***Indeed, the College's excellent reputation has a basis in teachers and parents collaborating in setting and consistently enforcing high standards and expectations.*** The staff at St Mary's is totally committed to doing this. However, staff effectiveness depends on your support in your role as your children's first educators. **ALL** students have been issued with a School Diary which contains a clear Statement of Expectations and your support in regularly reinforcing them with your adolescent daughters and sons will benefit them significantly in their education and transition to responsible adulthood.

The research on student achievement is very clear. Parental engagement in supporting learning in the home is a most significant factor in student achievement. It is vital that the home be a nurturing place for the achievement of students. **Indeed, across all home variables, parents holding high aspirations and expectations for their children and encouraging and supporting them in their learning have the strongest positive impact on student achievement.**

Our obligation, as your children's teachers, is to work with you to ensure that the standards and expectations placed before your children are appropriately high and challenging; that classroom teaching is appropriately supportive, and then work with you and them to realize, and even surpass them. There is a clear expectation that students will do "their best" in every classroom and then strive to exceed it. Teachers at St. Mary's are committed to challenging students in this manner, and, with your support, we will have the shared experience and joy of witnessing them growing into the fullness of their being.

Blessings

Larry Keating
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 2023

- Ms Adele Weekes – Music – Full time from full time temporary
- Mr John Hepworth – Mathematics – Full time from full time temporary
- Mrs Cologne Lane – Mathematics – Full time from part time temporary
- Ms Belinda Flood – Leader of Learning HSIE – Full time permanent from St Paul's Booragul

New Appointments to Temporary Teaching Staff for 2023

- Mrs Rebecca Morrice – Science (Biology) – Full time continuing temporary replacing Mrs Mandy Tobin
- Mrs Rosemary Laughton – continuing 2022 job-share: 0.2 FTE HSIE (Mrs Nikki Lorenz) and 0.2 FTE Library (Mrs Ros Dunn)
- Ms Leah McGovern – Science (0.3 FTE) from St Pius X College, Adamstown
- Mrs Jacqueline McInherny – PDHPE (0.6 FTE), continuing temporary member of staff
- Mrs Kate D'Arcy – Mathematics (0.4 FTE) continuing temporary member of staff
- Mrs Anne-Maree Artis – PDHPE - Full time continuing temporary member of staff
- Mr Kyle Clarence – Religious Studies - Full time continuing temporary member of staff
- Ms Carrie Tucker – Science (0.4 FTE) from All Saints College, Maitland
- Mr Declan Meagher – Learning Support (0.4 FTE) continuing temporary member of staff
- Mrs Michelle Bergin – Learning Support (0.4FTE) – new member of staff
- Ms Leanne Field – TAS – (0.6FTE) temporary
- Ms Isabelle Quiqueree – English (0.6 FTE)
- Mrs Penny Cook – Mathematics (0.4FTE) – Temporary, job-share (Christina Hookway)

Returning from Leave and Secondment

- Mrs Christina Hookway – Mathematics (0.6 FTE – job-share)
- Mrs Kerri Hogan – Mathematics (0.6 FTE – job-share)

New Internal Appointments

- Mrs Vanessa Dews – Acting Careers Adviser – Job-share with Paula Finlay
- Mrs Renae Turvey – Teaching VET as well as English
- Mrs Ruth McCrae – Leader of Wellbeing (Year 8) continuing appointment
- Mrs Louise Henderson – Gifted Education Mentor continuing and Co-Leader Student Pastoral Council
- Mrs Tarryn Wilson – WHS Coordinator continuing
- Mrs Louise Hatcher – Co-Leader Student Pastoral Council
- Mrs Tracy Carpenter – Pedagogical Mentor
- Mr Kyle Clarence – Religious Studies – Full time temporary
- Ms Georgina Lindsay – Leader of Learning – English (Permanent appointment)
- Mrs Tania Eastcott – Acting Leader of Learning – Mathematics (continuing appointment)

Leaders of Wellbeing – 2023 Allocations

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

Job Share Arrangements (from commencement of Term 1, 2023)

- Mrs Anna Matthews (Permanent) / Mrs Leah McGovern (Temporary) – new
- Mrs Katrina Piper (Permanent) / Mrs Amy Lavis (Permanent) – continuing
- Mrs Nikki Lorenz (Permanent) / Mrs Rosemary Laughton (Temporary) – continuing
- Mrs Melanie Schultz (Permanent) / Mrs Jacqui McInerney (Temporary) – new
- Mrs Prue Owen (Permanent) / Mrs Kate D'Arcy commencing Term 2 – new
- Mrs Ros Dunn (Permanent) / Mrs Rosemary Laughton (Temporary) – continuing
- Mrs Paula Finlay (Permanent) / Mrs Vanessa Dews (Permanent) – continuing
- Mrs Christina Hookway (Permanent) / Mrs Penelope Cook (Temporary) - new

Support Staff Changes – 2023

- Mrs Stephanie Leard – Clerical Officer (Administration), continuing Part time temporary (increased hours)
- Mrs Jodie Warburton – Clerical Officer (Administration), Part time permanent
- Mrs Fiona Fowler – Cafeteria Assistant, Part time permanent
- Mrs Kayla Bevan – Clerical Officer (Administration), Part time permanent from SFX Hamilton

School Counsellors

Vanessa Petersen (continuing) and Amanda Pilley (new)

SPC Coordinators

Louise Henderson and Louise Hatcher (shared role)

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

Joanne Relf

NEW STAFF 2023

Left to Right: Kayla Bevan, Michelle Bergin, Belinda Flood, Carrie Tucker, Leah McGovern, Leanne Field, Penny Cook



AN INVITATION TO YEAR 12 PARENTS & CARERS

YEAR 12 INFORMATION EVENING
MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2023 – 7.00PM

- Higher School Certificate (HSC) – Rules and Procedures
- Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)
- Careers Guidance and transitioning out of St Mary's Catholic College
- Key dates and 2023 planning
- Q & A Session





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.

Engaging in the Arts is such an inspiring way to nourish our spirituality, our hopes, our dreams, our growing, our relationships and exploring the possibilities of our vocation. The arts should inspire, challenge, engage, question, call us to consider our meaning and purpose. Above all, they should promote hope, self-belief and transcendence.

Maybe this year you can aim to read more, (Novels, poetry), view more art, live a life passionately in the service of others. Wherever your journey takes you, may you be blessed, amazed, inspired and, as the poet Mary Oliver says:

*So come to the pond,
or the river of your imagination,
or the harbor of your longing,

and put your lips to the world.
And live
your life.*

DeAnna Addicoat
Ministry Coordinator



Photo: Brad Trost

Year 7 Students, their Parents and Staff at the Opening Liturgy for 2023

LEADER OF WELLBEING – YEAR 7

Year 7 2022 – 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 Roger Kennedy 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.

DAILY HOMEWORK AND USE OF SCHOOL DIARY

Students are soon to be issued with their school diary. Parents, please review this document with your child and impress on them the importance of using it, each day, to record their homework. 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.

2023 SCHOOL FEES, ACCOUNTS AND CONCESSIONS

A detailed schedule of 2023 School Fees is now available from the General or Finance Office.

Families seeking a concession on fees **MUST** contact the School Finance Officers – Mrs Helen See and Mrs April Bisegna – to make an appointment to meet with Mr Keating to agree on the concession.

PLEASE NOTE, ALL 2022 CONCESSIONS ON FEES HAVE TO BE RE-NEGOTIATED FOR 2023

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. **They must not call you directly to request they be collected.** 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.

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 2023. 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 2023. Current Year 9 2022 parents are requested to note that students will require blazer and trousers for formal occasions during Term 1 2023 and throughout the year.

The Uniform shop holiday trading hours are published in this Newsletter. If you have any uniform queries, please contact Kylie, Uniform Shop Manager on 0435 954 372.

From the commencement of 2023, black polishable leather school shoes will only be accepted. Black leather "Vans", "Converse" or jogger style shoes (or similar) will not be permitted.

UNIFORM SHOP

PLEASE NOTE – UNIFORM SHOP TRADING DAYS. The Uniform Shop will be open each Tuesday and Wednesday from 8.30am to 10.30am and each Thursday from 12.45pm to 3.30pm. For information during trading hours please call 0435 954372 Kylie, the Uniform Shop Manager will assist you.

STUDENT ID CARD

School photo day will occur next Thursday with catch up day scheduled for **Tuesday 21 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. 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.**
- 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 the school to explain your child's absence if you receive a text. Please do not respond by 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.
- On occasion you may be sent a text message 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. 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 either Helen or April in the Finance Office.

FINANCE NEWS

Fee Statements have recently been emailed to parents. **These Statements have been issued prior to the annual 2023 school fees being invoiced.**

2022 School fees were expected to be finalised by 30 November 2022, unless an **agreed payment arrangement was established with the Principal.**

- Any school fees that are outstanding, without an agreed payment arrangement with 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 2023 School Fees are generated.
- Payments can be made via BPay, direct debit or credit card over the phone with our Finance ladies, Helen and April.

For fee payers wishing to establish a new direct debit or adjust their existing direct debit, please phone our Finance Office on 4944 4800.

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, they will be issued with an **"Early Leaver Pass"**. To request a pass, please send a letter of request to the Principal via Reception. 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.

If a student is required to leave early, Parents/Carers are to provide a permission note to their child which is presented at Student Services prior to them leaving. Due to current COVID protocols parents/carers cannot attend Student Services, please meet your child in the Kiss and Ride zone and call the College to notify us that you are there. Your child will then be sent down to meet you.

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 the Office 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 value greatly 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 see **Mrs Van Vlimmeren** 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).

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 see Student Services.

BUS ROUTES

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

2023 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.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

BYOD Program

St Mary's Catholic College is committed to preparing students for the 21st century and providing them with the skills and knowledge to be successful in their future. We believe that having access to technology in the classroom can help create a learning environment that encourages collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving. It also includes being able to use technology to research, communicate and create. All of these skills are essential in today's world and can help prepare your student for success in the future.

As part of your child's enrolment, you accepted the code of conduct and requirements of our BYOD policy. This policy outlines the expected behaviour, responsible use, and expectations for students and parents when using a device in the classroom, including ensuring access to a device that meets the minimum standards of the program.

Already a number of students have challenged their teachers, indicating that they have a damaged device or no intent on following this request. This is unacceptable and has put your child at a disadvantage in their learning experience. Without a device, they are not able to access the digital resources available to them, meaning they are missing out on important lessons and activities. It is important that these issues are challenged and rectified as soon as possible. We trust in your support.

Shane Abell
LT Coordinator

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Personal Learning Plans

All families of students who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are invited to participate in a goal setting meeting for their son or daughter. These introductory meetings will take between 20-30 mins and will involve the student, family member or members, one classroom teacher and myself. Please contact Reception to arrange a time to meet next week or the week after.

Paul McKay
Aboriginal Education Teacher



This week a native finger lime was added to the bush tucker garden.

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 2023 the following vaccines will be offered:

YEARS	VACCINE	NUMBER OF DOSES
Year 7	Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine	2-doses at least 6 months apart
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine	Single dose
Years 10	Meningococcal ACWY vaccine	Single dose

The scheduled dates for the 2023 immunisations are as follows:

Year 7 **Wednesday 22 February 2023 and Wednesday 6 September**
Year 10 **Wednesday 3 May 2022**

Commencing this year, *Parent Information Kits* are available via a link which will be emailed to parents week commencing Monday 6 February, 2023. The link allows access to immunization information and the consent form for completion in order for your child to be included in the 2023 vaccination program.

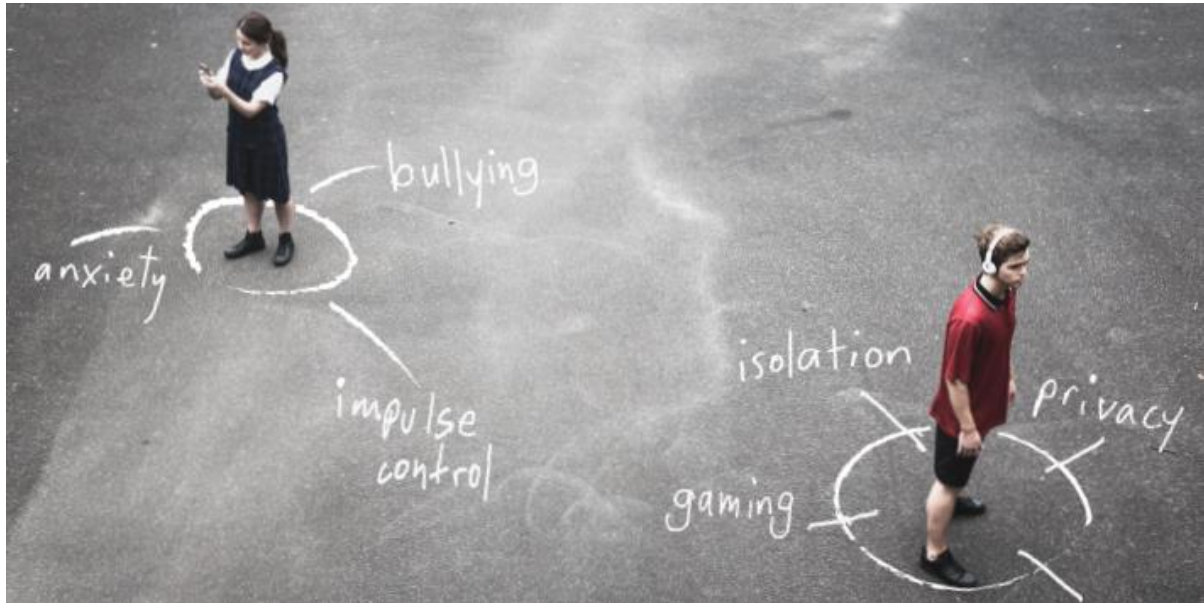
Please note that, to improve vaccination completion, students will be offered any missed doses during Year 7 or 8 (for HPV and dTpa vaccination) and during Year 10 or 11 (for Meningococcal ACWY vaccination).

Parents/carers who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the College. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/withdraw_consent.aspx.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic either as a physical card or a text message sent to the mobile number recorded on the consent form. Details about vaccinations given at school will also be uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to support complete vaccination histories.



Brainstorm Productions



CYBERIA

On Monday February 20th, Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing performance 'Cyberia' for Year 7 and 8. 'Cyberia' is a live theatre experience that addresses mental health, (cyber)bullying and the responsible use of technology. The performance is part of our student wellbeing curriculum and has been developed by education and mental health professionals.

Ruby loses touch with her values and gets caught up in cyberbullying and online drama. Anxious and struggling with impulse control, she is in danger of damaging her digital reputation. For Tim, a lack of sleep and social interaction leads to scams and dangerous online behaviours. He becomes isolated and withdraws into gaming. Students follow Tim and Ruby's journey as they develop skills for help-seeking, resilience and positive mental health.

Brainstorm Productions is one of Australia's most experienced and respected theatre in education companies, performing to over 260,000 students every year. They offer a range of programs to help schools nurture healthy and harmonious environments, addressing issues such as mental health, online safety, bullying and resilience, and are endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner as a Trusted eSafety Provider.

Learn more about Brainstorm Productions by visiting their website (brainstormproductions.edu.au), or following them on Instagram ([@brainstormproductions](https://www.instagram.com/brainstormproductions)) or Facebook ([@Brainstorm.Productions](https://www.facebook.com/Brainstorm.Productions)).

2023 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship

The NSW Government is inviting Year 10 and Year 11 History students to apply for the 2023 Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship. Applications are now open via the NSW Office for Veterans Affairs website:

www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/pams

The Anzac Memorial Scholarship gives History students the opportunity to travel on a two-week study tour to Singapore and Darwin where they will explore the history of Australian men and women at war. A military historian will accompany students and the tour will include significant historical sites.

The Scholarship covers:

- all learning and leisure activities on the tour
- all travel while on the tour (flights, coaches, etc)
- all meals and accommodation
- uniforms to wear on the tour.

Applications close on 13 March 2023. Further information is available from the Veterans Affairs website.

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.

We have EFTPOS facilities, but cash is also an option for payment.

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 2023!

Deb Tserepas
Canteen Supervisor

Canteen News

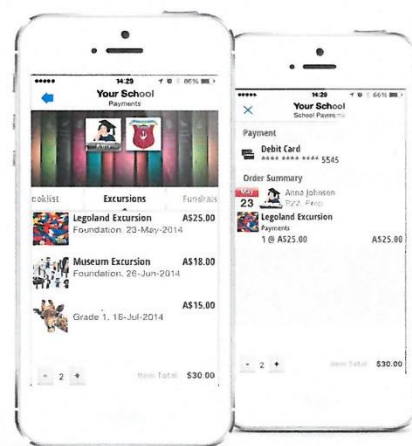
- The Canteen roster now has a dedicated Facebook page. The Facebook is a closed group page, the name is St Mary's Catholic College Canteen Volunteers. Please search and request to join.
- **Please remember to alter your child's year on Qkr! This helps us to get your child's order to them more quickly.**

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 2023 (EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2022)



SANDWICHES

Buttered	\$1.20
Vegemite	\$1.60
Egg	\$3.30
Egg & Lettuce	\$3.70
Cheese	\$3.00
Cheese & Tomato	\$3.50
Ham	\$4.40
Ham & Pickle	\$4.70
Ham & Cheese	\$4.80
Ham, Cheese, Pineapple	\$5.30
Ham, Cheese, Tomato	\$5.30
Tomato	\$1.90
Salad Works	\$4.00
Chicken	\$4.00
Chicken/Ham & Salad	\$5.80
Gourmet Turkey/Ham Salad	\$7.30
Tuna	\$3.30
Full Salad Roll	\$5.80

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
Half Chilli & Salad Wrap	\$4.00
Roasted Chicken & Sal	\$7.00
Half Chicken Salad Wrap	\$4.00
Ham and Salad	\$7.00
Half Ham Salad Wrap	\$4.00
Full Salad (no Half)	\$4.00
Chicken Mayo Lettuce	\$7.00
½ Chick 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

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

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 Juice Bombs	\$2.20
500ml Juice Bombs	\$3.50
Up and Go	\$2.50
Lipton Iced Tea	\$4.00
Poppers	\$1.50
Waterfords Mineral Water	\$3.50
Powerade	\$4.50

FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FREE OF CHARGE

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

Vinnies Youth

The cost-of-living pressures people are experiencing have been a regular news item for many months with increasing numbers of people feeling more and more vulnerable. Groceries cost more, bills keep rising and the everyday things we have become accustomed to having are now luxuries. The impact is becoming a local and national concern.



The St Vincent de Paul Society is committed to actively providing assistance to the less fortunate in our society and helping those who are struggling. To assist with the struggles in our local area St Mary's will be holding a one week Appeal called "Share a Pair".

The Appeal dates are **Monday 6-14 February** and will coincide with Valentine's Day- a day of commitment, love and compassion.

The Appeal will involve the donation of new undies, and socks that can be provided to the needy in our own local community. The items can be sent into the College and placed in a special Donation Box in Student Services or given to Roll Call Teachers.

The need is immense, and any new items will be gratefully appreciated.

"SHARE A PAIR"
BRINGING DIGNITY TO OTHERS.

- THIS VALENTINE'S DAY, SPREAD LOVE BY BRINGING IN CLEAN UNDIES, TOILETRIES AND SOCKS TO PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MOST.
- BE READY TO SERVE, PLEASE SHARE THE LOVE AND PROVIDE DIGNITY TO SOMEONE IN NEED.

**COLLECTION FROM
MONDAY THE 6TH -
14TH OF FEBRUARY**

- CLEAN UNDERWEAR IS SOMETHING YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED UNTIL YOU DON'T HAVE IT.
- DONATIONS BOX IS LOCATED AT STUDENT SERVICES.

The poster has a light pink background with faint heart patterns. It features a cartoon character wearing a red cape and white underwear, holding a large pink heart. The text is in bold, black, sans-serif font.

Term 1 Calendar 2023

Week 3 (A Week)	
Tues 7 Feb	Academic Awards Ceremony
Thurs 9 Feb	School Photos
Week 4 (B Week)	
Tues 14 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Support Session 1 Year Assembly Staff Professional Development – PLM – Data Analysis – Early departure for students
Fri 17 Feb	Newsletter – 2.23
Week 5 (A Week)	
Sun 19 Feb	Student Leaders Retreat (2 days)
Mon 20 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Leaders Retreat – continued Cyberia Brainstorm Productions – Years 7 & 8
Tues 21 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo Catch Up Day College Assembly Diocesan Launch: Caritas, Project Compassion – Cathedral 10.30am
Wed 22 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Liturgy Year 7 Vaccinations – Gardasil (HPV) & Boostrix (dTpa)
Week 6 (B Week)	
Mon 27 Feb	Year 12 HSC Information Evening – 7pm
Tues 28 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Support Session 2 Year Assemblies Staff Professional Development – PLM – Data Analysis – Early departure for students
Wed 1 March	Swimming Carnival - Lambton
Fri 3 March	Newsletter – 3.23
Week 7 (A Week)	
Tues 7 March	College Assembly
Wed 8 March	International Women's Day – details to follow
Week 8 (B Week)	
Tues 14 March	Year Assemblies
Wed 15 March	NAPLAN Testing window – 25.03.23 to 27.03.23
Fri 17 March	Newsletter – 4.23
Week 9 (A Week)	
Mon 20 March	Harmony Week – 20.03.23 to 26.03.23
Tues 21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony Day College Assembly
Fri 24 March	Athletics Carnival - Glendale
Week 10 (B Week)	
Tues 28 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year Assemblies Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
Wed 29 March	Year 10 Girls' Talk – PP&E
Thurs 30 March	Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – Years 7 to 11 - 3.30pm to 7.00pm
Fri 31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – Years 7 to 11 – No classes* *Year 12 classes as per timetable Newsletter 5.23
Week 11 – (A Week)	
Tues 4 April	College Assembly
Thurs 6 April	Holy Thursday Feast Day Celebrations – Liturgy, Stalls, Colour Run
Fri 7 April	Good Friday – Public Holiday
Sun 9 April	Easter Sunday
Week 1 – Term 2 (A Week)	
Mon 24 April	Term 2 commences ANZAC Day Ceremony – Noon
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Fri 28 April	Newsletter 6.23
Please note any TBC dates – this is due to evolving COVID protocols. Arrangements will be continually updated on this page.	