St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter No.19/22
Tuesday 13 December 2022

Website: www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au
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Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

Sharing the Gift of Self – the heart of the Christmas Story

The joy of the Christmas Season is the joy of knowing that "God is with us". It is the joy of knowing that in the birth of Jesus, in the poorest of circumstances, God is with us, as one of us.

In preparing for Christmas, in our frenetic paced and consumerist world, it is so easy to lose sight of the simplicity of the Christian story, that is the sharing of God's love, peace and joy with others. It is easy to be blind to our Christian obligation to be a gift to others.

In John's Gospel (John 10:10) we learn that Jesus came into this world so that we may experience "fullness of living". The key to "fullness of living" is the gift of God's love, peace and joy shared with others in the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives.

The greatest gift we can share is the gift of self as expressed in our love, care and support for our family members and friends, especially those in need; in our efforts to reach out to people in places of despair, darkness and misery; in reaching out to people beset with isolation and loneliness; in extending material comfort and support to those living in abject poverty; and in reaching out to victims of natural disasters and war.

"God is with us" in these actions. It is in sharing the gift of self, NOT the receiving of gifts which is at the heart of the Christmas story and the key to "fullness of living".

May all families be truly blessed, this Season of Christmas, with the Lord's love, peace, joy, and a deep sense of "fullness of living".

Blessings

Larry Keating Principal



A Reflection on 2022 and expressions of gratitude and thanks

As we come to the conclusion of another academic year, we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for. We have the gift of each other in a Christ-centred community; the gift of coming together as one people sharing in work that gives life to and receive life from others; the gift of our forebears, the Sisters of St Joseph, indeed all who came before us from whom we are able to draw strength and inspiration from their spirit of doing, giving to and receiving from each other for the good and betterment of others; the gift of clarity of mission embodied in our constant striving to become more than we are as people, as learners and as a community of people and learners striving for wholesome development and in the process, being a source of life for our world. These are special blessings.

I take this opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the generosity of spirit and compassion embodied in the countless expressions of selfless giving which have been shared in so many dimensions of our community throughout the year. Expressions which witness to our Christian responsibility to share in the creation fo a kingdom of love and service.

Particular thanks extend to you, our parents/carers, for entrusting your children to our care, and supporting your children and their teachers and our support staff in a spirit of mutual love, care, understanding and relational trust. We are especially mindful of and grateful for the mighty efforts you are making to contribute towards the financial costs of educating your children in very challenging economic times. Special thanks also extend to parents/carers who have given so generously of their time and effort as volunteers in our cafeteria. You are meeting a critical need and our gratitude for your support is immense. More support in the cafeteria in 2023 would be gratefully received. Please consider joining a happy team of volunteers if you are able to do so.

St Mary's is a unique and special place and the essence of these qualities is found in our students. Your children give our lives meaning. They are the reason for our existence as a school. They gift us with the joy, the challengs, the struggles and the frustration of the adolescents' search for identity as they journey to adulthood. They define the character of our school. To share in their daily struggles and endeavours, and to experience their capacity to uplift, inspire and give expression to the finest qualities of our humanity are amazing gifts. To be their educators is a truly priviliged role and we thank you and them for this.

A significant, continuing and commendable feature of our community is the complete fidelity of the staff (teaching and teacher support) to our school improvement agenda within their various areas of responsibility and accountability. Their commitment to sharing and collaborating; to learning from their daily practice; to learning together from the latest educational research, especially as it relates to the science of learning is changing the learning environment in the school in a way that is more appropriately responsive to the needs of the 21st century adolescent learner. It is continuing to improve students' engagement in learning, and building a much needed capacity to be life-long learners.

Many individuals, groups and organisations have continued to contribute, in significant and valued ways, to our educational endeavours in 2022. Particular thanks extend to Vanessa Petersen and Kaine Griffith, our College Counsellors; Joanne Relf, our Social Worker employed as part of the "Beyond the Gates" program which is a partnership with Catholic Care Social Services; Father Anthony Potts, Parish Priest, MacKillop Parish; Mr Brian O'Neill and members of the local St Vincent de Paul Society; Mr Pat Conroy, Federal Member for Shortland; Ms Jodie Harrison, State Member for Charlestown; Ms Yasmin Catley, State Member for Swansea; the members of the Lake Macquarie City Council – Landcare Team; the Principal and Staff in each of our associated Primary Schools; Local Lions and Rotary Community Service organisations and members of the Catholic Schools Office – Mr Gerard Mowbray, Director, Assistant Directors Mr Steve Todd, (Acting Assistant Director), Mr John Tobin and the staff in the various services – Religious Education and Spirituality; Teaching and Learning; Financial and Human Resources.

New challenges and opportunities beckon as we move to the 2023 academic year. The College's Improvement agenda will continue to put **the process of learning at the heart of change**. Central to this focus will be the ongoing involvement of the staff in the diocesan teaching and learning initiative being led by the acclaimed Canadian educational leader, **Lyn Sharratt**, and teachers and students continuing to adapt to lessons of longer length as a vehicle for enhancing students' agency and engagement in learning; deepening their learning; enhancing their capacity to become independent learners with the capacity to better regulate their own learning; improve their sense of wellbeing and build their capacity to acquire and apply the skills of a life-long learner.

As we come to the conclusion of another year, it is important to realise that we continue to be so very fortunate to experience the gift of Catholic education at a time when natural disasters, war, terror, the pandemic and famine continue to devastate so many communities throughout the world. We are truly blessed as a nation with a quality of life which is unimaginable for so many people in our world. Please recognise and give thanks for this and encourage your children to do the same.

May a spirit of giving to those in need be at the heart of your Christmas celebration.

Blessings

Larry Keating **Principal**



2023 STAFFING CHANGES

Taking Leave and Continuing Leave – Permanent Teaching Staff:

- Mr Ben Mulligan, PDHPE Replaced by Mrs Jacqueline McInherny all year
- Mrs Melanie Schultz, PDHPE Replaced by Mrs Anne-Maree Artis until 8 October 2023
- Mrs Amanda Tobin, Science (Biology) Replaced by Mrs Rebecca Morrice until 14 July 2023
- Mrs Kathrine Baguley, Mathematics Replaced by Mrs Cologne Lane until 23 April 2023
- Mr Timothy O'Neill, Leader of Learning Support Term 1

Leaving the Permanent Teaching Staff

• Mr Dominic Wakely – to St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton

Leaving the Temporary Teaching Staff

- Mrs Corinna Oszko to San Clemente, Mayfield
- Mr Peter Barnes to St Francis Xavier's, Hamilton
- Mr Cameron Anderson St Bede's, Chisholm
- Ms Isabelle Quiqueree to travel
- Mr Kyle Clarence St Joseph's, Lochinvar
- Ms Celia Kemeny San Clemente, Mayfield

New Appointments to Permanent Teaching Staff

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

New Appointments to Temporary Teaching Staff for 2023

- Ms Rebecca Morrice, Science (Biology 1.0FTE) Current temporary member of staff
- Mrs Rosemary Laughton, HSIE (0.2FTE) and Library (0.2FTE) Current temporary member of staff
- Ms Leah McGovern, Science (0.3FTE) from St Pius X Adamstown
- Mrs Jaqueline McInherny, PDHPE (0.6FTE) Current temporary member of staff

- Mrs Kate D'Arcy, Mathematics (0.4FTE) Current temporary member of staff
- Mrs Anne-Maree Artis, PDHPE (1.0FTE) Current temporary member of staff
- TBC English (0.6FTE)
- TBC Religious Studies (1.0FTE)
- TBC Science (0.4FTE)
- TBC Learning Support Teacher (Term 1) (1.0FTE)
- TBC Learning Support Teacher (0.4FTE)

Returning from Leave

- Mrs Christina Hookway, Mathematics (0.6FTE)
- Mrs Kerri Hogan, Mathematics

New Internal Appointments

- Mrs Tracy Carpenter Pedagogical Mentor
- Mrs Georgina Lindsay English Leader of Learning
- Mrs Michelle Van Vlimmeren Acting Leader of Learning Support (Term 1)
- Mrs Tania Eastcott Re-appointed to Acting Leader of Learning Mathematics
- Mrs Ruth McCrae Re-appointed to Acting Leader of Wellbeing
- Mrs Louise Henderson Re-appointed to Acting Gifted Education Mentor
- Mrs Vanessa Dews Acting Careers Advisor, Job-Share with Ms Paula Finlay

2023 Leader of Wellbeing Allocations

Year 7 – Mrs Maryanne Murray

Year 8 - Mrs Ruth McCrae (Acting)

Year 9 - Mrs Katrina Brennan

Year 10 - Mr Daniel Beckett

Year 11 - Mr Gerard Cushan

Year 12 - Ms Sharon Smith

Job-Share Arrangements

- Science Mrs Anna Matthews (Permanent) / Mrs Leah McGovern (Temporary) new
- 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
- Careers Advisor Ms Paula Finlay (Permanent) / Mrs Vanessa Dews (Permanent) new
- Mathematics Mrs Christina Hookway (Permanent) / TBC (Temporary) new
- Mathematics Mrs Prue Owen (Permanent) / Mrs Kate D'Arcy (Temporary) new

College Counsellors

- Mrs Vanessa Petersen (continuing)
- Ms Amanda Pilley (new) replacing Kaine Griffith

Support Staff Changes

- Mrs Linda Younger, Student Services Retiring
- Ms Brooke Ceaser, Cafeteria Relocating

4 Positions are currently being resolved:

- Administration/Student Services 3 positions
- Cafeteria 1 position

New Appointments to Permanent role

Cafeteria - Mrs Fiona Fowler (currently temporary)



Farewell and Expressions of Gratitude and Thanks to Outstanding Servants of Catholic Education leaving our Community on a permanent or temporary basis



Retirement

Mrs Linda Younger - Linda will be retiring after devoting 41 years as a faithful servant of Catholic education in our diocese. Linda has been a member of our Teacher Support staff since 2019. All her previous service in the diocese was at the Catholic Education Office, initially as an Administrative Support in the Planning Department before moving to the Payroll Department where she remained for 26 years.

During her time in our community, Linda has given outstanding service in her various administrative roles and especially in Student Services. Her warm, friendly and outgoing personality, her excellent communication skills, her empathy and capacity to relate to adolescenets and respond appropriately to their requests and needs has made a positive difference in the lives of our students as well as our parents and carers, her Support Staff colleagues and the teaching staff.

Linda's complete fidelity to her various responsibilities in Catholic education has undoubtedly been influenced by her time as a secondary school student at St Mary's, Gateshead, under the care of the Sisters of St Joseph. As fate would have it, Linda is now retiring from the workforce at the very school from which she left to seek employment.

As a true servant of Catholic education, Linda has honoured our College motto "Ready to Serve". She has endeared herself to all in our community. We will miss her zest for life; her sense of fun and laughter; her boundless energy and her daily commitment to the pursuit of human goodness. May she be truly blessed as she travels and explores the natural wonders of our homeland.



Permanent Teaching Staff

Dominic Wakely – Dominic has resigned his position, as a permanent teacher at St Mary's to take up a position at St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton commencing 2023.

This year, Dominic was on 12 months leave from his position at St Mary's. Prior to this time (2017-2021), he served our community as a teacher of Religious Studies and Music. Dominic's daily practice was characterised by commendable gentleness of spirit and a deep concern for the wellbeing of all students, and especially those within his sphere of influence as a classroom teacher.

Dominic possessed a thoroughly detailed knowledge of First Aid and very generously and readily offered support in this area of college life at short notice. May he be especially blessed in the next phase of his journey in Catholic education.



Permanent Staff Retiring from or Changing Leadership Positions

Mrs Tracy Carpenter and Ms Natasha Convery have chosen to relinquish their current leadership positions. Ms Georgina Lindsay was the successful applicant for the Leader of Learning English position vacated by Tracy Carpenter who successfully applied for the Pedagogical Mentor position relinquished by Georgina. Ms Natasha Convery's position of HSIE Leader of Learning was gained by Ms Belinda Flood, HSIE Leader of Learning, St Paul's Booragul.

Natasha Convery (2006-2022), Tracy Carpenter (2018-2022) and Georgina Lindsay (2022) have each given ourstanding service in their respective leadership roles during the indicated periods of service. The quality of leadership provided by each of them within their respective areas of expertise, has had a profoundly positive influence on college life. It has contributed in a significant way to the ongoing growth and development of our community. Individually and collectively, they have led professional learning with passion and purpose, and in the process improved students' educational outcomes, and built the capacity of staff as Leaders of Learning in the classroom. Their attention to detail and their desire to give so much of themselves for the benefit of our students and colleague members of staff has been a distinguishing feature of their servant leadership. Our gratitude and thanks is immense. Their continuation as members of the teaching staff is a special blessing. Larry Keating

Principal

MINISTRY

As part of Advent preparations, many of us will have put up our Christmas decorations, complete with the Christmas Crib, which is a Franciscan tradition, dating back to 1223. Perhaps, like me, you put the figure of the baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve, having contemplated during Advent the Annunciation and devotion of Mary and Joseph to the God who called them to be faithful to each other, their child and their God. Despite the complexity of their circumstances Mary and Joseph seem to live out the command in the Psalms to "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," They live out the call to be joyful, without fear for the future. Mary herself lives in the angel's affirmation to not be afraid for she has found favour with God.



In 1223 that first crib was celebrated in the woods of Greccio near Assisi, on Christmas Eve. St Francis had asked a townsman, John (Messier Giovanni Velitta), about two weeks before Christmas to prepare a manger, complete with donkey and ox. Franciscans from various communities, women, and men of the neighbourhood, bought candles and torches to brighten the night and celebrated with St Francis.

The word 'manger' comes from the French word the French manger (meaning "to eat"), from Latin mandere (meaning "to chew"). It is quite appropriate that during that Christmas celebrations are centred around a festive table, with friends and family gathered from far and wide to honour the season of giving by chewing over the events of the past year with laughter and sometimes tears, but always with thankfulness.

The manger and the Eucharist have both chewing and gratitude in common. The word "Eucharist" means "giving thanks," but in a Jewish context is directed specifically towards giving thanks to God. At the manger we contemplate the God made flesh and give thanks for his incarnation. At our own family tables are we also conscious of the child whose birth we are celebrating?

The manger we contemplate calls us to adore the Christ who will become the bread of life. This manger with its gathering of shepherds and kings, the unschooled and the educated, the unclean and the pure, the believers and the sceptical has become a table around which a great celebration occurs, where dialogue can take place and where real community is lived and nurtured.

The child whose birth is celebrated in Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Unlike the Holy of Holies in the Temple, the entrance, which was restricted to the High Priest, this child invites all into his presence.

May this child of the manger, who inspires us to gather around our family tables at Christmas, bless us with the grace to live in love, hope, joy and peace. May he inspire us to rejoice and transform the world.

Advent God, Create in our hearts a longing for peace, May we create Peace within families May we create Peace within communities May we create Peace within the state May we create Peace within the world Advent God May we listen to you in the silence. And stillness of your love May your peace be our protection May we be strengthened to be your prophetic voice May we reject violence in all its forms The violence wrought by fear and poverty of spirit the violence of unexamined personal power and privilege the violence of exclusion the violence of oppression the violence of neglect Teach us to be makers of peace Resolvers of conflict

Conquerors of injustice covering battle grounds with the lush growth of just peace.

DeAnna Addicoat
Ministry Coordinator

Outstanding Achievements

Congratulations, Cian!

We would like to congratulate **Cian O'Hagan**, Year 12, for his nomination and subsequent selection in ARTEXPRESS, exhibiting the Class of '22 in 2023.

ARTEXPRESS is the annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by students for the HSC in Visual Arts. It represents the high standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Visual Arts students in NSW schools. Cian's Photographic work, "Is That Yourself?" (In his own words):

'Is that yourself?' explores the complex implications of dementia.

As my grandfather descends further into a world of obscurity, I grapple with the impact this has upon the individual and the family. Working closely with Tony over the past 6 months, my images document the vacuity and confusion that persist throughout his daily life – his aging body a symbol for the decay occurring within.

For my family, the sense of absence is profound. Our version of Tony exists through memories of a colourful past – as he fades away in the present. Though sombre in nature, my images reveal fragments of the 'man that was'. I endeavour to capture the humorous, caring, and gentle soul who will reside in our hearts forever.

Cian O'Hagan – Artist's Statement

We are very proud of everything you have achieved this year, Cian, and we wish you all the best for the future.



Congratulations Jaz Lawes

on your selection as a finalist in the class of First Class 22 Exhibition!

First Class is a highly popular annual curated exhibition project celebrating the high calibre of work produced by students from the Hunter and Central Coast regions. First Class 22 is selected from nominated Higher School Certificate Visual Arts submissions produced in 2022. This year there were over 150 submissions from around the regions, so to be considered by the curators as one of those most deserving to be hung in this beautiful exhibition space is just amazing. We are so proud of your achievement, Jaz.

You will be able to catch the works on display at the Museum of Art and Culture Yapang (MAC) from 4 February - 31 March 2023.



VIRTUAL ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENTS 🏒

Sheridan Owen in Year 7 has participated in the Virtual Academy throughout 2022, linking with other students across the diocese who have also shown giftedness or high potential. Since Term 2 she has been working on the creation of a website. Through her website Sheridan addressed issues of equity as she explored accessibility in cinemas for people who have a hearing and/or visual impairment. Having presented her final project to the VA this week, Sheridan shared her findings with some friends and teachers, including Mr Keating.

She spoke passionately and engaged her audience with her research, opening our eyes to this gap of injustice. Her presentation sparked conversation about the true reality of access for all to cinemas and other venues. Thank you,



Sheridan, for sharing your work, for your dedication throughout the year and for inspiring others to think more deeply about access for all.



In the Year 8 Leadership Unit of the Virtual Academy, **Jeremy Gocher** inquired into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources. To achieve his vision of promoting social inclusion for all, Jeremy gathered information from a variety of secondary sources and reached out to the Moriarty Foundation. Jeremy applied his secondary research findings to inform the planning and creation of a call to action. He planned, rehearsed and delivered an informative and engaging presentation, delivering this call to action to an audience of peers.

Jeremy has now graduated from the Virtual Academy. He has demonstrated effective self-management, motivation and commitment.

Congratulations to both Jeremy and Sheridan.

Mrs Henderson
Gifted Education Mentor

CONGRATULATIONS – EMILY JACK

Our congratulations extend to Emily Jack (Year 7) who has already qualified for the (Swimming) in April 2023 in the Gold Coast. We are so very proud of her achievements, and Brisbane 2032 is within her reach.

Emily has been in Sydney this week for the 2022/23 NSW Senior State Age Championships. **Emily won GOLD in women's 12/13 years 200m Butterfly.** Emily also reached finals and placed:

10th in women's 12/13 Years 100m Butterfly AND 6th in women's 12/13 Years 400m Individual Medley.

She has a few more events over the next two days and potentially another medal. Congratulations go to Emily for this most wonderful news! What a fantastic achievement.



THANK YOU

Síncere and most grateful thanks extend to ALL who have gíven so generously to our Annual Christmas Appeal for St Vincent de Paul.

To respond with such generosity, in difficult and challenging times, for so many families, is a profound expression of God's love Thank you!



SPC

VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our St Mary's community has been truly ready to serve this Christmas. For our Vinnies Christmas Appeal this year, the SPC asked students, families and staff to give gifts that they would like to receive. Our message, "If it's not good enough for a friend, it's not good enough for Vinnies!" was so generously upheld. Next week as part of our College Christmas Liturgy, we are so proud to offer such quality and thoughtful gifts that we know will bring a smile to those who need it most this Christmas.

To those who donated money, thank you! With cash donations, the SPC will be able to purchase gift cards and also create school packs.

Our gratitude for your thoughtfulness and generosity of heart is immense.

Merry Christmas and Many Blessings,

Louise Hatcher

SPC 2022

Acting Leader of Learning – Creative Arts and Languages

Language and HSIE Teacher

SPC Co - Coordinator

Leader of Wellbeing - Year 10

Thank you to our Year 10 families for your continued support and working collaboratively with the College to ensure that the very best education is available to your child. It takes a community! It has been another year of ups and downs, testing our resilience, but we survived! We made it to the end!



I am pleased to share with you the achievements of the Year 10 cohort. Congratulations to you all:

Major Award Winners:

Sporting Excellence Award

Citizenship Award
 All Rounder Award
 ADF Long Tan Leadership Award
 ADF Future Innovators Award
 Principals Award
 Alec Lucietto
 Bethany Spencer
 Audrey Mayzen
 Hannah Spencer
 Halle Johnson

Annabel Brown	10RC01	Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Growth and Development
			Diligence
Carlos Corredor Marchesini	10RC01	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
Riley Freebody	10RC01	Science	Academic Growth and Development
Caleigh Gorlick	10RC01	History (Elective)	Academic Growth and Development
			Diligence
Aimi Jones	10RC01	Food Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Japanese 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
		Music 200 hrs	Academic Growth and Development
Charlotte McEnearney	10RC01	Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
Daniel Ollerton	10RC01	History (Elective)	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Cooper Searle	10RC01	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Daniel Smith	10RC01	Music 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Lily Stabler	10RC01	Geography	Academic Excellence
		Japanese 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Mira Tiodin	10RC01	Work Education 100 hrs	Academic Growth and Development
Isla Walsh	10RC01	Work Education 100 hrs	Academic Excellence

Emma O'Hagan

William Bradshaw	10RC02	Science	Academic Growth and Development
Jade Chapman	10RC02	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Amara Dawson	10RC02	History	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
		Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Samantha Johnson	10RC02	Visual Arts	Academic Excellence
_auren McFarlane	10RC02	Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
_auren McFarlane	10RC02	Principal	Diligence
Ally Piper	10RC02	Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Kane Roberts	10RC02	Science	Academic Growth and Development
John Stearman	10RC02	Science	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Growth and Development
			Diligence
Liam Steenson	10RC02	Engineering Studies 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
William Walsh	10RC02	History	Academic Growth and Development
Mia Brennan	10RC03	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Gabrielle Brown	10RC03	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Growth and Development
			Diligence
Cooper Browne	10RC03	Principal	Diligence
Tom Davies	10RC03	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Build & Const 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Blake Finley	10RC03	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway	Academic Growth and Development
Nathan Googh	10RC03	Commerce 100 hrs	Academic Growth and Development

			Diligence
Hineira Hill	10RC03	Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
William Kirkman	10RC03	Geography	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Alec Lucietto	10RC03	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway	Academic Growth and Development
Audrey Mayzen	10RC03	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
		Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Visual Arts 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Isabella Owen	10RC03	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway	Academic Growth and Development
Kade Spark	10RC03	Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
Bethany Spencer	10RC03	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
		Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		-	Diligence
Jessica Visscher	10RC03	Visual Arts 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Sophie Davis	10RC04	Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Growth and Development
Scarlett Gray	10RC04	Geography	Academic Excellence
•		History	Academic Excellence
		History (Elective)	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
James Hanbury	10RC04	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
•		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Isabelle Keefe	10RC04	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
Zac Merrell	10RC04	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence

		Science	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Growth and Development
			Diligence
Emma O'Hagan	10RC04	Food Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Geography	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Elizabeth Pengelly	10RC04	History	Academic Growth and Development
Olivia Pirillo	10RC04	History	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Textiles Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Thomas Skelly	10RC04	Religious Studies	Academic Growth and Development
Mia Stabler	10RC04	Food Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
	2011001	Geography	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
		Visual Arts	Academic Excellence
Mia Boyle	10RC05	Visual Arts	Academic Excellence
Samuel Dunkley	10RC05	Engineering Studies 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Samuel Dunkley	1011003	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
Nate Fisher	10RC05	Food Technology 100 hrs	
Nate risilei	IURCUS	9,	Academic Growth and Development
Ethan Hansilton	100000	Geography Religious Studies	Academic Growth and Development
Ethan Hamilton	10RC05		Academic Growth and Development
Jezebel Hendriks	10RC05	Visual Arts	Academic Excellence
Cl. I I	10000	English	Academic Growth and Development
Charlotte Howard	10RC05	Commerce 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
	100005	Food Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
Yvette Longhurst	10RC05	Food Technology 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
Remy Lovett	10RC05	English	Academic Growth and Development
Myles Mazzitello	10RC05	Geography	Academic Growth and Development
Hayley McDonald	10RC05	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence

			Diligence
Noah McKenzie	10RC05	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
Holly Ogilvie	10RC05	PDHPE	Academic Excellence
Elleni Pedonese	10RC05	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		Music 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Navjot Sandhu	10RC05	Geography	Academic Excellence
Trent Swadling	10RC05	Engineering Studies 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Geography	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Build & Const 100 hrs	Academic Excellence
Harry Adams	10RC06	English	Academic Growth and Development
Sophie Carroll	10RC06	Science	Academic Excellence
Alaeuteauea Hart	10RC06	Music 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Halle Johnson	10RC06	Geography	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Excellence
		Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Growth and Development
			Diligence
Chelsea Jones	10RC06	Principal	Diligence
Molly McKay	10RC06	Music 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Visual Arts 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
Evan McTaggart	10RC06	Geography	Academic Excellence
Declan Ross	10RC06	PDHPE	Academic Growth and Development
Hannah Spencer	10RC06	Geography	Academic Excellence
·		History	Academic Excellence
		Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Excellence
		Science	Academic Excellence
			Diligence
Xavier Thomas	10RC06	History	Academic Excellence
		PDHPE	Academic Excellence
		Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs	Academic Excellence

Jessica Tobin	10RC06	Visual Arts 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		Religious Studies	Academic Growth and Development
Mitchell Wood	10RC06	Engineering Studies 200 hrs	Academic Excellence
		History	Academic Growth and Development

Wishing you every blessing and joy this Christmas. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Warmest wishes

Gerard Cushan

Leader of Wellbeing & Engagement - Year 10

Year 8 RAW Challenge

On Thursday 7th December Year 8 conquered the Raw Challenge course at Doyalson. The aim of the day was to work as a team to complete a course of very physically challenging obstacles. Each team was only as fast as their slowest teammate so it was important for them to work together to encourage, cheer on, lift, push, untangle and drag everyone in their team through the obstacles.

Mr McKay cooked a beautiful BBQ for the kids while they completed the course and every staff member who attended, including the staff at the Raw Challenge, commented on how wonderful Year 8 were in working together and respecting each other's different fitness and fear levels so the day was enjoyed by all. I couldn't be prouder of Year 8 for the way they engaged in the challenge. Apologies to parents who had to wash or dispose of clothes at the end of the day! Trust me, it was worth it for the smiles on the faces of the kids.

Katrina Brennan Year 8 Leader of Wellbeing



Year 9 Geography – Sustainable Biomes

This term students have examined the physical characteristics and productivity of biomes, in particular their capacity to support food production around the world. To conclude the topic, students have been focusing on food security and investigating alternative food sources in an overpopulated world.

Mrs Wilson's class had the opportunity to experience firsthand how alternate food sources look, smell, feel and taste. Friday's menu served Year 9.6, alternate food source nachos and delicious chocolate brownies with cricket protein. To finish it off, a cup of ice, cold *Not Milk* and cinnamon flavoured mealworms. Yum!

Students were able to consolidate their learning by applying their textbook learning to a real-world scenario. They could articulate the reasons for this learning, as well as their disdain for corn chips made of crickets and... *not-milk*. But they were eager to try and were happily excited to experience the delights of Bio-cheese, plant-based mince, Sour Creamy and the favourite... lentil chips.

Tarryn Wilson HSIE Teacher



HSIE Faculty

As the year draws to an end, we can look back on 2022 with great success. Students and teachers across all classes in HSIE have participated in various activities, engaging in the process, and enjoying the learning experiences along the way. As Year 12 HSIE students anxiously await the arrival of the HSC results, our Year 11 HSIE students are just beginning their HSC journey and we wish them all the best over the next 12 months. As for our Stage 4 and 5 HSIE classes we have enjoyed implementing new learning experiences.

In particular, in late November the Years 9 and 10 Commerce classes participated in their annual 'Business Market Day', an opportunity for student teams to create their own small business and sell their products during lunchtime. This year saw a new service offered, namely 'Teacher Therapy'. The idea is to provide the student/ customer with a wet soapy sponge whereby they can throw directly at a volunteer teacher. This brought in great crowds, an indication this service is popular among students wanting to vent on their teachers. I wish to personally thank **Mr Houston, Mr Adams, Mr Cushan and Ms Smith** for volunteering their dignity and facing the onslaught. Great therapy all round!

Our Year 9 Geography students took a leap of faith this term in the Sustainable Biomes unit by experiencing a taste test on alternate foods as a way of reducing meat and dairy consumption. On the menu were meal worms, fried crickets, meat free pork mince, plant-based chicken schnitzel and our favourite, Cricket-flour brownies!

I wish to acknowledge the enormous amount of real-world learning occurring in so many of our various and diverse HSIE classes.

- 7 History
- 8Geography
- 9 History and Geography
- 10 History and Geography
- 9 and 10 Commerce
- 10 Work Education & 10 Elective History
- 11 and 12 HSIE: Modern & Ancient History, Business, Legal, Society & Culture, Work Studies, Economics, and Geography

I wish to extend my thanks to the staff members of the HSIE Faculty, Ms Karenna Andrews, Ms Vanessa Dews, Mrs Nikki Lorenz, Mrs Tarryn Wilson, Mr Kyle Clarence, Mr Daniel Houston, Mr Daniel Matzen, Mrs Jo Meagher, Mrs Maryanne Murray and Mrs Louise Hatcher.

May you all have a safe and wonderful Christmas with your family and friends,

Ms Natasha Convery HSIE Leader of Learning



Careers Corner

UON School Experience Day

Year 9 visited the UON City campus on Thursday 1st December. Students had the opportunity to experience workshops over three buildings: NUspace, Q Building and the Conservatorium.

Students worked in small groups at the Conservatorium in an iPad Based Sampling workshop. They rotated to the NUspace building to experience Indonesian language and culture through art. When visiting the Q Building, again in small groups, students created a small animation at the Blackbox Studio. The final workshop allowed our students to shine by creating a scene with a green screen.

We are grateful to the UON for providing hands on experiences for our Year 9 students who were highly engaged during the day. Also, a big thank you to the teaching staff who supported the day.

Paula Finlay Careers Adviser



















Library Matters

Where has the time gone? The year has flown and the 2022 school days are almost done -but not the Library. We are as hectic as ever and don't we love that!

We are seeking your help in having all your St Mary's novels and textbooks returned to the Library – that is everyone except those HSC 2023 students, of course. So, if you have a child who is not in Year 12 and you have discovered a library book or English class novel, please send it back ASAP. Parents can also drop them at the front office at anytime and they will make their way back to me.

The Library held a **Christmas Trivia Event** this week and we had a lot of fun. The winner was our Maths team, who tallied the highest. But the best dressed team was the Christmas Crackers! Have a look at the pictures and you will see why. We have had a great year of events and it was wonderful to see our regular supporters of these events once again show up and have a ball. You know who you are, and I always appreciate your support. I want to thank Ms Melissa Watt and Mrs Rosemary Laughton for all the work they did in making the Trivia game possible.

Remember that despite us all heading off for some Christmas cheer and a well-earned break, the Library remains open! Well, not the physical library but our Digital Library is available 24/7. See the photo below to visit **SORA**. Or download the SORA app on your device or visit: www.soraapp.com/library/cenetau.

Remember the school we select is: ACEN (Australian Catholic Education Network). Or I have a set up code: cenetau

Have a wonderful break and see you in the New Year!

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Rosalind Dunn
Teacher Librarian









Canteen Report

Hello Everyone,

This year in Canteen, has been a much more enjoyable one than the last two years, with lockdowns causing shutdowns. At least we have had a full year of trading and keeping all those hungry mouths fed.

Also this year, we acquired a new Combi Steam oven, thanks to the support of our wonderful Principal, Larry Keating. With the school growing so much each year, the oven has been instrumental in helping us with our time management and being able to get everything ready to serve on time each day.

A big thanks to those fabulous parent volunteers, who give up their time either monthly or once a term, to come in and lend us a hand. You have no idea how much your help is appreciated.

At the end of this year, we have to say a sad goodbye to Brooke, one of our wonderful staff members. She has been an important and valued member of our team and we will miss her so very much. Good luck in your next endeavour, Brooke.

We are very much looking forward to next year with every new year bringing exciting happenings. Thank you in advance to all those parents who have volunteered to help in the Canteen for 2023. Please 'friend' yourself on our St Mary's College Canteen Volunteers facebook page – roster updates will be posted weekly.

On behalf of myself, Fiona, Brooke, Penny, Deb W and Chris, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Deb Tserepas
Canteen Supervisor











College Fees News

Merry Christmas from the Finance Office

REMINDER — **SCHOOL FEES**: Fees should now be finalised for 2022. If you have any concerns, please contact the Finance Office as soon as possible to establish a mutual arrangement. Those parents/carers with current fee agreements may continue as per their arrangement with Mr Keating.

Please note: If required, all existing fee agreements must be renegotiated for 2023, please make an appointment early Term 1, 2023.

All statements are generated and emailed during the first week of every month. Please ensure emails from the College do not go directly to your spam account. **It is your responsibility to ensure you receive the statement.** If you are not receiving statements, or you wish to update your email address, please contact the Finance Office.

If you are making payments by regular instalments, please ensure that these payments are adequate to finalise the fees by 30 November 2023.

In addition, if you are the holder of a 'means tested' low-income Health Care/Pension Card, you are eligible for a further reduction off the Tuition Fee component. Please ensure the Finance Office has sighted your card at the commencement of each school year and the accompanying forms are completed, to enable us to apply this discount.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

QKR is a smart phone app. available for payment of canteen orders only – click on the link for instructions
QKR How-to Guide



College fee payments can be made by BPay, the details are located in the top right-hand corner of your Statement.



Credit Card/EFTPOS – the College accepts **Mastercard** or **Visa** only. Payment can be made in person, or by phone.

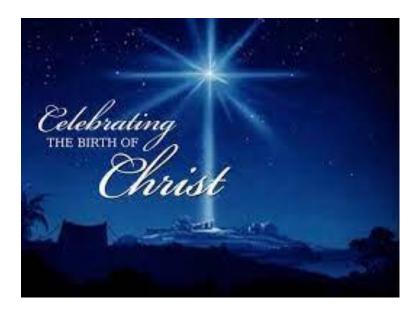


In person – Parents are welcome to pay directly at the Finance office between 8.15am and 3.30pm.
Students can only pay before the start of school and in their lunch and recess breaks.

Direct Debit Forms – Available from the Finance Office or click this link.

CDF Direct Debit Form

From Helen & April in the Finance Office we wish you every blessing during the Christmas Holidays and a Happy New Year!



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve – 24 December

St Francis Xavier's, Belmont - 5.30pm St Mary Immaculate, Charlestown - 5.30pm

St Mary's, Warners Bay - 6.00pm & 8.00pm

St Patrick's, Swansea - 7.00pm St Paul's, Gateshead - 8.30pm

Christmas Day – 25 December

St Pius X, Windale - 7.30am
St Mary Immaculate, Charlestown - 8.00am
St Francis Xavier's, Belmont - 9.00am
St Mary's, Warners Bay - 9.00am
St Paul's, Gateshead - 9.30am



From the College Counsellors

The school counselling team would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and New Year and a safe and happy holiday break.

As we move into the holiday period we also wanted to make you aware of the supports that are available to your young person when they are not at school. Changes to routine can be hard and your young person may experience times when they feel a range of challenging emotions such as sadness, stress, or lonely.

During the holidays we encourage you to check in/yarn with your young person. It can be helpful to let them know that you are available to speak with them if they ever need. You may also like to encourage them to stay



connected with friends and family, look after their physical health and engage in the activities that they enjoy.

If you notice that your young person may benefit from chatting with someone, we encourage you to make them aware and support them to access services. This may be engaging with your local headspace centre, GP or access online or telephone supports through eheadspace (1800 650 890) or kidshelpline (1800 55 1800). Please note that you can also call these numbers to help guide your support, alongside parentline (1300 1300 52).

Apps and websites for support:

- My Compass https://www.mycompass.org.au/ This is a resource created by Black Dog which creates personalised support for mental health. This is focused on providing psychoeducation and skill development. This website can be used by staff and students.
- Mood Gym https://moodgym.com.au/ An online resource that can help support and manage symptoms of mental health challenges.
- eheadspace https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/, 1800 650 890 Online access to a mental health clinician via telephone or webchat. It can be encouraged that students create an account with eheadspace, so that if they have to use this when distressed this is not a barrier for use. Parents can speak with a clinician for help supporting a young person.
- Reachout https://au.reachout.com/ Tools and resources for stress management and mental health support strategies.
- CalmHarm https://au.reachout.com/tools-and-apps/calm-harm support develop strategies to deescalate when feeling distressed. It can be encouraged for students to download, or for use in classroom or advisory group. This can be used for staff and students. Use can be encouraged when not distressed, to establish the use and learning of a helpful coping strategy. Can also be used after an incident, in the hope to long term replace or at least challenge, maladaptive strategies.
- Parent Line http://www.parentline.org.au/, 1300 1300 52 A resource to support parents to manage concerns with supporting their young person
- https://www.smilingmind.com.au/ or via the app can help with relaxion and mindfulness

Happy holidays

Vanessa and Kaine



St Mary's Catholic College Uniform Shop

Holiday Closure and January Trading



Dear Parents and Carers,

The Uniform Shop's final day of trade for 2022 is Thursday 15th December.

All orders placed after this date during the holiday break will be dispatched or available for collection from Wednesday 18th January.

We will be open in January on the following dates:

Wed 18th.	Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm

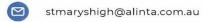
Mon 23rd Jan	8:30am - 4:30pm	

Mon 30th Jan 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Tue 31st Jan 8:30am – 10:30am

We look forward to welcoming you back into the shop in the new year!





The Uniform Shop @ St Mary's Catholic College

www.alintaapparel.com.au



2022 YEARBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

(Last Chance before Christmas!!!!)

To purchase your copy for \$25, please contact the Finance Office on 4944 4804





The Song Competition will be broken into 3 categories-Primary School (K-6), Year 7, 8 and 9, and Year 10, 11 and 12. Using the story for the production, the themes below will be the song writing focus for these allocated year groups.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (K-6): PIRATE LIFE

A day in the life of a pirate tells the story of a famous pirate What kind of things do pirates get up to?

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9: OPPRESSION

Oppression is when there is injustice and discrimination, usually against a specific group of people. It is the malicious use of power where people are prevented from having the same opportunities, freedom, and benefits as others are treated unfairly.

Song themes may include: Injustice, Discrimination, Unfair use of power

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12: ADVENTURE

An adventure is an exciting experience that is bold, remarkable, and sometimes risky.

Your song may be about: A narrative of an adventure story Exploration, travel and adventure Themes of excitement, hope, courage, or risk

FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2023

ASPIRE Song Competition Closing Date

MONDAY 3 APRI

ASPIRE Song Competition Shortlisting

TUESDAY 2 MAY

Group 1: Song Competition Workshop Day

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY

Group 2: Song Competition Workshop Day

THURSDAY 4 MAY

Group 3: Song Competition Workshop Day

EVENING: THURSDAY 11 MAY

ASPIRE Song Competition Showcase

HOW TO ENTER

- Video or record yourself singing or playing your song.
 File formats: MP3, MP4 or MOV
- A copy of your lyrics File format: Word document (NOT PDF or a photo)
- 3. If you can, include the chords or notation. This is not compulsory.
- 4. Your song must be no longer than 3 minutes 30 seconds.
- You will be able to upload via the Aspire website from Week 10, Term 4 2022.

Shortlisted finalists will have the opportunity to workshop their song with professional musicians and ASPIRE Musical Director Jessica Lopez. The winner for each category will be decided at a live concert with a guest panel to judge the songs. There will be 3 winners, one for each category (Primary K-6, Years 7-9, and Years 10-12). Prizes are a \$300 Musos Corner voucher and the opportunity to have your song professionally recorded at Tommirock Studios.

For more details go to aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 Calendar 2021

Week 10 (B Week)			
Mon 12 December	Year 11 Assessment Block		
	• Reports published – Years 7, 8, 9		
Tues 13 December	Year Assemblies		
	Landcare		
	Year 11 Assessment Block continues		
	"Battle of the Bands"		
Wed 14 December	Year 11 Assessment Block concludes		
	Year 7, 8 & 9 Awards arrangements:		
	9.15-10.00am – Liturgy and Presentation to St Vincent de Paul (students only) - TJC		
	Parents welcome to attend the Awards Ceremonies at the following times:		
	 10.15 - 11.15am – Year 7 Awards – followed by lunch 		
	o 12.30 - 1.30pm - Year 8 Awards - followed by recess		
	o 2.00 - 3.00pm - Year 9 Awards		
	Students will be in class when not attending their Award Ceremony		
Thurs 15 December	HSC Results released		
	HSC Celebration – Year 12 – Café		
	ATAR Results released		
	• Students in Years 7, 8 & 9 to assist in end of year tasks – No formal classes		
Fri 16 December	Staff Professional Development Activities		
	No formal classes – No sport		
Week 11 (A Week)			
Mon 19 December	Last day of term for Staff ("Pupil Free")		
Tues 20 December	No school on account of Twilight Professional Development sessions undertaken by staff		
	in Terms 3 and 4 which replaced End of Year "Pupil Free" Professional Development days		

Term 1 Calendar 2023

Week 1 (A Week)	
Friday 27 January	Staff Commence – Professional Development Day ("Pupil Free")
Week 2 (B Week)	
Mon 30 January	Staff Professional Development Day ("Pupil Free")
Tues 31 January	Year 7 and 11 commence classes
Weds 1 February	Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 commence

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES: Last day for purchases – 15 December. See advert within this newsletter. If you still require a fitting appointment and/or order new uniform for next year, please contact the Uniform Shop urgently on 0456 006 062. Further details can be found on the College website – www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

WISHING THE ST MARY'S CATHOLIC

COLLEGE COMMUNITY

A JOYOUS, SAFE AND RESTFUL CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

