

St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter No.20/23

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

Celebrating the Joy of Christmas: A Season of Hope, Giving, and Renewal in the Spirit of "Ready to Serve".

As we approach the end of a year that has been filled with personal growth, challenges, academic achievements, success and setbacks, we suddenly find ourselves immersed in the spirit of Christmas.

What does this mean for us, as followers of Christ, this "spirit of Christmas" ?

Christmas is a time that presents us with an opportunity to not only reflect upon the year that was but also to take time to look beyond ourselves and to share the gifts of God's love, peace and joy. It is a time that is anticipated and celebrated, filling us with hope, just as the birth of Jesus did, so many years ago.

The Christmas season invites us to enter deeply into a time of gratitude. We are called to reflect on the past year's blessings and express gratitude for the people and moments that have shaped us. In reflecting on our own lives, we must also acknowledge the challenges faced by many communities around the world, including the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Israel. It is during such times that the values of hope and peace become even more significant and it is during such times that we give thanks for our own community and its many blessings.

"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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

At Christmas time, we are reminded that the birth of Jesus brings with it great hope and promise. We are encouraged to focus on the positive changes we can make in our own lives and the lives of those around us, fostering a spirit of peace in our hearts and communities. During this Christmas season, let us be generous, actively seeking opportunities to give back to our community and beyond - bringing hope to those who may be in need or facing loss, grief and challenges; bringing love to those who most need it; and bringing joy to others through acts of service.

Let us be "ready to serve".

In closing, the St Mary's community wishes each and everyone of you a Christmas that is filled with the gifts of love, peace and joy and may the coming year bring you hope and continued growth. Thank you for being an integral part of our community and may God's Blessings be upon you.

Blessings,
Cathy O'Gorman
Acting Principal



A Reflection on 2023 and expressions of gratitude and thanks

As we come to the conclusion of this academic year, we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for. It is also a time where we can reflect upon what it means to be a hope-filled community.



“It is in community that we come to see God in the other. It is in community that we see our own emptiness filled up. It is community that calls me beyond the pinched horizons of my own life, my own country, my own race, and gives me the gifts I do not have within me.” J Chittister

This year, we have embraced as a community a sense of unity, compassion, and growth, working together to build relationships, strengthening bonds and holding each other up in times of need.

I take this opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the generosity of spirit, love and support shown to this community as we have transitioned from one Principal to another. I take this time to acknowledge and say thank you to **Mr Larry Keating, outgoing Principal**, for his dedication to serving this community and nurturing the Josephite spirit and traditions within it. We thank him for his leadership, compassion and kindness. It has been an honour, in Larry's absence, to take care of this community, alongside many others, and I wish to acknowledge the support shown to me by the staff of St Mary's. This generosity of spirit, resilience and tenacity, companionship and relational trust between all teachers and staff members, is an enduring quality of St Mary's.

At Mr Keating's Farewell gathering last week I spoke of the unofficial mantra of the college and the three words gifted to us by Larry - ***Relationships before Curriculum***.

I asked the question, “What does this mean, ***relationships before curriculum?***”

Relationships before curriculum means that we must always place people before processes, humanity before bureaucracy, the other before self, the dignity of the person, who is made in Christ's likeness, before personal needs. This is what it means to be fully human – to be in relationship with one another. When we are in relationship with each other, the learning will come; the trust will come.

These three words, ***relationships before curriculum***, are gifted to us by Larry, and are seen in the way that we relate to one another as colleagues, in the way we conduct ourselves as educators, in the way that we relate to our students and families. This mantra is a powerful legacy – and for this, we are grateful.

I also take this opportunity to welcome **Mr Brett Donohoe** into our community, as **College Principal from 2024**. We are already working alongside Brett to introduce him to our culture and our way of being together. I extend to him a warm welcome on behalf of all members of this community.

Next, particular thanks must be extended to you, our parents/carers, for entrusting your children into our care. It is a privilege to work in partnership with you, the primary educators of your children. Your support, your trust in us, and your openness to dialogue with us, as we share in the formation young adults, is a blessing for which we are incredibly grateful. Thank you, also, for your support of our fundraising efforts throughout the year and for your generosity of time in volunteering in our canteen and other projects.

To our students, I say thank you, for allowing us to share in your lives – it is a privilege. We look forward to journeying again with you in the coming year. Your resilience, humour, creativity, energy and character, are inspiring to us as educators and we are committed to nurturing you as young adults, each with your unique way of being.

Finally, we must acknowledge the dedication and passion of our staff (teaching and teacher support) to our school improvement agenda within their various areas of responsibility and accountability. Thank you for your commitment to learning alongside our students and with each other, for the time, effort and authenticity you bring to all that you do. This year we have focussed on the capabilities of creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration – all capabilities that we believe will be integral for success in every day life beyond this community. Beyond the curriculum, however, it is the care and love that is taken with each student – seeking to bring them to the best version of themselves, challenging them with high expectations. This daily work is an act of loving service. Thank you.

Many individuals, groups and organisations have continued to contribute, in significant and valued ways, to our educational endeavours in 2023. Particular thanks extend to **Vanessa Petersen, Amanda Pilley and Samantha Trajanovska**, 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 Steven Lemos**, Head of Catholic Schools, **Mrs Linda McNeill**, Regional Advisor, **Mr John Tobin** and the **staff** in the various services – **Religious Education and Spirituality; Teaching and Learning; Financial and People and Culture**.

New challenges and opportunities beckon as we move to the 2024 academic year. The College’s Improvement agenda will continue to focus on the development of literacy and numeracy skills; the embedding of the capabilities within the learning program; and the fostering of students as capable and independent learners, able to think critically and solve problems, in the context of authentic learning tasks. We are also 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; improving their sense of wellbeing.

As we come to the conclusion of another year, it is important to realise that we are truly blessed to belong to this beautiful community – at a time when parts of the world are locked in violent and cruel conflict. May we let authenticity, gratitude, passion and kindness be hallmarks of the relationship we share with one another and our environment. As we move into 2024, may we continue to work together to foster each person’s self-belief, dignity and worth - and may we continue to extend this same respect to the earth itself. We will continue to work towards a greener St Mary’s in 2024 and we invite all members of our community to join us on this journey.

Once again, many thanks for your support and care this semester. It’s been a privilege to lead this community alongside other members of the Leadership Team and I wish to acknowledge the members of that team – **Mr Ben Frize, Mrs Deanna Addicoat, Ms Belinda Flood, Mr Andrew Burke and Mrs Rebecca Morrice**. I thank all staff members for their commitment and fidelity.

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

Blessings

Cathy O’Gorman
Principal



2024 STAFFING CHANGES

Taking Leave and Continuing Leave – Permanent Teaching Staff:

- Mr Steven Walter, Music – Replaced by Ms Elizabeth Marsh
- Mr Andrew Burke, Religion – Replaced by Mr Wayne Caruana

Leaving the Permanent Teaching Staff

- Mrs Margaret Wright, Science Leader of Learning – retiring
- Mr Ben Mulligan, PDHPE – leaving the diocese

Leaving the Temporary Teaching Staff

- Ms Shontelle Ferguson – to San Clemente, Mayfield
- Ms Carrie Tucker – to St Bede's Catholic College, Chisolm
- Ms Samantha Trajanovska – to Counsellor St Paul's Catholic College

New Appointments to Permanent Teaching Staff

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

New Appointments to Temporary Teaching Staff for 2024

- Mrs Rosemary Laughton, HSIE (0.2FTE) and Library (0.2FTE) – Current temporary member of staff
- Ms Leah McGovern, Science (0.8FTE) - Current temporary member of staff
- Mrs Jaqueline McInherny, PDHPE (0.5FTE) – Current temporary member of staff
- Mrs Kate D'Arcy, Mathematics (0.4FTE) – Current temporary member of staff
- Mr Declan Meagher – Learning Support Teacher (1.0FTE)
- Mr Wayne Caruana, Religion (0.7)
- Learning Support Assistants x 2 - TBC

Returning from Leave

- Mrs Mel Schultz, PDHPE

New Internal Appointments

- Mrs Tracy Carpenter – Re-appointed Pedagogical Mentor
- Mrs Louise Henderson – Re-appointed to Acting Gifted Education Mentor
- Mr John Hepworth – reappointed to Numeracy Coordinator
- Mrs Rosalind Dunn – reappointed to Literacy Coordinator
- Ms Brittany Avery - reappointed to Compass Coordinator

2024 Leader of Wellbeing Allocations

Year 7 – Ms Sharon Smith

Year 8 – Mrs Maryanne Murray

Year 9 – Mrs Ruth McCrae

Year 10 – Ms Katrina Brennan

Year 11 – Mr Daniel Beckett

Year 12 – Mr Gerard Cushan

Job-Share Arrangements

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

College Counsellors

- Ms Amanda Pilley
- Ms Alex Kenny

Support Staff Changes

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



THANK YOU

*Sincere and most grateful thanks extend to ALL
who have given 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!*

“Come Follow Me”

During the past 51 years of my ministry in Catholic education in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, I have been gifted with countless graces which have contributed to a rich and fulfilling professional and personal life. My sense of gratitude and heartfelt thanks for this blessing is immense.

In January 1973, the late Fr James (Jim) Saunders, invited me to share in the teaching of Economics to senior students at St Anne's High School and St Pius X College, Adamstown. I accepted the offer. At that time, while I did not fully understand nor appreciate the implications of my decision to become a Catholic school educator, I have never had any regrets, and there never was a day when I did not want to go to school.

During my career, I have been privileged to serve as a classroom teacher at St Pius X College and St Anne's High School Adamstown; Social Science Coordinator at St Pius X College, Adamstown; Deputy Principal at St Pius X College, Adamstown (1980-1984); Assistant Principal at St Mary's High School Gateshead (1984-1989), Assistant Principal at St Paul's Booragul High School (1990), and for 33 years as Principal at St Clare's High School, Taree (1991-2003) and St Mary's High School/Catholic College, Gateshead (2004-2023).

I have been so very fortunate to have spent 38 of my 51 years as a Servant Leader in school communities which have had their foundational roots embedded in the tradition of the Josephite Sisters from Lochinvar. I have a deep love and admiration for the sisters on account of their remarkable contribution to Catholic education, and the positive influence they have had on my personal and professional life as a Catholic school educator.

They are committed to “educating for life for all”, and displaying unwavering fidelity to gospel values which permeate the life of the communities they have laboured tirelessly to establish. It has been an absolute privilege to walk in their footsteps. To be taught by them; to have taught alongside them; to learn from the quality of their life and witness; to be ‘in community’ with them and draw strength from their courage of endurance, audacity, steadfast commitment, and fidelity to a way of life seeking what Jesus sought – equality, peace, justice, compassion and all-inclusive love.

Today, our college is characterised by relationships which are life-giving, life-promoting and life-affirming. These are a product of the presence and actions of community members, past and present, especially the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar. They established what our community stands for today. Their lives embodied, and continue to embody, what community members must continue to value today and into the future. That is, our existence as a Christ-centred place.

A place honouring our Catholic tradition and Josephite heritage. A place of compassionate care where relationships come first. A place focussed on learners (students, teachers, parents) and their learning. A generative place committed to becoming more than we currently are as people, and as people in a Christ-centred community giving life to and receiving life from each other.

A positive school culture is integral to students' success in their learning. It gifts students with a deep sense of belonging and connectedness and builds relational trust between community members. It is the dedication and commitment of staff (teacher support and teaching) which continues to nurture this culture.

It has been a privilege to be engaged in a school culture where the staff have fully embraced the role of learner and strive each day for improvement in their practice in order to ensure ongoing improvement in students' educational outcomes. 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 their much-needed capacity to be life-long learners.

The staff are also commended for prioritising relationships and nurturing a climate where our students continue to experience the reality of God's love in the relationships, processes and procedures operating around them. It is to their credit that gospel values permeate the lived curriculum of the college and the taught curriculum of the classroom.

There is much I will miss about daily college life, none more so than our students. St Mary's is a unique and special place, and the essence of these qualities is found in our students. They give our lives meaning. They gift us as educators with the joy, the challenges, the struggles, and frustration of the adolescents' search for identity as they journey to adulthood. They define the character of our college. To witness and 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 have been special blessings. I will miss their daily greetings, their smiles, the banter, the conversations and the opportunities to share with them in activities such as the RU OK Day, the Colour Run, the Push-Up Challenge, sporting events and fund-raising activities for charitable organisations and needy causes such as St Vincent de Paul, CARITAS Australia and Catholic Mission. To be an educator of adolescents has been a truly privileged role. It has gifted me with so many life-giving memories for which I am so grateful.

During my time in Catholic education, and especially in the past 20 years at St Mary's, I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of spirit and compassion embodied in the countless expressions of selfless giving and sacrifices which parents/carers have made and continue to make in support of their children's education and the ongoing growth and development of our college community. Parents/carers - I thank you for this and for entrusting your children to our care and supporting them, their teachers and our support staff in a spirit of mutual love, care, understanding and relational trust. I am especially mindful and ever so grateful for the mighty efforts made to meet the financial costs of educating your children, especially in challenging economic times like the present; and for volunteering your services in the various dimensions of college life and, especially, in the Cafeteria.

To be called to share, with so many others, in the creative work of God at St Mary's, Gateshead, has been a special blessing. It has been an honour and sacred privilege, during the past 20 years and times before, to share in the human stories of so many individuals and families. To hear a little of your stories, to share in your pain, to learn of and witness your struggles, to experience the depth of your anguish in times of loss, to delight in your joys, to experience your care, love and support and to receive your words of encouragement have been most enriching and humbling experiences. They have gifted me with a deeper appreciation of my humanity and a greater awareness of our loving God's presence in my life. I thank you for this.

To be a servant leader at a time of profound and fundamental change in society, the church and education has been challenging and demanding but nevertheless a most rewarding, fulfilling and growth promoting experience for which I am ever so grateful and thankful.

My intention as a servant leader has been to make a positive difference in the lives of people I have been called to serve. I have strived to do this by seeking what Jesus sought – equality, justice and all-inclusive love; by prioritising relationships, and by doing my best to empower students and members of staff to be the best versions of themselves as people, and as people called to share their God given gifts and talents in service of others and our world. I trust this has been so.

Sincere thanks and gratitude from family members and myself for the wonderful retirement ceremony held last Friday. It has been an absolute privilege to be called to the role of a servant leader in the St Mary's community.

Blessings



Larry Keating
Principal – 2004-2023
Assistant Principal – 1985-1989

A Snapshot of Larry Keating's Farewell





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.





How do we Safeguard our Students

At St Mary's we place safety of our students at the core of how we plan, think and act. The Diocese has a positive obligation to reduce the risk of abuse to children derived from law and regulation.

Our Diocese has to ensure we comply with 2 sets of standards, both derived from the Royal Commission into Institutional Historic Child Sexual abuse. This includes the NSW Child Safe Standards and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS).

In November 2023, our Diocese, including a number of schools, were subject to an audit in relation to our compliance to meet the NCSS. Results will be published early 2024.

The ways in which our school meets these standards include:



**Leadership, monitoring
& improvement**

Standards 1, 9

- Our staff Code of Conduct and Commitment Statement is displayed on our website and posters in our school for transparency and to ensure that we all embrace a safeguarding culture, emphasising that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- We have a Safeguarding Promoter in our school whose role it is to monitor compliance and risk and promote all things safeguarding as a priority.



**Engaging with children, adults,
families and communities**

Standards 2, 3, 4

- We educate our students about safe relationships, protective behaviours and ensure they understand their human rights.
- Our Student Representative Council (SRC) allows students to have a voice and be heard.
- We encourage parents to have a voice through our PEG meetings.
- Parents and students have access to support information via SchoolTV on our website.
- Equity is promoted and diversity is respected in our school through education and special events .
-



**Right people, right role,
right knowledge**

Standards 5, 7

- Our staff undertake mandatory safeguarding training.
- Our staff regularly undertake professional development as well as invite external speakers into the school to discuss safeguarding topics to students and staff including online safety, bullying, trauma informed practice etc.
- Our are supported in their roles, especially new staff.
- Our school follows Diocesan student placement protocols and procedures.



**Systems, policies and
procedures**

Standards 6, 8, 10

- We promote all Safeguarding policies by ensuring they are communicated with families on our websites and through our communication channels.
- Our classrooms, counselling rooms and other areas in the school are safe spaces with visibility from the outside but does not compromise our students right to privacy and wellbeing.
- We have an effective complaints management system in place, with students and families having a variety of avenues to provide feedback or complaints.

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:

- Citizenship Award
- All Rounder Award
- ADF Long Tan Leadership Award
- ADF Future Innovators Award
- Principals Award
- Sporting Excellence Award
- Student Pastoral Council

Ben Breasley
James Bernasconi
Isabelle McCurdy
Ben Breasley
Claire Rayner-Howson
Ruby Jones, Stevie Botham
Zara Davey, Kate Erby, Victoria Owen, Addison Skinner

Name	Roll	Award	Subject
Connor Bandy	10RC01	Academic Growth and Development	English
Ethan Blackmore	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Religious Studies
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			Information Software & Technology
			History
		Academic Growth and Development	English
		Diligence	Geography
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			PDHPE
			History
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			English
		Certificate of Achievement	iSTEM 100 hrs
Ben Breasley	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Science
			PDHPE
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Religious Studies
			Science
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Geography
			PDHPE
		Certificate of Achievement	iSTEM 100 hrs
Daniel Brien	10RC01	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
Kane Edwards	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
Noah Gibbs	10RC01	Academic Growth and Development	PDHPE

Sienna Gribble	10RC01	Academic Excellence	History
			Food Technology 200 hrs
			PDHPE
			Geography
		Academic Growth and Development	Religious Studies
		Diligence	Religious Studies
			History
			PDHPE
			Geography
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 100 hrs
			Food Technology 200 hrs
Bella Jones	10RC01	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
Amber King	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Geography
Sarah McCarron	10RC01	Academic Excellence	History
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	Visual Arts 200 hrs
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Geography
			History
			Religious Studies
			English
			PDHPE
Thomas McCullough-Hendriks	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200
Zac McDougall	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Geography
Isabella Palamo	10RC01	Academic Excellence	History
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Geography
		Academic Growth and Development	Science
Deepinder Sandhu	10RC01	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
		Academic Excellence	Science
		Certificate Of High Achievement	Religious Literacy Assessment
Matthew Beath	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Stevie Botham	10RC02	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
Taj Brock	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Science
Will Crawford	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200
		Diligence	Geography

			English
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 100 hrs
			Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200
			History
Ashton Dawson	10RC02	Academic Growth and Development	History
			English
Joshua Doggett	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Lachlan Gillies	10RC02	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
Bianca Groves		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Olivia Hamilton	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
Kaden Pinfold	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 100 hrs
Harrison Low		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Emily Roberts	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Geography
Louie Stephens	10RC02	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs
			Geography
		Academic Growth and Development	Geography
Jessica Burrows	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Science
			Food Technology 200 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
Layla Clare	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Geography
			English
		Academic Growth and Development	Geography
Layla Coulton	10RC03	Academic Growth and Development	Music 100 hrs
Zara Davey	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Geography
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
		Diligence	History
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
			Religious Studies
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			English
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Julian Egan	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Music 200 hrs
Kate Erby	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Music 200 hrs
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
			Music 200 hrs
			Science
			Religious Studies
			English
Niamh Francisco	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Visual Arts 200 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
		Diligence	English

			History
			Geography
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Science
Cooper Harris	10RC03	Academic Growth and Development	Science
Grace Hogan	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
			History
			Geography
			PDHPE
		Diligence	English
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Religious Studies
			PDHPE
			Science
			History
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
			Geography
			Music 200 hrs
Evie Lawes	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Visual Arts 200 hrs
		Certificate of Participation	Aspire
Eva Lucas	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Graphic Technology 100 hrs
			Geography
			History
			PDHPE
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			PDHPE
			Geography
			History
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 100 hrs
			Graphic Technology 100 hrs
			Science
Sienna Pitt	10RC03	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
Zoe Pitt	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Geography
			PDHPE
			Graphic Technology 100 hrs
		Diligence	Geography
			History
			Music 100 hrs
			Graphic Technology 100 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			PDHPE
Sophia Rickards	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Visual Arts 200 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	Religious Studies
Adam Turner	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Music 200 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway

Connor Wasiak	10RC03	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200
Tobin Blackwell	10RC04	Academic Excellence	English
			Geography
			Religious Studies
			History
			Science
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Music 200 hrs
		Diligence	iSTEM 100 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			Religious Studies
			English
			Science
			Music 200 hrs
			History
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Joseph Brown	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Religious Studies
			Geography
			History
		Academic Growth and Development	Religious Studies
		Diligence	Science
			History
			Music 200 hrs
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Religious Studies
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			English
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Camila Corredor Marchesini	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Commerce 100 hrs
			Science
			Geography
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			English
			Religious Studies
			History
		Diligence	Religious Studies
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			Commerce 100 hrs
			History
			Science
Kai Dodds	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Science

			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Religious Studies
			Geography
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
			Music 200 hrs
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			Music 200 hrs
			Science
			History
			Religious Studies
			iSTEM 100 hrs
		Certificate Of High Achievement	Religious Literacy Assessment
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Izzy Donald-Grant	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Geography
			Religious Studies
Cooper Emmerton	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Graphic Technology 100 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	Graphic Technology 100 hrs
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Lochlain Farrell	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Geography
			History
			Religious Studies
			Science
		Academic Growth and Development	History
		Diligence	Geography
			English
			Science
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Religious Studies
			History
Eli Hunt	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
			Geography
			Science
		Diligence	Commerce 100 hrs
			History
			Religious Studies
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
			Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
			Geography
Sakura Kelly	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Religious Studies
			Geography

			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			History
		Diligence	Religious Studies
			English
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Science
			Geography
			History
Isaac Lucietto	10RC04	Academic Growth and Development	Science
Erik Milevski	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Geography
		Academic Growth and Development	History
			Geography
Ashley Pannowitz	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
			Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200
Luke Reiss	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Geography
			Religious Studies
			History
			iSTEM 100 hrs
		Diligence	Religious Studies
			Geography
			History
			English
			Music 200 hrs
			Science
			iSTEM 100 hrs
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Zoe Russell	10RC04	Academic Growth and Development	English
Addison Skinner	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
		Diligence	English
			History
			Religious Studies
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
Ellen Traynor	10RC04	Academic Growth and Development	Science
Rori Williamson	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Food Technology 200 hrs
Sophie Windever	10RC04	Academic Excellence	Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Science
			Religious Studies
		Diligence	Music 200 hrs
			Religious Studies
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Science
			History

			Geography
Harrison Bader	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	Geography
			Commerce 100 hrs
Jackson Burge	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics
Patrick Collison	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Geography
Phoebe Duffy-Smith	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	Music 200 hrs
Harry Evans	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	Science
Robert Givens	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Build & Const 200
Eliza Gribbin	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Geography
			History
		Academic Growth and Development	Religious Studies
Ella Ham	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Geography
			History
			PDHPE
Jeremiah Hart		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Rhiannon Hinchcliffe	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Physical Activity & Sport Science 100 hrs
			Industrial Technology - Timber 100 hrs
William Kuskopf	10RC05	Academic Excellence	History
		Academic Growth and Development	Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
Harriet Mills	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Geography
		Academic Excellence	History
			Science
Max Morrissey	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Geography
			History
		Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
		Diligence	Science
			Geography
			Religious Studies
			Music 100 hrs
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
			PDHPE
			History
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
Abi Paterson	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
			Geography
			PDHPE
		Diligence	Geography
			Music 100 hrs
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
			PDHPE
			Religious Studies
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Science
			History

Michael Plush	10RC05	Academic Excellence	History
			Geography
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Ryan Skinner	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	History
Milla Smith	10RC05	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Emily Szauter	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	PDHPE
Alice Tayler	10RC05	Academic Excellence	Geography
Ezekiel Watts	10RC05	Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics
Dustin Bangoy	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Kiara Barbour	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Science
			History
			Food Technology 100 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
		Diligence	Food Technology 100 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			History
			Science
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
Lucy Bartley	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
Oliver Beath	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Geography
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Information Software & Technology
			History
		Diligence	Religious Studies
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			English
			Geography
			Science
			History
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
James Bernasconi	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			PDHPE
			Science
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
			Music 200 hrs
		Certificate of Participation	Aspire
Finn Callen	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Geography
			Science
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway

		Diligence	Music 200 hrs
			Geography
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
			iSTEM 100 hrs
			Science
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Brayden Covino	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Music 100 hrs
Dylan Dunkley	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Geography
			Music 200 hrs
			Science
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
			English
		Certificate Of High Achievement	Religious Literacy Assessment
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Chelsea Feeney	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
Kaelan George	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Science
			PDHPE
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
Preston Govender	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Physical Activity & Sport Science 200 hrs
		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Samuel Govender		Certificate of Achievement	iStem 100hrs
Larni Healey	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Food Technology 200 hrs
			Science
			Geography
			History
			PDHPE
		Diligence	PDHPE
			Geography
			History
			Food Technology 200 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 100 hrs
Lucinda Hindson	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Food Technology 200 hrs
Olivia Jenkins	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Food Technology 200 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	Geography
		Diligence	History
			Food Technology 200 hrs
			Geography
			Mathematics - 5.2 Pathway
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Science

			English
Thomas Kennedy	10RC06	Academic Growth and Development	English
Ruby Lucas	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
		Academic Growth and Development	Science
Isabelle McCurdy	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Food Technology 100 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	PDHPE
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Food Technology 100 hrs
			Science
			PDHPE
			History
			Geography
Macy Nash	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Music 200 hrs
		Certificate Of High Achievement	Religious Literacy Assessment
		Certificate of Participation	Aspire
Victoria Owen	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Food Technology 200 hrs
			Science
			History
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
		Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
Oliver Pearson	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
Claire Rayner-Howson	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Science
			History
			Geography
			Food Technology 200 hrs
		Diligence	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Geography
			English
			History
			Science
			Photographic and Digital Media 100 hrs
			Food Technology 200 hrs
			Religious Studies
Makenna Regan	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
Ella Smith	10RC06	Academic Excellence	PDHPE
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Science
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
		Diligence	Geography

			PDHPE
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			Science
			Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Physical Activity & Sport Science 100 hrs
			History
			English
Erika Sneddon	10RC06	Academic Excellence	Visual Arts 200 hrs
			Industrial Technology - Timber 200 hrs
			Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
			History
		Academic Growth and Development	Mathematics - 5.3 Pathway
Ayla Turnbull	10RC06	Academic Excellence	History
			Food Technology 200 hrs
		Academic Growth and Development	History

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

Warmest wishes

Daniel Beckett

Leader of Wellbeing & Engagement - Year 10

Who doesn't love a piece of cake? 😊





LIBRARY MATTERS

Well, that is it for another year, and what a busy one it has been. The Library's staff have been kept on their toes this year with a new English syllabus coming in 2024. This has seen a great influx of new novels being purchased and processed. A huge thank you to Melissa Watt (Library Assistant), Jo Gomboso and Penny Howard (Casual Library Assistants) for their hard work in having most of these new texts ready for 2024. I am so pleased to also congratulate our **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** participants for 2023, Sheridan Owen, Kate Atkinson, Evie Duggan, Maggie Hardie and the amazing, Harry Grady who is the recipient of the Premier's Medal! Well done to you all!



We also acknowledged the Winners and Runners-Up for the Write a **Book in a Day** event.

Well done to Lily Edwards, Kayla Harvey and Ivy Williams for your wonderful composition. I look forward to sharing this with everyone next year. Our runners-up were Milly Pearce, Maggie Hardie and Thomas Collison. Thanks for your work.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all next year. Mrs Rosalind Dunn



Mary's MasterChef 2023

In Term 4 Year 8 Chinese students were involved in Mary's MasterChef. They did an incredible job and created some extremely delicious meals. Parents were so happy to have the night off and, with cleaning part of the marking criteria, students went above and beyond to impress their families.

Some students whose kitchens were being renovated even took up the challenge by cooking at someone else's home. There were so many deserving participants but there can only be three winners. The following students created not only delectable dishes but videos representing their journey in a creative and entertaining way. Congratulations to all students from a very proud teacher.

Mrs Paterson

And the winners are:

8.1

Jack Foster

Runners-up – Jacob Lynch and Sonny Matzen

8:2

Peppa Kelly

Runners-up – Jett Cristobal and Na McKay

8:3

Moeana Reynolds

Runners-up – Cade Rimanoczy and Victoria Chong



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 2023 is Thursday 14th December.

All orders placed after this date during the holiday break will be dispatched or available for collection from Monday 15th January.

We will be open in January on the following dates:

Mon 15th Jan	9:00am - 4:00pm
Wed 17th Jan	9:00am - 4:00pm
Wed 24th Jan	8:00am - 4:00pm
Tue 30th Jan	8:30am - 11:30am
Wed 31st Jan	8:30am - 12:00pm
Thu 1st Feb	12:45pm - 3:30pm

We will resume our regular trading hours from Tuesday 6th February.

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



0435 954 372



stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au



The Uniform Shop @ St Mary's Catholic College



www.alintaapparel.com.au





College Fees News

Merry Christmas from the Finance Office

REMINDER – SCHOOL FEES: Fees are to be finalised by 30 November for 2023 unless a fee agreement is current. 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 the Principal.

Please note: If required, all existing fee agreements must be renegotiated for 2024, please make an appointment early Term 1, 2024.

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.

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

WHEN LIFE DOESN'T GO AS PLANNED
REACHOUT

Life isn't always easy, but these tips can help make it easier for you to cope.

1

Put pen to paper

Get it all out of your head. Jotting down your feelings can help you work out what might be troubling you and give you ideas on how to improve things.

2

Talk it out

While it can be hard to open up, sometimes the best way to deal with a problem is to share it. Whether you talk to your best friend, your family or even a peer worker, two brains are always better than one.

3

Show some self-love

Making time to do the things you love is a great way to help yourself feel better. Try going for a walk, spending the day at the beach, or booking yourself in for a popcorn and movie session.

Life doesn't always go as planned.

That's why there's ReachOut – a safe online place to chat anonymously, get support and feel better.

4

Look at the big picture

When you're going through a stressful situation, try asking yourself 'How important is this?' and 'Will I remember this issue in five years?'

5

Focus on the positives

If you're having some bad luck, it can be easy to feel hard done by. Instead of letting negativity take over, find at least one positive thing about the situation, and try to focus on that.

Learn more at [ReachOut.click/coping-with-the-hard-stuff](https://reachout.click/coping-with-the-hard-stuff)

Tips for
 coping
 with the
 hard stuff



Mental Health Services and Support



Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890 (9am-1am daily)
For wechat, visit: headspace.org.au/eheadspace

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

1800RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

QLife

LGBTI peer support and referral

1800 184 527 (6pm-10pm daily)
qlife.org.au (online chat 3pm-12am daily)

Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.





The Song Competition will be broken into 4 categories - Primary School (individual), Primary (class), Years 7-9 and Years 10-12. Using the story for the production, the themes below will be the songwriting focus for these allocated year groups.

This year we will be introducing a new category, Primary (Class). Primary school teachers are encouraged to create a song with their classes or part of their class. This could be part of programming or a co-curricular project.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (INDIVIDUAL AND WHOLE CLASS CATEGORIES):

COMMUNICATION

What is communication?

What makes good or bad communication?

Different ways of communicating

What can be communicated?

YEARS 7, 8 OR 9: QUIET

Using 'quiet' as a theme for lyrics and/or music

What does 'quiet' mean to you?

What is the impact of being 'quiet'?

YEARS 10, 11 OR 12: LOUD

Using 'loud' as a theme for lyrics and/or music

What does 'loud' mean to you?

What is the impact of being 'loud'?

THURSDAY 4TH MARCH 2024

ASPIRE Song Competition Closing Date

THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024

ASPIRE Song Competition Finalist Concert

HOW TO ENTER

1. Video or record yourself singing or playing your song.
File formats: MP3, MP4 or MOV
2. 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**.
5. You will be able to upload via the ASPIRE website from **Week 1, Term 1 2024**.

ASPIRE SONG COMPETITION 2024 ENTRY FORM

The ASPIRE Song Competition Entry is an online process, upload via the ASPIRE website from.



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: <http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIRESongCompetition>
2. FILL IN THE FORM TO ENTER AND UPLOAD YOUR FILE

Criteria: Lyrics and/or music reflect the category theme. Quality and creative use of musical concepts e.g. melody, chords, structure, rhythm and dynamics. Interesting and engaging song.

Once entries close, shortlisted finalists will have the opportunity to workshop their song with professional musicians and ASPIRE Musical Director. The winner for each category will be decided at a live concert where a guest panel will judge the songs. This year there will be 4 winners, one for each category (Primary - Individual, Primary - Class, Years 7-9 and Years 10-12). The prize is a \$300 Musos Corner voucher and have their song professionally recorded.

Conditions: Music and lyrics must be created by the nominated students. Some students, particularly classes and younger students, may use backing tracks, or samples they have arranged themselves, but must create the lyrics themselves. Some students may seek feedback from their teachers or tutors, but the final product must be the student's own work. Submissions may be lyrics and music, or music only. Artificial Intelligence is not to be used in any aspect of the work submitted. The quality of the performance/recording will not impact selection.

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

TERM 4	
Week 11 (A Week)	
Mon 18 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of Term 4 (in lieu of Twilight PD sessions) Pupil Free Day – Staff PD and Organisation
TERM 1 2024	
Week 1 (A Week)	
Tues 30 January	Term 1 Commence – Staff Professional Development – Pupil Free
Wed 31 January	Staff Professional Development – Pupil Free
Thurs 1 February	Year 7 and Year 11 commences
Fri 2 February	All other years commence
Week 2 (B Week)	
Wed 7 February	Opening School Assembly – Formal Uniform required (Blazers and formal trousers for seniors)
Thurs 8 February	College Photo Day – Formal Uniform required (Blazers and formal trousers for seniors)
Week 3 (A Week)	
Tues 13 February	College Catch-Up Photo Day – Formal Uniform required (Blazers and formal trousers for seniors)
Wed 14 February	Ash Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No meat products available from Canteen. Revised menu to be issued nearer the date
Sat 17 February	JJAM Retreat for College Leaders until Tues 20 February – details to follow
Week 4 (B Week)	
Thurs 22 February	Swimming Carnival – Lambton Pool

Further dates for Term 1 published in early 2024



Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday 24 December are at:

St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, 11 Milson Street Charlestown at 5.30pm
 St John Vianney Catholic Church, 35 Hutchinson Street Redhead at 5.30pm
 St Mary's Warners Bay, 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay at 6.00pm
 St Paul's Catholic Church, 66 Felton Street Gateshead at 7pm
 St Patrick's Catholic Church, Northcote Avenue at 7pm
 Our Lady Help of Christians, 82 Main Road, Boolaroo at 8.00pm

Christmas Midnight Mass on Monday 25 December is at:

St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, 11 Milson Street Charlestown, at 12am

Christmas Day Masses on Monday, 25 December are at:

St Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, 11 Milson Street Charlestown at 8am
 St Michael the Archangel, 74 Primrose Street, Booragul at 8.00am
 St Paul's Catholic Church, 66 Felton Street Gateshead at 9.30am
 St Pius Catholic Church, Windale at 7.30am
 St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Belmont at 9.00am
 St Mary's Warners Bay, 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay at 10.00am

WISHING THE ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE COMMUNITY, A JOYOUS, SAFE
 AND RESTFUL CHRISTMAS, and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!