St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 15.23 Wednesday 20 September 2023



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

Teaching is work of the heart.

As our Year 12 students prepare to graduate this week, having completed formal classes and moving towards their graduation Mass and ceremonies, there is much to be grateful for.

Final HSC major works completed – products of love and patience; farewell words exchanged and memories shared; games played and last minute study advice given ... this past week highlights not only the way in which teachers transform lives, but also the way in which these young men and women have transformed the lives of all in our St Mary's community.

Pope Francis once said, "We (as teachers) transmit to others what we are inside. It is not enough to fill one's head with ideas, that is not educating; to educate is to transmit life."

"To be a teacher is to live a mission."

And this, this idea that a teacher's love can transform the days, experiences, motivation and lives of the young adults they serve, is a lived experience here at St Mary's. Further to this, it is the love, generosity of spirit and friendship that is given by our Year 12 students to all in our community that sustains us. Last week's Aussie Icon Day was a great example of the energy and joy that comes when people are in relationship with each other. The reciprocated love, the sense of fun and joy, the celebration of life, was tangible. Our Year 12 students have contributed greatly to the St Mary's way of being together – and we are grateful for their presence in our lives. We also acknowledge the life-giving energy of their teachers and support staff and ask for blessings upon each of them.

As we move into the closing days of Year 12's time here prior to the HSC exams next term, we thank them deeply – for allowing us the privilege of sharing in their lives, in supporting them as they make their own stories, for writing the next chapter of St Mary's as a 7-12 College. What an achievement!

So, yes, teaching is work of the heart ... and at this time of the year, our hearts are full.

Go well, Year 12. We are proud of you. We care for each of you deeply and we encourage each of you to move into the world beyond St Mary's, living lives of service, making a difference to all those you encounter, "transmitting life" to others.

Blessings
Cathy O'Gorman
Principal (Acting)



Assistant Principal - Learning & Teaching

Year 11 Changes to Pattern of Study, Reports and Interviews

As students are completing their final tasks in their Year 11 Courses, they are encouraged to discuss their progress with their teachers and to assess where changes to their pattern of study may be beneficial to them as they move into Year 12. I have spoken to students recently about the importance of not rushing their decision to "drop" a subject or change levels too early, encouraging students to think about maintaining all courses for the first term of Year 12 Course work (Term 4 2023). Students and their parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet with teachers in Week 4 Term 4 and this may be a good time to seek advice regarding any changes to courses. **There is no urgency to make a rushed decision.**

Students may also choose to pick up an additional unit of study at this point — **Mathematics Extension 2, English Extension 2 or Extension History**. To commence studying in one of these subjects, an interview must take place between the students and myself, and approval is required from both the subject teacher and relevant Leader of Learning. Please encourage your child to have this conversation as soon as possible if they are thinking of taking on an additional unit in these areas. Classes in these new subjects will commence next term, running offline — at a time arranged between students and teacher.

The process to make changes to a pattern of study, once Year 11 Courses are complete, is as follows:

- 1. Students discuss any changes with relevant subject teacher.
- 2. Students and Parent/Carer complete a 2023/2024 HSC Subject Change Form. See link: HSC Course Changes Form 2024.docx (sharepoint.com)
- 3. Signatures of parents/carers, teachers and Leaders of Learning are required.
- 4. Subject Changes will not all be finalised until at least Week 1 of Term 4. Students cannot change patterns of study until all requests have been addressed, ATAR pathways are checked and then changes are made to the student's timetable on Compass.
- 5. Once the change appears on the student's Compass timetable, they may commence in the new class.

Year 11 Reports, Awards and Interviews

Student, Parent and Teacher Interviews have been scheduled for Week 3 Term 4. This time has been put aside for students and parents to follow up on Year 11 Course Reports as well as plan with teachers their future directions and goals for Year 12 studies. This time provides an opportunity for teachers to "feed forward" – establishing expectations for students as they move into their final HSC year. Details regarding the interviews will be conveyed next term, at the time of End of Course Reports being published via Compass. All students are encouraged to attend the interviews – allowing them to set realistic and aspirational goals for the next twelve months.

Year 11 Awards will be held on the same day as the Interviews, commencing at 2pm at the College. Further details to follow.

Week 2 Friday 20 October 2022	Year 11 Reports Published Student, Parent, Teacher Interview Bookings OPEN
Week 3 Wednesday	Year 11 End of Course Awards 2pm Venue: TBC
25 October 2022	Student, Parent & Teacher Interviews After School
	3.30pm – 6.30pm Bookings via Compass

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email belinda.flood@mn.catholic.edu.au if you require additional information.

Year 10 (Year 11 2024) Subject Selections

We are currently still conducting interviews with students as we continue to finalise subject selections for 2023. In terms of the process, we are now working through Distance Education applications for students studying courses not offered at St Mary's. Mrs Dews and Ms Finlay also continue to work through eVET, SBAT and other applications. Final confirmation of subjects and details regarding the Senior Interview process will occur in Term Four once we have finalised all patterns of study for our students. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to email if you have any concerns or questions.

Year 8 (Year 9 2024) Additional Courses of Study Subject Selections

Year 9 2023 Subject Lines have now been determined and conversations with Year 8 students, for those who have not been able to secure one or more of their main preferences, are currently taking place, with time and attention being paid to the students' needs during this process. As students and parents were made aware at the start of the process, we are able to cater for most students' requests but there are some courses that have not been sustained due to small numbers. Where this has occurred, students have an opportunity to meet and discuss other options. It is anticipated that confirmation of subjects allocated to students will be sent home before the end of Week 3 Term 4. I thank you for your patience at this time as we work towards a good outcome for all involved.

Year 12 HSC News:

Reachout Australia in conjunction with NESA have put together some wonderful resources to help look after wellbeing and the notion of "being kind to your mind" during the lead up to the HSC exams as well as the time your exams are on. We encourage you to explore everything from exam and wellbeing tips to preparation for the examination period as well as how to balance study with downtime and rest. How to study effectively, what to expect in the HSC and what happens when the HSC is done, can also be found through the information contained in the link below. Please cut and paste the following link into your browser:

https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/stay-healthy-hsc?q=

Belinda Flood Acting Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching

Next Technologies BYOD Portal

We conducted an on-line meeting {Wednesday 13/9/23} in regard to the following program. A recording of that meeting is available here: Next Technologies- BYOD Portal-20230913 Meeting Recording.mp4

The experience of purchasing a device that meets the needs of your child can be a daunting process for many parents. Technology is constantly evolving, and the retail world can be a difficult place to navigate. We are aware of these issues and last year we initiated a partnership with a company that aims to make this experience less troublesome. The partnership with Next Technologies provides a facility where parents are able to purchase a high-quality commercial grade device that is appropriate to the needs of students at all levels in the school. Furthermore, these devices have access to accidental damage protection (optional for HP), 3-year extended warranty, battery warranty and corporate grade hardware that is definitely not available in retail stores.

The company, Next Technologies is based in Sydney and comes highly recommended by other schools within our Diocese. In partnership with Next Technologies a School Purchasing Portal has been prepared specific to the needs of our students. Link to the Portal: https://gatesheadsm.byodschools.com.au/home

It is **NOT** compulsory that devices are purchased using this portal, we are simply looking to provide an option for parents when purchasing a device for their child.

Please understand that purchases will need to be confirmed by the end of September so that the vendors are able to ensure the delivery of devices prior to the Christmas Holiday period. *This means that the portal will be open during the month of September for parents to view, make a decision and confirm their orders. Payment can be extended beyond that period*

The portal will remain open beyond this month, however delivery times cannot be guaranteed.

Thank you

Shane Abell Leader of Digital Innovation and Learning

Year 12 Leader of Learning

As I sit down to write this newsletter, my heart is filled with a mixture of emotions. It's a bittersweet moment for me as a Year 12 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement, to bid farewell to our Year 12 students who are about to embark on their HSC journey. Over the past six years, we have seen these young individuals grow, learn, and transform into the remarkable individuals they are today.

The relationships we have built with our students and their parents hold a special place in my heart. It's been an incredible privilege to be a part of their lives during their crucial years of development. From the first day of high school to this moment, we have shared both joys and challenges, and I have watched them overcome obstacles and reach milestones that make us all immensely proud.

While I will miss seeing their familiar faces, I know that they are destined for great things.

So, Year 12, as you set out on this final leg of your high school journey, I offer my heartfelt wishes for success, happiness, and fulfillment. May your HSC exams be a testament to your hard work and dedication, and may your future be as bright as the potential you have shown us over the years.

You will always have a special place in our hearts, and we are excited to see the amazing paths you will carve for yourselves in the years to come.

Wishing you all the best in your HSC exams and in all your future endeavours.

Thank you for the memories.

Ms Smith xx



Please note the changes to the timing of Wednesday's ceremonies:

The Awards Ceremony will commence at 9.30am in the Josephite Centre, followed by morning tea at 11.00am to 11.45am, to be held in the Café. This change is to allow all teachers the opportunity to attend and celebrate with students and their families. We recognise that all staff have contributed to the formation of your child's educational journey, and this will be many of the teachers only opportunity to wish the students well before they leave St Mary's.

To allow for the above to take place, students will be requested to move to the Josephite Centre at 11.45am for the final Year Assembly at approximately midday. The Clap-Out will take place at approximately 1.15pm.

14 September 2023

Dear Year 12,

journey. While there is no expectation that you attend – we encourage you to attend where possible. Please see below for details regarding dates and As the end of Term 3 holidays approach, you are invited to accept the very generous offers of additional workshops and support for you in your HSC times. For more detailed information please speak with/email your individual teachers. We wish you a happy and restful holiday.

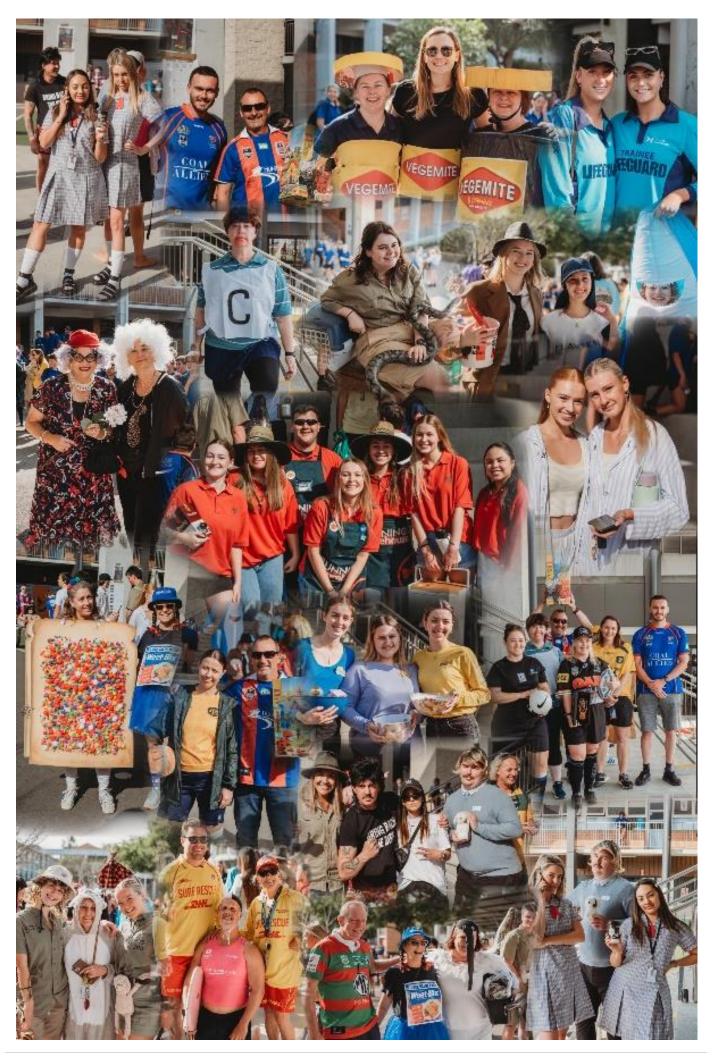
Ms Flood, Mrs Smith and Mrs O'Gorman

WEEK 1				
Monday 25 September	Tuesday 26 September	Wednesday 27 September	Thursday 28 September	Friday 29 September
Business Studies 9-12am (Ms Convery Rm 217)	Business Studies 9-12am (Ms Convery Rm 217)	English Standard 9-11am (Mrs Carpenter Rm 215)	English Extension 9-11am (Ms Grealy Rm 208)	Society & Culture 9-11am (Mrs Lorenz Rm 220)
Biology 12-3pm	Business Studies 9-11am (Mrs Dews Rm 222)	English Standard 9-11am	CAFS 9-11am	Japanese Beg 9-11am (Ms Hatcher Rm225)
(Mrs Morrice Rm 207)	Society & Culture 9-11am (Mrs Lorez Rm 220)	(Mrs Lindsay Rm 213)	(Mrs Avery and Miss Artis Rm D1)	
	Biology 12-3pm	English Advanced 9-11am		School Server down from
	(MIS MOTIFICE RITH 201)	(IVIS Grealy RM 208)		12pm – no access to school
	(Ms Hatcher Rm225)			network/ wifi/Compass
	Earth & Environment 9 – 12am (Mrs Piper Rm 202)			
WEEK 2				
Monday 2 October	Tuesday 3 October	Wednesday 4 October	Thursday 5 October	Friday 6 October
LONG WEEKEND	SOR 1 Unit and SOR 2 Unit 9-11am (Mrs Henderson & Miss Savovski Rm 226) SOR 2 unit 9.30-11.30am (Mrs Milajew Room 214)	Maths Standard 9-11am (Mrs Smith Rm D8)	Math Ext 1 9-12pm (Mr Hepworth D11) History Extension 9-10am (Miss Andrews Rm 119) Modern History 10-12pm (Miss Andrews Rm 119)	

Aussie Icons dress-up day

Breaking News! Year 12 students and Staff went missing last Friday from St Mary's! We did, however, have some Aussie Icons drop in to say hello...





RUOK?

That's the question we asked today as we played, laughed, talked, danced, stretched, raced, challenged and spent time together on this very special day. Today showed us that we are never alone and that we have the love of this amazing community always with us!! Best day ever!

Thank you to all involved and let's continue to support each other, always checking in and asking, RUOK? ...



Year 11 Leader of Learning

Commissioning of new Leaders 2023-2024

Today we handed over the reins to our 2024 student leaders. The 18 students who comprise our Leadership Team have completed a full day of training with valuable insights from Mr Frize, Mr Keating, and Ms Addicoat, on what Servant Leadership entails. The process also required students to present leadership speeches to the College community and participate in interviews.

Congratulations is extended to our four College Leaders for 2024: Carlos Corredor Marchesini, Holly Hayes, Elleni Pedonese and Daniel Ollerton. These leaders will be ably supported by the following Student Leaders: Annabel Brown, Cooper Browne, Henry Burke, Nate Fisher, Bailey Gilbert, Halle Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Beau McCabe, Harrison Quinn, Tom Skelly, Bethany Spencer, Hannah Spencer, Jessica Visscher and Ella Young.

We wish all of these students success in their roles as leaders and know that each will bring a unique skillset, experience and insight to the community.





Commissioning of new Leaders 2023-2024 – Monday 18 September 2023



Year 8 Geography Excursion

On Thursday 7th September, Year 8 engaged in a day of fieldwork activities, walking between Eleebana and Speers Point. Students gathered data through observation, weather apps, counts and tallies, collaborative tasks and mapping. We were extremely lucky with the weather on the day, having clear skies and sunshine to assist in our activities.

Year 8 could not have been better behaved for the day, receiving several compliments from the public on the good-mannered, well-dressed students – how lucky we are to have such a great group!

Many thanks to the teachers who supported on the day!

Nikki Lorenz Acting Leader of Learning - HSIE















Careers Corner

Year 12:

Just a quick reminder regarding the Early Entry Scheme (SRS) dates through UAC.

Early offer schemes



Scan for details of early offer schemes, including application and offer dates, or go to uac.edu.au/early-offers

Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS): Apply through UAC

All Year 12 applicants applying to the following institutions are encouraged to apply for SRS, although not all courses are included in the scheme:

- Asia Pacific International College Australian Catholic University
- Charles Sturt University
- International College of Management, Sydney
- Macquarie University National Art School
- Torrens University Australia
 University of Canberra
 University of New England
- University of Newcastle
 University of Notre Dame Australia
- University of Technology Sydney Western Sydney University.

Applications close

Finalise preferences
First conditional and unconditional (not based on ATAR) offers released
Finalise preferences for Dec Round 2
Conditional offers converted to unconditional offers if based on ATAR

Years 10, 11 and 12

Students remember to check your emails on a regular basis to view the Career Links newsletter that outlines employment opportunities throughout the Hunter region. This last newsletter was 98 pages in length. Remember that not all are apprenticeships or traineeships, but at times, part-time opportunities and are available to all.

Year 10

Week 8 provided Year 10 with the opportunity to partake in the Work Experience program. This year we had 32 students live a week in the life of an employee undertaking their dream career. There were a multitude of varying jobs from teachers to tradespeople to hospitality workers to vets. Outstanding reports with feedback indicated that our students were exceptional in their undertaking of tasks and their participation was enthusiastic.

Ms Finlay and Ms Dews Careers Advisers















Aboriginal Education

Cultural Workshops with Roo

The Workshops planned for last week have been postponed until next term. In these workshops students will learn about some of the Language Groups around NSW and how they are alike and different. Students will then have to oppportunity to further explore their own Language Group. When finalised the new dates will be put through Compass. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Cultural Engagement Camps

Recently **Joshua** and **Lachlan** in Year 9 and **Lurneah** and **Gabrielle** in Year 10 attended an Engagement Camp put on by the Wollutuka Institute of Newcastel University. The students participated in may amazing activites at the Point Wolsonecroft Sport and Rec Camp and also made some new friends!

Paul McKay Aboriginal Education Teacher



Baiame Cave Excursion - Recently Yr 11 Studies in Catholic Thought students visited Baiame Cave near Broke. In this photo Uncle Warren is talking about the meaing of some of the symbols.

GIFTED EDUCATION NEWS

Students in the Virtual Academy were invited to a Digital Tools Workshop last week. The day is designed to build student thinking, research, communication, and self-management skills using technology. It is anticipated that student engagement will support designs and creations for their Virtual Academy presentations.

Annie Hardie from Year 7 chose to work on Coding and this is what she had to say: "We were given a Minecraft world to practice my coding skills in with challenges and tasks to complete using coding. Our final project was to create an airport with non-payer characters that moved around the way I coded them to move."

Over 100 students participated in the ICAS Competitions this year and results are now available for viewing! If you would like to see the results before the certificates arrived you can request an ICAS Tap ID and PIN through this link https://www.icasassessments.com/icas-student-tap-id-

pin/?omnisendContactID=64c7444dcd9ab00ec9388a34&utm_campaign=campaign%3A+Results+are+ready+Maths+EDM+ICAS+2023+NON+PPS+%286500ebe621b6b9d07d5d7dda%29&utm_medium=email&utm_source=omnisend

Congratulations to all students who have taken the opportunity to challenge themselves!

Mrs Louise Henderson Gifted Education Mentor



SPORT NEWS

NSWCCC Opportunity

As previously advised, due to unforeseen and serious safety concerns with the event, the NSWCCC Athletic Championships scheduled for today, Monday 11th September 2023 at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre was cancelled and will not be rescheduled. We would like to thank you for your support and understanding and apologise for the inconvenience to athletes and their families but will always place the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and parents as our number one priority.

CSNSW Sport shares the disappointment of the students who did not get the opportunity to proudly represent their diocese today. As such, Athletics NSW and CSNSW Sport have been working collaboratively today on providing opportunity for students affected by the unavoidable cancellation of NSWCCC Athletics today. Athletics NSW delivers the NSW All Schools, which while being the culmination of the state secondary school pathway, it is open to all athletes and presented in a fun and inclusive way for students of all abilities.

This is an optional opportunity for our students.

To this end, Athletics NSW have extended the entry deadline for the NSW All Schools Championships. For athletes aged 16+ this is extended to Tuesday 12th September at 23:59. Athletes aged 12-15 can enter until Friday 22nd September for NSWCCC students.

Entries and further information is by copying and pasting the following link:

https://www.nswathletics.org.au/events-page/2023-nsw-all-school-championships/

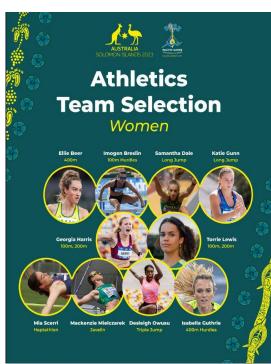
If assistance is required in making the entry, please contact Athletics NSW directly at 9746 1122. We would like to thank Athletics NSW for their support and generosity in accommodating NSWCCC students.

Regards, CSNSW Sport

Student Achievements

We extend our sincere congratulations to ex-student, **Torrie Lewis**, for achieving a place in the Athletics Team headed to the Solomon Islands to take part in the 2023 Pacific Games. It was recently highlighted on Channel 7's Sunrise that Torrie has been paired with former swimmer and Australian icon Dawn Fraser AC MBE as her Mentor. We wish Torrie all the very best of luck with her competition.





Touch Footy

Today was another action-packed day for our college sporting program with the Junior Boys and Junior Girls Touch Football teams competing in the Lake Macquarie Inter-School Touch Championships.

Throughout the day, both teams demonstrated exemplary skill and teamwork and were extremely competitive with many exhilarating tries and dazzling defensive displays.

In the Junior Boys division, the Year 8 boys were a dominating force, securing 4 wins and 2 losses.

The Junior Girls also experienced success throughout the day, coming away with 1 win and 2 draws in their six games.

All players are to be commended on their efforts today as they were exceptional representatives of our college both on and off of the field.

A huge thank you to Mrs Annette Morgan for organising our school's participation in today's tournament. I am sure she will agree how amazing it was to see our students thrive outside of the classroom and display their many skills and talents.

Kieren Knight Coach



St Mary's Catholic College Uniform Shop Booking Calendar



Dear Parents and Carers,

OUR BOOKING CALENDAR IS NOW OPEN.

We welcome all students new to St Mary's Catholic College to visit the Uniform Shop for a fitting.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to learn your child's sizing and secure your uniforms for 2024. During your appointment, we will walk you through your child's uniform requirements for the coming year. We are excited to get you ready for this new chapter - don't leave your uniforms until the last minute!

HOW TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT



Register or Sign In

Visit www.alintaapparel.com.au Select 'Uniform Shop' then 'Register' or 'Sign In'.



Book your Fitting Appointment

Select 'Appointment' and choose from the available appointment times. You will receive an email confirmation once you have made your booking.



Attend your Fitting Appointment

You will be sent a reminder the day before your appointment. You will have the opportunity to place your order at the time of your appointment. We offer lay-by with only 20% deposit required.

FAQ



What if I need to cancel or reschedule my appointment?

To cancel or reschedule your appointment, go to 'My Account' then 'Appointments Calendar'.



I have multiple children to get fitted, how many appointments do I need?

Fitting appointments are one per child. Please book an appointment for each of your children.



Can I return or exchange?

We understand children can change and grow at rapid rates. We offer 12 month returns and exchanges on eligible items for your peace of mind. Our full policy and eligibility requirements is available under 'Terms and Conditions' on our website.



Special Make Up/Custom Garments

We offer special make up orders/custom garments for any students who require a size or fabric outside our range. If you think this may be you, please contact us as soon as possible to allow time for the garment to be made. Our SMU service caters for fabric allergies and sizes outside our standard range.



0435 954 372



stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au



The Uniform Shop @ St Mary's Catholic College - Pacific Highway, Gateshead NSW 2290



St Mary's Catholic College Uniform Shop Year 10 Blazer Fittings



Dear Parents and Carers.

A friendly reminder to Year 9 boys to visit the Uniform Shop during Term 4 to be fitted for your trousers and blazer.

A friendly reminder to Year 9 girls to visit the Uniform Shop during Term 4 to be fitted for your blazer.

No appointment is necessary to visit during shop hours.

The College blazer is mandated on formal occasions throughout the academic year - it will be required early Term 1, 2024.

We look forward to seeing you soon.









UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES DURING HSC

- Monday 9th October 8:30am-3:30pm
- Tuesday 10th October 8:30am-3:30pm
- Wednesday 16th October 1pm-3:30pm
- Wednesday 23rd October 8:30am-1:30pm
- Mon 30th October until Friday 3rd November No days available to open so it will be web orders only.

The Uniform Shop can be contacted on 0435 954 372 and stmaryshigh@alinta.com.au

DONATIONS KINDLY REQUESTED

DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

WE WOULD WELCOME PRE-LOVED UNIFORM FOR OUR NEEDY FAMILIES AND EMERGENCIES. IF YOU HAVE GOOD QUALITY UNIFORM, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO ST MARY'S.

ANY ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AT STUDENT SERVICES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT.

TERM 3 2023		
Week 10 (B Week)		
Mon 18	Year 11 students return to school	
September	Year 9 Work Education week	
Tues 19	Year 12 Graduation Mass – 6pm – St Paul's Catholic Church, Felton Street	
September	Year Assemblies	
Wed 20	Year 12 Reports published	
September	Year 12 Graduation and Awards Ceremony – 9.30am - TJC	
Fr 22 September	End of Term 3	
TERM 4 2023		
Week 1 (A Week)		
Mon 9 October	Day 1 Term 4 – Staff and Students return to school	
Tues 10 October	College Assembly	
Wed 11 October	HSC Examinations commence	
Fri 13 October	Newsletter 16.23 published	
Week 2 (B Week)		
Mon 16 October	HSC Examinations continue	
Tues 17 October	Extended PLM – Students released from school at 2.40pm	
	Year Assemblies	
Wed 18 October	Billy Elliott – Civic Theatre	
Fri 20 October	Bookings Open for Year 11 Parent Student Teacher conferences	
Week 3 (A Week)		
Mon 23 October	HSC Examinations continue	
	Weeks 3 to 6 PAT Testing Years 7-10	
Tues 24 October	Bookings Close for Year 11 Parent Student Teacher conferences	
	College Assembly	
Wed 25 October	Year 11 Awards (Period 4) and Parent Student Teacher conferences	
Fri 27 October	Newsletter 17.23 published	

The complete Term 4 calendar will be published in the next newsletter.

