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# St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter 2.23

Friday 17 February 2023

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

### The Importance and Impact of Quality Teacher-Student Relationships on Students' Success in Learning

In this edition of the Newsletter, Mrs Cathy O'Gorman, Assistant Principal (Learning and Teaching), has provided a detailed account of our Annual Academic Awards ceremony held last week. The ceremony provides the opportunity to focus the spotlight on and celebrate our commitment to scholastic excellence by publicly acknowledging the achievements of our Year 10 and 12 students from the previous year. In 2022 these results were outstanding, as they were in the previous years, and especially our students' Higher School Certificate (HSC) results.

The College has only been preparing students for the HSC for four years. The achievements of our students in that time have been outstanding, and well above what could have been reasonably expected. This begs the question: WHY?

Many factors are contributing to these results. There is the disposition and sense of self-efficacy students bring to their learning; the encouragement and support of parents/carers in the home; the quality of classroom teachers and their ongoing commitment to improving their daily instructional practices; the provision of appropriate teaching/learning resources; the presence of authoritative leadership, especially the presence and growth of a College culture which prioritises quality relationships, is focussed each day on continuous improvement and is committed to deepening students and staff members' sense of belonging and connectedness to our community and our work thereby building relational trust between community members and also acting as intrinsic motivators.

A common theme through all research related to teaching and learning is that positive student/teacher relationships are the foundation for maximising student outcomes. At St Mary's the staff prioritise relationships and this is captured in our simple mantra "relationships before curriculum".

World renowned educational leaders, Michael Fullan, Joanne Quinn and Jeanne McEachen in their 2018 publication, Deep Learning, emphasise that **"teachers connecting with students through meaningful relationships, developed over time, is integral to effective learning"** (p63). Thus staff know their students as people and as learners. They have a deep understanding of their needs and capabilities in the learning process and consequently are better able to engage with them. That is, to connect them with the 'what', 'why', 'who' and 'how' of learning. They are also better able to understand and apply teaching/learning strategies that best activate each students' learning. Furthermore, they are better able to relate to and respect each student as a unique individual, and more explicitly articulate achievable expectations thereby giving our students greater agency in their learning.

The educational research is very clear. Students need more than academic development to thrive. They need a positive sense of self, belonging and connectedness that we all feel when our emotional, social, physical and cognitive needs are being met. In our college community quality, meaningful student teacher relationships are critical in providing this sense of wellbeing and are enabling our students' success in their learning.

Blessings

**Larry Keating**  
Principal

## 2023 STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>LEADERSHIP TEAM:</b>				
<b>Principal:</b>		Larry Keating		
<b>Assistant Principal Learning and Teaching:</b>		Cathy O’Gorman	<b>Ministry Coordinator:</b>	DeAnna Addicoat
<b>Assistant Principal Wellbeing:</b>		Benjamin Frize	<b>Admin Coordinator:</b>	Andrew Burke
<b>LEADERS OF LEARNING:</b>			<b>LEADERS OF WELLBEING:</b>	
<b>Religious Studies:</b>		Elizabeth Quinlan	<b>Year 7:</b>	Maryanne Murray
<b>English:</b>		Georgina Lindsay	<b>Year 8:</b>	Ruth McCrae
<b>Mathematics:</b>		Tania Eastcott (Acting)	<b>Year 9:</b>	Katrina Brennan
<b>Science:</b>		Margaret Wright	<b>Year 10:</b>	Daniel Beckett
<b>HSIE:</b>		Belinda Flood	<b>Year 11:</b>	Gerard Cushan
<b>Creative Arts/LOTE:</b>		Morag Aitchison	<b>Year 12:</b>	Sharon Smith
<b>PDHPE:</b>		Stephen Burns	<b>School Counsellors:</b>	Amanda Pilley
<b>TAS:</b>		Clint Crispin		Vanessa Petersen
<b>Sport:</b>		Annette Morgan		
<b>LEARNING TECHNOLOGY:</b>		Shane Abell	<b>“BEYOND THE GATE” PASTORAL SUPPORT:</b>	Joanne Relf
<b>CAREERS ADVISOR &amp; VET COORDINATOR:</b>		Paula Finlay/Vanessa Dews	<b>GIFTED EDUCATION MENTOR:</b>	Louise Henderson
<b>SPC/JUNIOR VINNIES COORDINATORS:</b>		Louise Henderson Louise Hatcher	<b>PEDAGOGICAL MENTOR:</b>	Tracy Carpenter
<b>FACULTIES:</b>				
<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES:</b>		<b>ENGLISH:</b>	<b>MATHEMATICS:</b>	<b>SCIENCE:</b>
Elizabeth Quinlan	Joanne Meagher	Georgina Lindsay	Tania Eastcott	Margaret Wright
DeAnna Addicoat	David Luschwitz	Elisa Milajew	Sharon Smith	Shane Abell
Ruth McCrae	Elisa Milajew	Tracy Carpenter	Kieren Knight	Rebecca Morrice
Louise Henderson		Gemma Hughes	Kerri Hogan/Michelle Manditch	Katrina Piper/Amy Lavis
Karenna Andrews		Renae Turvey	Alicia Lang	Anna Matthews/
Elizabeth Savovski		Andrew Burke	Benjamin Frize	Kate D’Arcy
		Katrina Brennan	Gerard Cushan	Tracey Flack
		Gabrielle Turnbull	John Hepworth	Shaun O’Regan
<b>ABORIGINAL EDUCATION TEACHER:</b>		Emma Grealy	Prue Owen/Kate D’Arcy	Gerard Cushan
Paul McKay		Maria Griffen	Cologne Lane	John Adams
Richard Faulkner		David Luschwitz	Penny Cook	Leah McGovern
		Isabella Quiquere	Christina Hookway	Carrie Tucker
<b>HSIE:</b>		<b>CREATIVE ARTS/LOTE:</b>	<b>PDHPE:</b>	<b>VET:</b>
Belinda Flood		Morag Aitchison	Stephen Burns	Fiona Edwards
Maryanne Murray		Martin Speirs	Annette Morgan	Vanessa Dews
Natasha Convery		Stephen Walter	Daniel Beckett	Kristopher Eames
Joanne Meagher		Ruth McCrae	Jade Williams	Clint Crispin
Paula Finlay		Louise Hatcher	Brittany Avery	Joanne Meagher
Karenna Andrews		Carol Paterson	Jacqui McInherny/	Paula Finlay
Tarryn Wilson		Cathy O’Gorman	Melanie Schultz	Renae Turvey
Daniel Houston		Gabrielle Turnbull	Anne-Maree Artis	<b>LEARNING SUPPORT</b>
Vanessa Dews		Adele Weekes		
Daniel Matzen				Tim O’Neill
Kyle Clarence				Michelle Van Vlimmeren
Nikki Lorenz/				Brad Trost
Rosemary Laughton				Phil Dollisson
				Declan Meagher
		<b>TEACHER/LIBRARIAN:</b>	<b>LIBRARIAN ASSISTANT:</b>	
		Ros Dunn	Melissa Watt:	
<b>LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS:</b>		<b>PRINCIPAL’S SECRETARY:</b>	<b>RECEPTION:</b>	<b>STUDENT SERVICES:</b>
Janice Lawrence		Debbie Carter	Lola Romanelli	Zora Velich
Charisse Bekens			Petty Sofianos	Stephanie Leard
Leya Wilson		<b>FINANCE:</b>	Kayla Bevan	Kayla Bevan
Jenni Whitehead		Helen See	Stephanie Leard	Jodie Warburton
Gemma Thorpe		April Bisegna		
Michelle Bergin		<b>IT:</b>	<b>FOOD TECH/HOSPITALITY ASSISTANTS:</b>	<b>CANTEEN:</b>
Nicole Brinkworth		Jonathan Tickle	Christine Shaw	Christine Shaw
		Rod Allan	Michelle Russell	Debra Tserepas
				Fiona Fowler
<b>GROUNDSMEN:</b>		<b>SCIENCE LAB ASSISTANTS:</b>		<b>ON LEAVE:</b>
Steve Howlett		Sharon Butler		Melanie Schulz –
Ian Lucietto		Lucia Scherrer		Maternity Leave
Michael Rush				

## Ministry

The new school year brings with it hope, joy, expectation for all of us, school staff, students, parents and guardians. New uniforms and shoes shine; new school exercise books with their blank pages hold the promise of engaging with new learning. The new school year challenges us to put aside old habits that keep us from being our best. It also challenges us to become who we really are or want to be. We may want to become more resilient, more focused, more attentive, more mindful in order to be the best that we can be. We may want to be less anxious, less fearful of taking risks, less consumed by self-doubt, less focused on material possessions, less selfish. All of us are on a journey to growth: staff, students, and parents alike. We journey together in truth and courage.

### **Lent is a summons to live anew.**

Like the new school year, Lent which starts next week, calls us to journey together in truth and courage. Pope Francis tells us that Lent is a new beginning, a path towards the continual conversion of heart. Sr Joan Chittister says that Lent calls us “to look again at who we are, at where we’re going in life, at how we’re getting to where we say we want to go,”.

Lent also traditionally calls us to prayer, fasting, almsgiving and reconciliation. Giving up things such as chocolate, cake and alcohol can be exercised in self-discipline, but they are not necessarily going to sustain our journey or create a mindset for spiritual growth. In fact, what we give up for Lent should be something that distracts us from God. A Lenten sacrifice should be something that, once removed, makes it easier for us to connect with God.

Our prayer, fasting, almsgiving and reconciliation can be expressed in more creative spiritual action. Joan Chittister says that Lent is a call to weep for what we could have been and are not. Lent is the grace to grieve for what we should have done and did not. Lent is the opportunity to change what we ought to change but have not. Lent is not about penance. Lent is about becoming, doing and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now. **Lent is a summons to live anew.**

The Franciscans in Ireland have given us the following advice, which challenges our views of Lent and promotes a positive mindset for daily living in grace and generosity and following this summons to live life anew, in the renewal of our hearts and minds.

FAST from judging others;	FEAST on the Christ within them.
FAST from emphasis on differences;	FEAST on the unity of life.
FAST from apparent darkness;	FEAST on the reality of light.
FAST from thoughts of illness;	FEAST on the healing power of God.
FAST from words that pollute;	FEAST on phrases that purify.
FAST from discontent;	FEAST on gratitude.
FAST from anger;	FEAST on patience.
FAST from pessimism;	FEAST on optimism.
FAST from worry;	FEAST on trust in God.

**DeAnna Addicoat**  
Ministry Coordinator

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – LEADER OF LEARNING & TEACHING

Our Diocesan Awards Assembly was held in Week 3 and we enjoyed celebrating with our HSC Class of 2022.

**Bernadette Gibson Head of RE & Spirituality Services from the Diocese of Maitland Catholic Schools Office** joined with us for our assembly.

Results as below:

### Diocesan Awards for 2022 RoSA

These awards are for students who completed Year 10 in 2022 and, therefore, became eligible for the Stage 5 RoSA Academic Achievement Award. The RoSA is a Record of School Achievement awarded by NESA, the NSW Education Standards Authority, to students of Year 10 once all Stage 5 Courses have been successfully completed.

The Diocesan Award for RoSA is presented to those who students who attained 6 or more 'A' Grades across their pattern of study in Year 10.

The recipients of the Diocesan Academic Achievement Awards for St Mary's Catholic College, Gateshead are:

<b>Tom</b>	<b>Davies</b>
<b>Halle</b>	<b>Johnson</b>
<b>William</b>	<b>Kirkman</b>
<b>Audrey</b>	<b>Mayzen</b>
<b>Hayley</b>	<b>McDonald</b>
<b>Zac</b>	<b>Merrell</b>
<b>Elleni</b>	<b>Pedonese</b>
<b>Olivia</b>	<b>Pirillo</b>
<b>Bethany</b>	<b>Spencer</b>
<b>Hannah</b>	<b>Spencer</b>

### Acknowledgement of HSC 2022 High Achievers

The following students gained **First in Course** across the Diocese in the **2022 Higher School Certificate**:

Course Name		FIRST NAME	SURNAME
Earth & Environmental Science		Laura	Pitt
Economics		Cian	O'Hagan
English (Advanced)		Cian	O'Hagan
Geography		Laura	Pitt
Information Process & Technology		Jack	Griffiths
Music 1	Equal	Brody	Allan
Software Design and Development	Equal	Joseph	Beath
Studies of Religion I		Cian	O'Hagan
Visual Arts		Cian	O'Hagan
Chinese Beginners		Brody	Allan
Chinese Continuers		Eysha	Tellis
Hospitality Examination		Molly	Freebody
Retail Services Examination		Molly	Freebody

**ATAR Awards**

Our first recipient, receiving the highest ATAR at St Mary's Catholic College in 2022, and a Diocesan Award for gaining an ATAR of 90+ is **Cian O'HAGAN**. Cian gained an ATAR of 99.65.

Cian	O'Hagan	99.65
Laura	Pitt	93.30
Chelsea	Gagan	90

**Diocesan Awards**

Our final acknowledgement is for the Diocesan Academic Awards for the following -

Studies of Religion I	<b>Cian O'Hagan</b>
Diocesan Dux	<b>Cian O'Hagan</b>
Outstanding Academic Achievement	<b>Cian O'Hagan</b>
6th Place in State for Visual Arts	<b>Cian O'Hagan</b>

As a community, we congratulate all members of the HSC class for the resilience and determination displayed throughout the HSC, in what was an extremely challenging two years, and it was a privilege to welcome all back to our community for the ceremony.

At this time, we take this opportunity to extend a congratulations to ALL of our 2022 HSC students. As a cohort, the HSC class of 2022, only our fourth at the College, achieved:

**23 x Band 6s** across multiple subjects including Business Studies, Community & Family Studies, Earth & Environmental Studies, Economics (D Ed), English Advanced, Industrial Technology, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard, Music 1, Software Design & Development (D Ed), Studies of Religion 1 Unit, Visual Arts & Hospitality VET.

**16 students** were placed on the **2022 HSC Distinguished Achievers List**

**97 x Band 5s** were also achieved by the cohort.

There is also significant growth in a number of subjects, across the four years of HSC Course results.

In addition to these excellent results the following achievements deserve recognition:

- **Cian O'Hagan** – Nomination and inclusion in Art Express
- **Jaz Lawes** – Nomination and inclusion in First Class Exhibition
- **Brody Allan** – Nomination for Encore (Music)
- Ryan Judd – Nomination for InTech (IT Multimedia)

Congratulations to all students and staff at the college, who have supported one another across the last four years, particularly the three years of the pandemic, as we continue to develop our senior school community. The dedication and commitment of students, mentors, teachers and support staff, to being the best we can be, is to be celebrated!

To Year 11 & 12, you are reminded of our conversations. We have spoken of eating the elephant one bite at a time. I encourage you to learn from the class of 2022 – work with your teachers, build trust and good relationships, small bites each day and know that you have many people here who will support you on your journey.

To Year 10, I encourage you to aim for excellence this year – be inspired, not daunted, by those that have gone before you – and push yourselves to create your own story and achievements. We wish you every success.

**Cathy O'Gorman**

**Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching**

## AN INVITATION TO YEAR 12 PARENTS & CARERS

**YEAR 12 INFORMATION EVENING  
MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2023 – 7.00PM**

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



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## Leader of Wellbeing & Engagement – Year 8

Year 8 Students and Parents

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at St Mary's! Below are some photos of the wonderful day enjoyed by all of our Year 8 students at the RAW challenge at the end of 2022. Many thanks to Annette Morgan for organising the wonderful day and to our wonderful staff who attended. Many thanks to Martin Speirs for his great photos!

### 2023 – The Year Ahead

The theme for our Year 8 cohort is that of **"Responsibility"** and of continuing to follow our College motto – **"Ready To Serve"**. As young adults, it's crucial to understand that our actions have consequence and impact on those around us and on the world at large. Being responsible and accountable for our actions is a sign of maturity and moving into adulthood.

### Responsibility

In this upcoming year, we encourage all students in Year 8 to take ownership of their learning and to take pride in their academic efforts during 2023. For Year 8 students, this means being responsible for their own homework, staying organized and prioritizing their time effectively. Students in Year 8 are expected to use their **College Diary** daily and to *sign and gain their parents' signatures* in the diary at the end of each week.

We also encourage our Year 8 students to be responsible for their uniform, ensuring that they wear the College Uniform with pride. We expect students and their parents to re-visit the uniform expectations on *Pages 10-11* of the **College Diary** and *sign in agreement* with the College's Uniform expectations.

Adhering to our College Mantra: **"Be Safe, Be a Learner, Be Respectful"** is demonstrating responsibility. At St Mary's, we value service to the community and believe that it is an integral part of a well- rounded education.



We encourage you to take the initiative and get involved in school activities and to find ways to contribute in a positive manner to the College Community.

Year 8, look for opportunities to serve others, whether it be volunteering your time for St Vinnies or nominating for the SPC or helping a friend in need, or simply showing kindness and respect to those around you.

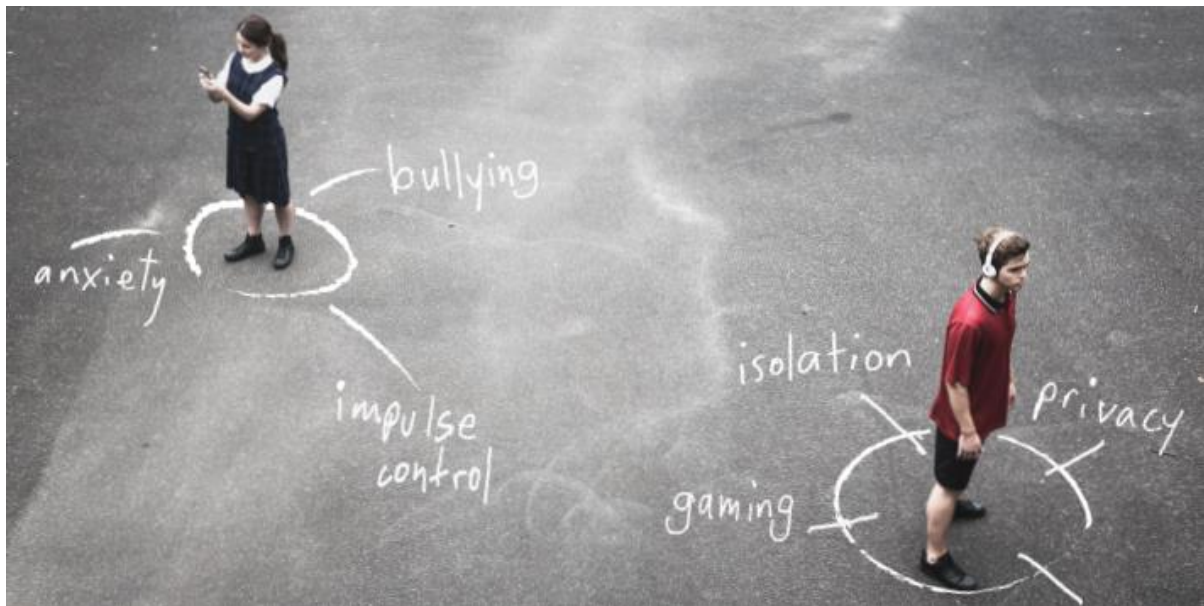
By doing this, you'll gain valuable skills and a sense of fulfillment that comes from making a difference in the world.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead and know that with responsibility and commitment to service, we will achieve great things together.

**Ruth McCrae**  
**Year 8 Leader of**  
**Wellbeing and**  
**Engagement**



# Brainstorm Productions



## CYBERIA

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

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

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

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



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## ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

A big step towards achieving your goals is developing and maintaining a goal-setting mindset as the attitudes you develop will influence the way you view goal-setting. Approaching a task with a negative and self-defeating attitude makes it much harder to actually be successful at that task. Try to foster a positive attitude when setting and trying to achieve your goals. A positive attitude means you are looking for ways to SUCCEED rather than focusing on the difficulties and obstacles that could be in your path.



### TO CREATE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE:

1. Each day note down something you did towards achieving your goals.
2. Note down any changes someone else has noticed e.g. your teacher says well done for your work!
3. Don't stop trying if something goes wrong, rather, reassess your goals or decide if you need to work harder to achieve them.
4. Find a mentor to encourage you to achieve your goals, possibly someone who is interested in the same things or is good at the same subjects but is a bit further ahead of you.

### OTHER BARRIERS:

- No action plan.
- No true commitment to the goal.
- Not rewarding yourself along the way for your milestones.
- Trying to focus on too many goals.
- Not preparing yourself for success.
- Fear of failure.

### YOU COULD ALSO:

- Clarify your goal.
- Write a list of actions.
- Analyse, prioritise and prune.
- Organise your list into a plan.
- Monitor the execution of your plan and review your plan regularly.
- Ask for help!

Learn more at: [www.studystudyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studystudyskillshandbook.com.au)



**Enhanced Learning  
Educational Services**  
"the study skills specialist"

username: stmarys

password: 106results

Tips by Dr Prue Salter

Your school may also have a direct link set up to the site



**Seasons for Growth Program:** Learning to live with change and loss. Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives.

At St Mary's Catholic College, we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce and related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence in term 2 2023.

This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication, and support networks.

Every family will receive a notice in the near future with more details about the Seasons for Growth program. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth, we encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the program. St Mary's is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved.

If you require further information, please contact De-Anna Addicoat or Joanna Relf.

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## English Faculty

Exciting things are afoot! English has two excursions planned:

Coming up first - A theatre performance of Richard III in Sydney for Year 12 Advanced, who are studying this text for the HSC.

And... an excursion is in the works for Year 10, in Term 2, to watch a theatre performance of Macbeth, which we will be studying next term.

Reports to follow in future newsletters.

**Georgina Lindsay**  
**Leader of Learning - English**



## HSIE Faculty

A request from the HSIE faculty –

Any families willing to donate their 'Farm Bricks' for a Year 8 Geography project next term, we would be very grateful! They can be dropped into Student Services or the Front Office anytime over the next few weeks, or given to Mrs Lorenz during the school day.

Many thanks  
**Mrs Lorenz**



## SPC Nominations

As we are all getting settled into the school year it is time to think about how you can live out our motto of being "Ready to Serve". The Student Pastoral Council is accepting nominations for students in Years 7-11 to step up and take on the challenge of serving others in the St Mary's Community.

Members of the Student Pastoral Council work collaboratively with the SPC Mentors and the Ministry Coordinator in fundraising, volunteering and other types of community service activities throughout the year. Such assistance would consist of raising awareness of the Project Compassion Caritas appeal, collecting money from Roll Call classes for fundraisers, promoting and collecting clothes and blankets for the Winter appeal, and organising and presenting Christmas hampers for the homeless as well as helping organise RUOK and Hoodies for the Homeless. Members of the Student Pastoral Council ensure that the College motto of Ready to Serve is lived out in the daily life of the College.

Nomination forms are available NOW from your Leader of Wellbeing and at Student Services.  
Nominations close Monday 27<sup>TH</sup> February 2023.

Are you ready to serve?

Mrs Louise Henderson & Ms Louise Hatcher  
SPC Coordinators



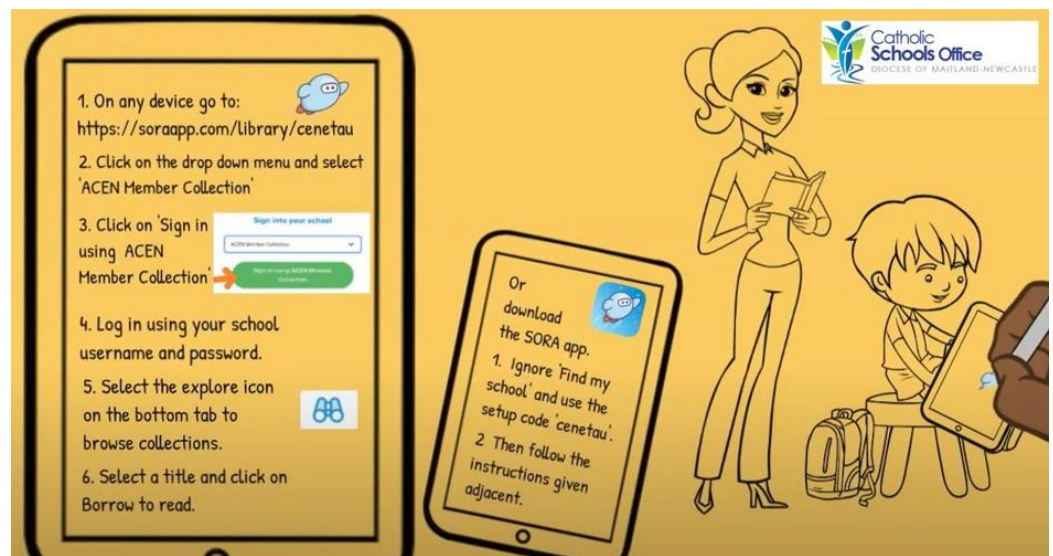
## Library Matters

And 2023 is off and racing! An extremely busy but very satisfying start to the year has seen almost all of Year 7 visiting the library for an Orientation lesson. The Orientation lesson is designed to show our new students the 'who, what, where and how' about the library, with the aim that they feel comfortable in spending time with us. And boy! Did they become comfortable alright. We have had large groups of students, from all year levels make themselves at home in the library. But don't panic parents if you hear that your child is spending time in the library. They are not alone -regularly we have close to 100 students here at lunch times, playing board games, gaming, reading, colouring in, hanging with friends. Check out the photos below.

After 17 years, I have decided to step down as the Chess Coordinator and I am so pleased to welcome Mr John Hepworth as the new "Chess Master". Tuesday Chess has never been busier. I am pleased to say that **Chess at St Mary's** is thriving!

Borrowing is going gang-busters with all English classes having texts to reading, some as a novel study and others for the pure enjoyment as a DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) book.

In addition to our print collection, more and more students are accessing the SORA app, where we have over 15000 audio books and e-books and magazines available. If you are new to SORA have a look at the instructions here on how to gain access. (Drop by the Library if you have any questions).



For most people the 14th February is Valentine's Day – but for us in Library Land it is **Library Lovers' Day** and we had a lot of fun with students and staff writing their Roses are Red poems. Some of the poems that made me laugh were, "Roses are Red. Violets are blue. Our Teacher Librarian is funnier than you!" In addition to this, students had the opportunity to have a "Blind Date with a Book". We hope our Blind Date Borrowers find a new author or genre that they fall in love with.

The **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge** is kicking off for 2023. All students from Years 7 to 10 are invited to take up the challenge. For those in Year 7, you will need to email me with your primary school details as I will need to match your St Mary's record with your primary school record. Parents and students can email me on: [rosalind.dunn@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rosalind.dunn@mn.catholic.edu.au)

Happy Reading!

**Mrs Rosalind Dunn**  
Teacher Librarian









## Vinnies Youth - Share a Pair Appeal

Over the past week Youth Vinnies has been receiving donations for our Share a Pair Appeal. Share a Pair was to provide dignity for those people who are struggling with providing for families, and distribution to the homeless of our area.

The Appeal coincided with Valentine's Day and challenged everyone to think of the needy and disadvantaged and to make a change in the lives of others.

A grateful thank you to everyone for their support of the Appeal and for all the donations sent into the College.

Keep watching to find out the next opportunity for you to support the St Vincent de Paul in our local area.

**Jo Meagher**  
Vinnies Coordinator



## Aboriginal Education



↑ Arakai and Barry from Year 7 busy in the Bush Tucker Garden

### Personal Learning Plans

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

***Paul McKay - Aboriginal Education Teacher***

## CANTEEN NEWS

Next Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is Ash Wednesday. There will be no meat products sold in Canteen, so please be aware when ordering your lunch. We will still have a delicious array of vegetarian foods to choose from and online ordering will still be available!

If you order your lunch days ahead, mark down the date, so you remember not to order any products containing meat. Our menu for Ash Wednesday is included in this Newsletter. We thank you all for your continuing support!

Deb Tserepas  
Canteen Supervisor

## ASH WEDNESDAY MENU

<b>POTATO WEDGES (IF AVAILABLE)</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>POTATO GEMS (IF AVAILABLE)</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>MARGARITA PIZZA ROLLS</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>FISH FINGERS (4)</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>SPINACH AND FETTA TRIANGLE</b>	<b>\$4.50</b>
<b>CHEESE ROLLS</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>VEGETARIAN SPRING ROLLS (4)</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>CRUMBED FISH BURGER (LETTUCE AND MAYONNAISE)</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>VEGETARIAN DUMPLINGS</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>PRAWN DUMPLINGS</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>MAC N CHEESE</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>SALAD ROLL</b>	<b>\$5.80</b>
<b>EGG AND LETTUCE SANDWICH</b>	<b>\$3.70</b>
<b>FULL SALAD WRAP</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>1/2 SALAD WRAP</b>	<b>\$2.20</b>
<b>SALMON SANDWICH (PLEASE ORDER)</b>	<b>\$4.60</b>
<b>SALAD SANDWICH (THE WORKS)</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>TUNA SALAD (PLEASE ORDER)</b>	<b>\$5.50</b>
<b>VEGETARIAN SALAD</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>GREEK SALAD</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>
<b>FRUIT SALAD - LARGE TUB</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>FRUIT SALAD –SMALL TUB</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>





St Mary's Catholic College  
invites you to join us for our annual

## International Women's Day Breakfast 2023

**Date:** Wednesday 8 March 2023

**Time:** 7.30am

**Venue:** Ready to Serve Café

**Cost:** \$10 - please pay at the Finance Office  
(includes breakfast)

Guest speakers include:

**Detective Superintendent - Deb Wallace**

**Barrister - Mary Keaney**

**Employment Lawyer - Wendy Manning**

Please RSVP and make payment by contacting our Finance Office on 4944 4804  
Everyone welcome!





## International Women's Day Breakfast – Introducing our Speakers

### Deborah Wallace: Detective Superintendent

Often referred to as “the gang buster”, Detective Superintendent Deborah Wallace, has delved into the dark underbelly of crime investigating and dismantling some of the State's most feared gangs. Throughout a stellar career spanning more than 30 years with NSW Police, Deb has faced murderers, drug manufacturers and extortionists - to name just a few - armed with her trademark heels and colourful suits.

Currently Commander, State Crime Command Gangs Squad, Deb is a self-described diehard Parramatta Eels fan and proud "westie". Her pragmatic approach, tenacity, sense of humour and ability to separate her work and personal lives, has enabled Deb to thrive in high pressure police operations. The recipient of numerous awards including the Australia Day Achievement Award, the Australian Crime and Prevention Award, and the Australian Police Medal, Deb is strongly committed to community endeavours and is a long-time supporter of Youth off the Streets.



### Mary Keaney: Barrister

Admitted and commenced practice in 2005 in general litigation practices. She practised law in criminal law 'in house' at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Aid Services in Alice Springs, NT, and Brisbane QLD, as well as in private practices in the ACT, NSW, and QLD and was a Legal Aid Queensland accredited Duty Lawyer. For two and a half years during the term of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse she worked for Knowmore Legal Service providing advice, assistance and referrals in relation to engaging with the Royal Commission and claims for compensation and related matters.



### Wendy Manning

Employment Lawyer

- \*working towards gaining equality and equity for women in the workplace
- \* worked in providing changes to Domestic Violence Advocacy in the workplace
- \* Changes to Leave Laws for Employment Issues.
- \* Student at St Mary's Gateshead 1994-1998

## Term 1 Calendar 2023

### Week 5 (A Week)

Sun 19 Feb	Student Leaders Retreat (2 days)
Mon 20 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Leaders Retreat – continued</li> <li>Cyberia Brainstorm Productions – Years 7 &amp; 8</li> </ul>
Tues 21 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photo Catch Up Day</li> <li>College Assembly</li> <li>Diocesan Launch: Caritas, Project Compassion – Cathedral 10.30am to 12.30pm</li> </ul>
Wed 22 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ash Wednesday Liturgy</li> <li>Year 7 Vaccinations – Gardasil (HPV) &amp; Boostrix (dTpa)</li> </ul>

### Week 6 (B Week)

Mon 27 Feb	Year 12 HSC Information Evening – 7pm - TJC
Tues 28 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer Support Session 2</li> <li>Year Assemblies</li> <li>Staff Professional Development – PLM – Data Analysis – Early departure for students – 2.40pm</li> </ul>
Wed 1 March	Swimming Carnival - Lambton
Fri 3 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Women's Day Breakfast – ticketed event</li> <li>Newsletter – 3.23</li> </ul>

### Week 7 (A Week)

Tues 7 March	College Assembly
Wed 8 March	International Women's Day

### Week 8 (B Week)

Tues 14 March	Year Assemblies
Wed 15 March	NAPLAN Testing window – 25.03.23 to 27.03.23
Fri 17 March	Newsletter – 4.23

### Week 9 (A Week)

Mon 20 March	Harmony Week – 20.03.23 to 26.03.23
Tues 21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmony Day</li> <li>College Assembly</li> </ul>
Fri 24 March	Athletics Carnival - Glendale

### Week 10 (B Week)

Tues 28 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Assemblies</li> <li>Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences</li> </ul>
Wed 29 March	Year 10 Girls' Talk – PP&E
Thurs 30 March	Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – Years 7 to 11 - 3.30pm to 7.00pm
Fri 31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences – Years 7 to 11 – No classes*</li> <li>*Year 12 classes as per timetable</li> <li>Newsletter 5.23</li> </ul>

### Week 11 – (A Week)

Tues 4 April	College Assembly
Thurs 6 April	Holy Thursday Feast Day Celebrations – Liturgy, Stalls, Colour Run
Fri 7 April	Good Friday – Public Holiday
Sun 9 April	Easter Sunday

## Term 2 Calendar 2023

### Week 1 – Term 2 (A Week)

Mon 24 April	Term 2 commences ANZAC Day Ceremony – Noon
Tues 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Fri 28 April	Newsletter 6.23

**Please note any TBC dates – this is due to evolving COVID protocols. Arrangements will be continually updated on this page.**