



## ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE

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20<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from St Patrick's Marist College. A special welcome to all new Year Seven parents and students and families new to the school. We had a very fruitful and successful year in 2015 and I hope everyone has had a relaxing break and that all of our students are looking forward to commencing school this year. Please find below an outline of some relevant information for the year.

### **Teaching and Learning**

This year the College continues its focus on literacy and numeracy for all year levels with a core focus on Year 9. A key strategy will be the use of 'Thinking Note Keys' to develop student reading and comprehension. Staff will continue to build their capacity as contemporary educators through professional learning, which will focus on two aspects of our Vision for Learning - Critical Thinking and Collaboration. These two foci will be evident within all subjects through classroom pedagogy, activities and assessments. Our vision for learning foci seeks to build upon our high expectations and emphasis on student success through engaging lessons that reflect a contemporary learning environment. Students from Years 7 to 11 will continue to integrate their iPads as a learning tool into their lessons. To promote parents as partners in their child's learning, the College will be running Parent Learning Forums throughout the year. These information nights will give parents the opportunity to observe the College's approach towards their sons/daughters learning.

### **2015 HSC Results**

The College congratulates the Class of 2015 on their excellent results. The College will acknowledge students who achieved an ATAR score of 90 or above at the High Achievers Assembly on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. A full report covering the HSC results will be published in the newsletter.

### **Excursion/Activities Fee**

This year, all fees for excursions and sport will be included in the school fees account. Camps and retreats will continue to be charged at the time of the activity. Information and permission notes will be provided in the usual manner. Any student who does not submit a permission note will not be allowed to attend the excursion/camp or activity.

### **College Expectations**

The growth and development of the College is underpinned by its rich heritage and Marist Charism. The expectations and standards that have been implemented and reinforced are to enable the following to occur: educate our students in the Marist way; for students to be lifelong learners; provide a safe environment for all students and for all students to become an integral part of our Marist family. At the commencement of each year it is important to reinforce the College's core values whereby there is a zero tolerance for: any disrespect and lack of co-operation, any form of violence, all illegal drugs and any form of bullying. I believe that the vast majority of families understand and support the College's expectations in these areas.



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Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

### College Uniform

All students and parents are reminded of our expectations regarding the College uniform. All students need to comply with these requirements from day one. The College hat, backpack and sports bag are now available through the second hand uniform shop. It is compulsory for students to wear the College hat when accessing the ovals, basketball courts and any non-covered areas during recess, lunch and Thursday sport.

### Lockers

With the introduction of iPads, it is necessary for all students to have an allocated locker. We expect students to use their locker for their iPads at recess, lunch and during times when they would leave their bag unattended e.g. during sport. The cost of the locker has been included in the school fees. The Leader of Learning Pastoral will provide further information during the first week. Students will be expected to provide their own padlock and I would encourage you to purchase a sturdy one.

### Building Works and Maintenance

There has been significant building works and maintenance work at the College during the latter part of Term 4 and the Christmas holiday period. Attached is a list of work that has been carried out. I would like to thank Mrs Fran Hawton our Business Manager for her supervision of this area and Mr Bill Togher from the CEDP for his assistance.

**To ensure a smooth start to the year I ask that all students return in the correct uniform. This includes shoes, regulation hair styles, jewellery and other uniform expectations as noted in the College Diary.**

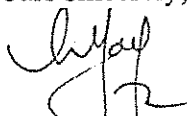
### Important Dates:

Please make note of the following College events:

- |                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January    | - | Years Seven, Eleven and Twelve begin classes<br>No sport (sport uniform to be worn)                 |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January      | - | Years Eight, Nine, and Ten begin classes.   |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February      | - | College Swimming Carnival at Homebush. Students will be transported by bus to and from Olympic Park |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February     | - | High Achievers Assembly commencing at 12.00 noon  |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February- | - | College Commencement Mass commencing at 11.00am   |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February     | - | Year Ten Information Night commencing at 7.00pm   |

To conclude I would like to wish all parents and students a productive and fulfilling year ahead. I hope the year is an enjoyable and rewarding journey for you. In particular, I wish our Year Twelve students every success in their final year as they continue their preparations and learning for the HSC.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Angela Hay  
**Principal**

## **Building Works and Maintenance**

The school has been a hive of activity over the Christmas break with many works in progress. During our first parent evening we will open the refurbished spaces. Some of the work has included;

- The new Hospitality space, which has now been finished, was completely gutted and refurbished with an additional seminar room created for student use.
- An acoustic ceiling has been installed in the roof of the Harrington Courtyard. This will decrease both the noise and the temperature within the space. Costing for the installation of a new screen, sound and technical equipment has been quoted at \$160000 - \$170000 and we are currently working on a plan to tackle this necessary but significantly expensive project.
- The Senior Girls toilets have been gutted and refurbished.
- The Gym has been moved adjacent to the change rooms which have also been gutted and will be refurbished.
- Learning spaces C101, C102 and C103 have undergone refurbishment and Learning Support will now occupy C101. There have been two individual learning/intervention spaces created to provide a better learning space.
- The wall between C103 and the Staff Study has been removed to extend the staff area to include most of the Leaders of Learning KLA.
- Two meeting spaces have been created for staff at the rear of the Staff Study.
- The IT office, REC office, English LoL office and Year 9 and 10 LoL Pastoral offices have been gutted and converted into one office space for the Year 7 to 10 Leaders of Learning Pastoral; two additional meeting spaces have been included in this area.
- The Information Technology team have moved to the library.
- To improve safety, visibility lines have been painted around the College. School bags will now be placed within these lines when students are in class.
- C101, C102 and C103 and the TAS block have had new roofs installed.
- All hard surface indoor areas have been cleaned and resealed.
- All carpets have been cleaned.
- Pest control has taken place.
- All classrooms have blinds and windows are in the process of being repaired.
- The Shamrock's Football Club are addressing drainage issues on the main oval.
- B107, B108, B109 were painted last holidays.

### **In Term 1, 2016**

- Work will commence on the New Year 12 outdoor area. When this is complete the original structure will be demolished to make way for the new high Support Unit that will be built in 2016.
- Shading for the bus bay
- Filtered drinking fountains will be installed in three areas around the school.
- Lighting in the bus bay and at the front area of the school will be installed.
- The junior boy's toilets will be refurbished during the Term 1 holidays.