



Dec 19, 2024 Vol:13-24

"We are in the country of the Awabakal peoples. We respectfully acknowledge their elders, celebrating their continuing culture and the living memory of their ancestors."

The following Christmas and holiday blessing is taken from a publication by the Sisters of St Joseph called Act, Love, Walk – praying in the Josephite Spirit:

Whenever we gaze into a crib this Christmas season
 May new hope and joy flood your spirit
Whenever we watch babies and young children playing
 May a new energy delight our hearts
Whenever we are tantalised by the aroma of a bbq
 May we unwind, relax and enjoy time off
Whenever the crush of family and friends overwhelms us
 May the hospitality of our hearts expand
Whenever we provide a meal or bed over the holidays
 May we experience love and appreciation
Whenever we spy our reflection in the mirror or pool
 May we find ourselves to be images of God
Whenever we put our feet up for leisure
 May the humble presence of the Incarnate
 One companion us
Whenever we feel our distance from each other around the world
 May the Christ child draw us into unity.



Amen

Jesus **Pray for us and for peace in the world.**

St Paul **Pray for Us**

Christmas Hampers

After our concluding Liturgy, Mr Barnett from the local St Vincent de Paul Conference collected the Christmas Hampers donated by students and staff of St Paul's. These hampers will support members of the local community who are in need at Christmas time.

Thanks to all the families, students and staff who contributed to the hampers. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Heard and Mrs deWinter who coordinated St Paul's annual collection of the Christmas Hampers with the students and staff.

Jesus' birth reminds us of the hope for humanity which coincided with his arrival, the Christmas Hampers are a wonderful example of the hope experienced by those requiring support.



Farewell Staff

As the we conclude the 2024 school year, we farewell the following staff:

Ross Bush Peta Cominos Lisa Corbett Kristy Doan Michael Doyle Suzanne Hatfield-Smith Paul Hendriks Stephen Lumley Abbie Johnston Josephine Kirkby	Fenette Martin Claudia McBride Craig McLoughlin Julie Nach Di Newman Amanda Nowland David Oakden Shelley O'Kane Stephen Stieess Wayne Wonnocott
--	--

Seven of these staff members, Mr Bush, Mr Doyle, Mrs Martin, Mr Mclaughlin, Ms Nowland, Mrs O'Kane and Mr Wonnocott need to be especially recognised and acknowledged as they have each contributed over 15 years' service to our St Paul's community. We thank them for their long-standing commitment to St Paul's, forming many young students and watching them graduate as young women and men who were well prepared for life after school.

As a community, we offer a deep sense of gratitude to all these staff who have contributed to the St Paul's community and wish them all the best for the future.

2025 School Commencement Dates:

The following dates outline the commencement arrangements for 2025:

- 31-1-2025 Staff Return
- 3-2-2025 Pupil Free Day
- 4-2-2025 Year 7 students commence.
- 5-2-2024 Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 students commence.

The Main Office will be open from 9am to 2pm on Tuesday 28 January, 2025 and Wednesday 29 January, 2025 to assist families with arrangements prior to students returning.

2024 HSC Results

On Wednesday, the 2024 HSC Class received their results and Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranks (ATAR's). All students are to be affirmed for being awarded the Higher School Certificate (HSC) credential to signify the end of 13 years of school.

A brief overview of the student's results include:

- 8 Band 6 across the cohort.
- 77 Band 5 across the cohort.
- This equates to 22% of St Paul's bands being either Band 6 or 5.
- 10 courses above state average.

In addition, we recognise the following individual performances who were first in the Diocese:

- Hugh Chidgey First in the Diocese in VET Automotive Exam
- Paige Stalling First in the Diocese in Business Studies
- Ella Suters First in the Diocese in Italian Beginners

Furthermore, it was pleasing to hear the greater proportion of students who wished to attend University gained early entry offers. These student's achievements from Year 11 significantly contributed to securing these places. Several members of the cohort also successfully completed their School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships as well as achieving the HSC Credential.

The Year 12 students have been wonderfully supported by their teachers and families and the results could not have been achieved without these people guiding, challenging, and nurturing them throughout their schooling.

Mock Trial



On Tuesday 3 December the Year 11 Legal Studies class competed in the State Final of the Mock Trial competition. This is a very prestigious statewide competition which has been coordinated by the NSW Law Society since 1981.

The students were required to defend the accused after they had allegedly breached mobile phone laws while driving a vehicle. The prosecution, Asquith Girls High School presented a very strong case, and the judge eventually determined the case would be dismissed with Asquith Girls High declared the winner.

The judge affirmed all students for their knowledge of the legal system as well as their understanding of legal terminology and the correct use of this terminology during the hearing. He also outlined how he was impressed in the way the students were able to articulate their thoughts and the depth of their questioning.

Bethany Evans, Mitchell Owen, Maddison Serone, Sienna Siulai, Daniella Trevathen and Ella Tupou can be very proud of their achievements to reach the State Final, they represented the College with pride and distinction.

Thanks also to their teacher Mr Gallop for his guidance and mentoring of the students throughout the competition and to Miss Chapman for her support and assistance of the students.

Year 7 – 10 Semester Awards and Sports Awards

Last Thursday, Semester Award Ceremonies were held for students in Years 7 – 10. Congratulations to the many students who were affirmed for their efforts throughout Terms 3 and 4. It was pleasing to see the number of students who were acknowledged in all year groups.

The Year 10 Ceremony included some special awards. The recipients of these awards were:

ADF Future Innovators Award:	Daniel Fold
Wayne Holland Memorial Mathematics Award:	Gabrielle Tinawin
Lions Club Encouragement Award:	Olivia Bartlett
Jacqui Chatburn Award:	Killian Ireland
Shamley Award for Most Improved:	Brody Kohl
ADF Long Tan Leadership Award:	Lana Snedden



During Week 9 the students who have represented the College throughout the year in Sport were recognised at our Sports Awards Assembly. Many students were also acknowledged for their success in their chosen sport at a school, diocesan, CCC, state and national level.

At the end of the Assembly the following two students were named:

2024 Sportswoman:	Madeline Platt
2024 Sportsman:	Jett Jenkinson

2025 Leaders of Wellbeing and Engagement (LOWE)

The LOWE arrangements for 2025 are:

Year 7:	Alanna Bohatko
Year 8:	Kerrie-Lee Guest
Year 9:	Michael Eccleston
Year 10:	Tracey Evans
Year 11:	Peta Strategos
Year 12:	Joel Connell



Parish Priests

Bishop Michael recently advised the local parishes, Fr Greg Barker would be leaving and moving to the Parish of St Benedict's Inner Newcastle which includes Sacred Heart Cathedral, the Cathedral for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

We offer our gratitude for the support Fr Greg has provided to the St Paul's community over the years he has been appointed to our parishes and wish him all the best for his new appointment.

Fr Darryl Mackie will be replacing Fr Greg as Parish Priest, Fr Darryl is already familiar with our community as he has been one of the Assistant Priests throughout 2024.

Wellbeing Support during Holidays

The holidays are a wonderful time to take a break and spend more time with our family and friends. The holidays can also be overwhelming and stressful for many students and families. Please see the list below for some options of support over the school holidays if you need it.

Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Year 6 Orientation Day

On Wednesday 4 December, our Year 7 2025 students attended their second Orientation Day for the year. The students continued to foster friendships with each other as well as becoming more familiar with the operation of St Paul's. The students attended a number of lessons throughout the day. Once again, the students enjoyed the opportunity of being part of the school community as they finalise their preparations for the start of next year.

Thanks to Miss Walker who organised the day and the teachers who assisted with the various lessons and activities.



End of Year Activities

Since classes concluded, students in Years 7 - 10 participated in EOYA. EOYA provide students with the opportunity for the students to participate in activities which they may not normally undertake as well as engage socially with students outside of their classes and peer groups.

Feedback from students and staff indicated an enjoyable time was had by all involved. Thanks to the staff who organised the activities and supervised the students at the activities. Special acknowledgement goes to Miss Chapman who coordinated the EOYA and ensured the four days ran smoothly.

Mural St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset

During Term 4, Ms Cominos and some volunteer students from St Paul's have been working on a collaborative project with St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset.

In the picture below you will see a mural which captures the key physical elements of the Morisset community and its surrounding areas. Ms Cominos worked with the St Vianney community to finalise the details for the mural, and she commenced painting the artwork with the assistance of a number of St Paul's students.

The mural was installed this week at St John Vianney. They are very appreciative of the work of Ms Cominos and the students from St Paul's.



Ms Cominos passion and commitment for the project is to be highly commended and thanks also to the students and other staff who assisted with the painting and installation of the mural.

As the 2024 school year draws to a close, I wish to thank all students and staff for their efforts and families for their support.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a relaxing and safe holiday to all members of the College community.

*Mr Nicholas Wickham
Principal*



Assistant Principal- Teaching and Learning

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all members of our school community as the school year 2024 comes to an end...

To our Parents and Carers... I thank you, for your support to reach the end point of 2024. Your steadfast support has been very much appreciated and valued. Thank you.

To our Students... I thank you, for all that you bring to our community, it is enriched every day by every one of you.

For our Yr 12 class of 2024, we now say goodbye, congratulations, and wish you well for your future endeavours.

The St Paul's community are excited and anticipate our new Yr 7 student cohort joining us in 2025. I have enjoyed the opportunities to date that we have been able to connect, through your orientation days.

To the amazing teaching staff and Leaders of Learning... thank you...you too demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the education of young people. The students of St Paul's benefited daily from your leadership.

To our ancillary staff, lab assistants, cleaners, our groundsman and the wonderful canteen staff, you work tirelessly often behind the scenes... thank you... you are very much appreciated by the students and teachers.

I wish the staff leaving us this year the very best for their future endeavours. Thank you for your contributions to our school community.

May everyone enjoy the abundant blessings and peace of this Advent season. As Christmas approaches I would like to wish all an enjoyable, safe and restful holidays and the great hope the celebration of the birth of Christ brings for our lives.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome this year, I look forward to 2025!

-

Emma Tierney
Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning



Creative Arts & Languages

A snapshot of what have we achieved in Creative Arts and Languages throughout 2024:

Outstanding HSC results

- Visual Arts 2023 received multiple band 6's. Music, Drama and French Beginners students all achieved band 4 and band 5.
- All students in 11/12 courses 2024 had the opportunity to attend HSC Showcase excursions - Onstage/ Encore/ Art Express.
- 2024 HSC students all completed externally marked performances and projects successfully meeting all NESA requirements.

Faculty Wide

- Showcase Evenings took place semester 1 & 2 with large groups of year 7 Mandatory Music students performing and the incorporation of Aboriginal Dance and Art leading to name change in semester 2: Creative Arts and Culture Showcase Evening.
- Students had the opportunity to attend multiple performances as audience members including Dio Sounds, Aspire, & Juliet and Mary Poppins.
- All Year 7, 8 and Indigenous students attended the Sean Choolburra Performance incursion.
- Our faculty ran sessions on Orientation Day in Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Japanese – setting arts and language culture of the school early.
- We were successful in establishing Creative Industries: a course in stage 5 exploring backstage and production aspects of theatre; a step in the right direction in moving toward Stage 6 Entertainment Industries in the future.
- We formed community connections with local venues including MIMA Arts precinct in Speers Point Park and Musos performance space for future professional experiences for students.
- Started looking at portfolio-based assessment in stage 4 (Music, Visual Arts, Drama), exploring reflection writing across faculty.

Languages

- All stage 5 students attended the French Film Festival in Newcastle and French Speaking Excursion to Sydney allowing them to practice their speaking and listening skills.
- We established Japanese in Year 9 in addition to French for 2025 as well as getting the First French Continuers class for Year 11up and running in 2025.
- Stage 4 students enjoyed French cuisine in their breakfast incursions.

Drama

- 35 students from Years 8 to 12 attended and participated in DIO Theatresports, the most represented school in the diocese.
- 24 students from Years 8-11 attended DIO Dramafest at the Town Hall Newcastle to participate in workshops and develop skills across a range of theatre styles and forms.

- 35 Students from 8-12 were involved in the Diodrama Performance at the Civic Playhouse, developing an original Piece of theatre with ASPIRE'S Anna Kerrigan, taking from page to stage rehearsing and performing in a Double Bil with students from St Pius.
- Establishing 8 Drama one period per fortnight and continuing this in 2025.
- Year 11 Drama attended 'Dear Evan Hansen' to look at multidisciplinary theatre techniques in preparation for their HSC.

Music

- Diosounds was an amazing performance that began with the talented Year 12 Music class in the first song, transitioning with a drum solo by the talented Ethan Goymer into the 'Footloose' number that incorporated a large number of students from 7 to 12 in the choir and dance performance.
- Multiple Lunchtime music concerts took place for special events including: Harmony day, the school's 40th Anniversary and Orientation day. The Year 10, 11 and 12 Music classes were the main performers in these concerts.
- All of Year 7 Mandatory Music students and the stage 5 and 6 elective students were involved in Hot Potato Band Day. Working with a real band to develop ensemble skills.
- Stage 4 classes combined for team teaching and performance preparation using musical futures technology and teacher expertise.

Visual Arts

- Collaborative Art Project for NADOC week with elective Visual Art students and Luke Beezley developing works to be displayed throughout the week.
- All of Year 7 attended the ASPIRE produced WOW gallery, silent disco and sensory awareness project at MIMA as a part of the Year 7 Community Day – building connections and opening their minds to different ways of thinking and appreciation.
- Peta Cominos answered a call from our Morisset feeder school, St John Vianney in August to make a large, dull concrete space more attractive for the students. Peta took on their requests for the design of the artwork and developed, painted and coordinated the enormous project throughout the past 4 months. Peta, and the students below worked collaboratively to complete the work, and they should all be proud of the beautiful piece of St Pauls that will be displayed at St John Vianney Primary School for years to come. Well done to the following students for their involvement: Alyssa Mackay, Elina McElhone, Rhya Little, Charlotte Clipsham, Olivia Buch, Danielle Fernandez, Charlotte Date, Olivia Hirst, Chloe Saunders, Hayley Betts, Layla Ong, Grace Tuohy, Isla O'Grady, Zoe Doyle, Lola Charles, Chyler Coleman.



Cassie Burt
Leader of Learning - CAAL

Creative Arts & Languages



7-10 Semester 2 Awards



What a year it has been!! So many wonderful moments throughout 2024. We have almost made it through the 2024 school year.

I just wanted to thank you all for your support this year in the Pastoral Care space. I have had the privilege to meet and work with many amazing students and families this year. I am excited for what 2025 will hold.

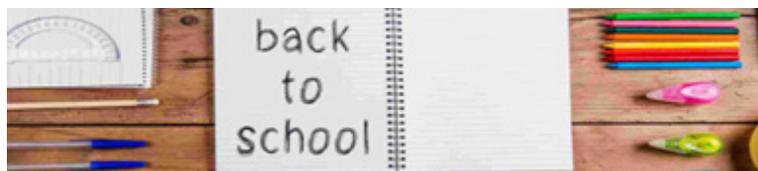
To any families that are leaving the St Paul's Catholic College community, I wish you well as you embark on your next chapter.

Please take care over the break and look after one another. Remember, self-care for you and the family. *Self-care is anything you do to take care of yourself so you can stay physically, mentally, and emotionally well. Its benefits are better physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being. Self-care can look different for everyone, but to count as self-care, the behaviour should promote health and happiness for you i.e. going for a walk, swim, play with a pet, listening to music, reading a book, create a regular sleep routine and set aside time for yourself. Be Kind and compassionate to yourself too.*

I want to wish you all a blessed, wonderful, and safe Christmas, and very happy and restful holiday break.



I'm not wishing for the Christmas and holiday break to go by quickly or for it to end. However, once the Christmas and New Year celebrations are behind us, and we're packing away the tree and decorations for another year, the start of the school year will be here before we know it.



Tips for Returning to School for the 2025 School Year.

Relaxing time together and family trips away, the Christmas school holidays should be filled with happiness and joy for both, parents and their children. As they draw to a close, however, another emotion can sneak into our lives... anxiety.

Starting a new school year can be an exciting time, but also an anxious one. As a result, many teens and their parents feel nervous as the holiday period draws to a close.

When it comes to dealing with this common challenge, preparation is key! Here are some tips to tackle back-to-school anxiety and help your teen feel confident as the holidays come to an end.

- Whether you're 5, 15 or 55, the benefits of routines are the same. Encourage your teenager to take responsibility for this routine and what steps are required to be ready for back to school; enough sleep, eating well and time management.
- Set goals together. Ensure they are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely)

- Talk about it. There could be specific issues that are causing them stress in the lead up to going back to school. When talking try and help your teen uncover what the solution may be rather than telling them what to do.
- Practice makes perfect. Practice going through the school day routine; getting ready and travelling to school – this is particularly effective if your teen is taking themselves to school.
- Peer Support: Encourage them to connect with friends during the holidays.
- Play Stations, Xbox, Ipad's, mobile phones...off! Playing computer games and spending time on devices can often get increased over the holidays as they have more free time. You might want to reduce their time gradually and make sure all electronics are off an hour before they go to bed. This will help them to wind down.

Transitioning back to school after the Christmas break is a significant adjustment for teens. As parents, your role is to support and guide them through this phase, striking a balance between providing guidance and allowing them to take charge. Different ages need distinct approaches, but the objective is the same: to cultivate independence, resilience, and a positive attitude towards school and learning.

It's more about being present for them, recognising their needs, and adjusting your support as they grow, rather than having a perfect strategy.

Remember, each child is unique, so customise your approach to their individual needs.

Wishing you a happy return to the 2025 school year.

If a problem arises, after a few weeks into the new school year, and you feel that your teen is not feeling settled and is not able to cope with school challenges, or if you have any doubts about how your child is going at school, it is recommended that you speak with your child's Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement (LOWE) about how best to support your child. We have supports available at school that can be put in place for your child through learning support, pastoral care and school counselling.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Take care.



Mel Dobosz
Pastoral Care Worker

order your school photos now

to order visit: www.advancedlife.com.au

enter code: ZKY 3V2 FDM



scan to order

or collect a cash order envelope
from your school office



advancedlife
school photography & print specialists

Please notify the main office by email of any changes to personal or medical details.

Email: admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au

Clothing Pool

Located at the hall end of the Student HUB

Open : 8.30am-9.30am
Thursdays

For all uniform/clothing pool needs outside of these hours please contact the main office.



2024 School Fee Information

School fees comprise of Resource, Tuition, Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DFSBL), Camps/Retreats and Electives and are the responsibility of parents/carers of students enrolled at the school.

Tuition Fees Year 7-10 \$2033, Year 11-12 \$3089

The Diocesan Tuition Fee is set each year by the Diocese.

Family discount on full rate diocesan tuition fees is available to parents who have more than one child attending a Catholic School in this Diocese.

- 1 child family - 0% - full rate
- 2 child family - 15% - each child
- 3 child family - 25% - each child
- 4 + child family - 50% - each child

Concessions on Tuition fees are also given to account holders of a current Health Care/Pension card. Please provide a copy of original card to finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

Diocesan Family & School Building Levy (DFSBL) \$1638

The DFSBL is charged to the oldest child for each family. The levy is pooled to contribute towards past, present and future costs for building projects across all existing schools, and for the development of new Catholic schools within the Diocese.

Resource Fees Year 7-10 \$860, Year 11-12 \$810

The resource costs are set by each individual school. Fees are used to pay school resources, educational activities, student textbooks, various low cost excursions/incursions, photocopying, computer technology and amenities.

Elective Fees Year 9-12

Students who choose to undertake specific subjects, will be required to pay additional charges per year to cover specific expenses associated with the individual subject.

Retreats/ Camps

The Year 7 & 9 Camp and 10 & 12 Retreat are compulsory, and it is expected that all students attend as per conditions of enrolment in a Catholic school. Costings are calculated based on all students attending, venues and buses have to be paid when booking is first made. Your understanding of this would be very much appreciated.

Friday Sport Payment & Consent

For your convenience, you can now consent and pay for your child's Friday sport through Compass each Term. The account holder (name on your statement) is the only one who can access Compass to make these payments, if you would like joint access to Compass so both parents can make payments please complete and return the attached joint access form.

<https://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/media/5915/compass-joint-access.pdf>

Support

The Catholic Schools Office declares that genuine inability to meet tuition and other fees does not exclude access to a school within the system by a child of a family genuinely committed to Catholic faith and practice.

For families experiencing financial hardship or wishing to discuss other payment arrangements please contact the College Principal or Finance Office to make an appointment. These discussions and arrangements regarding fees are strictly confidential.

The collection of all school fees is to ensure the best possible learning environment for your child.

Account Statements

All fees are billed yearly in February, and it is recommended a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalment is made from February to November to ensure your account is fully paid by 30 November, 2024. Our preferred method of payment is via Bpay (BPay detail are on your monthly statement) however fees may also be paid via EFT, Credit card, cheque and Centrepay. If you require assistance with calculating your weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment amount, please email finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

2024 School fee account can be viewed at any time through Compass and updated statement are emailed at the beginning of each month. Families who have a nil balance will not receive a statement.

Finance Contact Details: Erica Gale
finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au
Telephone: 4958 6711

Mrs Erica Gale - Finance Officer
finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au



College Uniform

Please see below the updated Uniform pricing from LOWES Glendale as well as the link to the website:

School Price List

School D-3902 St Paul's Catholic College - Booragul

				Current Promo	Retail Price	New Retail Price.	
Everyday							
Summer	All	56313	Sky Blue Overblouse		\$48.95		\$49.95
		92268	Snr Ss Overblouse White With Red Piping & Emb		\$44.95		\$47.95 \$47.95
		84257	SS White Shirt With Emb		\$44.95	\$56.95	\$51.95 \$56.95
		84258	SS Sky Blue Shirt With Emb		\$47.95	\$59.95	\$52.95 \$59.95
		78143	Ladies Ink Navy Tailored Shorts		\$39.95		\$41.95
		78144	Ladies Charcoal Tailored Shorts		\$39.95		\$41.95
		91876	Blue/Grey Check Skirt		\$63.95		\$66.95
		91881	Navy Skirt-Senior		\$84.95		\$88.95
		95047	Mid Grey PQS Shorts		\$54.95		\$56.95
Winter	All	97030	Mid Grey PQS Trousers		\$67.95		\$70.95
		97032	Navy College Trousers		\$67.95		\$70.95
		96579	Navy Pullover With Emb		\$81.95	\$98.95	\$85.95 \$99.95
		86260	Navy Jackie Tights		\$8.95		\$9.95
All Season	All	97906	White Sports Socks		\$5.95		\$6.95
		97975	White Trafalgar Crew Socks		\$5.95		\$6.95
		99011	Black Leather Belt		\$22.95		\$23.95
Sports							
Summer	All	85062	Sky Polo Top		\$47.95	\$50.95	\$50.95
		79003	Navy Shorts		\$45.95	\$47.95	\$47.95
		96326	Navy Shorts		\$45.95		\$47.95
Winter	All	57493	Navy Microfibre Tracksuit Jacket		\$69.95		\$72.95
		57494	Navy Microfibre Tracksuit Pants		\$52.95		\$54.95
(blank)							
(blank)	(blai	79221	Ladies Ink Navy Tailored Pants		\$50.95		\$52.95
		79337	Navy/Red/Sky Tie With Emb		\$27.95		
		95051	Navy Deluxe College Shorts		\$49.95		\$51.95
		99877	Navy Softshell Jacket With Emb		\$94.95		\$96.95

Contact Us



St Paul's Catholic College

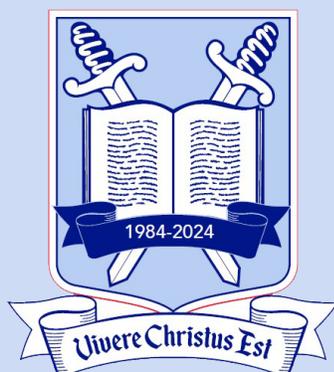
Address: Primrose Street, Booragul
Postal: PO Box 194, Boolaroo NSW 2284
Telephone: 4958 6711
Email: admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au
Web Site: <http://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/>

Switch/Reception
Hours: 8.30am until 3.30pm

Finance Office
Hours: 8.30am to 2.30pm
Email: finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

Canteen
Telephone: 4946 3115

Clothing Pool: Please see the main office for uniform needs.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

31st Jan: Pupil Free Day
3rd Feb: Pupil Free Day
4th Feb: Year 7 commences
5th Feb: 8-12 commences