



St Paul's
Catholic College
Booragul

The Spinnaker

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Photo by Andy Warren

6 November 2020 Vol: 13-20

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As I write this Newsletter, the Melbourne Cup has been run and won. The Race for the White House in the US Elections has begun and weather remains almost as unpredictable. It is hard to believe that only 12 months ago we were all lamenting the lack of meaningful rain. What a difference a year makes. In that time, we have battled flood, bush fires and the COVID pandemic.

Our Year 12 students are well into their HSC exams. The exam period finishes next Wednesday 11th of November with Drama. I hope that all Year 12 students across the state take a moment to really reflect on the journey that they have had and how well they have survived this very strange year. I suspect that the hidden lessons they have learnt will put them in great stead as they move through life. They have shown great resilience and grit.

The remaining students continue their learning journey. Next week will be week 5 of this final term and students are busy preparing final assessment tasks and getting ready for some final course exams. There is still much to complete and much to achieve and I encourage all students to make the most of their lessons and learning experiences for the remainder of the term.

I have great pleasure in announcing the following appointments for 2021:

In Mathematics, Mr Nick Ekin, Mr Ian Harborne and Ms Samantha Smith will be continuing there teaching journey at St Paul's. Mrs Sue Hatfield-Smith has been appointed to the English Department.

In our Student Coordinator domain, I am pleased to announce the following:

Year 7	Mrs Belinda Dempsey
Year 8	Ms Kerrie-Lee Guest
Year 9	Mrs Tracey Evans
Year 10	Mr Luke Baker
Year 11	Mrs Cayte Pryor
Year 12	Mrs Blair Brownlee and Mrs Jess Dufty

I will be announcing some more appointments in the near future.

Our canteen is a vital part of the College. Mrs Carolyn Stanton does a magnificent job in ensuring that our students have access to healthy meals at a very reasonable price. The COVID pandemic has been problematic for us and currently we are struggling to fully open the canteen because we have lost many volunteers. Our support staff have been volunteering their time to support Carolyn over the past few months but this will become more difficult as things get back to some semblance of normality.

I ask if you have time to volunteer a few hours once a week or fortnight to help Carolyn in the canteen, we would be most grateful. I understand that many families have situations where both parents are working full time. If that isn't the case, by helping out in the canteen, we will be able to maintain a facility for the students that is price competitive and able to be open every day. Further in this newsletter is some more information on how to volunteer.

Enjoy our Spring. Stay safe from the inevitable storms and enjoy the lovely mornings and balmy afternoons.

Go gently.

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal



Assistant Principal—Community and Wellbeing

COMMUNITY DAYS

This week we began the first of our Community Days for each of our year groups. Each of these days will provide students some community building time with their own cohort. As there have been limited opportunities during 2020 to have any type of extra-curricular, sporting or community days we believe that having a day to ‘just be’, with one another, outside of the classroom environment, will be beneficial to the wellbeing of all students. It will also enable students to have some exercise, which also plays a significant part in improving our health.

The day will involve walking from school, around the lake to Speers Point Park, having a picnic lunch with friendship groups, enjoying the wonderful environment that is in our own backyard and walking back to school in time for normal transport home. The walk will take approximately 45 minutes.

The following days have been allocated for each Year group:

Year 7 - Wednesday – Week 4 – 4th November

Year 10 - Wednesday – Week 5 – 11th November

Year 8 - Wednesday – Week 6 – 18th November

Year 9 – Wednesday – Week 7 – 25th November

Year 11 – Wednesday – Week 8 – 2nd December

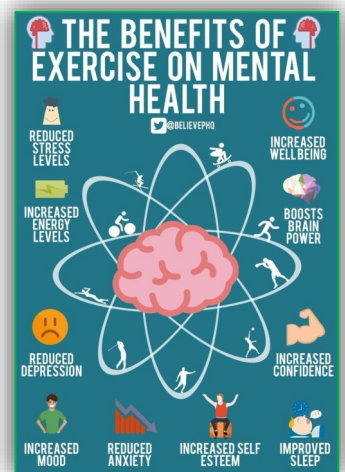


FRIDAY AFTERNOON SPORT PROGRAM

The Friday afternoon sport activity program at St Paul’s is **COMPULSORY** and guarantees that the school complies with the NSW Governments Sport and Physical Activity Policy (revised 2015) which states that schools must provide a weekly “planned physical activity time from 120 minutes to 150 minutes.” As such, St Paul’s offers a variety of sports and physical activities to accommodate all students. These options may vary each term depending on the Representative sports that will be played, the availability of venues and the number of students who select each sport. This year, because of COVID, the Sports Coordinators Mrs de Winter and Ms Heard have done a tremendous job in sourcing venues and adjusting this sports program.

It seems that some students believe that this sports program is optional and at times are informing parents along these lines. Students and parents are reminded that attending Friday afternoon sport is **COMPULSORY**. As stated in the letter that is distributed at the beginning of the year to all families:

“ATTENDANCE during sport is a requirement of the school curriculum and plays an important role in the physical and social development of students at St Paul’s. It is NOT a time for students to attend doctor appointments, work, alternative activities OR SIMPLY TO OPT OUT. If any student is unable to participate due to sickness or injury, a note explaining this is to be brought to the Sports Coordinator or Office before school. These students can attend a more suitable sport or go to the Library to do private supervised study.”



What is the purpose of assessments?

This week we recognised the academic achievements of our Year 11 students and they rightly deserve this acknowledgement of their success. In the address to the students, however, it was emphasised that success looks different for every student and success shouldn't be limited to marks on an assessment or examination. A successful student is one who makes progress, can utilise the feedback they are given to identify their next steps and can self-reflect on their learning. It follows then, for schools to reflect on the purpose of assessments and to examine the reasons why established practices exist by asking the question: Do our current practices lead our students to engage in learning as a life-long skill?

At St Paul's we have engaged in this process of reflection and evaluated what counts in what we are asking our students to do, especially for assessment. The NSW Curriculum Review indicated that there is a need for schools to engage assessment practices that are coherently linked to learning. In many schools, when students are given an 'assessment' they will often ask 'does this count?'. As a consequence of this, students often focus their learning attention from assessment to assessment when, in fact, all learning counts.

As a school community, we are responsive to this and have evaluated our assessment practices. Moving forward, we have adopted an approach to assessment which reflects the recommendations of the curriculum review and emphasises a process of continual learning and feedback. Our approach to assessment involves building a profile of student achievement over a number of tasks designed to lead students to answer the following statements:

- This is what I can do well ...
- This is what I need to improve on ...
- These are my next steps ...

This leads us to redefine success for our students at St Paul's – success is being actively engaged in learning and demonstrating progress, no matter where you start. This means success is not only defined by ranking and percentages but, more importantly, the demonstration of resilience, self-efficacy and growth in their learning.

Advice for Year 11

Year 11 students are advised to read the information posted on Compass this week. As students transition to the HSC courses, they are reminded to familiarise themselves with the information in the Academic Handbook and the NESA Rules and Procedures booklet. Again, drawing on the definition of success, students are encouraged to plan ahead and seek support if required.

Being Prepared for Learning

As 7-10 students are finalising the ACER PAT Maths/Reading/Writing online activities, it has been noted that a number of students are not bringing their device each day. If students are not prepared with their device, which is charged and working correctly, it may prevent them from fully engaging in learning. The information from ACER PAT will be used by teachers as one data source to evaluate teaching and to review student progress.

Mrs Amber Carter
Assistant Principal—Teaching & Learning



Year 12 News

Year 12 are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have handled themselves throughout the HSC exam process. Each morning they have entered the Library and welcomed and supported each other. There is mainly an atmosphere of calm in the Library, which evolved into an air of expectation as the HSC exams are drawing to a close. Many students are now returning their school resources as Exams end, and receiving the Graduation Photo USB as a last school memento.

I know many students have made plans for the future, but some are still bewildered. Just a reminder that Mr McLoughlin is still sending emails with job, course and skill opportunities to students as he has been all year. For those who have future expectations, I wish you all well and hope that, either directly or eventually, you get to where you are envisioning. I heard a phrase the other day, *"Sometimes you win – sometimes you learn"*. This substitution of the word 'learn' instead of the expected word 'lose', is a reminder to keep striving for what you want but to learn from any failures and not repeat them.

This will be the last *Year 12 News* from me, and as such I take this opportunity to wish all Year 12 students and their families well for the future. Thank you for the relationships we have made over the past six years and for allowing me to guide your child through their formative years. It has been a privilege to be involved and observe each child grow physically, socially and emotionally from Year 6 to Year 12. I have been very blessed.

Best wishes

Mrs Cayte Pryor
Student Coordinator

cayte.pryor@mn.catholic.edu.au



Year 9 News

Attention Year 9 Students

Burn Bright: Australia



Burn Bright is a for-purpose, not-for-profit organisation, that works solely to empower and engage young people. They partner with schools to deliver highly dynamic and engaging programs and workshops, that excite young people and help them to build solid foundations from which they can fly.

Leadership Training Day for all Year 9 Students.

Please encourage your child to attend this extremely worthwhile course. All students are expected to attend.

It will be held at school on Tuesday 24 November, 2020

The cost will be \$32 per student. This cost includes the professionally presented program plus lunch. Payment can be made on QKR app.

Permission notes are available on Compass or from your Year Coordinator

Money and note to be in as soon as possible.

Any questions email Mrs Libby Lucas on libby.lucas@mn.catholic.edu.au

Mrs Libby Lucas
Student Support Coordinator





HSC Dance Triumph!

Year 12 student Hannah Finley has achieved great success this year in Dance, with her HSC Core Performance and Major Study Performance both being nominated for *Callback*.



Callback is the showcase of exemplary performances and compositions by HSC students of Dance. At the beginning of each year this prestigious performance event is held at the Seymour Centre, providing a great opportunity for students who are currently studying HSC Dance as well as for students who are contemplating undertaking this as a course to see some of the best pieces of work as performed by the previous HSC cohort.

Congratulations Hannah on your outstanding achievements this year!



Miss Morag Aitchison
Leader of Pedagogy—CAPA



CONGRATULATIONS!
HSC DANCE

Diocesan Basketball

Four teams from Years 7 - 10 made the journey to the Broadmeadow Basketball stadium on Tuesday 27 October to participate in the Diocesan Basketball Championships. Although our teams struggled to win games on the day, it was great to see how they continued competing in all games, never giving up. The 7/8 girls team made a semi-final but were beaten at this point by an extremely talented St Pius team. Our focus for this day is enjoyment and learning to play the game at a higher level as most of our players are not "full time" basketballers. On that front, we had an extremely successful day. Thank you to all the students who travelled and made the day enjoyable for everyone involved, my feedback from the teachers is that it was a great day. A huge thanks to Mr Ekin, Mr Davidson, Mrs Evans - without their support we would not be able to make these sporting trips. Special mention to Mrs Heard, Mr Melville and especially Mrs Wills - who organised the day and allowed it to run so successfully.

Yours in Basketball



Mr Phil Cassel

Duke of Ed News

Duke of Ed News

With the restrictions starting to ease we have been trying to see if we can get the Practise Journey in before the end of the year. We are currently trying to find available dates and venues that will allow our participants to complete their hike this year. The Bronze Journey involves a 2 day, over-night hike, and the Silver Journey involves a 3 day, 2 night hike. Obviously if we are able to go ahead, the camp will be different this year following Covid restrictions.

Students have been asked to send through their unavailable dates so we can try to accommodate everyone as much as possible. Obviously with a large group this is not always the case. We are aiming to complete the hike after Week 8. As the restrictions have only just eased for schools it may be difficult to find an available date and venue this late in the year.

We will hopefully know by next week if the camp will go ahead, pending camping ground availabilities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email

jessica.knott@mn.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards,



Mrs Jessica Dufty
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Jewel Café and Special Teacher Breakfast Morning

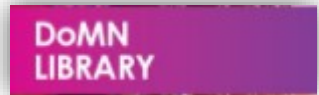
At St Pauls Catholic College we are lucky enough to have a café each Thursday morning. The café is run by our Hospitality students with the assistance of their teachers as part of their Hospitality course. Students get to school early (7.30am) to set up the café, serve our staff and students, make the hot and cold beverages and prepare the food, and clean up at the end of the café period. Working in the café gives our students an opportunity to use equipment they may encounter in the Hospitality industry such as cash registers, EFTPOS, commercial coffee machines, ovens and hotplates as well as practical experience serving customers and working in a fast paced, busy team environment.

On the menu in the café we have freshly ground coffee and hot chocolates, milkshakes, smoothies, bacon and egg rolls, hash browns, yogurt with berries and muesli, banana bread and fresh baked muffins. The Jewel Café is open Thursday mornings from 7.45am until 8.45am for Year 10 and senior students and staff. The Jewel café is a highlight of the week for many of our staff and students.

This week our café was open an extra day and our students prepared a special breakfast of Eggs Benedict for their chosen teachers. Teachers were invited to breakfast by the students and were served two freshly poached eggs with ham and spinach topped with a hollandaise sauce as well as a hot drink. Students arranged and set the tables with cutlery and water, prepared and served the breakfast to their teachers and cleaned up the kitchen and serving area afterwards. The students enjoy this opportunity to prepare breakfast for their favourite teacher.

Mrs Janine Turton
Hospitality Assistant





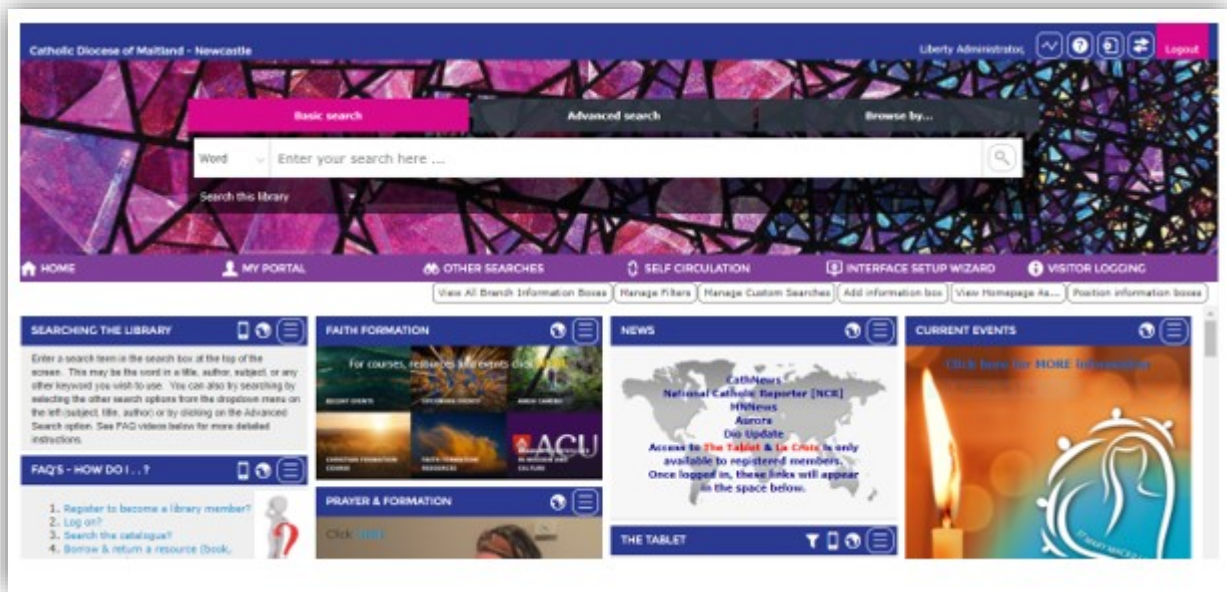
This year, the diocese of Maitland Newcastle has undertaken to re-establish a religious library.

The *Formation & Education* Team at Pastoral Ministries is excited to unveil the site which combines three collections including :

- Catholic School Office - Religious Education and Spirituality Services
- Former St Laurence Resources Centre
- Sisters of St Joseph's Dilley Library

While it is not presently open to the public, the launch of the website, makes the extensive range of books, DVD's and more available to all. Anyone can now browse the on-line catalogue, request a book by simply clicking the request link and then collect the resource from the Diocesan Offices.

The link to the DoMN Library can be found on the home page of the [Diocesan Website](#)



P & F News

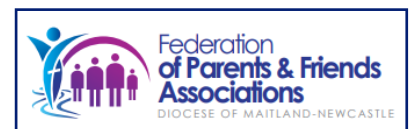
Save the Date

The College will be conducting a Zoom Meeting to finalise the old model of P&F and launch the new model for 2021.

At this meeting, we will discuss the new model and formally dissolve the old structure so that the College is able to begin this new era of engagement in line with the Federation of Parents and Friends new direction for Secondary Schools and Colleges.

The Zoom Meeting will commence at 5pm on Wednesday 25th November.

Please register your interest by email to admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au



End of Year Activities (EOYA)

“EOYA enables our College to finish the school year with some fun, inclusive, community-building activities that go beyond classroom relationships”



WHEN: Friday 11th December to Wednesday 16th December (inclusive)

WHO: All of Year 7 to 10 are invited to participate.

WHAT: Further information will be released in Week 5 where students will be asked to select activities and make a payment to cover the running of the activities and associated transport costs.



Senior After-School Study Afternoons

Senior After-School Study Afternoons

St Paul's have been providing staff supervision for After-School Study Afternoons for **Seniors only** in Library.

This will occur on Monday and Wednesday afternoons between 3.15 and 4.15pm.



For all Finance enquiries please use the following email address: finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

To calculate your Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly payment amount, please go to our Website and use the calculator. <http://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/about-us/finance/fee-calculator/>

If you have not already done so, please ensure I have copies of relevant updated Health Care / Pension Cards.

Also, if you have not completed 2020 Family Discount and Diocesan Pastoral Contribution Form, please follow the link to the Website above to download, complete and return to college office.

School Fee Payments

1. Qkr
2. BPay through your own home banking via the Internet
3. Eftpos **Minimum payment \$10**
4. Cheque
5. Cash

Excursion Payments

1. Qkr
2. Eftpos **Minimum payment \$10**
3. Cheque
4. Cash

Excursions Coming Up

Please pay for all excursions by the due date written on the excursion notes which are sent home with your child. This date is important as excursion costing is calculated on the number of students who should be attending that particular event. Venues and buses have to be paid when the booking is first made. Your understanding of this would be very much appreciated.

Opening Hours for Payments to the Finance Office

Parents: Come to Student Reception or Reception from 8.30am to 2.30pm

Students: Mornings from 8.30am until tutor group bell, all of recess and all lunch times

QKR is a great way to pay fees and excursions



For your convenience, when paying for excursions the new Qkr! App is now live for families of our students. Qkr! By Mastercard can be downloaded for free from Apple's app store for iPhones, iPad users can download the iPhone app or from Google Play for Android phones. Simply:

Step 1 Download Qkr!

On your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10km's of the school, or search for our school by name.

Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

For more information about QKR visit our website

www.booragul.catholic.edu.au



Mrs Betty Harris—Finance Officer

finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au





Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

 laptops & tablets

 uniforms & shoes

 sports fees & gear

 lessons & activities

 books & supplies

 camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*

Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone

1300 610 355

Email

saverplus@bsl.org.au

Online

saverplus.org.au

Find us on Facebook 



* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.

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Switch/Reception

Hours: 8.00am until 4.00pm

Finance Office

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

Canteen

Telephone: 4946 3115

