



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It seems quite surreal that we are now into the final month of 2020. A year that has brought us catastrophic fires, floods and a pandemic. With some hope for this Christmas season, we see that the science may well have a successful vaccine available to us at some point early next year. I was reading a short article the other day that spoke about the last time that such a world-wide pandemic happened. The Spanish Flu began in 1917 while World War One was still happening in Europe. At the end of that cataclysm, the troops returned home to countries all around the globe bring with them the influenza virus. This had a huge impact in Australia with border closures, sickness and deaths. The article lamented that it was so tragic that after the war to end all wars concluded, and with people coming home there was a real sense of hope and optimism. Then the flu struck. It must have been such a difficult time after so many people had died in the war only to face a pandemic which has been said to have killed over 50 million world-wide and over 15,000 Australians lost their lives. This figure was the same number of Australian service men and women that were killed every year in the war. There was no vaccine ever developed and the only way to combat it was through quarantine, enhanced hygiene practices and social distancing. It is true that we have been blessed in Australia in many ways this time around. The way that we have collectively worked together is a testament to our culture and willingness to look after one another. Perhaps it is a sign of better things to come for this Great South Land.

Last week we held our first school produced play for many years. Mr Baldwin and his merry band of actors presented “*Robin Hood – A Bard’s Tale*” to Years 7 and 8. We had hoped to have audiences from the community witness this wonderful play but like so many things this year, COVID intervened.

The two performances were held on Thursday and Friday mornings. I was fortunate enough to be at both. I was amazed at the wonderful acting and interaction between the characters. The staging was excellent and seamless and the costuming and set design, first class. This event took some 8 months of planning and practice. It was a collaborative effort between the CAPA, TAS and English departments and was the result of the vision that Mr Baldwin had when he joined St Paul’s at the beginning of the year.

We hope to continue with an annual play next year. Our goal in the coming years is to produce a musical! This year’s performances have proven what is possible and I hope that more students elect to become involved in 2021. More importantly, I hope that we are able to showcase such an event to our wider community late in 2021.

I would like to share this reflection with you. It comes from www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/

Inviting in the Visitor

Imagine you are sitting in a small room in a house that is surrounded by farmland and woods. You have come here to seek the quiet and calm. The busy life of work, family, and the city have made you feel anxious and unfocused. You know you need something; you need some time to let your mind be quiet and your heart open. Quiet and open—those words sound so peaceful and desirable but unreachable. The room is simple: a bed, a desk, and a wooden chair. The walls are bare. You’ve brought books to read and a journal to write in, but you can’t seem to do anything but sit on the chair and absorb the silence, even as you feel restless.

As you sit in the silence, you hear a faint sound like a knock on the door. Your heart races, Who knows I'm here? I need to be alone, you think. The knocking becomes louder. As much as you want to stay in the room, something moves you to go to the door. The knock comes again, but it's a soft knock. As you approach the door, you see a light streaming under it. "Hello. Can I help you?" you say without opening the door. A soft voice says, "It's me. I've been looking for you." Something deep inside you stirs, but you are confused. "Who are you? Do I know you?" you say. "Yes. But we have not talked in a long time. I've missed you," he says. You open the door.

Standing there is Jesus. His eyes look at you with such tenderness. He carries a small lantern that gives off a bright, warm light. You stand there, unable to speak at first, allowing yourself to take in his presence and his light. You speak to Jesus. What do you say to him? How does Jesus respond to you? You invite Jesus into the house. You sit and tell him of the restlessness you feel. As you talk to Jesus, a wave of peace and calm washes over you like the warm light streaming from his lantern. "Rest. Be still. You opened the door. Now let me take care of you," Jesus says. You close your eyes and let his words embrace you. Your heart is at peace, and your mind is still. When you open your eyes, Jesus is gone. Sitting beside the chair where he sat is the lantern, still emitting that bright, warm light. You smile and rest in the glow of the light.

I hope that in the craziness of the life we all live and in particular the struggle that has been 2020, you take the time to look after yourself, your loved ones and perhaps make a renewed connection to your God.

Go gently.

Mr Graeme Selmes
Principal



Virtual Academy News

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 Virtual Academy students for their work this term. Cerys Smith and Tahlia Rowan of Year 7 and Taj Williams and Grady Platt of Year 8 have showed independence and perseverance in their learning. These students presented on Wednesday at an online Presentation Day, showcasing their research and demonstrating excellent presentation skills. Congratulations to Taj and Grady who have now graduated from the Virtual Academy as they complete Year 8. I would also like to recognise the efforts of Cerys and Tahlia this year as they have both shown personal growth in the Virtual Academy.



Cerys Tahlia Taj Grady

Mrs Lauren McCafferty
Gifted Education Mentor Teacher



Year 8 News

Last week Year 8 students had their Community afternoon, which involved walking to Speers Point Park, having lunch, playing games and catching up with other students, before walking back to school. Well-being and taking time out of our normal routine was the order of the day and we were blessed with fantastic weather. Students were excellent representatives of the college and were well behaved and courteous at all times. Thank you to the staff that helped on the day. Some feedback from the students includes:

- I liked how groups that don't normally hang out together were all joined into one
- I liked that we got to just chill out on the grass
- I liked how we could play active games, relax and enjoy the view of the lake
- I liked how we just got to relax and do our own thing

There were also plenty of suggestions for longer time for future community events! I look forward to planning another event for next year to help build community spirit and encourage camaraderie between students.

In our Year 8 meeting this week, I encouraged students to finish the school year on a positive note and be mindful that it has been a big, challenging year for everyone. People are tired and some of our usual coping strategies aren't working. Students are encouraged to be kind to one another and ensure they are being mindful of their well being at this time, as well as the well being of others. This year during the CARE Program we have discussed different strategies to use and I encourage students to use these - come and see me if you need a reminder.

Thank you to students and parents/caregivers for the year. At times it has been fun, challenging and exhausting! Well done students on getting through the year. You have earned a break!

I wish all students and their families a safe and enjoyable Christmas. I am very excited to be continuing on as this group's Coordinator next year and look forward to all that 2021 will bring.

God Bless,

Mrs Tracey Evans
Student Coordinator



Going into Year 11 and undertaking a traineeship can be a daunting experience but not for **Mia Robertson**.

Mia was successful in her 2021 application for a School-based Traineeship with Hunter New England local Health.

Mia has made the commitment to working 1 day per week and in the school holidays and upon completion of her traineeship she will receive a Certificate III in Business Administration (Medical). The role includes administrative support - data entry, typing, records maintenance and filing. As well as assisting customers with enquiries, including telephone and email enquiries while maintaining privacy and confidentiality.

It was inevitable that Mia would be interested in business, her father Cory and mother Linda have a successful business, Goanna Services a technology-based training, and labour-hire services which operates from the Hunter to Sydney.

We Congratulate Mia on her success and her commitment.



Mia Robertson with Rick Forrest from John Hunter Hospital management team
and Sheryn Barrack New England Health consultant.

Miss Astro Stewart
Aboriginal Liaison Officer



Study Skills Website

www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

Subscription details for St Paul's are: School's Username – stpauls

School's password – 52success

Year 7 2021

School Book Packs

Remember to order your school book packs through Toronto Newsagency via their website:

<https://torontoschoolandofficesupplies.com.au/showbooklisthighschool.php>



2020

End of Year Activities *Friday 11th —Wednesday 14th December 2020*

Last Day of Term 4 *Wednesday 16 December 2020*

2021

First Day of 2021 *Years 7 & 11 Friday 29 January 2021*

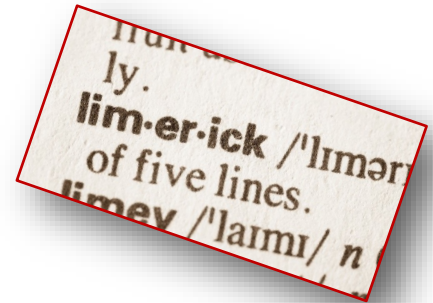
Whole School Monday 1 February 2021

Year 7 Limericks

In the last few weeks Year 7 have been studying different styles of poetry. To complete the unit, Mrs Burns' and Mrs Foley's class decided to compose their own limericks on what has certainly been a memorable year!

Oh, the things that Year 7 has seen,
The year that we turned into teens!
Lockdown – not cool,
Turned into home school-
What a year 2020 has been!

Lainie Sievers



At the start of the year I was keen,
But this terrible year was so mean!
Fire and flood,
COVID in blood
What a year 2020 has been!

Koen Roberts and Brodie Phillips

Oh, the things that Year 7 has seen!
The year we turned into a teen,
But we stuck together,
To make it the best year ever
What a year 2020 has been!

Charlotte Kelly

Oh, the things that this year group has seen,
The year that we all turned thirteen,
The fires and smoke,
I thought I would choke-
What a year 2020 has been!

Bailey Ducat

Oh, the things that Year 7 have seen,
The year we turned into a teen,
Fires were first
Lock-down was the worst!
What a year 2020 has been!

Zach Colquhoun-Noon and Lachlan Tickner

Mrs Nicole Burns
English Teacher



On 24 November, Year 9 students enjoyed a day of team building activities to strengthen their communication skills and leadership skills. Run by 'Burn Bright', a not-for-profit education company, presenters Layton and Michaela worked with students in a fun and interactive manner. Activities such as Speed-date Communicate, Blind Drawing, Values Discussion and Walk to the Line allowed students to speak to as many students as possible in their year group and to learn to empathise with others.

All students participated with a positive attitude and enjoyed the day. As many students as possible are encouraged to nominate as Peer Support Leaders to help our Year 7 students adapt to High School life in 2021.

Mrs Libby Lucas
Student Support Coordinator

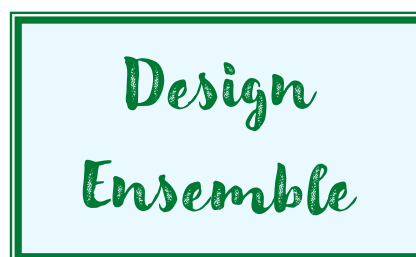


ASPIRE is looking for students from Year 9 onwards to be a part of the **ASPIRE Design Ensemble**. These students are those who have an interest in visual arts and will be involved in the design and realisation of this year's set and costume pieces. We are looking for Expressions of Interest from students wishing to be part of this exciting program.



Working under the direction of ASPIRE's Design Ensemble Director Gillian Rutherford, students will work on areas such as costume creation, set building and painting, make-up and hair design and theatrical design elements.

The link to the online registration form is: <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au/join-us/design-ensemble/>



Canteen Volunteers Urgently Needed for 2021



St Paul's is in **URGENT** need of
Canteen Volunteers for 2021

If you are able to help out it would be greatly appreciated.

Please phone Mrs Carolyn Stanton on 4946 3115

or more information





Robin Hood: A Bard's Tale Production

Last week, our committed cast and crew overcame the odds to produce and perform St Paul's first theatrical show in many years, *Robin Hood: A Bard's Tale*. Two performances, to Years 7 and 8, gave our students the opportunity to showcase their dramatic talents and inspire a generation to come.

Ben Middleton was dynamic as the charismatic hero, Robin Hood, ably supported by the talented Samuel Adey as his sidekick, Little John. Together with their band of merry men, they fought to overcome the wicked schemes of Prince John and the hilarious Sheriff of Nottingham, played by Natasha Mowbray and Tara Cowen respectively. Like our cast, Robin overcame the odds to be united with his one true love, the delightful yet disturbed Maid Marion, played by Ashley Appleby.

It was truly a privilege to see our cast grow together, to become more than a group of students doing a production. In the end, they became a family and made every effort to make the performances as tight and committed as they could. The talent, hard work and maturity that every member showed is a credit to the College and led to two unforgettable experiences for our students.

Aside from the talents of our actors and the diligence of our outstanding crew, it was amazing to see the St Paul's community come together to bring the production to fruition. The show involved students from Years 7-11 and saw the CAPA, TAS, English, PDHPE HSIE, Maths, Executive, Admin and Maintenance staff come together to contribute to two wonderful performances. And the audience interaction stretched this involvement even further...

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate everyone who was involved in this year's show – and to encourage them to step up to do it again next year.

Tally-ho and all that,

Mr Tom Baldwin
Director



In a year which has seen our students' sports opportunities limited, particularly through school, we have ended the year with a flourish of students participating in a variety of sports, many of which they have never tried before.

NSW All Schools Athletics

This week we have 4 students representing St. Paul's at NSW All Schools Athletics.

CONGRATULATIONS and GOOD LUCK to **Jacob Wheeler** (Year 7), **Harry Klepzig** (Year 7), **Michael McCarthy** (Year 8) and **Grady Platt** (Year 8).

We look forward to hearing how you perform.

U14 Girls Rugby League

On 24th November we had **Danah Chapman, Trinity Gilbert, Juanita Kelekolio, Angelica Lowe, Sarani Marsh, Imogen O'Reilly, Ella Searant, Sienna Siulai, Emirah Taape, Nishita Tamhane, Ella Tupou and Hunter White** represent St. Paul's in a Rugby League Gala Day. None had ever played Rugby League before. They had a great day, lots of fun and improved in skills throughout the day. I'm sure they will be keen to play again next year. Thanks to Mrs Pakalniskis and Miss Moriarty for accompanying the team.



NSW Girls Only School Cricket Cup

On Wednesday 18th November two teams of Year 7 Girls participated in a modified cricket competition run by NSW Cricket. The aim of the day was to give the girls a taste of cricket in a fun way. Each student bowled and batted in each game. We were able to see the improvement in each player as they experienced more games. There were some excellent catches, fours, sixes and runouts taken throughout the day. Maybe some future WBBL players in the making?

Audrey Carter, Imogen Cowen, Cleo Doyle, Lilly Elliott, Bethany Evans, Sophie Fuller, Jordyn Jewell, Charlotte Kelly, Emily O'Grady, Molly O'Keefe, Jamie Pockran, Brianna Wort, Sienna Rolla and Ella Searant had fun and represented the school with excellent sportsmanship displayed in every game.

Proud coaches,
Brigid de Winter and Fran Heard



Hunter Lawn Bowls Competition

On Monday 30th November we had a large group of St Paul's students represent us at the Hunter Lawn Bowls Competition at Teralba Bowling Club, with most of the group having never played the sport before. We had a lot of fun and all students improved their Lawn Bowls skills considerably throughout the day. In a knockout competition we had 2 teams that won the day, resulting in them gaining a spot at the next level of competition in 2 weeks. Congratulations to **Cooper Chomicki, Zachary Lynch, Kent Azas, Rylee Jenkinson, Georgie Bouffler and Yasmin Bower** on your win. Good Luck for the next level.

All students played with great sportsmanship, some heckling and had fun. We were complimented on what a great group they were. Thanks to all who participated.

Mrs Pakalniskis, Ms Dufty and Mrs de Winter



Looking ahead

In Term 1 2021 during sport time Cricket NSW will be running our inter school Rep Cricket Round Robin Twenty-Twenty competition. Students from Years 8-10 2021 will be invited to participate each Friday. Students will be able to choose this for sport at the beginning of Term 1 2021.

*Ms Fran Heard & Mrs Brigid De Winter
Sports Coordinators*



Equestrian News

Molly Callinan, last year's St Paul's Catholic College Sports Person of the Year has competed in one of the only Schools Equestrian events since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the 2020 Jenquine Schoolies Championships.



Once again, Molly proved what a talented rider she is as follows:

Level 4C – First place

Level 4B – Second place.

Molly is competing at a high level, with a great degree of difficulty in the tests she competes in. According to Mrs Lesley Callinan "She once again competed in the dressage phase, this time attempting the Medium tests on Tosh. Medium level of dressage has many technical movements including shoulder in, renver, canter & trot half passes, extended walks, medium canters. Medium and extended trots and flying changes".

Once again, we are very proud of Molly and appreciate her representing the school. Thanks again to Lesley for all the tireless effort she puts in to make this possible.



Molly and her horse Tosh



Molly and Tosh with her ribbons

Mr Michael Reville
PDHPE Teacher



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal

Each Student has been asked to bring in an item as part of our Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal. Items need to be brought in by Tuesday 8th December. Items can be handed in at Admin and placed in the Christmas bags. Students can also give them to their period 1 teacher each day.

These items will be made up into hampers that will be distributed by our local St Vincent de Paul conferences.

Your generosity is really appreciated by many families who are doing it tough in 2020.

Thanks to all those who have already brought in their items.
Many Blessings for Christmas,



Fran Heard
Youth Vinnies Coordinator



Our commitment

As the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle I expect you to place the safety, welfare and wellbeing of every child and vulnerable adult at the centre of everything you do in the name of our church. Each one of us is responsible to ensure we are aware of the signs of abuse, that we know how to respond to a disclosure of abuse and we know how to report our concerns. Most importantly, I require every worker in the Diocese to be prepared, should the situation ever arise, to call out the unsafe or abusive behaviour of colleagues and workmates. The conduct we walk past is the conduct we have condoned.



The Diocese is committed to:

- ▶ Fostering communities of safeguarding, including open and respectful communication about issues of safeguarding with individuals, families and groups
- ▶ Upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults and seeks to empower them to have their voices heard
- ▶ Training all relevant personnel in safeguarding knowledge and skills including indicators of abuse, supporting people to disclose abuse and reporting abuse
- ▶ Working closely with statutory authorities to report alleged abuse and support them to investigate those allegations
- ▶ Developing our risk assessment and management systems for all diocesan activities and personnel
- ▶ Developing the breadth and depth of our auditing and compliance regimes
- ▶ Implementing and maintaining compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

I call upon each one of you. Every parishioner in our faith communities, each worker in our CatholicCare and other community and family support services, every staff member in our schools and our St Nicholas centres, each cleric and religious conducting ministry amongst us. We must, each one of us, commit ourselves every day, individually and collectively, to safeguard each child and every vulnerable adult with whom we interact. BP BILL WRIGHT

		
Vicar General Fr Andrew Doohan	Chief Executive Officer Sean Scarrion	Chancellor Fr Matthew Muller
		
Director Pastoral Ministries Teresa Brierley	Director Catholic Schools Office Gerard Mowbray	Director CatholicCare Gary Christensen
		
	Chief Operating Officer Graham Heath	Director Office of Safeguarding Sean Tynan



www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au



Safety Welfare Wellbeing

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults – particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our faith communities in parishes, in our diocesan systemic schools, early education centres and out-of-school hours care service, as part of our welfare and community services through CatholicCare and other diocesan ministries.

The office of the Director of Safeguarding has been established by decree, issued by the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Office of Safeguarding is an integral part of the Diocese, reporting directly to the Bishop's Office. The Office of Safeguarding is placed outside the Diocese's services, programmes and parishes, overseeing their safeguarding standards in operation.

The Office of Safeguarding works with NSW Police, the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Department of Community and Justice and other statutory authorities and specialist authorities within the Catholic Church in Australia to fulfil its responsibilities and maximise the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

The Office of Safeguarding supports the schools of the Diocese:

- ▶ in meeting compliance with statutory obligations and diocesan codes of conduct, policies, procedures and protocols relevant to safeguarding children
- ▶ with delivery of mandatory Safeguarding training to all school personnel
- ▶ with provision of a daily intake service that analyses concerns for children, provides advice and support to staff or parents, ensures statutory reporting obligations are met and ensures appropriate follow-up to complaints when warranted
- ▶ in conducting or overseeing investigations of diocesan personnel who are alleged to have committed criminal conduct, reportable conduct or a breach of professional standards against a child
- ▶ with provision of an alternative dispute resolution process for complaints between parents and staff that can't be resolved within the school
- ▶ in assisting in the management of individuals identified as posing an elevated risk.



Office of Safeguarding

P 02 4979 1390

E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

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





Free CV and cover letter help, online 24/7

Need a second set of eyes on your cover letter, or want some advice on your CV/resume?

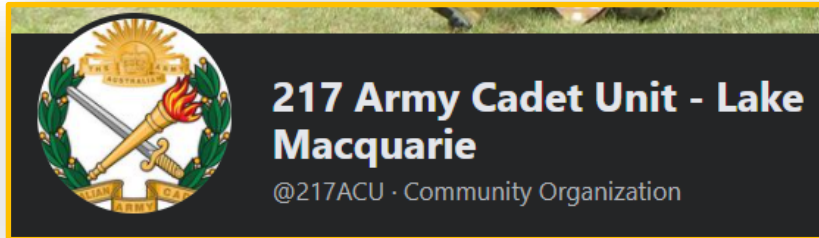
Newcastle Libraries is here to help! With your library membership, you get free access to Studiosity: online, 24/7 CV and cover letter help from real professionals.

Submit your CV or cover letter, and in less than 24 hours one of the writing specialists will send it back to you with detailed feedback on how you can improve it. They'll comment on your spelling/grammar, structure, choice of language, clarity of presentation, and more.

To access Studiosity, log in to Studiosity on the [Newcastle Libraries](#) website and enter your library membership details. Not a member? It's easy; join [online here](#).

An advertisement for Studiosity. On the right is a portrait of a young woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt and a light-colored blazer. On the left, the text reads: "Free 24/7 CV, resume and cover letter help". The words "Free 24/7" are highlighted with a yellow brushstroke underline. Below this, it says "Get fast, helpful feedback on your CV or cover letter, or chat with a professional about your job search." At the bottom left of the ad is the Studiosity logo, which consists of the word "Studiosity" in a grey sans-serif font with a yellow brushstroke underline above the letter 'i'.





Australian Army Cadet (AAC) Program focuses in youth development for youth between the ages of 13-18.

We focus on our core values of:

- Respect** —The humanity of character to value others and treat them with dignity
- Integrity** — The consistency of character to align my thoughts, words and goals for their school and future careers

I look forward to hearing from you and if you could kindly respond to our unit email - 217acu@armycadets.gov.au - in the first instance and any follow up via phone call to myself on **0409310713**.

Yvonne Fuller
Officer Commanding (OC)

Arrendell
secondary education centre

Summer Holiday School

19 - 21 January 2021

- Face-to-face and online teaching
- Selective Schools and Scholarship Exam Preparation
- Year 12 Lessons
- Writing Workshop (TBC)

Bookings now open for 2021!

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St Paul's
Catholic College



St Paul's Catholic College

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Email: admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au
Web Site: <http://www.booragul.catholic.edu.au/>

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

