

"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."

This Sunday is Mother's Day, and we offer our gratitude for all mothers and for mother figures in our life. We offer the following prayer for all mothers,

Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love,
That you have instilled in her very being the need to protect her children, if at all possible,
Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching them, of comforting them,
for feeding them and making a safe place for them.

For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be.

Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance,

with strength and patience and joy.

Give them ability to forgive again and again.

Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because You will give her all she needs.

In Your precious and all powerful name, Amen

St Paul Pray for Us

ANZAC Day

St Paul's was well represented by students at the Teralba and Toronto ANZAC ceremonies. Our School Leaders were involved in reading different sections of the ceremonies at both venues. The common message at both ceremonies was the diggers comradeship, especially with our New Zealand colleagues as they engaged in battle or peacekeeping operations. Thank you to the parents who supported the student's attendance at the ceremonies. The students gathered on the Wednesday of Week One for our St Paul's ANZAC ceremony in the hall.

We will remember them

Lest we Forget.







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Staffing

Ms Kim Adamson has been a longstanding member of the Support Staff at St Paul's, having worked at the school for 21 years. During this time she has worked in many areas of the school, her most recent role was to support the Wellbeing Team and students in the Student Hub.

When St Paul's was established in 1984, Ms Adamson was one of the original students and was one of the first Student Leaders of the College. Her children have also been educated at St Paul's, her youngest son is still a member of the community.

Recently, Ms Adamson advised St Paul's she would be concluding her time at the College. As a school community, we wish Ms Adamson all the best for the future and offer a deep sense of gratitude for her ongoing commitment to St Paul's.

Mrs Shipman commenced leave this week until 24 June, 2022. Mrs Brownlee has been appointed to the acting Assistant Principal Community and Wellbeing position during Mrs Shipman's leave.

Mrs Hatfield-Smith has been appointed to the acting Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement (LoWE) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Dufty continues as Year 11 LoWE on Monday and Tuesday.

Miss Bush has joined the staff to cover a combination of these teacher's classes while Mrs Brownlee and Mrs Hatfield-Smith are fulfilling these Leadership positions.

Miss McIntosh has also joined the staff on a Monday and Friday sharing classes with Mrs Foye.

We welcome back Mr Cassel from leave and thank Mr Rampone for covering Mr Cassel's classes in Term One.

Year 12

This week has been a significant week for Year 12.

On Tuesday, students were affirmed for their academic efforts throughout the first semester of Year 12. It was pleasing to see so many to be affirmed for their achievements over the past six months.

On Wednesday morning, the Year 12 students departed for their Year 12 Retreat. This is one of the highlights of Year 12. Students engaged in activities as a year group, small group and they also took time for personal reflection. On Thursday evening, Fr James Odoh from the Warners Bay, Boolaroo and Booragul parishes celebrated mass with the students.

Thank you to Mr Doyle for developing the program and facilitating the Retreat and to Mrs Pryor and Mrs Thompson for their assistance in organising the Retreat. I also wish to acknowledge the teachers who attended over the past three days. Thanks also to our parents and carers, for your support of your children in enabling them to participate in this special experience in Year 12.

2022 and 2023 Enrolments

Following on from our Information Evening at the end of Term 1. Enrolment Forms are due next week. For our feeder school students these can be returned to your local primary school. For those families from our non-feeder schools your Enrolment Forms can be returned directly to St Paul's.

Families are still able to apply for a place for Year 7 2023 after next week. These families are asked to contact the Main Office for further details.

There are currently some places available in some year groups for 2022. If any current St Paul's families are aware of any other families who are considering enrolling their students at the College, please encourage them to contact the school to discuss possibilities.

Student Conferences

At the end of last term Year 7 - 11 students and their families engaged in Student Conferences and Year 12 Conferences took place on Tuesday. It was wonderful see students engaging in dialogue with their teacher and parents about their learning. A focus of the conferences is affirming students for their success and developing goals for the coming terms.

Mr Nicholas Wickham Principal

Assistant Principal—Teaching & Learning

The Brain and Learning

Learning is something we need do be able to engage in all through our lives. Learning is a given at school but we are always learning new skills and knowledge. A good example is when our children start to learn to drive. For some young people this can be overwhelming as there is so much to take in, but slowly, the learning becomes automatic and the young people in our lives become more confident in managing the complexities of driving a car. I had a similar conversation recently with a student who was not feeling particularly confident with their learning. We talked about the Learning Pit and how the struggle of learning new knowledge and skills can feel messy and uncomfortable at first, but slowly, as we consolidate the new learning, we become more confident in what we can do and true mastery is obtained when we can apply our new learning to new situations (a bit like driving a different car!). The uncomfortable feeling of learning something new is actually a real physiological response to learning as their neurone connections in our brain are being formed.

The brain is composed of about 85 billion neurons (give or take!). A neuron is a cell which acts as a messenger, sending information in the form of nerve impulses to other neurons. For example, when you are writing, some neurons in your brain send the "move fingers" message to other neurons and this message then travels through the nerves (like cables) all the way to your fingers. The electrical signals that are



(Image: https://www.verywellhealth.com/types-of-neurons-5201172)

communicated from one neuron to another are therefore what allows you to do everything you do: write, think, see, jump, talk, compute, and so on. Each neuron can be connected with up to 10,000 other neurons, leading to a large number of connections in your brain, which looks like a very dense spider web.

When learning is happening, important changes take place in the brain, including the creation of new connections between neurons. This phenomenon is call ed neuroplasticity and is the ability of the brain to change the connections between neurons. These connections can be created, strengthened, weakened, or 'trimmed' as new learning is encountered. In fact, it is because of neuroplasticity we can consider intelligence as being something that a student can develop instead of a fixed characteristic. The more a student practices, the stronger the neuron connections become. As connections strengthen, the messages (nerve impulses) are transmitted increasingly faster, making them more efficient. That is how a student can become better at anything they learn whether it is playing football, reading, drawing, etc.

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We can compare the connections between neurons to trails in a forest. Walking through a forest without a trail is difficult because you have to compact and push the vegetation and branches out of the way to carve your way through. But the more you use the same trail, the easier and more practicable it becomes. Conversely, when you stop using the trail, the vegetation grows back, and the trail slowly disappears. This is very similar to what happens

in your brain—when you stop practicing something, the connections between your neurons weaken and can ultimately be dismantled or pruned. That is why it may seem so difficult to start reading again when school starts if you have not read all summer. However, it is possible for some neural networks to become so strong that the trails or connections never completely disappear. That is why study and homework become important aspects of student learning at school.

Year 12 Mid Course Awards and Student Conferences

It was with great pleasure that we were able to recognise the achievements of our Year 12 students at the halfway point of their final year of secondary school. Students were encouraged to think about the concept of 'marks in the bucket' as they embark on the journey through the second half of the year. Marks in the bucket refers to the group effort that can lift the overall achievement of a cohort. This does not mean one individual student will impact the final result of the whole group, but rather, the group can work together to lift each other as they master the skills and knowledge required to be successful learners. If each student brings a ready-to-learn attitude to class and there is a sense of working together, this can only benefit the group in the long run. The 'marks in the bucket' approach means students are completing homework, maintaining effective study patterns, collaborating with their peers and engaging in the learning experiences provided to them in class. A sense of working together to put 'marks in the bucket' will only improve the overall learning success of a group.

Stage 6 Study Afternoons

To assist students in striving to master the learning in their courses, we are offering study sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Teachers have volunteered to be available during these sessions to assist students in various subject areas. As Stage 6 students should be maintaining a study pattern of a minimum of 30 minutes of study per 2 unit subject five nights per week, these sessions offer students a supportive environment to develop effective study habits. A light snack and refreshment will be available for students who attend.



NAPLAN

Year 7 and Year 9 students are reminded that NAPLAN tests are schedule for Tuesday to Friday in week 3. Year 7 will complete their tests in Period 2 on these days and Year 9 will complete their tests in Period 3. The schedule will be published through Compass and changes to the timetable will also be available through Compass. Students are expected to have a charged device and headphones



for these tests. Further to this, students who have MacBooks will need to reload the lock down browser due to an update recently released by ACARA. It is preferable that students have headphones that plug into their device rather than wirelessly connected headphones.

Year 11 2023 Expo

We are also excited to announce that we will be holding the Year 11 2023 Expo on Tuesday 24 May starting at 4:30pm. A formal information session will take place at 6pm and afterwards the Expo will resume for the remainder of the evening. This event will provide students with information about the opportunities available to them throughout Stage 6. The Expo is an interactive event where students and families can engage in discussions with teachers about course selection for Year 11. More details will be provided to students and families when students return from camp.



Mrs Amber Carter Assistant Principal—Teaching & Learning



Assistant Principal—Community & Wellbeing

Term 2 provides numerous opportunities for the students of St Paul's to immerse themselves in our Catholic culture and reflect on their future direction. This week our Year 12 students travel to Elanora Heights to partake in our Retreat program for three days. Next week our Year 10 students participate in the Challenge Camp on the lovely Hawkesbury River. We are pleased to be able to once again offer these two wonderful opportunities to the students of St Paul's to further develop their resilience, strengthen relationships and provide an opportunity for personal reflection. I look forward to sharing stories and photos from these two events in our next Newsletter.

The beginning of Term 2 requires our Senior students to transition into our Senior Winter Unform.

Senior Uniform Years 11 - 12 Girls

Winter: Navy skirt, white blouse, college jumper or college vest. Navy tie piece, navy stockings or white socks, navy slacks and navy college woollen scarf are optional. Navy collarless blazer must be worn during Terms 2 and 3. The college jumper or vest may be worn under the blazer for added warmth. Shorts Navy tailored shorts are an optional alternative to the skirt. Lowes style No 78144 or Verdun Hiles – Midford.

Senior Uniform Years 11 - 12 Boys

Winter: White shirt, navy trousers (which can be worn all year if so desired), navy or black socks, college jumper or college vest, senior tie. The navy school blazer must be worn during Terms 2 and 3. The college jumper or vest may be worn under the blazer for added warmth.

Uniforms are available at Lowes at Stockland Glendale and at Verdun Hiles Toronto. A range of second hand uniforms can be obtained from the College's clothing pool on Monday mornings from 8.30am. Please contact the office for additional access to this facility.

In the cooler months, we remind our Junior students we have two options for additional warmth including a sports jacket or a woollen jumper. Other jumpers, hoodies or visible undershirts are not acceptable replacement items and will be managed in accordance with our uniform policy.

St Paul's Catholic College is held in high esteem in the wider community and the presentation of students in the correct uniform at all times will ensure the standards and traditions of the College are maintained. Should you require additional information regarding our Uniform Policy and Requirements, please consult our Student Handbook which is available on our College Website. Thank you for your support in ensuring our uniform standards and expectations are upheld.

Mrs Blair Brownlee
Assistant Principal—Wellbeing & Engagement



Sporting News

St Paul's students have incredible talents and we love sharing their successes with the school community.

One of our talented students, Felix Kozakiewicz of Year 9, has achieved exceptional results in the U16 Northern NSW Region Fencing Competition which was held on 3 April. He attained a silver medal in the foil discipline and a gold medal in the épée discipline.

Congratulations Felix, what an amazing achievement!

PS, just in case you were wondering what a foil and épée were: Foil and épée are Olympic disciplines which use different weapons and have different rules. Foil is a point weapon, where fencers try to score a valid touch on the target area, their opponent's torso. Epee is also a point weapon, but the target area is the entire body – hits can be scored on the body, arms, legs, head or even the hands or feet.





Thank you and Congratulations to Ella, Zoe, Valentina, James, Harry, Jett, Evie and Caitlin who represented St Paul's and the Maitland Newcastle Diocese at CCC Swimming at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Wednesday. This is a huge accomplishment, as they had to place first or a very close second at Diocesan Swimming to be on this team.

It was a busy and exciting day with some attending for the first time and some for their last time, PBs, great sportsmanship, medals and more.

Zoe, Evie and Valentina performed outstandingly and placed in events, which means they will now be representing at All Schools Swimming on 3rd June. Good Luck to all of you!







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Focus on Creative Arts and Languages





What a busy start to 2022!!! We farewelled Morag and Eddie at the end of 2021 and we welcomed Tess Brennan to our Faculty who is teaching Year 7 French alongside Christine, as well as Nikalla Garrett back to full time teaching.

Term 1 started with restrictions still on us and a cautious approach to putting our plans in place to run ensembles, showcase events and excursions. Year 12 students in Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Photography started the second term of their Higher School Certificate courses, completed assessment tasks and began developing their Bodies of Work, Individual Projects and Music Performances.

Our new and continuing elective students in Years 9 and 10 are developing and refining their skills and we look forward to showcasing their artworks and talents at our end of term two CAAL evening on Thursday 23rd June, more details to come.

ASPIRE

It was disappointing that the 2021 ASPIRE production 'The Masked DJ' was unable to run, however it was inspiring to see students from our school participate in the many ASPIRE run events that could happen including senior and junior theatre-makers and scriptwriting events that were performed late last year at the civic playhouse.

The 2022 ASPIRE production 'The Cost of Wishes' has seen the most St Pauls students involved in the production in many years and the most from any school across the Diocese. We have students involved in all areas of the production both on stage and as a part of the production team. This show will take place at the beginning of term three and we will be taking students from creative arts classes to view the production as audience members to support our students on Friday the 29th July, more details to come.

Kirily Boslem from Year 10 Music is performing in the ASPIRE songwriters competition being held at St Pius in the evening on the 5th May. We congratulate and wish her the best of luck.

Music

The music students and teachers have been working toward the Diosounds Event taking place at the Civic Theatre on the 2nd June. Everyone involved is very excited about the event being back on after a two year break due to COVID. We have two pieces, 'Crazy' by Gnarls Barkley being performed by the Year 10 Music Class under Ms Garrett's guidance and 'Unwritten' by Natasha Bedingfield is the song that Ms Head's choir group and musicians will perform. The choir consists of students from Year 7 to 12



who are dedicating their recess and sport time to rehearse for this event.

Tickets are available through the Civic Theatre to the evening performance and students in Year 7 and 8 Music classes will be given the opportunity to attend the matinee performance to support our students as audience members, more information to come.

We also have seven students involved in the DIOEnsemble who will perform the opening and closing numbers of the show.









Drama

This year in Drama we have been exploring the concepts of communication, collaboration and concentration, The Elements of Drama, Improvisation and putting these skills into practice in the development of play building group performances.

The end of term one saw all the elective Drama students travel to St Pius High School Adamstown to participate in the annual DIOTheatresports competition. Our students participated in the events with creativity and confidence and all had a fantastic day of theatre fun. It was awesome to see the students all supporting each other and the other schools as audience members.

In term two on the 8th June, elective students will have the opportunity to participate in Dramafest, another Diocese event run by the ASPIRE team at St Mary's Maitland. This day enables students to try their skill in a range of different dramatic forms and participate in a series of workshops including stage combat, physical theatre, characterisation and comedy just to name a few on offer.

We are also running an excursion to Belvoir Theatre in Sydney later on in the year to watch a professional production of the novel 'Looking for Alibrandi'. More exposure to theatrical events enables students to develop their skills further within the classroom and this is a focus for the subject moving forward.

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Languages

Students in Year 7 are studying either French or German this year and are working towards completing writing and speaking activities in that language. Year 7 language classes enjoyed making masks to celebrate Mardi Gras (*in France*) and Karneval (*in Germany*). These celebrations mark the period before Lent when people participate in fancy dress, masked festivals and enjoy delicious food.









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We are running elective classes in Years 9, 10 and 11 French and these students are looking forward to attending the French Film Festival at Kotara Events Cinema on Friday 20th May.

The Year 9 French class were also very excited to have received their penpal letters all the way from France. An excellent opportunity to develop their writing skills whilst learning about French culture from students their own age.

Visual Arts/ Visual Design/ Photography

These subjects are our faculty's most popular areas with large numbers of students electing to study Visual Arts in Years 9,10,11 and 12, Visual Design in Years 9 and 10 and Photography in Years 11 and 12. Some topics being explored in class include; Animations, Portraiture, Mixed Media and The Renaissance, see the pictures below to see our talented artists and their work.

Year 7 Mythical Creatures





Year 8 Modernist Portraits









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Year 9 Design Tote Bags





Year 10 Chuck Close inspired Portraits





Year 11 Renaissance/ Da Vinci







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School Photo Information

School Photos will be in Week 5 on Wednesday 25th of May. Photos must be ordered online, please see details below.



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Community Notices

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office ADDITIONAL NEEDS INFORMATION DAY

The Special Needs Working Party is an initiative of the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations — Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. The 2022 Additional Needs Information Day allows parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs enrolled in our catholic schools to join together and hear from experts from the Catholic Schools Office about a range of issues from funding to supporting learning, mental health and wellbeing.

We would be delighted to welcome you and invite you to share morning tea and a light lunch with us.

WHEN: Wednesday 4th May 2022

WHERE: St Brigid's Primary school Hall - Raymond Terrace

TIME: 9.00am - 1.00pm

COST: FREE

Morning tea and Light lunch included. Please register using the link below.

Click Here





Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

Cath Garrett-Jones Family Engagement Officer Catholic Schools Office

P: 4979 1303 E: cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au

Shaggy's Driving School

Female Instructor, Marmong Point

Special Offer: Purchase a 2hr lesson, get

15mins extra

Mitra Soloki

P: 0474 848 255

E: shaggysdrivingschool@gmail.com















A safe and friendly community for children with a disability

Rainbow Club welcomes children with a disability for individualised swimming lessons to learn to swim, be safe in the water, interact, feel included, play and have fun.



Swim the Rainbow

- Our unique Swim the Rainbow program has been specially designed to teach children with a disability
- The swimming goals are aligned to the seven colours of the Rainbow to help build confidence
- Individualised swim lessons are delivered by qualified and dedicated swim teachers

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mn.catholic.org.au

Register your interest

- Vacancies arise at short notice, so we recommend you register and be ready to start swimming with a Club that understands and supports children with a disability (regardless of the type of disability)
- There is an expectation that a parent or guardian will remain close by during lessons to assist if required

About Rainbow Club

- · We provide a membership for the duration of a school term (9 weekly half hour
- Our social calendar has something for everyone
- · Club Committees are run by volunteers

We can't wait to see you at Rainbow Club soon

Rainbow Club is a network of social swimming clubs for children with a disability

Join us! Sign-up online at myrainbowclub.org.au/register/

myrainbowclub.org.au

- rainbowclubaustralia
- m rainbowclubaustralia RainbowClubAust
- Painhow Club Australia

Verdun Hiles

Catholic Diocese

88-92 The Boulevarde, Toronto PH: 02 4959 1258

Now in stock for St Paul's students:

- Jackets
- Jumpers
- Cardigans



All Australian Made



From the Finance Office

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/ (Please take the figure to the next five cents)

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

Also, if you have not completed 2022 School Fee Information Form, please follow the link to the Website above to download, complete and return to college office.

School Fee

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

Excursion Payments

1. Qkr

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: Payments can be made at Reception between

8.30am and 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 and Friday Sport



For you r 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 fo 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 yo 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

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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: 8.15am until 3.30pm

Finance Office

Hours: 8.30am to 2.30pm

Email: finance@booragul.catholic.edu.au

Canteen

Telephone: 4946 3115

