

27 January 2009

Dear parents

Welcome to the start of 2009, a historic year in which we will be celebrating 20 years of serving the Rockingham region. I hope that you have had a restful holiday period and would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy New Year. I would also like to especially welcome those new families that are joining the Kolbe Catholic College community this year, particularly those who have Year 7 and Year 8 students commencing high school for the first time!

In this letter, I will be addressing three key areas that will influence parents this year:

1. Academic Excellence
2. Staff Leadership Changes
3. Capital Development Projects

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

I congratulate the 2008 Year 12 students who have continued to support our reputation as a top performing school in the district. The College is still waiting for information from the universities and TAFE as to the destinations for our graduates. However, I would like to acknowledge the high achievers, whose most significant achievements include:

- The highest TEE achiever was Dux of the College, Ryley Macrae, who received a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) of 99.5, with top marks of 94% for Applicable Mathematics and 93.2% in Calculus. Jan Bochat received a TER of 98.95 and Michael Cheang 96.85. Three further students received a TER of more than 95 – Philip Pohlenz-Saw, Lisa Thai and Chloe Anton, whilst Susan Cunningham, Michael Brown, Heather Sykes and Sonny Hatton all received TERs of over 90. On behalf of the College, I congratulate these ten students.
- Three students received Certificates of Excellence for achieving 10 'A' grades in upper school, Jan Bochat, Sharna Pinkney and Kate Sinclair. Certificates of Distinction for achieving in the top 0.5% of the state were also awarded to Natasha Evans and Tanya Henderson for Senior Science, Chelsea Randall for SWL – Animal Care and Kevin Miller for SWL – Automotive, whilst Jemma Hazel received a Westscheme Award for Vocational Education and Training. These students will receive their Awards from the Curriculum Council at a special ceremony in February.
- Of the 54 students who completed their TEE, 41 achieved a TER over 70, the published minimum TER to enter many university courses. As many parents are aware, I often make comments on reports regarding those students who receive marks in the low 50's. With the increasing difficulty of courses in Year 12, the impact of "scaling" (a statistical state-wide modification in the final results according to the difficulty of the subject) can lead to a reduction of the final result. The College strongly advises students to aim for results over 60% to achieve the necessary results for successful university entrance.
- Again, we achieved a 100% graduation rate. We were also listed in the top performing schools in the state in the following subjects: Beliefs and Values, SWL- Business and Clerical, SWL – Community Services, Health and Education, SWL – Hospitality and SWL – Sales and Personal Services.

We congratulate all teachers concerned. The counselling of Year 11 and 12 students into appropriate subjects and courses will continue to be an important consideration for us.

Over the past four years, we have been developing a talented and gifted program in the middle school. This will continue to evolve in 2009, but will be broadened to include the senior school. This year, the College will form a Club that will be known as Prometheus. This type of program is run at a number of 'high achieving' schools. Prometheus will be offered to present Year 12 students of high ability, as part of a bigger plan for monitoring and encouraging academic excellence in Years 11 and 12. Prometheus is a weekly study group that will be conducted in the Learning Resource Centre that enables individual learning and peer tutoring to take place.

Outside tutoring organisations, CEO consultants, and suitable guest speakers will comprise an overall program that will be focussed on providing an environment conducive to achieving the highest results. Students who are invited must demonstrate a commitment to ongoing excellence. They will be identified by teacher nomination and a study of their Year 11 Report. Students will also be invited to self-nominate if they wish to be part of the program. Ms Gemma Woollorton will coordinate the program, with the assistance of Deputy Principal (10-12), Miss Giovanna Fiume. Invitations to suitable candidates will be sent out shortly.

Parents can support their child's academic performance by attending the respective parent information evenings in Term One. Please note these in your calendars:

- Mon 9 Feb: Year 12 Parent Information Evening
- Mon 16 Feb: Year 10 Parent Information Evening
- Mon 23 Feb: Year 9 Parent Night
- Mon 9 March: Year 7 and 8 Parent Information Evening

STAFF LEADERSHIP CHANGES

As part of an ongoing goal to create a school culture that focuses on teaching for excellence and as part of our growth, the College has made a number of changes in the leadership structure. Parents are invited to note these for future reference.

Although the Pastoral Care structure will still focus on vertical Pastoral Care groups and the PC Teacher, the College has added six Heads of Year who are responsible for all events: curriculum, pastoral and social, that occurs within the year group.

Head of Year 7	Mr Pat McNulty (tel. 08 9591 4219) Email: mcnulty.patrick@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Head of Year 8	Mrs Lyn Quilty (tel. 08 9591 4246) Email: quilty.lyn@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Head of Year 9	Mr Shane Parnell (tel. 08 9591 4248) Email: parnell.shane@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Deputy Principal Mr Joe Sciorilli, will oversee the middle school teaching and learning environments, working with the relevant Head of Year to plan programs and events to promote a love of learning, and appropriate activities that contribute to their holistic growth.

Head of Year 10	Mr Jason Meynell (tel. 08 9591 4238) Email: meynell.jason@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Head of Year 11	Miss Kelly Stirling (tel. 08 9591 4249) Stirling.kelly@cathednet.wa.edu.au
Head of Year 12	Mr Vince Bellini (tel. 08 9591 4250) Email: bellini.vince@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Deputy Principal, Miss Giovanna Fiume, will oversee the Senior School Curriculum and Pastoral Care, working with the relevant Head of Year to plan all the events that involve the year group, promoting an overall program that challenges and guides students to achieve success as they prepare for post secondary opportunities.

Each Head of Year is responsible for the individual student's welfare, and the overall progress and discipline of the students in their year group. Parents will now contact a Head of Year if they have an issue with the overall welfare or progress of their son or daughter. The Heads of Year will also be responsible for the PC teachers in a particular House group.

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The newly created role of House Coordinator, will be responsible for House spirit and events:

Chisholm House Coordinator	Mrs Megan Van Lamoen
Loyola House Coordinator	Mr Ali Buckner
MacKillop House Coordinator	Miss Anne Bennett
Rice House Coordinator	Mr Peter Van Der Kwast
Teresa House Coordinator	Mrs Jacky Ukich
Xavier House Coordinator	Mrs Sally Shanassy

Deputy Principal (Staff) Mr Jeff Allen, will continue to construct the College timetable, oversee the Curriculum and Pastoral Care Policies and Procedures, and conduct Staff Inductions, Mentoring and Performance Review Programs for the 107 staff that commenced this year.

Another new team is the Ministry Team, led by Assistant Deputy Principal – Ministry, Mr Pat Branson. Mr Branson will be assisted by Head of RE, Miss Gemma Woollorton and Christian Service Learning Coordinator, Mrs Maire Carlin.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

There have been a number of projects undertaken over the Christmas holiday period, including:-

1. Minor Refurbishment of Administration – Public Reception will co-exist with Student Reception during Term One. Changes to the leadership and the addition to the Administrative staff have necessitated a temporary refurbishment to Administration. All enquiries at the College will be directed to Student Reception until further notice.
2. Extension of Block Four to create a Year 7 Learning Centre comprising six classrooms, student toilets, staff works area, meeting room and two central breakout areas. This block is now taking shape with a completion date set in June. Until then, we will continue to use six classrooms at Murdoch University whilst the four Year 7 classes will be housed in Block Five.
3. Refurbishment of the Learning Resource Centre: with the removal of the Seminar and Reading Rooms, the creation of the classroom in the former Reading Room, the new carpet, and many other minor alterations to the entire space, students and parents will be pleasantly surprised with what has been achieved in this refurbishment.
4. Refurbishment of Computer Lab 4.3. During the year, the locker area in Block 4 will be moved with the creation of another breakout learning space, something to look forward to in 2009.
5. Other minor works include the provision of a new Drop-off Zone for students in the new car park that is more convenient to locker areas, new signage, and the external painting of the entire College.
6. In Semester 2, work will commence on Stage 11, which includes the creation of a new Technology and Enterprise Centre, the refurbishment of Block 2, the extension of the student toilets, and the addition of two classrooms to Block 5.

NEWLY APPOINTED STAFF

We offer a warm welcome to the following staff that will be joining us in 2009:

Miss Giovanna Fiume	Deputy Principal (Y10-12) from Sacred Heart College
Mr Ray Thickett	Director of Finance and Administration, from Tranby College
Miss Gemma Woollorton	Head of Religious Education from Prendiville Catholic College
Mrs Lisa Price	Head of Health and Physical Education, from Lumen Christi

Mrs Helen Metcalfe	Head of Music (Acting) from Hornby High School , UK
Mrs Ana Milas	Music Teacher, previously Voice Tutor at the College
Mrs Inagh Barrett	Science Teacher, from St Colmcille's School, Ireland
Ms Chiho Kagawa	Japanese Teacher (part time), graduate
Mr Michael Lake	Physics Teacher, from St Norbert's College
Mrs Fleur Smith	Year 7 Teacher, from St Jerome's Catholic Primary School
Mr George Sutherland	Design and Technology Teacher from Wick High School, UK
Ms Shannon Smith	College Counsellor Term One, whilst Mrs Joy is on leave
Mrs Sylvia Silas	Deputies Secretary
Mrs Janelle Poad	Education assistant (part time)
Mrs Diane Seldon	Education assistant (part time)

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A number of these appointments have been made as a result of the addition of our four Year 7 classes. We also welcome back from leave, Mr Mark Rotondella and Mrs Rita Clarke.

THE FINAL WORD

Head of Year 7, Mr Pat McNulty, is supported by Mrs Fleur Smith, Mrs Sally Shanassy, Mr Paul Lenzarini, Mrs Olivia Venables and Mr Steve Wheeler, in developing an interesting and challenging learning program for our first group of Year 7 students, who will remain very much part of the overall program at the College through their involvement in the vertical House PC structure. With the provision of 60 laptops for Year 7 students to use, one focus for the Year 7 program will be digital learning. We wish the team all the best in this inaugural year.

During the week, teachers have spent four days of professional development in order to prepare for the academic year. Last year, the focus for staff PD was the integration of ICT across all aspects of the curriculum, work that will continue during the year. In 2009, the focus for staff will be the integration of gospel values across the curriculum. This week, Fr Joe Parkinson has conducted a seminar on 'Faith, Morality and Conscience in the Classroom' whilst in July, Jesuit priest Fr Richard Leonard will challenge staff to consider 'How Catholic Education can form believers in a media saturated culture?'

This correspondence has been quite a detailed outline of a number of changes, challenges and initiatives for 2009. Remaining informed is always a challenge for parents, and I take this opportunity to invite you to check the College calendar, which is available online on the College website. This is important information, particularly when you are planning holidays. Five key dates for parents to note are:

- All **Year 7 and 8** students and **new Year 9 – 12** students will commence school on **Monday 2 February**. **Year 7 and 8** students should be at school by **8.25 am** and will finish at **3.15 pm** on this day. All the **new Year 9 – 12** students should be at school by **8.25 am** and will finish at **12.00 noon** on this day.
- **All current Year 9 – 12** students are due to return on **Tuesday 3 February**. Students should be at school at the normal time (8.25 am) and finish at the normal time (3.15 pm). Normal bus services will apply on this day.
- The **Uniform Shop** will be open as usual on **Monday 2 February from 8.00 – 9.30 am**.
- **First Parents and Friends** meeting will be held in the Staffroom at **7.30 pm on Tuesday 10 February**
- **'Twenty Year Anniversary Sundowner'** will be held at **4.30pm on Sunday 14 June**

In addition, we will be emailing the College Newsletter, 'The Knight', to all parents commencing during Term One. It is essential we have an updated email address for a parent. A further letter will be sent early in Term One requesting current details.

Finally, as I consider the pace of change at the College, I am reminded of Br Pat Carey, Foundation Principal, who wrote in his Annual Report: 'In 1989 the dreams and struggles of many people ... were realised with the opening of Kolbe Catholic College'. As the holidays conclude, I look forward to celebrating Kolbe's twenty years of service to the community, in 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Payne'.

Mrs Caroline Payne
Principal