

7 February 2022

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers

It has been great to see our new Year 7 students start the school year so well. Commencing high school can be a little daunting for many boys, but they appear to have settled in quite well, despite the challenges to our normal routine that we are faced with due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we will be unable to conduct the information evening that was scheduled for Thursday February 17, I am writing to provide you with some additional information to help clarify some early questions that you may have. We believe that it is important that we are able to invite you to the school for this first information session, so we are waiting for restrictions to ease to set a date for the night.

#### Core Classes

Your son has been allocated to a Core class for the subjects of English, HSIE and Religious Education. He will have the same teacher for these subjects and be with the same group of boys also. These three subjects have been grouped together as they have a strong literacy focus, and teachers work on developing the literacy skills of the boys across each of these subjects. Your son's Core class teacher will be someone that he will establish a very close relationship with throughout the year and can become a point of contact along with Mrs Heidi Englund the Year 7 Pastoral Leader if concerns arise.

Students will then move to different class groupings for teachers in the specialist subjects of Mathematics, Science, Technology, PDH/PE, Music and Visual Arts. Music and Visual Arts are studied for a semester (two terms) rotating for the commencement of Term 3.

I have included a photo of each of our Core Teachers to assist you in putting a face to the name of your son's teacher.



Mr Alex Rozario



Mrs Anthea Pearson



Miss Elena Atayde



Mrs Heidi Englund













Mr Jackson English

Mr Nevin Odden

Mrs Sonya Robinson

Mr Paul Sullivan

## Year 7 Camp

As explained in the letter you received at the commencement of the school year, the camp which was scheduled for week 5 (March 3-March 5) had to be postponed due to COVID protocols. We traditionally schedule this camp early in the year to allow students meet with their peers and core teachers in a different environment so that they can continue to forge positive relationships that will often last throughout their time at St Edward's. The Camp program is an integral component of the education we provide at St Edward's, and we are pleased to inform you that we have developed an alternative program in consultation with the Camp providers.

Students will now participate in a one-day outdoor recreation experience with students from their and other Core classes. These one-day experiences will be scheduled over the same three days with different classes attending each day. The program will be conducted at Crossland's Youth and Convention Centre, which was the initial site for the camp that was planned. Students will engage in a variety of outdoor recreation activities throughout the day which were part of the three-day program. We are able to conduct this program in a COVID safe manner as students will not be sleeping overnight, eating meals indoors and will be in smaller groups to meet current guidelines. A thorough risk assessment will be conducted in consultation with the camp providers and further information will be provided to families in the coming weeks.

#### Laptops

The boys have now received their laptops and teachers are working with them on how to use them appropriately, providing guidance on applications such as our Learning Management System called Canvas, accessing their portal and other educational applications that they will use in class.

## Homework

We would like to emphasise our approach to homework for Year 7 students at the start of the year. Students will have very limited homework – small amount of maths, reading and spelling. This approach is designed to allow them time to settle into the academic demands of high school and will be explained further at the information session later in the term. Teachers will be in communication with families once we begin to assign additional homework and assessment tasks if concerns arise.







### Parent Portal

The College Parent Portal is an important means of communicating with families. Parents can access their son's timetable, their class teachers contact details, work that was set in class each day as well as assessment, student attendance information, academic reports, your balance on your son's flexi-schools account and key calendar events. Parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Parent Portal and we have provided with this letter, step by step instructions of how to access this information below.

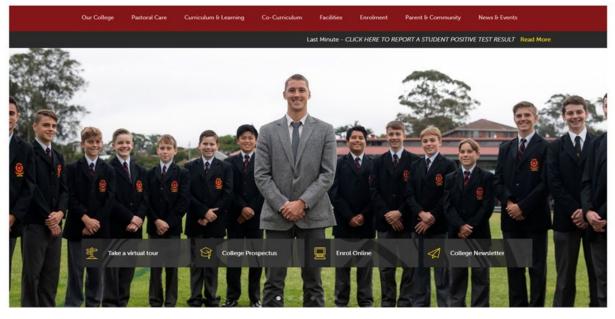
Yours sincerely,

Mark Bonnici College Principal

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Heidi Englund Year 7 Pastoral Leader

# Go to the College Website: www.stedwards.nsw.edu.au





















Select the Login to Portal Icon **Enter your login details** 









