

22nd February. 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, we have introduced an exciting new initiative at the College – ***The Fathering Project***. The purpose of this group is to invite fathers, father figures and significant male role models from the community into the school to work with our students and become positive mentors to not only their own child, but others as well.

There is significant research that shows initiatives like 'The Fathering Project' and like-minded dad groups, "*recognise the importance of school partnerships with families.*" The research indicates that by specifically targeting fathers and male role models, "*schools will see significant additional benefits for the children and for the school as a whole*" and the connection between fathers and their children inevitably becomes stronger.

A lot of things have been disrupted by COVID, so unfortunately, we have only had the opportunity to meet and greet our 2021-year 7 cohort in person. Our aim is to do this with every new year 7 group and continue face to face connection throughout the year by holding special events once a term. This may include and not limited to Trivia nights, BBQs, outdoor activities and the odd special guest speaker event.

We hope that you can take some time to learn more about 'The Fathering Project' project, and visit <https://thefatheringproject.org/about-us/our-mission/>

We look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions and are keen to help our boys build stronger relationships and communities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our current St Edward's Fathering Project Team, please register yourself on the St Edward's 'The Fathering Project' portal by using this QR Code.



'The Fathering Project' will now become a regular post in the school newsletter and website. It will showcase information on parenting young teens through podcasts, interviews, and written information. So, we hope you enjoy the content.

If you have further questions, please contact Marcus Missio-Spiteri mmissio@stedwards.nsw.edu.au Monday to Friday during school hours.

Yours sincerely
Mark Bonnici
Principal

Marcus Missio-Spiteri
School Counsellor