



To Year 11 Parents, Carers and Students

As the start of the 2023 school year draws near, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy new year. I hope the Christmas break has provided you with an opportunity to relax and spend some quality time with your loved ones. The first day of the school term for current Year 11 students is Tuesday January 31. In 2023 we celebrate the College's 70th anniversary and a number of special events are being planned to commemorate this milestone. I look forward to sharing information about these events with you, throughout the year.

An important information evening has been scheduled for all parents and carers of boys in Year 11 for Thursday 2 February. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about Pastoral Care and Student Well-Being, the newly developed Learner Profiles, assessment, expectations associated with attendance, goal setting, academic support and digital citizenship. I encourage all parents and carers to attend this meeting so that you are best able to support your son with his learning and well-being throughout this year. Further information will be provided regarding the details of this meeting in the coming weeks. NB: Students do not attend these information evenings.

Owning the Responsibility is the Pastoral theme for Year 11. This theme focuses on owning the responsibility of the senior years at the College. The process of goal setting for individual pathways is closely linked to leadership. Boys are encouraged to set personal standards in behaviour and a strong presence around the College is expected, setting a good example for students in junior years. Owning the responsibility and consequences that come with emerging self-identity are developed and academic and career choices will be the focus, as will continued involvement in Leadership Portfolios.

Many students in the early stages of Year 11 find the demands, expectations and academic rigour of their Preliminary Year quite challenging. It is important that throughout this time, students remain focused on establishing goals, managing their time effectively and enlisting the help and support of their dedicated teachers to achieve success. Good HSC results rely on solid groundwork being done throughout Year 11. Good habits are best developed early and balancing commitments to schoolwork, a social life, sport and casual work are crucial skills to be worked on. Students in Year 11 no longer attend Friday afternoon activities, they participate in double periods in all subjects throughout each term.

Parents and students will receive two formal reports providing feedback on progress in each of their courses. An Interim Report is completed at the end of Term 1, providing an early indication of their application and effort to date. Students are encouraged to use this report to establish learning goals for the remainder of the Preliminary Year, asking themselves honest questions about their commitment to their studies and identifying areas for ongoing improvement. Their teachers are their best resource for success. Engaging in conversations with their teachers and getting feedback on how to bring about improvements is the key. The second report issued at the end of Term 3 provides an indication of overall achievement in each of the Preliminary courses. This report will also provide crucial feedback prior to the commencement of the HSC year in Term 4.

In Term 2, Year 11 students participate in a retreat based in the streets of Sydney. This compulsory event focuses on challenging students to look beyond themselves to those who are most marginalised within our society. Working from a base at the Youth Hostel near Central Station, students visit a variety of organisations who work with people living on the streets of Sydney, many of whom are experiencing severe drug addiction, mental health issues or have been the victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse. This challenging and rewarding experience is facilitated by teachers from St Edward's working with a range of government and non-government organisations.

I have provided with this letter an outline of the important dates for Year 11 students, and I hope this will assist you in your own planning for the year. Details regarding other events will be provided throughout the year via the College Newsletter on the website, the College App and direct emails to parents. I wish all Year 11 students every success in their final years at St Edward's.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Bonnici
College Principal





| YEAR 11 IMPORTANT DATES | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Term 1 | |
| Tuesday 31 January | Years 7, 11 & 12 Students return to school + new students |
| Wednesday 1 February | Years 8, 9 & 10 return to school |
| Thursday 2 February | Year 11 Parent Information Evening |
| Friday 3 February | College Swimming Carnival |
| Thursday 16 February | College Commencement Mass |
| Thursday 23 March | Student Led Conferences – Online 4pm – 7:30pm |
| Friday 31 March | Student Led Conferences – On campus 10am – 4pm |
| Thursday 6 April | Easter Liturgy and last day of Term 1 |
| Term 2 | |
| Monday 24 April | Day 1 Term 2 – Staff Development Day – no students |
| Thursday 27 April | 70 th Anniversary and Founders Day Mass |
| Tuesday 2 May | College Photos |
| Tuesday 30 May | College Athletics Carnival |
| Wed 21 Jun to Fri 23 Jun | Year 11 Retreat #1 |
| Wed 28 Jun to Fri 30 Jun | Year 11 Retreat #2 |
| Friday 30 June | Last Day Term 2 |
| Term 3 | |
| Monday 17 July | Day 1 Term 3 |
| Wednesday 19 July | Semester 1 Academic Awards Assembly |
| Thursday 20 July | Student Led Conferences – Online 4pm – 7:30pm |
| Thursday 27 July | Student Led Conferences – Online 4pm – 7:30pm |
| Mon 11 Sept to Wed 20 Sept | Preliminary Course Exam Block |
| Thursday 21 September | Last Day for students Term 3 |
| Friday 22 September | Staff Development Day |
| Term 4 | |
| Monday 9 October | Day 1 Term 4 HSC Courses Commence |
| Monday 11 December | Annual Awards Assembly |
| Tuesday 12 December | Last Day Term 4 |

Please note: The information listed above includes all the key events and dates at the time of distribution of this correspondence. Events such as faculty based excursions, assessment tasks and sporting activities are not included in this list, but will appear in the College Newsletter, on the College Website and College App at an appropriate time leading up to the event.

