



To Year 11 Parents, carers and students

As the start of the 2024 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 Wednesday January 31.

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 Prefect 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 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 that 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	
Wednesday 31 January	School Commences for Year 7,11 & 12
February 7	Student ID Photos
February 8	Year 11 Parent Information Evening ERC Foyer
February 9	College Swimming Carnival
February 22	Commencement Mass
March 27	Student Led Conferences #1 (online evening)
March 28	Easter Liturgy
April 2	Student Led Conferences #2 (face to face day)
April 12	Last day of Term 1
Term 2	
April 29	Staff Development Day (Pupil free day)
April 30	Day 1 Term 2
May 3	Edmund Rice Founders Day Mass
May 8	College Photos
May 31	College Athletics Carnival
June 26 – 28	Year 11 Retreat Group #1
July 3 - 5	Year 11 Retreat Group #2
July 5	Last Day Term 2
Term 3	
July 22	Staff Development Day (Pupil free day)
July 23	Day 1 Term 3
July 24	Semester 1 Academic Awards Assembly
July 25	Student Led Conferences #3 (online evening)
August 1	Student Led Conferences #4 (online evening)
Sept 16 - 26	Year 11 Exam block
September 26	Last Day Term 3
September 27	Staff Development Day (Pupil free day)
Term 4	
October 14	Day 1 Term 4
October 17	Year 11 Curriculum Information Evening
December 10	Yr 7-11 Academic Awards Assembly (day)
December 11	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. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change. Please check the [calendar](#) on the website.

