At the annual Year 12 assembly we celebrated six years of fun and learning by our Year 7 cohort of 2010; our Year 12s of 2015. There was lots of laughter and fun as School Vice-Captain Alex Blenkin led an assembly packed with videos, student reflection and fine musical performances by Emily McKendry with Shenaye Dawson on guitar and Sarah Murphy accompanied by the Year 10 Music class. John Chapman the student’s Pastoral Coordinator from Year 7 to 10 spoke very warmly about the group, reminding them of a number happenings that caused much ribbing and laughter. The tone of the day was happy and positive and gave an indication as to how well the group have bonded together over the past 12 months. Thanks to Year 12 Coordinator Ian Evans and the team of Pastoral teachers and senior students who helped organise the day.

Today we celebrated the last day of term with the Year 12 Mass and acknowledged the student leadership group for the 2015/2016 schoolyear. It was moving to see this year’s leaders hand on their legacy via the “badging” of the new leadership team. Thanks to Denise Ryan Student Representative Council Coordinators Jamaya Pearse and Catherine Eady, teachers and students who worked hard to make the Mass so memorable for all who attended. Thanks also to Fr George and Fr Greg for their support and to Deacon Vince all of whom contributed significantly to the success of the Mass.

On behalf of the community I wish all our Year 12 students well as they prepare for their exams and remind them that much productive learning can take place over the holiday period.

Our Japanese exchange group; students and staff leave for Japan on Friday evening. It is an exciting time for all those involved in Japan and Australia. Our young folk are very aware of the great privilege they have been granted in being able to visit Japan and of their responsibility to be a fine ambassadors for their family and our school community. Good luck to colleagues Theresa Avery, Callam Howard and Richard Petrucci and too our students as they undertake their journey.

You will be aware that the school undertook a trial in Term 3 that allowed students to wear their sports uniform to and from school on Mondays and Tuesdays if they had a PDHPE or PASS Practical lesson on either day. The trial was designed to reduce the need for students to change at school and ensure a quick start to the PE lessons. Unfortunately the trial was not as successful as we hoped and caused significant disruption to some other classes as students forgot to bring footwear that was WHS compliant.
We will try a further variation in term 4; the details of which can be found a little further into the newsletter. My thanks to the P.E, TAS and Science departments for their collaborative approach to solving the issue.

The school is very lucky to have a committed staff who are prepared to go the extra distance to ensure student success. Our debating teams and public speakers have benefitted greatly from the commitment and professional expertise of English Coordinator Maureen Busby, Debating Coach Jenny McKendry and staff members Tim Masters and Neal McKendry all of whom have gone above and beyond to ensure success for our students. There is a great article summarising recent successes further into the newsletter, including news of an outstanding effort from our Year 9 debaters.

The St Clare’s Human Rights group was contacted by the editors of the Aurora Magazine to pen a response to the recently released Australian Catholic Bishops Statement on Refugees. Year 12 students Adam Mayers and Sarah Locker have produced a very thoughtful and lucid review of the Bishop’s thoughts. I thank Adam and Sarah for taking time out from their studies to consider the report and for their timely response. Their excellent piece is reproduced in this newsletter.

Last night I had the pleasure of attending the St Joseph’s Wingham JAFFA performance night. It was great to see students from Kinder to grade 6 immersing themselves in the arts and enjoying performing for their community. The great work of the youngster’s teachers was well displayed! Thanks to St Clare’s Arts Coordinator Jason Koenig who acted as judge for the night and to the St Joseph’s community for the invitation and hugely entertaining night.

Some staffing news for 2016. It is with pleasure that I can announce that Tim Masters has been appointed Year 7 Coordinator and Sam Bielby Year 8 Coordinator and that Bernadette Boere will continue as the Learning Support Coordinator. All are permanent appointments to the St Clare’s Middle management team.

A little further into the newsletter you will find our answers to the 10 most commonly asked questions about our Bring Your Own Devise Policy for Year 7 and Year 10 students in 2016. If you are in need of further guidance please feel free to contact the school with your questions.

A big thank you to all our staff students and parents who have worked diligently to ensure we supply the best learning environment for our young people. Have a happy, safe and well deserved holiday.

God Bless

Principal
PRAYERS: Please pray for those who are currently experiencing health difficulties and continue to pray for community members experiencing challenges, pain, sickness and grief in their lives at this time.

CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE: A reminder to all that the school has a Chaplain. Please feel free to contact our Chaplain, Deacon Vince Ryan, through the school office if he can be of assistance to you or any member of our whole school community.

Mass Times

Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree
75 Albert St, Taree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham
8 Farquhar Street, Wingham
Sunday: 8:30 am

St Bernadette’s, Krambach
Bucketts Way, Krambach
Saturday at 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Word or Mass

St Therese's, Lansdowne
Cundle Rd, Lansdowne
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm (2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Our Lady of Fatima, Old Bar
20 Hall St, Old Bar, Sunday
Mass: 7:30 am

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Harrington
Pilot St, Harrington
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in each month)
Saturday Liturgy of the Word and Communion: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church, Forster
33 Lake Street, Forster
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Tuncurry
15 Peel Street, Tuncurry
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 7:00 am

St Patrick's, Cundletown
River St, Cundletown
Sunday Mass: 6:00 pm

Careers Corner

It is almost over, Year 12 forms are in, UAC, TAFE expressions of interests, scholarships applied for and now it is back to study so as to give yourself the best possible outcome. Early next term students will be issued with a timeline and action required in relation to early entries. Students looking for employment, start these holidays before the rush. If you have lost the cover letter outline or need an update of your resume please email me over the holidays. Parents if you need clarification on any issue contact me.

Next term it will all begin again with Year 11 having career meetings and interviews. Early research prevents stress, remember that Year 11.

Carol Healey, Careers Advisor
St Clare’s Human Rights Group. Response to the Australian Catholic Bishops Statement on Refugees.

Australian society’s understanding of refugees and asylum seekers is sadly tainted by dehumanising rhetoric promoting “the globalisation of indifference” that, within a world experiencing the “worst refugee crisis since World War II”, is of great concern. It is for this reason, that the Australian Bishops’ 2015 Social Justice Statement on refugees and asylum seekers could not have come at a more appropriate time.

The recent announcement that Australia will increase its intake of Syrian refugees by 12000 is incredibly positive however this inflation in numbers is categorically stand-alone. Further, whilst these individuals will be promptly and permanently resettled, the Statement makes the rather salient point that “constant shifts in policies and the current delay in status determination for boat arrivals living in Australia have affected around 30000 people.” This, coupled with the fact that “Australia still remains the only nation that detains child asylum seekers as a matter of course”, is crucial in the Statement’s undermining of the common political and social belief that Australia’s refugee policies are humane and effective. The article also comments upon the economic cost of offshore detention for Australia, highlighting the particularly saddening statistic that, during the period of 2014-15, “Australia devoted almost $3 billion to onshore and offshore detention and community placement services for several thousand asylum seekers… by comparison, the UNHCR has a budget of around $5.5 billion to attend to the needs of almost 60 million people around the world.” How can it be that Australia spends over half the UNHCR’s humanitarian budget on detention processes that leave the “the forgotten of the forgotten” in “legal limbo” and yet we deem it effective and humane? How can it be that “about 90 per cent of boat arrivals who have been processed in the past have been found… to be genuine refugees in need of protection” yet tens of people “have languished in detention for years because ASIO has issued an adverse security assessment” even though they have been given full refugee status? These are the tough questions that the Bishops’ statement wants Australians to answer; questions that should be at the heart of social and political discourse.

The content of the Statement — whilst holding all Australians to account for our “myopic focus on the interception of boats and deterrence of asylum seekers” — is particularly relevant for Catholics. The introductory assertion by Pope Francis at Lampedusa that “we are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion” sets the tone for a document reminding Catholics that “we are blessed because we do have the means to welcome our brothers and sisters” and should do so with open arms. Members of the Church are reminded that, in the infancy narratives of Matthew’s gospel, “the first days of [Jesus’] life [were] characterised by the wise men’s adoration of his majesty and, immediately afterwards, the Holy Family’s escape from Herod’s slaughter”. Christ himself was persecuted throughout his life and it was only through seeking asylum — in escaping Herod’s oppression — that he was able to express the “special concern for the poor and solidarity” that characterised his life and that should be at the heart of the Australian approach to the issue of refugees and asylum seekers. Further, pertaining to children in detention specifically, the Statement highlights Jesus’ advocacy for children in Matthew 9:13-14: “Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’” As stated within the document, “Jesus’
disciples see the children as obstacles, someone to be kept out of the way… But Jesus sees the children as persons, each loved by God and each with something to teach us.” These are lessons that can be learnt not only by Australian Catholics but by all Australians in our approach to the issue of children in detention. We must realise that, as a nation, “we pretend that the pain and diminishment of one group of people, including children, is a justifiable price to pay for sending a message to others” and, hence, we persistently dishonour “the human dignity of people who seek protection”: we continue to contribute to the persecution of the oppressed.

The Statement, however, is most impactful in its revelation of the inherent humanity of refugees and asylum seekers. Going beyond the political rhetoric and xenophobic ideals that are converse to the traditional Australian values of opportunity and “boundless plains to share”, the text highlights the negative effects of Australia’s immigration policies on those caught up in the system. With regards to mandatory detention, the stance is very clear: “the treatment of asylum seekers in detention is cruel”: they are “factories for producing mental illness and mental disorder”. However, it is also made apparent that issues extend beyond that of detention as even those able to “live in the community while their claims are assessed” continue to be treated harshly and with a lack of humanity. On temporary visas without workers’ rights, individuals are forced into situations that lead to destitution and hopelessness, as evidenced by an asylum seeker referenced in the Statement, “because we are not working we don’t pay taxes, we feel that we… don’t belong here because we can’t contribute to this country”. Compounding this, the Statement additionally highlights the fact that many asylum seekers relying on government support during the processing period are not able to access adequate accommodation and, hence, “almost 40 per cent [have] experienced food insecurity largely due to housing costs and income below the poverty line.”

For young people also, the personal stories of youth in detention strike a particularly relevant chord. Individuals such as an anonymous 17-year-old on Nauru eloquently portray the realities of life for those in “legal limbo”; a reality in which no one is willing to “hear [you] out and listen.” Hopefully this is where the Bishops’ Statement will be effective: in changing the minds of Australia’s youth. Whilst it cannot be realistically expected that large amounts of young people will read the Statement verbatim, the inevitable publicity that will follow the release of this document, whilst predictably negative in some media quarters, will hopefully bring attention to the reality of Australia’s immigration situation in a way free from toxic politicisation and spin.

As per the Statement, “a just and healthy society is one in which all people are able to live decently, and where all contribute to the needs of the weakest, including non-citizens.” This is the ideal that needs to become the norm. Australia has, for far too long, accepted the maltreatment of those least fortunate as the status quo. The assertion that, “underneath the surface of the Australian debate there are often unresolved fears of newcomers, other “races”, pluralism, conflict and change”, needs to be challenged and individuals, both young and old, need to “think about how [they] are like Jesus in this situation”; we need to act with care and compassion, not consternation and contempt.

Sarah Locker and Adam Mayers on behalf of the St. Clare’s Human Rights Group
**FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL**

**Year 12 students** have finished their school classroom education. After some 2600 days of school, Year 12 students celebrated with a Farewell Assembly on Thursday of this week and Graduation Mass on Friday. There will be reports on both these in the Term 4 Week 1 Edition of this School Newsletter.

Careers Adviser, Carol Healey, has been working overtime with all students, regardless of their 2016 destinations. Mrs Healey also coordinates the Graduation Evening and, at this time, she is still a bit concerned with the number of students who have not bought tickets and organised tables. **Most tables seat 16: this equates to 4 students and their respective 3 guests.** Students are to organise who sits together on the tables. The school recognises that there can be some special circumstances regarding a request for extra tickets – contact Mrs Healey or Mr Evans.

It is critical that students continue to **monitor their school emails** during the forthcoming Schools’ Spring. This time should have a balance of study, physical recreation and social events.

**Year 11 students** have completed their **Final Preliminary HSC Course Examinations.** Students who wish to vary their enrolment for the commencement of HSC Courses should only do so after receiving **ALL** results and consultation with current teachers, Curriculum Coordinator, Theresa Avery, and Careers’ Adviser, Carol Healy.

The **Year 11 Senior Retreat** will be held at the **Uniting Church Conference Centre, Elanora Heights,** in northern Sydney. It is a **MANDATORY EVENT** which will be held from Wednesday 21st October until Friday 23rd October. The cost of **$250 per student is now due.** Thank you to those many families who have already made this payment. If there are circumstances which make this payment difficult, please contact Principal, Peter Nicholls.

**Ian Evans** (Year 12 Student Coordinator) and **Bronwen Davidson** (Year 11 Student Coordinator)

---

**Public Speaking News**

On Wednesday 16th September, I had the pleasure of escorting two Year 10 girls; **Sarah Ward** and **Kylie Nielson** to the Rotary on Manning Public Speaking Competition. Both girls spoke exceptionally well and were complimented extensively by their audience and by the adjudicator. Sarah spoke about the power of the imagination, whilst Kylie spoke about the impact of war on society. Kylie was selected as the winner and she progresses to the next round of the competition. Congratulations to both girls.
Hospitality Happenings

Farewell to Carol Healey who has just finished teaching her last ever year 12 hospitality class. The afternoon was marked by presentations while enjoying a traditional Croque en Bouche. Firstly the students were presented with their customary master chef spoon and cake, the students then presented Carol with her new apron and a lovely bunch of flowers.

It was a very emotional afternoon as all were aware that either the students or Mrs Healey would be returning next year.

Best wishes were extended to Carol as she begins a new and exciting faze of her life as she retires from teaching. I am sure she will be just as busy with new ventures that come her way.

Laurent Gonfond and the hospitality team.
DEBATING RESULTS FOR THE DIOCESAN
CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

We have had a very busy time with the Diocesan Debating Championships as for each year group they are held on a different date and different venue. So it is a feat just to get there! Our senior team, which comprised of Jordan Brown, Damian Owen and Emily Lee travelled to St Paul’s Booragul and returned as runners-up in the Diocesan Senior Division. We are very proud of them and thankful that with the heavy load of senior work, they took the time out to represent our school and do so, in such an impressive manner. We also thank Mrs Busby for taking the team on the day. Well done seniors.

Our Year 7 debating team, consisting of Charlotte Hogan, Georgina Saad and Grace McCallum, travelled to St Peter’s Maitland and won their two out of three debates, so we are also very proud of them. They represented our school beautifully and are to be congratulated on such a fine result. We thank Mr Masters for being kind enough to drive the team to Maitland.

Our year 8 debating team members, Bianca Debona, Abbey Last and Miguel Guthridge, travelled all the way to St Catherine’s in Singleton and after three debates won the Finals, and therefore will be travelling to Sydney to the State Championships, which through an email today has been suggested is Friday the 6th November. This is very exciting for this team as it is their first time to move to the next level. Our gratitude is extended to Mr McKendry for driving the three debaters on the day. Good on you Year 8 Team!

Year 8 Debating Team: Bianca Debona, Abbey Last and Miguel Guthridge
This year St Clare’s Taree hosted the Year 9 Diocesan Debating, so we didn’t have to travel, as the other schools of our diocese came to us! We had 4 debates happening simultaneously for two rounds before the Finals so it was a very busy day for us! Our year 9 team won the Finals and for the third consecutive year, is off to Sydney, on what we think will be 6th November. (This is yet to be verified) Congratulations to the team, Finn Fagerstrom, Ben de Berg and Luke Strong, We are very proud of you and this accomplishment.
Hosting the Diocesan Debating for the year 9 debaters took a lot of organisation. Our recently retired English teacher, Mrs Glenda Varela helped tremendously, adjudicating all three rounds. We would also like to thank Mr Tim Masters who adjudicated the first two rounds and was an audience member for the Finals. Our Hospitality teachers, Mrs Carol Healey and Mr Laurent, EXCELLED in providing not only a delicious morning tea, but a marvellous lunch to ALL those who were involved in the day. Keeping everyone fed with culinary delights, contributed significantly to the success of the day. Also Mr Wayne McGrath brought in his little golden retriever puppies and cuddling them was a big hit with all the students, so a thank you must be extended to Mr McGrath!

The day could not have run so smoothly without the incredible team of year 9 volunteers who worked all day, looking after the students from other schools, timekeeping and chairing the day’s debates. They were incredible.

Newcastle and St Clare’s students playing with the Mr McGrath’s puppies
Of course a huge thank you to Mrs Busby without whom the day would not have run so smoothly. And of course, we mustn’t forget Mrs Carmel Tapley from the CSO who spent the whole day with us and very kindly helped co-adjudicate the Finals, so that no teacher from either school was put in that position.
St Clare’s Students Excel in Australian Geography Competition

This year over 76,000 students from 770 schools tested their geographical skills and knowledge in the 2015 Australian Geography Competition. While St. Clare’s entered only a small contingent of eight students, the results were most impressive.

Four students competed in the Intermediate Section. **Sidhant Joon, Luke Strong and Ben de Berg** all achieved a High Distinction, and **Clare Sephton** achieved a Credit.

Four students competed in the Senior Section. **Tom Dormor, Thomas Tsang and Thomas Dayoub** all achieved a High Distinction, and **Lucy McIntosh** achieved a Distinction.

The overall tally being 6 High Distinctions, 1 Distinction and 1 Credit from our 8 entrants. An outstanding set of results!

I congratulate all students who entered the competition for their positive attitude and willingness to be involved. I look forward to continued improvement and success next year.

**Bruce Bielby- HSIE Coordinator**
Congratulations to Ben Nicholls who has been nominated for the HSC Drama Showcase OnStage. This is a performance opportunity for the best HSC monologue and group pieces in NSW.

Ben was nominated for his monologue ‘A Craze’, which focuses on Lord Edmund Bode Polene Stachehilt and his desire for the latest trend. He discards his bicycle when he realises that automobiles are now the latest craze and begins to obsess over them.

Ben will find out in November if he has made the final program but his nomination is an outstanding achievement and he should be commended on his excellent performance.
Photos from the Manning Regional Art Gallery Excursion
**SPORTS NEWS**

**Golf Achievement:** On Friday 28th August, Pyper Hollis in Year 8 participated in the Diocesan Golf Tournament held at Newcastle Golf Club in Fern Bay. She competed in the Girls Championship Division playing 18 holes. Despite the tough weather conditions Pyper performed admirably and is to be congratulated on winning the Championship in the Girls division. Pyper was presented with certificates for winning the Individual Scratch score and Individual Net score. She also received a lesson with Jason Laws at his Academy at Newcastle Golf Club. Jason is recognised as one of the Top Golf instructors in the country so the lesson will be a great opportunity for Pyper to be guided by a professional in order to further improve her skills and technique within this sport. Congratulations Pyper on your success!!!
Recently **Sean Page** and **Sam Thomson** (Year 10) travelled to Welland, Canada to compete in the World Dragon Boat Championships. Both boys were selected in the Australian team and was the culmination of almost two years of preparation, involving regular fitness testing and training sessions. They travelled to Perth, Queensland and Canberra for training camps in preparation for the campaign. The Australian team was composed of paddlers from Sydney, Queensland, Canberra, Perth, Darwin and downtown Taree!!

Around 60 junior paddlers attended the event held from the 19th to the 23rd August. Sean and Sam were selected in the under 16’s division with Sean chosen as the male captain. This was an impressive appointment as it was voted by the team members! The boys arrived in Canada on the 10th August to attend a training camp. Over 300 Australian paddlers attended across all age divisions. The boys competed in the mixed and open teams over 2km, 1km, 500m and 200m distances. Junior teams competed against USA, Canada and Great Britain.

In the 2km distance Sean and Sam’s mixed and open team received gold medals racing in small boats (10 paddlers). Their team was faster than all under 18’s teams competing. In the 1km racing it was standard boats (20 paddlers). In the mixed division – gold again! In the opens division they combined with U18’s and gained silver.

The 500m and 200m racing was contested in small boats and the boys continued their reign of success, winning gold in both the mixed and opens boats. The Australian U16’s coaches, Mary Weaver and Tanya White, when asked about the teams’ success stated “There is something special about this team, they are up to any challenge thrown at them”. This was evident in the 500m open division where their team beat the Czech Republic, Germany and Sweden’s over 60’s opens boat who were racing in the same heats.

In total the boys came home with 7 gold and 1 silver medal and a truckload of national pride. Sean captained his team to spectacular victory. Throughout the competition both boys were selected to paddle in the “A” team placing them in the top 5 under 16 paddlers in Australia. Both are very proud of their achievements and are grateful to their local club, Manning River Dragons for their support. Congratulations Sean and Sam!!!!
The **St Clare’s Vocal Group** rehearses each Monday at lunch. You do not have to be the best singer, just be able to enjoy singing. It is a great way to meet other students whilst having fun. New members are still very welcome to join us.

WHAT: St Clare’s Vocal Group  
WHERE: Room 36  
WHEN: Monday Lunch 1.
Viva la Musica,  
Mrs Brown

**MATHS WORKSHOP** - Mathematics Workshop provides the opportunity for every student to obtain assistance and support in improving their understanding of mathematics. Four mathematics teachers are available each week to explain the concepts you are finding difficult or give assistance to enable you to complete your homework, assignments or any work that you may have missed due to absence from class.

**WHEN IS IT ON?**  **Wednesday lunchtime** - every week.  
Bring your lunch!

**WHERE?** Room 10  
We hope to see you there!  
Mrs Julie Rowsell - Mathematics Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>5/10</th>
<th>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>Help Urgently Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Jackie Wiseman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>8/10</td>
<td>Monica McMullen &amp; Karen Larkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Jenny Chippett &amp; Pam Squires</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VACANCIES STILL EXIST  
MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
IF YOU CAN ASSIST PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL KINGSFORD  
ST CLARE’S CANTEEN: 6591 2104, HOME: 6552 1857 OR  
VIA EMAIL: cheryl.kingsford@mn.catholic.edu.au
PARENT & STUDENT REMINDERS:

LEAVE NOTES & STUDENT MESSAGES: It would be appreciated if parents/guardians would send in a **written note** if their child needs to leave early for appointments etc. Notes should be handed in at the front office in the **morning before roll call**. If parents/guardians need to notify their child of a change of afternoon arrangements, it is necessary to **phone the school prior to 2:25 pm** (End of Lunch – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) or **prior to 1:55 pm** (End of Lunch – **Thursday Sport**) as it is often difficult to locate students if their last lesson is a PE Prac or there has been a room change.

Students cannot be collected from the school during school hours by **anyone other than a parent or guardian without written permission**. Thank you.

LATE NOTES: Lateness to school is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence. **Arriving Late for school requires a handwritten note from a parent/carer or a phone call from a parent/carer** or the absence is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLINIC: Students are reminded that if they are unwell whilst at school they are to advise their teacher who will then send them to the Front Office. If necessary, the office staff will contact a parent while the student waits in the Clinic. **Students are not to contact parents on their mobile phones** as this leaves teachers and office staff unaware of the situation and is also in breach of the school policy – use of mobile phones. Thank you.

COMING EVENTS

Term 4

Week 1 Friday  9/10 ♦ Year 7 2016 Orientation Day

Week 2 Monday 12/10 ♦ HSC Written Examinations Commence

Week 3 Wednesday 21/10 ♦ Senior Retreat – Year 11

Week 5 Friday 6/11 ♦ HSC Written Examinations Conclude

Week 6 Friday 13/11 ♦ Year 12 Graduation

Week 10 Sunday 6/12 ♦ Carols by Candlelight, Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree Activities commence 3:30 pm – Carols from 6 pm

Week 11 Wednesday 16/12 ♦ HSC results released
18 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

**PDHPE Uniform Evaluation and Regulation**

At the beginning of Term 3 St Clare’s High School trialled a PE uniform amendment:

The students in Yr. 7 - 10 who have a PDHPE practical lesson or PASS Practical lesson on a **Monday** or **Tuesday** will be permitted to wear their sports uniform all day. If the student wears their sports uniform then they are required to bring their school shoes in their bag for other Practical subjects such as Science & TAS due to Work Health & Safety regulations.

**The evaluation of this trial:**

**The TAS Staff** – Have provided lockers for students to store their shoes; however this creates a WHS danger because a teacher is required to leave the classroom possibly multiple times to initially unlock lockers for shoes for each child as they present to class. This situation also excludes students from class and additional supervision and activities need to be created.

Overall this uniform amendment has been too difficult to enforce and many students forget to bring the correct footwear. Therefore during Term 4:

*The students in Yr. 7 - 10 who have a PDHPE practical lesson or PASS Practical lesson will be permitted to wear their sports uniform on a Monday or Tuesday **ONLY** if they are wearing fully leather upper sports shoes.*

*(The students must be wearing fully leather upper sports shoes all day if in sports uniform.)*

The students still have the option to wear their full school uniform and bring practical clothing to change in to (this does not have to be the school sports uniform it can be casual T-shirt, shorts and sport shoes.)

On **Thursdays (SPORTS DAY)** if the student has practical subjects ie Science & TAS and does not have leather sport shoes then they will be required to bring leather school shoes.

Term 4 brings the **compulsory** wearing of a **CAP** OR **HAT**. All students in Yr. 7 – 10 **MUST** wear a cap or a hat that is sun safe (preferably the school cap/visa) in every PE and sport lesson.

A phasing in will occur for the first 2 weeks of term 4 and then after this a penalty will apply.

Karina Hogan  
**PDHPE Coordinator**

Phillip Chalmers  
**TAS Coordinator**

Peter Nicholls  
**Principal**
Ten Common questions about the BYOD computer Scheme @ St Clare’s High School
Phillip Carney
Learning Technology Coordinator

1. Can I buy a Chrome book computer because they are cheaper?

Answer: NO. A chromebook is a device which is designed specifically to browse on the internet and collect information BUT it has no processing ability and can’t run programs/functions that we require at school at this time.

2. Do I need to buy Microsoft Office with the device?

Answer: No. Under the license agreement the school has with Microsoft, each student can load five (5) copies of Office 365 on to devices they have at home. These will remain active while ever the student remains enrolled in the diocese. Office 365 has all of the productivity software that is required especially OneNote. You must use your school email address to do this and when you leave school, these licenses will cease to work (follow this link to our webpage to see instructions on how to do this)

3. Will the device last me right through school?

Answer: No. With the changes in technology over time, you could only expect a device to last you for three (3) years. Whilst the device may still be working, it will be slow in comparison with newer devices and their battery life will have diminished greatly.

4. The school set minimum specifications and gave examples that span a large price range. Why was this?

Answer: Whilst consulting with parents to establish this scheme, parents wanted a range of options that allowed them to decide what to spend. In reality, the cheaper devices will not last as well as the more expensive models and will not have all of the features that are desirable. Knowing that as parents you want the best for your children I can offer this advice. Features such as touch screens will be advantageous to your child but cost more. An active digitiser/pen is also high on the wish list/recommended, but again comes at additional costs. As parents, the economic decision is yours to make.

5. I have two students in the school. Should I buy them the same device?

Answer: If you have children in year 7-9, then the required device would not need to have technical capability of a device required in years 10-12. This means you may choose a basic device for your child in the junior classes and a better machine for your child in the senior school.

6. How much warranty should I buy?

Answer: I would expect a device to last for three (3) and recommend you buy warranty for this time frame. Consumer laws in NSW give 12 months warranty and the additional years need to be negotiated with your supplier.

7. Should I buy insurance for the devices?

Answer: I suggest parents insure the devices for accidental damage and theft/loss. Because of the bus travel that takes place at St Clare’s, and the possibility of damage at school this is a good option. Parents need to investigate what cover may be available as part of their household contents insurance or they can take out specific cover.
8. Year 7 and year 10 are in the BYOD scheme but my child is in year 8 next year, Can I join the scheme?

**Answer:** It will be the expectation that students in year 7 and 10 next year have their own device at school, fully charged, every day. Curriculum will be designed with this expectation for these years. If a child in another year (like 8 or 9) brings a device, they will be allowed to use it in class with the teacher’s discretion.

9. Will I need to put virus protection software on the device?

**Answer:** At St Clare’s we use a proxy server that is itself protected from viruses and we use Microsoft security essentials which is free to use. Parents may choose to use different virus protection for the device at home at additional personal cost. Virus protection of some kind is required.

10. I want an apple device not a Microsoft device. Can I get one?

**Answer:** Whilst I can’t say no, parents must realise that all of the diocesan systems are built on a Microsoft backbone and limited support can be given to other devices. Certainly some features of apple devices will function but if students are required to complete work in a given format then their device must be able to do this.

ALL DEVICES MUST BE ABLE TO RUN MICROSOFT ONENOTE.

Ipad style devices are NOT suitable.

If you have any more questions please send them to phillip.carney@mn.catholic.du.au
And I will share the answers in an up-coming newsletter
Do you support students that have a disability /medical condition/ mental health disorder that you think may make it difficult for you to interview for a position or perhaps perform at work? We invite you to attend the 2015 Careers Forum for Students with a Disability and encourage the students you support to attend as well.

Date: Monday 21st September between 10am-3pm
Time: 10am-3pm
Location: UTS Aerial Function Centre

The day will feature:

- Keynote address from Nastasia Campanella (newsreader from Triple J)
- Speaker from Beyond Blue with experience managing a hidden disability in a competitive workforce.
- Graduate Panel Q&A session
- Networking Panel with inclusive employers
- Employer panel with Q&A, information about internships

The employers involved on the day include IBM, PwC, Macquarie Group, CBA, Suncorp, Cisco

You will hear about the challenges experienced by those who have successfully walked the path. You will gain an understanding of strategies and plans that you need to develop to improve your employability.

This event is open to students from all universities in NSW so if you are interested, mark it down in your diary and register now so you don’t miss out. This event is free and includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Please see the following link for more information:


This is a collaborative event bought to you by the previous host Sydney University, current host UTS and future host ACU. We look forward to seeing you on 21st September.
Course in Aboriginal Languages Cert I Gathang

National Code: 10218NAT

We are seeking expressions of interest to engage in the above course.

Who can participate?
Aboriginal people from and/or associated with the Biripi, Guringay and Worimi nations who want to refresh or learn their cultural language.

This course can assist participants to:
- Increase access to Aboriginal culture.
- Increase knowledge and respect of Aboriginal heritage.
- Increase self-esteem as an Aboriginal person.
- Strengthen connection to culture and identity.

Course location, start dates and times:
- Taree TAFE campus Room AG03
- Tuesday 6th October 2015
- From 4.30pm till 7.30pm
- Room AG03

For this course to run we will need 10 participants as a minimum.

This course will run once per week at three hours per session.

To help with enrolments please bring 100 points of identification (license, medicare card, birth certificate, passport etc).

If you are interested in doing this course and have not yet registered please contact the Aboriginal Learning Circle Coordinator in your area below

Mandy Davis – Forster/Taree

M: 0400 810 982 E: Amanda.davis28@tafensw.edu.au

nctafe.aboriginallearningcircle.com
facebook.com/alcnctafe

Aboriginal Learning Circle
north coast TAFE
RTO CODE: 90010
Proudly presents

Spring Parenting Conference 2015

You are warmly invited to attend one or both of these special events!

DINNER EVENT
An opportunity to gather and celebrate parenthood.
Enjoy a dinner with psychologist and parenting expert, Dr John Irvine and celebrate the partnership between parents and schools.

October 31
Saturday 31 October
6.30pm for 7pm
Green Room, Wests New Lambton
Hobart Road, New Lambton
Cost $60, includes 3 course meal.
Cash bar available.
Please advise of any dietary requirements.
Limited places available.
For tickets phone
Cath Garrett-Jones on
4979 1200
RSVP by 10 October.

FREE EVENT
LIMITED PLACES
PARENTING “SPRING CLEAN”
with psychologist and parenting consultant, ANDREW FULLER + other guest speakers. Learn about,
• unlocking genius and managing behaviour
• resilient parenting
• transitioning to Year 7
• navigating social media
• studying and time management.

November 01
Sunday 1 November
9.30am for 10am start - 2.30pm
St Aloysius Catholic Primary School
24 Heritage Drive, Chisholm
Registration essential. Visit http://domn.link/1JzLpj2
to reserve your place today.

For further info contact
Cath Garrett-Jones
Parent Liaison and Resource Officer
P 4979 1303
E cath.garrett-jones@mn.catholic.edu.au