Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare’s

Welcome to Term 4! I hope you and your sons and daughters had a wonderful holiday and that everyone is ready for a term of fun and learning.

During the last week of Term 3 we celebrated the Year 12 Mass and Final Year 12 assembly. Both gatherings were a great success. The Mass led by Father George from Taree, Father Greg from Forster and Deacon Vince Ryan was a moving event which acknowledged the gifts that God has given to each of our students. It also provided a platform by which the senior leaders of 2015 handed on their legacy of leadership to the newly elected leaders for 2016.

The Final Year 12 assembly was filled with great memories and lots of fun. It was great to see the Year 7’s of 2010 celebrating their time at St Clare’s with respect and joy. Their videos, awards and quizzes were funny and enjoyable and their demeanour as a group over the last few days of term 3 was exemplary. They leave a great legacy for others to follow.

This week I have seen a number of Year 12 in the staffroom, library and grounds working with their teachers to ensure that they leave no stone unturned as they seek to achieve the best result possible to enable them get where they want to go. All were in good spirits and most indicated that they had revised diligently over the past few weeks and were confident that they would cope well with the HSC exams.

HSC exams commence at the school on Monday the 12th of October with English and conclude with the Visual Arts exam on Wednesday November 4. No doubt there will be some nervous energy expended over the next 3 weeks as students complete the last formal tasks of their secondary education. As always our committed staff are available to assist students and their families with any matters that may impact on the Year 12 students during and beyond the exam period.

An increase in student numbers and the retirement of some long serving staff has created the need for the school to advertise for new staff. Next week we will interview and employ two new maths teachers. Further interviews for a variety of teaching staff will occur in following weeks.
Our group of exchange students have returned from their immersion trip to Japan. They had a wonderful time. Our young people and staff received outstanding care and attention from our Japanese friends who went out of their way to make their stay an enjoyable learning experience. I have included a shot of the group just before they flew out of the country. A fuller report of the trip will be published in the near future.

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Mrs Lauranne Byrne, a former teacher, Pastoral Care Worker, parent and friend of Holy Name School and St Clare’s School communities. Lauranne and Greg’s seven children were educated at both schools. A warm and faith-filled person, Lauranne played a significant role in the Catholic Community of Forster and its surrounds for many years. I extend our sympathies and prayers to her husband Greg and his family at this sad time.

We also extend our sympathies to Kyson and Tasma Henry and the Willan family on the passing of their Grandfather Allan.

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.
YR 12 FAREWELL ASSEMBLY
Mass Times

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

St Therese's, Lansdowne
Cundle Rd, Lansdowne
Saturday Vigil: 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

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

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

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

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

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)

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

FOUND: In lost property box – One hand crocheted blanket. Please see the Front Office if this belongs to you.

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
Year 12 students commence their Written HSC Examinations next Monday, 12th October, 2015.

Throughout this examination time, families and friends can provide both practical and spiritual support by:

- monitoring the examination timetable and ensuring that an early departure from home will have candidates arrive, park and become settled before entering the examination hall.
- offering prayers that students might do their best while recognising that it is unrealistic and unfair to expect any prayer of petition to produce Band 6 answers without the required prior preparation. We might say -

Loving God, be with our HSC students now, as they prepare for their examinations. Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given them and for the opportunity of education. Calm their nerves and anxiety, help them to recall all that they have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions to the very best of their abilities.

Holy Spirit, sit with them in these examinations - and always. We make these requests in Jesus' name. Amen.

As there is still time for ample revision, students are advised that BOSTES has released the HSC TEST YOURSELF app. This app can be accessed from GOOGLE PLAY or APPLE’S APP STORE. The app is FREE but the downloadable revision tests vary in price from $1.99.
to $3.99. This is yet another tool to assist in preparing for examinations. The majority of the 24 subjects covered by this app are being studied by our 2015 and 2016 HSC candidates. Year 12 students are reminded to return the relevant HSC text books on the day of the examination of a subject. Year 11 students are about to commence HSC courses and, understandably, require these books. During the next few weeks, Year 12 students should continue to monitor emails. Those few students who are yet to finalise Graduation tickets and seating should do so at the earliest opportunity.

Year 11 students are in a transition period now having completed their Final Preliminary HSC Course Examinations and are currently receiving counselling, during Week 1, regarding advisable subject and level changes for the commencement of HSC coursework. 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. Week 2 is also being disrupted as a large number of Year 11 students attend the 3 day PDHPE Camp, while Week 3 features the formative and informative 3 day Senior Retreat.

This 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.

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

CCC Athletics September 11th 2015

Last term I had the very great pleasure of travelling to Homebush with a group of 13 students from St Clare’s as the Diocesan Team Manager for CCC Athletics.

Our students performed exceptionally well, with several gaining Personal Bests on the day and quite a few gaining medals. Their sportsmanship was outstanding and they were a credit to St Clares.

Congratulations to

Josh Argall  Bronze Medal in Javelin, Silver Medal in Shot Put and Gold Medal in Discus
Charisse Carney 16+Girls Triple Jump
Hugh Carney  6th in 14 Boys Shot Put
Brodie McCann 16+ Girls Triple Jump, Bronze Medal in 17 Girls Shot Put
Jaide McGilvray 12 Girls 200m and Long Jump
Damien Owen  Bronze Medal 15+ 1500m Walk
Molly Reid  13 Girls 200m
Benjamin Relf  4th in 17 Boys 800m and a huge PB
Jessica Relf  13 Girls 800m
Addison Sharpe  5th in 17+ Boys Javelin
Joshua Stacey  4th in the 13 Boys 400m and 800m
Cooper Talbot  Silver Medal in 17+ 110m Hurdles
Alicia Williams  5th in 13 Girls Long Jump and 7th in the 100m
Well done to everyone!

Karen McCann
The St Clare’s Vocal Group rehearse 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

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>12/10</th>
<th>Help Urgently Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>13/10</td>
<td>Help Urgently Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>14/10</td>
<td>Help Urgently Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>15/10</td>
<td>Help Urgently Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>16/10</td>
<td>Help Urgently Required</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.
Year 7/8 Touch News

St Clare’s took three 7/8 touch teams to the All Schools tournament held at Taree on the 10th of September. We had two boy’s teams and one girl team that competed on the day. All teams played well considering the bad conditions they had to deal with on the day. There was a mixture of results throughout the day but unfortunately none of our teams received enough points to make it through to the finals. Our boy’s teams came up against some teams that have been training for quite some time so they are to be congratulated on their efforts. Some of the girls were lacking in experience, however, they were eager to get in and have a go and they continuously improved throughout the day. Thanks to Joseph Hinton and Lachlan Cross who came down and assisted in refereeing and Kyle Yarnold who assisted in coaching.

Back Row: Mr Evans, Cody Clarke, Ryan Vella, Rourke Banham, Joshua Stacey, Keiran Fowler, Luke Martin
Front row: Fraser Crossingham, Kane Horsington, Brodie Guppy, Ryan Young, Daniel Summers

Front row: Pat Luckie, Jacob Cross, Jake Jones, Sam Moy, Travers Anderson, Matt Luckie, Isaac Cross
Miss Rowsell, Logan Towers, Chloe Woods, Mia Lyons, Karla Berg, Emma Yarnold

Jessika Jobson, Molly Simmons, Alicia Williams

Ebony Woodfield, Madeline Owen, Bianca Debono

COMING EVENTS

Term 4

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 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.
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 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 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
Is your child at school or starting school next year?
Would $500 assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

For more information
Phone or SMS your name and postcode to 1300 610 355
Email: saverplus@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered by The Smith Family in Greater Taree. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.