



MARIST COLLEGE NORTH SHORE

270 MILLER STREET, NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060 P: 9957 5000 E: northshore@maristcollege.com
www.maristcollege.com

2 February 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to you at the end of Week 1 of the new school year. We have had a most positive week and one that is setting us up for another strong year.

Each year the student leaders and the College Leadership Team work together to create a theme for the year. This year the theme is *Imagine* and as usual it is surrounded by the core school values. This scriptural theme was chosen to encourage everyone to be genuine in their words and actions and to aim high, always striving to reach their full potential.

Over the last 3 years we have also used our famous school mantras.

You may remember these being:

- *Every day counts, every period counts*
- *It's all about learning*
- *We have a growth mindset*



This year there is no mantra as such!

Rather over the last 12 months College staff and students have created a Vision for Learning through much consultation and consideration of the ambitions, goals and values placed on learning at MCNS.

Dare to Be

is our school's Vision for Learning.

Dare to Be is inspirational, educational, vivid, easily recalled, future oriented, has been derived from the school community (not by an outsourced advertising firm) and as such is based on our shared values and belief for your sons. The teachers here and those students consulted wanted a school where learners are challenged to:

- ***Dare to Be Creative***
- ***Dare to Be Curious***
- ***Dare to Be Hardworking***

Our hope ultimately is the call: Dare to Be Yourself

Dare to Be is a Vision that teachers and to students will use set a high standard and to strive for this standard. Dare to Be may have many applications but its core message is in regard to student learning. We want the boys to really strive in their learning.

In introducing this Vision at the opening College assembly this week, it was impressive to see 830 boys repeating and making meaning of this Vision for Learning with energy and enthusiasm.

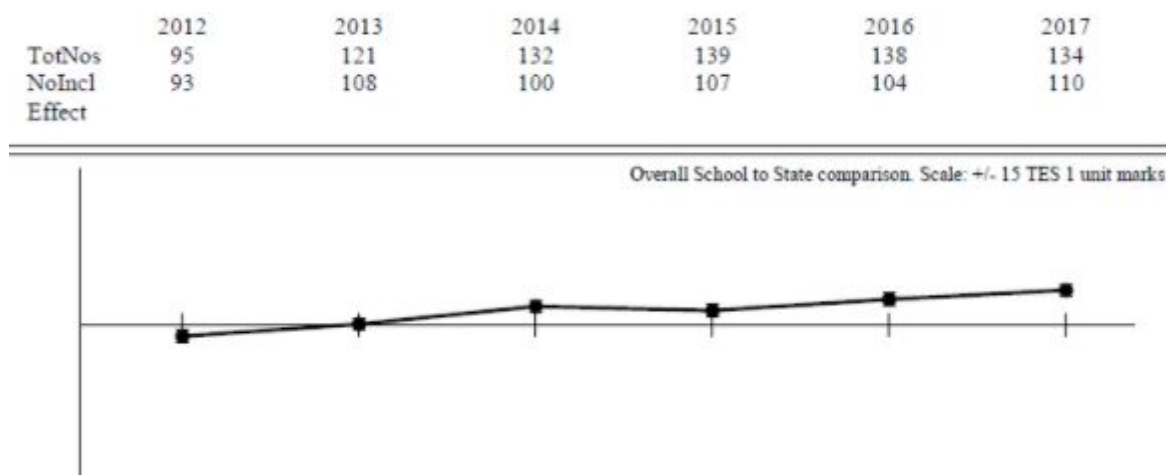
Dare to Be

Teachers and students will be working this year to connect this aspiration to their firmest beliefs about learning. A number of our staff professional development activities will be devoted to formalising the MCNS core understanding of what leads to strong, deep learning; otherwise known as **School Wide Pedagogy**. We will, at the same time, be drawing a response from students as to what makes their learning experiences most effective.

Our work in developing our School Wide Pedagogy is underpinned by the Educational leaders from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) with whom we have been working throughout 2017.

2017 HSC Results

Trends 8 11077 Marist College North Shore 1 Overall School Result



I could not have been more delighted with our HSC results for 2017. They are another set of results which have been on the rise particularly over the the last four years. The graph above shows a summary of our results where the horizontal line indicates that the students achieved as expected. Our last four years are all above expectations and increasingly improving.

Each year for four years we have said that the results were great but would not get better. We thought that 2016 was as good as it would get and then look at the improvement in 2017. I spoke to the boys in years 9 to 12 this week and made the point that our results can get even better. We do need to set our goals, have self belief and work hard.

A summary of the high points of the 2017 HSC:

- Best number of courses above state average in 17 years with 79% above state average.
- Two students listed as Top All rounders: Matthew Failla and Sebastian Hughes
- One Top Achiever: Alexander Marrazza placed 18th in Standard English
- Best number of Bands 5 and 6 in the MCNS history.
- Least number of Bands 1, 2 and 3 in 7 years.

Click [here](#) for the HSC Highlights.

New Staff to MCNS

I am really pleased to have secured the employment of the following staff. Each of them brings a strength in their teaching area and some really strong educational and life experiences:

Mr Gabriel Rulewski	Solidarity Coordinator
Ms Samantha Slattery	Drama teacher
Mr Simon Jenkins	PDHPE Teacher
Mr Andres Garcia	English Teacher
Ms Lee Liao	Science Teacher
Ms Julie Niland	Hospitality Teacher
Ms Jo Talwar	Literacy Teacher
Ms Ruchi Arora	Teachers' Aide
Mr Tristan Brown	TAS (Technology) Assistant

MCNS Annual Improvement Plan

GOAL	WHAT & HOW
Foster the personal and spiritual growth of students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students participate in Year of Youth programs.2. Register and prepare students for WYD19.3. Refine teaching programs to reflect contemporary pedagogical practices.
Learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Integration of Literacy strategies across departments.2. Implement the new HSC3. Newman Phase 2: Differentiated assessment, pre assessment, monitoring student growth through data, flexible groupings, GEO 1 & 2 Teacher professional training for teaching Gifted and Talented students.4. Continual professional learning focused on using data to measure growth.5. Staff Learning (Professional Learning/ Performance Growth in Action - PGIa)
School Wide Pedagogy	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Build on the School Vision for Learning - <i>Dare to Be</i> - to create agreed School Wide Pedagogy.

Some of our goals for your sons

Each student to commit to having a full attendance by the end of the year. If you son has soft days off each term they build up over his time at the school. For example a boy who has just four days off per term will be missing 16 days in the year and over six years amounts to 1.9 school terms or almost a semester lost over the course of his time at the college. No soft days.

The MCNS Literacy Plan is rolling out in earnest this year. We have been working successfully to raise the literacy standards of our students over a number of years. This year we have employed a Literacy Teacher to work with Ms McGovern to raise further the students' abilities with literacy.

We commence the second year of our introduction of the Newman Selective Gifted Education Program. Ms O'Brien has worked tirelessly throughout 2017 with Newman teachers, all staff and students on our understanding and implementation of Gifted Education. Newman moves now into Year 8 with an exciting year ahead where the students will be extended and enriched in all their subjects culminating in a celebration of their achievements at the Newman Symposium in Term 4.

We want our students to work hard. You know from your life experience that nothing worthwhile was ever achieved without hard work. We are asking the boys to commit more to their schooling. To work harder. Also to Dare to be...

Dates for your calendar

Come and join the Parents and Friends in welcoming the new Year 7 parents to the college on 23 February at 6.30 pm. This will be preceded by a meeting with the Year 7 parents in the College Hall at 5.30 pm. Click [here](#) to register for catering purposes for the P&F Welcome.

Bring your son to the High Achievers' Parent meeting on Wednesday 28 February. Come and listen to what these top HSC 2017 students did in order to succeed in their studies.

Other important dates:

DATE	EVENT
Monday 5 February	Swimming Carnival at Bradfield Park at 8.30am
Monday 12 - Wednesday 14 February	Year 7 Camp
Tuesday 20 February	Year 9 Information Meeting at 6.00pm
	Year 11 Information Meeting at 7.00pm
Tuesday 23 February	Year 7 Information and Welcome at 5.30pm
	P&F 2018 Welcome drinks at 6.30pm
Tuesday 27 February	Invitational Swimming Carnival - Swim Squad 6.30pm-9pm
Wednesday 28 February	High Achievers - Parent & Son Meeting 6pm-7pm
	P&F Meeting 7pm-8pm
Friday 2 March	Early Departure at 12.45pm for Years 7-10 Open Day Preparation
Saturday 3 March	Open Day 10.00am-1.30pm
Tuesday 6 March	Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm-8pm
Monday 19 - Thursday 22 March	Year 9 Camp
Friday 30 March	Good Friday

I am really excited about the learning being done at MCNS and the growth in our learning culture. Let's work together in 2018 to confidently build the learning for each student.

Yours with enthusiasm



Tony Duncan
Headmaster