



MARIST COLLEGE NORTH SHORE

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www.maristcollege.com

20 November 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the beginning of next year, I wanted to keep you informed of important events, dates and times in the first term of 2020.

Key Forthcoming Dates

School Office

The school office will close on **Wednesday 18 December**.

School Office will open on Monday 20 January to Thursday 23 January. Please note that the office will be closed on Friday 24 January and Monday 27 January.

Commencement

All teachers return to school on **Tuesday 28 January**.

Year 7 commence on **Wednesday 29 January at 9:00am** in full summer school uniform. Students will be informed of their allocated House and Tutor Group. **Students will be dismissed at 12.00pm.**

NEW STUDENTS Years 8 to 11 are also required to attend on **Wednesday 29 January at 10:00am** in full school uniform for a short one hour induction with their House Coordinators.

Welcome

On **Friday 14 February at 5.00pm** we will hold a Newman Information and Year 7 Welcome and Information Session. Following this, the Parents and Friends Welcome Drinks will be held **from 6:30pm**. All parents are invited. Hopefully, many of our new parents will be able to enjoy this pleasant social evening.

Uniform Shop

The last date to purchase any uniform this year will be **Wednesday 11 December 10.00am-2.00pm**.

To purchase last minute uniform items in the new year, the Uniform Shop will be open on:

Tuesday 21 January 10.00am - 2.00pm,

Wednesday 22 January 10.00am - 2.00pm

Wednesday 29 January 10.00am - 2.00pm

Swimming Carnival

The College Swimming Carnival will be held on **Monday 3 February** at Botany Pool. Students will travel to and from the venue via hired buses. More details to follow Week 1 Term 1 2020.

Students must wear their sports uniform and bring their House tee shirt, water, sunscreen and caps or hats are essential. Further information will follow in the new year.

Commencement Mass

The Commencement Mass will take place on **Wednesday 19 February**. It will be held in St Mary's Church, North Sydney at **9:15am**. All parents are welcome to attend.

Year 7 Camp

In Term 1 all of Year 7 will spend some time away from the normal school routine and be involved in alternative activities.

The **Year 7 Camp** is being held from **Monday 10 February to Wednesday 12 February**. The students will be accompanied by their Pastoral Care Tutors and Year 11 Peer Support Leaders. Further information will be provided closer to the date.

General Information

School Absences

It is important that the attendance of each student enrolled in the school is accounted for every day. I stress to parents the importance of the following procedures:

- If your son is absent then please **phone 9957 5000 option #1 or email the school by 9.00am, reception@maristcollege.com** to inform us.
- Please make requests for leave from school to the Principal, *well in advance* of the proposed leave. For leave of 1-9 days please email the Principal requesting the leave at northshore@maristcollege.com. **For leave from 10 to 100 days, please use the Application for Leave form available on our College website.**
- Please try to avoid requesting leave during term time as this will disrupt your son's studies.

Academic Program

Learning is the key issue for all schools. It is important that the students start the year with clear goals and a strong sense of direction for their academic pursuits. We want them to enjoy learning and to gain as much as they can. Teachers will do their part, but it is essential that the students develop good work practices and establish positive learning routines – and they must start at the beginning of the year, not leave it until next term when exams are scheduled. I ask you to encourage your son to develop helpful habits of homework and study. Please read the College Diary which outlines valuable information about study and homework. Home and school must cooperate and work together if we are to ensure the boys achieve positive learning outcomes. NESAs is responsible for the policies and procedures that govern Preliminary HSC and HSC studies and assessment; it is worthwhile pursuing NESAs's website.

College Diary

Each boy receives a College Diary at the start of each year. We update the contents of the Diary each year and ask you to read through it and sign the sections that require your acknowledgement and signature. Proformas covering *Absences, Non-participation in Sport or Practical PDHPE, Incorrect Uniform, and the Dispensing of Medication* are found at the back of the Diary. Please use these as required. The Diary is an invaluable resource for students, staff and parents. I ask you to:

- Check your son's diary regularly.
- Encourage him to keep it well organised and neat, free of graffiti and unnecessary stickers.
- Sign the diary each week.
- Use the diary as an initial form of communication with teachers – writing brief notes or comments as required.

For their part, tutors and teachers will:

- Check diaries regularly.
- Instruct boys to record all homework and due dates for tasks and assignments in them.
- Use the diary to write notes to parents.

All students and parents are required to sign the **Student Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement 2020**.

It is imperative then that both teachers and parents monitor the use of the diary.

Textbooks

In 2020 Marist College North Shore students will order textbooks through publishing company Champion Books. Students are to visit the website www.champion.com.au, click on "order now" find Marist College North Shore and enter the four digit code **T5KV**. Ordering and payment is handled directly with Champion and books will be sent directly to the student's address. Ordering before **20 December 2019 will ensure books will be delivered in time for the start of the school year in 2020.**

Families will have the option of ordering many books as either soft copy (electronic) or hard copy texts or both. **Marist College encourages the use of soft copies as a continuation of 21st Century learning practice.**

Uniform and Presentation

The students are our College ambassadors whenever they're in public and I'm sure it is no surprise to you that the wider community notices our students and is very quick to comment on them, their appearance and behaviour. I ask that you monitor closely your son's' wearing of the College uniform. A student's level of **self-respect** and **respect for his school** is quite obvious in the way he wears his uniform. Uniforms are not a fashion statement, and as the name implies, consistency and uniformity are essential requirements. Please insist that your son:

- wears his full uniform, clean, complete and pressed, each day;
- cleans his black leather school shoes regularly;
- boys choosing to wear shorts during Terms 1 and 4 must ensure they have their socks worn correctly
- does not wear jewellery;
- adheres to the College requirements with regard to hair style and grooming.

We want all our students to be proud of their school and to show to others that they are.

Communication

Effective communication between home and school is of vital importance.

Please direct any enquiries you may have as follows;

Academic: Please direct communication to your son's teacher, or the Subject Coordinator, if you still require assistance please contact the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Wellbeing: Please direct communication to your son's Tutor or House Coordinator.

Sport: Mr Peter Giles

Finance: Mr Mark Brooks

College Website - Email Contact

A list of Department Heads and other Offices within the College can be found on the College website www.maristcollege.com enabling you to email these staff members directly. Alternatively, for any teachers not listed individually, please call the school to leave a voicemail for the staff member, this will be emailed to the relevant staff member as a sound file. Recent letters sent home to parents are retained [here](#) on the College website for reference.

Communication from Teachers

Please be realistic about teachers responding to your enquiry. Teachers spend most of their day in class, on yard duty or on other supervision. The students they deal with numbers in the hundreds, so please be patient as you wait for a response from the teacher who is investigating your concern. Please use the diary as an easy, quick form of communication, and teachers will endeavour to reply promptly.

Fees and Levies

Fee schedules for 2020 will be posted on our website www.maristcollege.com by the end of the school year. We rely on the **prompt payment** of all fees and charges to ensure the College's own financial viability. No charges are optional. Please be conscious of this and keep to payment deadlines. As is always the case, we are happy to assist families who are experiencing financial difficulties or those who wish to commence an instalment plan. If this is the case please write or phone and speak confidentially to the Business Manager or to Tony Duncan, Principal.

BYOD

Information regarding specifications of device was communicated to parents at the information evening held earlier this term. A copy of this information can be found on our website and link shared [here](#).

Stationery List

Information regarding stationery can be found on our website and link shared [here](#).

This has been a lengthy communication, but I wanted to ensure that all parents receive this information for the start of the year, and you are quite clear about forthcoming significant events and standard expectations. All this information and much more can be found on our College website at www.maristcollege.com.

I look forward to having your son join our Marist community next year and I wish you a safe and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Duncan
Principal