



# MARIST COLLEGE NORTH SHORE

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19 August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 12,

The College wrote to you at the end of Term 1 regarding the cancellation of Year 12 retreat due to COVID-19. Due to ongoing restrictions and guidance provided by the Government and Sydney Catholic Schools, it has not been possible to reschedule the retreat.

A significant aspect of the Year 12 retreat is the letter written by parents/carers to their sons. All families had previously been asked to send in this letter to the College and as the retreat is not going ahead, these will now be mailed back to those families who were able to send them in to us.

Experience from previous years highlights the power and impact these letters can have, as such, the College recommends that you give this letter to your son sometime over the next month in the lead up to their graduation. The letter will be something he can hold onto that reminds him of the pride and love you have for him. It is an excellent opportunity, especially in these uncertain times, to affirm his strengths, gifts and talents.

It can be a challenge to think of how to introduce and give the letter to your son. One suggestion is to be direct and honest. Make a 'fuss' of the situation. Take some time to be with your son and discuss the purpose of the letter and then give him time to read the letter and reflect on what it says. However you decide to give the letter to your son, the important thing is that it is authentic.

These letters can sometimes evoke a powerful emotional response and the College Counsellor and House Coordinators are available to check in with your son if you think that is needed.

If you did not have a chance to write and send in your letter, you are encouraged to do so and then give it to your son as part of the process involved in bringing to a close his secondary schooling.

If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gabriel Rulewski**  
Acting Director of Faith Formation

**Brigid Taylor**  
Acting Principal