

Holy Cross College, Ryde

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www.holycrosscollege.org

6 February 2016

Dear Parents of Year 10,

On behalf of the Year 10 team and myself, it is my pleasure to welcome you back to Holy Cross College for the 2017 School year. We look forward to a successful year working together with you and your son.

The team for 2017 is an ensemble of highly skilled, reliable and diverse teachers. I have absolute confidence that the Holy Cross Talk (HCT) teachers assembled to work with your sons this year will provide guidance and support as your sons continue to grow as young Patrician men. Your son's Homeroom teacher will also be a most vital means of communication, between home and the College. Our Homeroom team this year is as follows:

Ms Stephanie Llave

Mr Raul Saez

Ms Sabnam Kanta

Ms Jenna Belcastro/

Mr George Harapa

Ms Taran Kaur

Ms Moya Sasala

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moya.sasala@syd.catholic.edu.au

Delany

Dwyer

Gallagher

Hannigan

Hannigan

Fogarty

Phelan

Throughout the year there will be many pastoral themes and issues relevant to year 10 the cohort will address. Some of the consistent messages conveyed to your sons will include: the importance of being punctual to school and class, being well-organised, polite and respectful towards others, a commitment to striving for academic excellence, neat grooming and wearing the correct College uniform with pride, to name just a few. We will encourage maximal effort from your sons in the classroom and foster a respect for the rights of others to learn and excel in their studies in a safe and welcoming environment. The expectation for your son is that he strives to achieve excellence in all his endeavours this year. It is our shared responsibility to ensure these expectations are promoted and well understood by our boys.

As we prepare for the year ahead, there are a number of points I wish to draw to your attention:

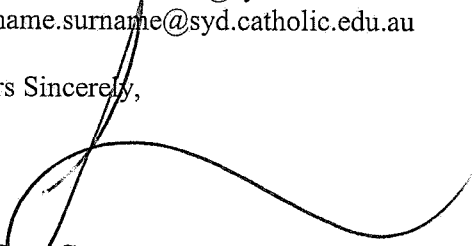
- 1. The College E-Diary and Student Handbook** are considered a most valuable organisational tool. It is important that the E-diary is respected, as is all College property. The student handbook is to be kept in good order, free from graffiti. Please familiarise yourself with your son's E-diary. The E-diary must be used by all students to keep a record of their homework and assessment requirements, on a daily basis.
- 2. Expectations:**
 - Uniform and grooming needs to be exemplary at all times. Boys are expected to wear their uniform with pride. When they are tardy with their uniform, it shows a lack of respect for oneself and the College. I call on the support of parents to ensure that their sons wear their correct uniform with pride. I remind students and parents that Black Leather Shoes are required and no jewellery of any kind is permitted. Boys with inappropriate hairstyles and unshaven faces may be sent home.
 - Please read the 'Electronic Devices Non-Negotiables Policy' on pages 33-39 of the student diary.
 - Homework/Study is given every night across a range of subjects. In Year 10 students are expected to complete between 1½ - 2 hours at least five of the seven nights each week. Homework will be clearly communicated through the use of the E-Diary.

- Wednesday Morning Mass - All students are encouraged to attend the 8:00-8:30am Wednesday Morning Mass each week. Throughout the year each HCT class will be responsible for a Mass whereby every student will be required to attend and assist, together with his HCT class. Parents/ guardians are of course more than welcome to attend with their sons each week.
3. **Student Attendance:** A key barometer of a successful school is a high rate of attendance. Each time a student is not in class or in attendance at key celebrations of school life, such as the Opening School Mass and Sports Carnivals, it detracts from your son's educational experience. Students are expected to be in attendance each and every day. The College Swimming Carnival is their first chance to show this commitment on Friday 17 February (Week 4).
 4. **Absence:** It is a requirement that if your son is to be absent on any given day that a phone call be made to the College on that morning before 9:00am, with a follow-up letter on the next day of student attendance. It is a requirement that the note be kept for records, so please do not write this in the school diary, a separate note is necessary. It is important that your son maintain the highest level of attendance with exception of illness or approved family leave. As there are approximately twelve weeks of school holidays each year, family holidays outside of this time are not considered "approved family leave". In the event a student needs to seek leave during the school term, a letter must be addressed and forwarded, well in advance to Mr. Phillip Stewart - College Principal.
 5. **Arriving late and leaving early:** If a student is late to school, he must sign in at student services with the student ID card and receive a late slip before he is permitted to enter class. Please note that it is the College's policy that a student who records an unexplained absence on THREE occasions would be required to attend a Wednesday afternoon detention. For early departures, a note from parents or caregivers is to be presented and signed by the Year Coordinator in the morning and students must use their ID card to 'swipe out' at student services.
 6. **Appointments:** While at times unavoidable, please endeavour to keep all appointment times outside of school hours. It is not acceptable to miss sport as a result of various medical and other appointments.
 7. **Last Day of Term End and College Events:** As with all regular College days, the first and last days of College are compulsory, as is the attendance of all students at all College Events.
 8. **Parent teacher / HCT Evening – Horizons Night:** While the College E-Diary is a tool for communication, the College holds numerous opportunities for face to face communications, including compulsory parent teacher interview evenings. The first of these is the Horizons night to take place on **Friday 10th February** commencing at 6:30pm. **It is the expectation that all parents attend this evening as important information regarding your son's schooling will be conveyed at this time.** It is also a great opportunity to meet some of your son's teachers as well as make contact with other parents in your son's year. All members of staff will also be on hand to answer any questions or address any concerns, which you may have.
 9. **Work Experience:** During activities week (Term 3) this year, your sons will spend the week in a work environment that interest them in a bid to gain a greater understanding of what full time work entails. Students are required to have their work places organized by the end of this term. It would be worthwhile to begin this discussion as early as possible.
 10. **Crossroads:** The school newsletter, better known as 'Crossroads' will be published fortnightly and is available on the College website. It is important that parents read the newsletter. There is a mailing list on which you can be added in order to receive this electronically. If you would like to become a member of this list, please email info@holycrosscollege.org with your preferred email address.

As your boys transition from junior to senior school, the expectations upon them will naturally increase. It is my expectation that every Year 10 classroom is an environment dedicated to learning and will be conducted with consistency and respect.

I thank you for your continued support this year. Please feel free to contact the HCT teacher, any of your son's teachers or me in order to discuss concerns you may have about your son or his progress at the College. My email address is sean.craven@syd.catholic.edu.au. In most cases teacher email addresses are in the following format: firstname.surname@syd.catholic.edu.au

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Craven', written over the 'Yours Sincerely,' text.

Mr. Sean Craven
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Reid', written in the right-hand column.

Mr Michael Reid
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL