



Holy Cross College, Ryde

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1 February 2018

Dear Parents of Year 11,

On behalf of the Year 11 team, I would like to welcome you back and look forward to working with you and your son in 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Year 11 team:

Mr Rob Nehme

Year Coordinator

Mr Ryan Acosta

Delany Holy Cross Talk Teacher

Mr Joshua Bryers

Dwyer Holy Cross Talk Teacher

Mr Jerome Capistrano

Fogherty Holy Cross Talk Teacher

Mr Paul Hajjar

Gallagher Holy Cross Talk Teacher

Mr Richard Kemp

Hannigan Holy Cross Talk Teacher

Mr Vince Signorelli

Phelan Holy Cross Talk Teacher

I am pleased to say, that the boys have returned excited and settled into the daily routine of the College very quickly. I hope they feel positive about Year 11 and enthusiastic about the year ahead. I had the opportunity on Wednesday morning to address Year 11 regarding expectations for 2018.

In our discussions, the College's expectations, rules and regulations were reinforced. A major aspect of my address was that as senior students of the College, the importance to lead by example. I made it clear that personal presentation was paramount and that their attitude, behaviour and grooming must reflect the pride we have in the College.

It is my expectation that all students 'do the hard work' and 'make the sacrifices' to achieve their personal best. I asked the young men to apply themselves in their classwork, examinations, as well as extra-curricular activities, in order to achieve the most out of their schooling experience.

There are a number of points that I would like to remind you of that do require your continued attention:

1. Aside from email or phone, the **Student Handbook** acts as a communication device between parents and teachers. Please familiarise yourself with the Student Handbook. Students in Stage 6 have the choice of using EDiary or a personal diary to assist with organisation of homework, study routines and assessment tasks.
2. **Expectations**
 - Homework is given every night across a range of subjects. Students must complete all required homework. In the event that your son cannot complete his homework, we ask that you write a note in the Handbook to this effect.
 - Study and revision is encouraged as a part of the nightly routine.
 - Uniform and presentation needs to be of a high standard- this includes; hairstyle, grooming and jewellery.

- Please read and sign the *Electronic Devices Non-Negotiables* and sign the *Student Acceptable Use Agreement* on Page 36 of the Student Handbook.
 - Wednesday Morning Mass: 8am-8.30am. Each HCT will be asked to attend and each student will be required to attend THREE Masses throughout the year. They will take place in Terms 1 and 4 and each student will be informed, in advance, of when their group must attend.
3. **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 also a mailing list in 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.
 4. **Absence from school**- it is a requirement of the College that if your son is absent on any day that the school office is phoned and notified by 8.30am. On your sons return, he is required to bring a note, written by parents to his HCT teacher outlining the reasons for his absence.
 5. **Arriving late**- if a student is late to school, he must sign in at student services. Please note, that it is the College's policy that a student who records an unexplained lateness on THREE occasions would be required to attend a Wednesday afternoon detention.
 6. **Departing early** – A student wishing to leave the College early for a legitimate reason needs to present a note to the Year Coordinator during the morning. Once the leave has been approved, the Year Coordinator will sign the note and the student must present the note to Student Services at the appropriate sign-out time.
 7. **Appointments**- Please try and make appointments outside of the school calendar. A student will learn best when they are seated in their class and disruptions can hinder their attention to learning.
 8. **Holiday Leave** – A written letter addressed to Mr Stewart seeking approval and details should be provided well in advance of the proposed leave.
 9. **Last day of term and School Events** – Each and every day of the College calendar is vital and compulsory, including the last day of each term and all school events.
 10. **Patrician Values** – Our major focus as a school is the quality of our Catholic teaching and learning environment. We are encouraging maximum effort from the boys in their classes and a respect for the rights of others to learn and excel at their studies.

At Holy Cross College, we believe RESPECT for **Self, Others, Learning** and the **Environment** is at the core of our Patrician Values.

11. **Parent Teacher Evenings**– It is the College's expectation that parents or guardians be present at our parent teacher evenings where teachers are available to discuss your son's progress. If attending a parent teacher evening is not possible, then it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to notify the Year Coordinator at least 3 days in advance via a phone call or email myself on (02) 9808 1033 or robert.nehme@syd.catholic.edu.au. It is then the responsibility of the parent or guardian to email each of their sons teachers in regards to their son's progress.

12. Calendar Some important dates of which you should be aware for Term 1

• Ash Wednesday:	14 February
• Horizons Night:	16 February
• College Opening Mass & Induction of Student Leaders	21 February
• Target Setting Day:	26 February
• College Swimming Carnival	9 March
• College Work's Day:	10 March
• College Open Day:	11 March
• Staff Development Day (Pupil Free)	12 March
• Year 11 Drink and Drive Program	13 March
• Holy Thursday Liturgy	29 March
• Easter Sunday	1 April
• End of Term 1:	13 April

Finally, please feel free to contact me or any of your son's teachers at any time in order to discuss concerns you may have about your son or his progress at the College. I look forward to a continued successful and positive partnership between home and school in order to facilitate the academic, spiritual and pastoral development of your son.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Rob Nehme
YEAR 11 COORDINATOR



Mr Michael Reid
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL