



St Clare's High School

Davis Street, Taree 2430
Telephone (02) 6552 3300
Fax (02) 6552 3656

NEWSLETTER 10/2016

1 APRIL 2016

Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare's

Our staff meet regularly to discuss issues relevant to learning, teaching and school life. At our most recent staff meeting we discussed issues around planning professional training that is ongoing and supportive of teacher development and the role excursions play in the learning of your sons and daughters. Both topics sparked a high level of engagement from our staff and conversations about both topics continued well after the meeting had closed.

Staff were asked to comment on the positives and the frustrations that school excursions cause in the ebb and flow of school life. Most teachers see excursions as supplying great opportunities for student learning. A large number of staff noted that the organisation, paperwork and pursuit of students to ensure they have met their responsibilities before they attend the excursion can be very frustrating and at times places a high level of stress on the organising teachers. No doubt some parents and students share these feelings about class, year level and subject excursions, particularly in the area of cost, transport times and classes missed.

We intend to continue the conversation during Term 2 where we will engage with students and the P & F to gather feedback and ideas to further develop the St Clare's excursion policy.

Our Year 12 HSC students are back into the swing of classes following their exams. Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are close by and I recommend that parents and your son or daughter book an interview time with their teachers. Sometimes, for various reasons, students try to dissuade parents from attending an interview. Research indicates that when parents, students and teachers are working together, student outcomes are improved. It is for this reason I recommend that you make appointments with all your sons or daughters subject teachers to discuss their progress and how you may best support them over their last 22 weeks of secondary education.

On Thursday and Friday Assistant Principal Phil Gibney and I are completing training to ensure we are aware of recent government legislation in the areas of governance and due diligence. There is always something to learn!

God Bless

Principal

**P & F – NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 2016
6 PM SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PRAYERS: Please pray for those who are currently experiencing health difficulties and continue to pray for community members experiencing challenges, pain, sickness and grief in their lives at this time.

CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE: A reminder to all that the school has a Chaplain. Please feel free to contact our Chaplain, Deacon Vince Ryan, through the school office if he can be of assistance to you or any member of our whole school community.

Mass Times

weekend mass will be celebrated)

Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree

75 Albert St, Taree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Harrington

Pilot St, Harrington
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in each month)

Our Lady of Fatima, Old Bar

20 Hall St, Old Bar, Sunday
Mass: 7:30 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham

8 Farquhar Street, Wingham
Sunday: 8:30am

Saturday Liturgy of the Word and Communion: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

St Patrick's, Cundletown

River St, Cundletown
Sunday Mass: 6:00 pm

St Bernadette's, Krumbach

Bucketts Way, Krumbach
Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 9 am
(Mass is celebrated on alternate weekends – please speak to Deacon Vince or Mrs Denise Ryan at school for information on which

St Therese's, Lansdowne

Cundle Rd, Lansdowne
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Forster-Tuncurry Catholic Parish

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church, Forster

33 Lake Street, Forster
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Tuncurry

15 Peel Street, Tuncurry
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 7:00 am

[Updated advice for HSC students about examinations](#)

[Advice for HSC students about examinations](#) has been updated on the Students Online website to include important information about the 2016 HSC examinations.

It covers a range of topics including revised syllabuses, changes to specifications and courses where personalised answer booklets are being introduced.

BOSTES has asked us to let students know that this information has been updated and direct them to the site.

http://studentonline.bostes.nsw.edu.au/go/exams/preparing_for_your_written_exams/advice-hsc-exams/

Theresa Avery (Curriculum Coordinator)

CAREERS CORNER: The school pays an annual subscription to a careers website, *JobJump*.

Part of the support provided by *JobJump* is in the provision of two regular careers updates. One of these updates is **HSC SUBJECT KLA/FACULTIES** (Key Learning Area) based; the other is **POST SCHOOL CAREER PROVIDER** based (e.g. University, TAFE, Tertiary College). These updates will be emailed to all students in Years 10-12.

Year 12 students all accessed *JobJump* on Careers Day 1 and Year 10 are being progressively introduced in small groups each Thursday afternoon during Careers lessons in lieu of Sport.

Parents and carers are urged to ensure students take advantage of this ever-improving facility.

How to get the most out of using www.jobjump.com.au

Password – monkeys

Login You can now **Register** to receive the latest Careers News when you enter your email address from the front page of the website. This will be emailed to your home email address if you wish. It only takes a minute or two. You will receive Careers News on your chosen careers from now through to an extra year after your HSC. If you change your mind, you can unsubscribe at any time. You can select new careers at any time too. You can have as many as you want.

University of Newcastle Roadshow

The *University of Newcastle Roadshow* team has rescheduled its visit to the Manning District. The team will now be en route to Port Macquarie next Monday and an offer has been made to 'drop in' at St Clare's. Accordingly, the arrangements have been made to speak to senior students in the School Hall during **Period 2 next Monday, 4 April. ALL Year 12** will attend and an invitation is also extended to **Year 11 Economics, Business Studies and Legal Studies** students.

A very big 'thank you' to the English Department for enabling this visit to proceed at short notice. Thanks also to Year 11 teachers whose classes may also have some interruptions.

Ian Evans, Careers Adviser

LEARNING SUPPORT PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS: Any parents whose child has had a Personalised Planning Meeting with members of the Learning Support Staff, could you please make a booking with a Learning Support teacher (**Margaret O'Connor - Year 7, Karen Grant - Years 10-12, Sandra Robison - 7-10 Aboriginal Students**) or the Learning Support Coordinator (**Bernadette Boere - Years 8 and 9** and any other student you would like to discuss with her) when the interview times are available.

Thank you. **Bernadette Boere, Learning Support Coordinator**

HOSTS FAMILIES NEEDED FOR JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS: On Monday, 25 July 25 students from our sister school Kobe Kaisei arrive at St Clare's for a 10 day exchange program. This exchange has been in existence for over 20 years and has encouraged lifelong friendships for all who have participated as a host or traveller.



At the moment we have 16 students who have offered to host a sister and we need 9 more. I would like to encourage any student in Year 10 or 11 who has travelled to Japan as part of the exchange in the past or if you would like to apply to travel to Japan in 2017 to consider hosting a student. The students would be a part of your family from the evening of Monday, 25 July until the morning of Thursday, 4 August.

If you are able to assist, please contact Mrs Avery at school or ask your son/daughter to collect a note from me to take home. **Mrs Theresa Avery (Japanese Exchange Coordinator)**





ST CLARE'S VOCAL GROUP: The St Clare's Vocal Group is once again preparing for the African Children's Choir tour and Concert in late May. This year we are privileged to have the Ubuto Choir visit our community.

Their ages range from 16 years to 18 years.

We will be combining with the St Joseph's Choir to present a variety of vocal items, culminating in the Finale with the Ubuto Choir. The concert will be held on Friday evening, 27 May. Mark the date on your calendar because it is a unique event not to be missed.

In the next week budding St Clare's vocalists are invited to meet with Mrs Brown to begin preparations for the concert. It would be great to have a large group perform with the touring Choir. This is an invaluable experience for all involved.

Viva la Musica
Mrs Brown

DIO SWIMMING: On Tuesday, 15 March, students from St Clare's travelled down to Lambton pool to represent our school at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. The students swam really well and as a result we had a few students who have progressed through to compete at CCC level where they will represent the Diocese.

The students who represented our school at the Diocesan Swimming carnival were:

Ryley Burge, Daniel Davis, Ali Al-Nabhan, Daniel Summers, Miguel Guthridge, Nash Wilkes, Jack Montague, Maddison Aiken, Jesse Wilkes, Jordan Moscatt, Katarina Kladis, Jade Page, Emma Johnston and Abby Collison.

The students who were successful and who have progressed to the next level are:

Jordan Moscatt, Nash Wilkes, Abby Collison and Jesse Wilkes.

Congratulations to these students and we wish them the best of luck representing the Diocese.
Jenna Rowsell, Rep Sports Coordinator



MATHS WORKSHOP - Mathematics Workshop provides the opportunity for every student to obtain assistance and support in improving their understanding of mathematics. Four mathematics teachers are available each week to explain the concepts you are finding difficult or give assistance to enable you to complete your homework, assignments or any work that you may have missed due to absence from class.



WHEN IS IT ON? **Wednesday lunchtime** - every week.

Bring your lunch!

WHERE? **Room 10**

We hope to see you there!

Mrs Julie Rowsell- Mathematics Coordinator

MONDAY	4/4	Help Urgently Required
TUESDAY	5/4	Help Urgently Required
WEDNESDAY	6/4	Jackie Wiseman
THURSDAY	7/4	Monica McMullen, Lisa Starling
FRIDAY	8/4	Pam Squires, Jenny Chippett – ½ day

VACANCIES STILL EXIST

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

IF YOU CAN ASSIST PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL KINGSFORD

AT ST CLARE’S: 6591 2104, HOME: 6552 1857 OR

VIA EMAIL: cheryl.kingsford@mn.catholic.edu.au

LEAVE NOTES & STUDENT MESSAGES: It would be appreciated if parents/guardians would send in a **written note** if their child needs to leave early for appointments etc. Notes should be handed in at the front office in the **morning before roll call**. If parents/guardians need to notify their child of a change of afternoon arrangements, it is necessary to **phone the school prior to 2:25 pm** (End of Lunch – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) or **prior to 1:55 pm** (End of Lunch – **Thursday Sport**) as it is often difficult to locate students if their last lesson is a PE Prac or there has been a room change.

Students cannot be collected from the school during school hours by **anyone other than a parent or guardian without written permission**. Thank you.

LATE NOTES: Lateness to school is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence. **Arriving Late for school requires a handwritten note from a parent/carer or a phone call from a parent/carer** or the absence is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLINIC: Students are reminded that if they are unwell whilst at school they are to advise their teacher who will then send them to the Front Office. If necessary, the office staff will contact a parent while the student waits in the Clinic. **Students are not to contact parents on their mobile phones** as this leaves teachers and office staff unaware of the situation and is also in breach of the school policy – use of mobile phones. Thank you.

COMING EVENTS - 2016

Term 1

Week 11 Friday 8/4 ♦ Last Day of Term 1

Term 2

- Week 1** Tuesday 26/4 ♦ First Day of Term 2
Wednesday 27/4 ♦ School Social – 6:45 pm to 9:45 pm
Theme – **Back in Time**
Friday 29/4 ♦ Year 7 Vaccination – 2nd dose
♦ CCC Swimming Carnival
- Week 2** Thursday 5/5 ♦ Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews – 3:45 to 6:30 pm
School Hall
♦ Dio Cross Country
- Week 3** Tuesday 10/5 ♦ NAPLAN
Wednesday 11/5 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm (St Clare's High School)
- Week 7** Wednesday 8/6 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm (Holy Name Primary School, Forster)
- Week 10** Thursday 30/6 ♦ NAIDOC Day Assembly
Friday 1/7 ♦ Last Day of Term 2

Term 3

- Week 1** Monday 18/7 ♦ First Day of Term 3
- Week 2** Monday 25/7 ♦ Students from Kobe Kaisei arrive
- Week 3** Sunday 31/7 ♦ Year 9 Snowy Excursion Departs
Wednesday 3/8 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm (St Joseph's Primary School, Wingham)
Thursday 4/8 ♦ Kobe Kaisei students depart St Clare's
Friday 5/8 ♦ Year 9 Snowy Excursion Returns
- Week 6** Thursday 26/8 ♦ Year 7 Vaccination – 3rd dose
- Week 7** Wednesday 31/8 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm
- Week 10** Friday 23/9 ♦ Last Day of Term 3

Term 4

- Week 3** Wednesday 26/10 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm
- Week 7** Wednesday 23/11 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm

if your child is **away** for more than 10 school days



Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If your child needs to be away from school for a period greater than two weeks (ten school days) you will need to contact the school and apply for an **Exemption from Attendance at School** form. This form needs to be completed, initially by the parent / carer and then by the Principal at school.

It is important that the exemption form is completed **before** the period that the child is to be away from school. Exemptions **cannot** be issued retrospectively.

The school attendance roll will

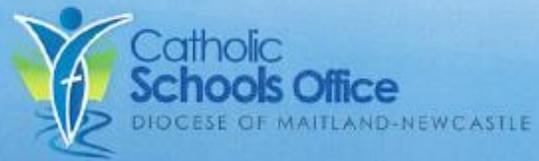
then be updated to ensure that your child's absence is legitimate and explained.

A certificate of exemption will then be issued. If the Principal feels that the extended absence is not in the student's best interest they may decline the application for exemption.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

For periods **under** ten days, you will contact the school as per the normal school procedure: note, email or phone

Contact the school for further details



SURVEYING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Dear Parents,

This year our school is in a review year.

The purpose of the review is for the school to reflect on its practice and identify areas for improvement and to stimulate action to ensure this happens.

As part of the review process our school is seeking feedback from our community -parents/carers, staff, students and clergy.

An on-line parent/carer survey will be sent to you shortly via email. We would be most grateful if you could complete this survey (it only takes about 10 mins!)

The online survey is administered by an independent organisation, Hunter Research Foundation.

Your responses will be treated confidentially and your privacy respected.

The more surveys completed; the greater the feedback received which will inform our future journey towards school improvement.

We thank you for your time and consideration.