22 January 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year and the final one for your son at Marcellin. This year promises to be both exciting and challenging for the students of the Graduating Class of 2016. The boys have already completed one term of HSC work, and early indications are that they are highly motivated, willing to work with their teachers and very much ready for the challenge ahead.

Year Twelve is also a very unique year in the education of your son. While the focus is obviously on the HSC exams, it should also be remembered that the next nine months should be the most memorable and personally rewarding period of your son’s school life. My hope is that this will be a time where the spirit of friendship and camaraderie flourishes and that the young men of this year group lead the younger students in the school by their actions and example.

‘Good Christians and Good Citizens’ remains the College theme for 2016 and at its core are the words from 1 Peter 4:10, “Serve one another with the gifts each of you received, thus becoming good stewards of the graces given by God.” This theme will serve both as a challenge and a powerful reminder throughout the year of the unique potential of every student in Year Twelve as they journey with a caring God through the final year of their school life. Similarly, “The Marcellin Graduate”, an evocative statement that captures the seven aspirational dimensions of our students, will be a wonderful point of reference for the senior cohort throughout the year. I encourage every parent to read this document which can be found on the Our Mission Statement page on the College website.

This year will be a busy one; please be aware of the following Term dates:

Term 1 - 28 January to the 8 April (The first day is Thursday. Full school uniform is required on this day)
Term 2 - 26 April to the 1 July
Term 3 - 18 July to the 22 September

As in previous years, 2016 has a number of key school events and activities that require your son’s full support and attendance. These include the following:

- College Swimming Carnival at Botany Pool on the 29 January
- Year 12 Half Yearly Exams from 29 February to 9 March
- Year 12 retreat at Mittagong from the 13 - 18 March
- Parent / Teacher interview evening on the 6 April
- College Athletics Carnival on the 29 April
- Champagnat Day Mass and celebrations on the 10 June
- HSC Trial Exams 1 – 15 August
- Year 12 Graduation Day on the 22 September

Please remember that the College website is an excellent source of information regarding upcoming events as is the College newsletter.

With Year Twelve being role models for the rest of the school, I have high expectations for them in regards to haircuts, being clean shaven and being correctly attired at all times particularly on Thursdays. The College also has a very clear policy regarding students driving to school. No student is to drive to school without the permission of the Headmaster. I would ask that you make yourselves aware of this information via the College diary or website and if need be, discuss this with your son.

Similarly, tattoos are not part of the College dress code and as such, any student with a tattoo needs to remember that at no stage should they be visible, particularly in regards to sports day, swimming and athletics carnivals. Also, a reminder that any absences from school will need to
be explained by way of a doctor’s certificate and any requests for leave should be made to the Deputy Headmaster well in advance of the requested dates.

As you have witnessed over the last five years, the real strength of the Marcellin community is the way the parent body and the school works together. Good communication is vital and I ask that if you have any concerns about your son’s school life, particularly in regards to the stresses and demands of the HSC, that you contact the College. Your first point of contact should be your son’s homeroom teacher who will then determine the best course of action. Teachers email addresses can be located on the College Website (www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au). The homeroom team for 2016 is Mr Garry McDonald, Mr Anthony Burke, Ms Rosemary Wehbe, Mr Robert Sheens, Mr Jacob Gibbons and Miss Anita De Francesco.

Finally, my aim as the Year 12 Coordinator is to ensure that students remain focused, work hard but, more importantly, enjoy the final year of their school life.

I will ask only that they do their best.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to again working with you this year.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Daley
Year 12 Coordinator