Dear Parents & Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as your son’s Year Seven Coordinator for 2016.

Included in this information pack is a wide variety of information that I encourage you to read and familiarise yourself with before your son commences his first day at Marcellin College. The life of a Marcellin boy is very busy and includes being involved in a number of year group and class activities, College Masses, and sporting events and carnivals. Making a note of these dates in your personal calendar will not only assist you but also your son in his transition from primary to secondary school. The College calendar available on the College website and reading the College newsletter will allow you to keep up to date with upcoming events like that of Parent Teacher Interviews and other important occasions requiring the presence of parents. Following on from this letter I have listed some of the compulsory events and dates for Year Seven Students in 2016. This is not a list of all events and activities so once again I encourage you to view the College calendar on a regular basis to keep up with activities happening around the school.

Marcellin College provides an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities for its students. As a member of the Metropolitan Catholic Colleges Sports Association students have the opportunity to represent the College in a number of sports including touch football, cricket and tennis in summer, rugby league and soccer in winter, and golf, squash and volleyball tournaments to name but a few. The College’s music department not only teaches music to all Year Seven students but also offers a wide range of private tuition lessons and the opportunity for students to be a part of various ensembles and groups. The College also competes in debating and oratory competitions throughout the year. I strongly encourage your son to be an active member of the College community and participate in as many opportunities as he can during his time here. Making the most of these opportunities not only allows him to make new friends and learn new skills but will also make his years at Marcellin more fulfilling and rewarding. Notices regarding trials and training will be read out each morning during homeroom; they can also be viewed through the student portal on M-learning.

Open communication between school and home is essential to your son’s success and development while at Marcellin College. Following this letter is a guideline on who to contact in various situations. A note in your son’s diary, a phone call to the school or an email to the teacher are all appropriate forms of communication that will allow the relevant teacher to respond appropriately. Your son’s diary is the primary communication tool used by teachers and we ask that parents check and sign their son’s diary every night. Homeroom teachers will also check the student’s diaries once a week and discuss both positive and negative comments with the boys.

Support of the College rules and expectations is equally as important as open communication to the success of your son’s education at Marcellin. The importance of getting “the little things right” is something that is strongly reinforced to all students and is a vital element in making Marcellin College the great school it is. I ask that all parents read the “College Expectations” found in the diary and support us in ensuring they are followed. In addition please also refer to the note regarding Important dates and Information for 2016 which also outlines College expectations in regards to uniform, hairstyles and other important procedures that will be explained to your son on his first days that I feel are important for you to be aware of. Once again any questions regarding this can be answered by your son’s homeroom teacher via one of the appropriate methods previously mentioned.
The focus of the Pastoral Care Program in Year Seven will be based around the College’s Code of Conduct, being a member of the Marist community and dealing with issues that arise. Some of the topics that will be covered include respect, justice, organisation and preparation, study skills and resiliency. The students will also be exposed to a variety of Social Justice Initiatives throughout the year and it is expected they will support them fully.

I look forward to meeting your son on our orientation day on Thursday 28th January. Students will meet at Heffron Park by 8.45am wearing casual clothes.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding your son, please do not hesitate to contact your son’s Homeroom teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Fitzgerald
Year Seven Coordinator