



Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Luke MacNamara, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the start of the year at Marcellin College. I will be your son's Year Eight Coordinator for 2018 and I am looking forward to working with parents, guardians and the Year Eight students. Year Eight will present the students with many opportunities and challenges. I will be encouraging students to take on this year's College theme of **'Go and bear much fruit, fruit that will last'**. I urge you to encourage your son to set goals aimed at involvement in the academic, social, sporting and cultural dimensions of the College.

The students of Year Eight will be familiar with many of the school routines and requirements. With this in mind I would like to emphasise the importance of school attendance and grooming. It has been brought to my attention that many families have taken leave outside school holiday periods. Whilst these holidays are enriching experiences for families it must be noted that they are certainly not endorsed by the College. Any leave should be carefully considered and an 'Application for Exemption from Attendance at School' form must be completed and handed to myself at least two weeks prior to going on leave where possible.

The Pastoral Care Program in Year Eight will be diverse in its focus and will include the College Code of Conduct, Year Nine subject selections, respect, organisation and preparation, study skills, mental health and resilience. The students will also be exposed to a variety of Solidarity Initiatives throughout the year and it is expected they will support them fully.

Year Eight homeroom teachers work closely with the students on a daily basis and are the first point of contact for your son. The Year Eight homeroom teachers are as follows:

- 8.1 – Ms Kelly Ritchie
- 8.2 – Mr Anthony Graziano
- 8.3 – Mr Terence McGrath
- 8.4 – Ms Caitrina Moran
- 8.5 – Mr Con Zouroudis
- 8.6 – Ms Daniela Gamma

It is very important that students are punctual each morning for homeroom as this sets the tone for the school day ahead. Homeroom includes greeting their homeroom teacher, class prayer, daily announcements, distribution of handouts, organisation of equipment for class and personal grooming checks. Students should make daily use of their diary for entering homework, assessment dates and other upcoming events. It is the student's responsibility to have parents sign their diary weekly. Diaries are an important means of regular feedback to you as parents on what is happening at school in terms of your son's schoolwork and behaviour. Teacher contact can also be made via email. Teacher email addresses can be located on the College Website ([www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au)). I thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

**Term 1 commences on Wednesday 31st January** with all students to be in attendance in full school uniform.

Please also note the following:

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Classes commence

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February - School Photo Day

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – College Swimming Carnival

Term dates as well as other key event dates will be distributed during Term 1 and may assist each student (and family) in planning for the year ahead. The Marcellin College website is a valuable tool in keeping you updated with important dates, events and College news items. As is the case each year, there are a number of compulsory College events where any student absence will require a medical certificate.

Grooming is an issue that I would like to highlight. Students are encouraged to take pride in their uniform and appearance, including an appropriate haircut. In this regard the boys should be well aware of the Marcellin College uniform policy. College uniform should be clean, fit appropriately and be worn correctly. The Marcellin College diary clearly sets out these expectations which include the following:

- All students should have a uniform that fits correctly. Trousers should be the correct length and shirts should fit neatly so that the top button can be done up and long enough to be tucked in. The shirt must have a top button.
- All students must have a black leather belt.
- Shoes should be polished black leather business type shoes. They can be lace up or slip on. Skate shoes or the like will not be tolerated.
- Students must have the Marcellin College bag. These are only available from the College uniform shop.
- The sports uniform is worn on Thursdays and for PDHPE. All students require a correctly fitted sports shirt, as well as a house coloured shirt and running shoes that are lace up.
- Hair is to be cut short and be neatly groomed at all times. Cuts are to be even graded from the base to the neck. Shaved, stepped, undercut, layered styles, streaking, colouring or dyes are not permitted. If a boy's hair is not satisfactory they will not be allowed to go to class until it has been fixed.

In addition to the above each student is to have a school issued combination lock which can be paid for at the front office. The reason for this instance is so that I can open a student's locker should they be away to get books without having to remove the lock with bolt cutters. It also removes the issue of students losing lock keys or forgetting combinations and not being able to open their locker.

I look forward to working with your son this year and hope it will be a positive experience. If there are any questions or concerns regarding your son please do not hesitate to contact your son's Homeroom teacher or myself via the College front office or email.

Yours sincerely,



Luke MacNamara  
Year Eight Coordinator