

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that I will be the Year Nine Coordinator for 2018. When asked if I would take on this role, I couldn't have been happier. To have the honour of working for a second year with such a positive group of students, parents and guardians is a wonderful opportunity. To continue building those relationships and progress into the next stage with the boys is certainly a privilege I look forward to. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year and offer my continued committed support and guidance with anything that you or your sons require, I also invite you to continue your active involvement with your son's experiences at Marcellin.

The College theme for 2018 is taken from the Gospel of John, 15:16 *'Go and bear much fruit, fruit that will last'*. The message of these words will flow through all that we continue to do as we strive to be *'Good Christians and Good Citizens'*. We always encourage and remind the boys to *"Try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you."* These words serve as powerful reminders of the uniqueness, potential and obligation of every student as they journey through their life.

The boys will already be anticipating the start of the new school year with some excitement and apprehension. It is important that we again support this transition and encourage them to be the best that they can be, embrace new challenges and continue to build mutually respectful relationships. Any issues that arose previously have hopefully been resolved or reconciled in order to move forward and make further advancements towards a positive future and a cohesive, supportive community.

Year Nine will present the students with countless opportunities and challenges. A highlight will be the Somerset Camp in Term Three. This week long program provides activities designed to build resilience and teamwork in the glorious surrounds of the pristine Colo River. I have provided a link to the organisation below, more specific information will be available closer to the time and I ask that you fill in medical forms and check equipment lists carefully to ensure a safe and well equipped trip.

<http://www.campsomerset.com.au/>

In order to make a positive start to the new school year, it is imperative that all students return committed to meeting the well-established expectations of Marcellin College. Organisation is essential and I encourage boys to pack their bags the night before and have all required equipment each day. I expect the boys will have a wide reading novel, all required text books, exercise books and other stationery items on day one. Please use the ink below to ensure all items are ready.

[http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/2017\\_FORMS/Stationery\\_list\\_2017-Year\\_9-10.pdf](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/2017_FORMS/Stationery_list_2017-Year_9-10.pdf)

Allocation of lockers will happen early and I encourage boys to keep them in good order and use them only during breaks. College locks are required and can be re-used or purchased from the College.

It is an expectation that all students will return to school with the correct College uniform and haircut. As the uniform shop is moving off site in 2018, I have provided the link for on-line sales.

<https://taleb.com.au/marcellin-college/> The following guidelines will assist with keeping the standard of appearance at the highest level. Year Eight impressed me greatly with this last year, however, I have highlighted a couple of points that could be improved on.

- 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 wear a black leather belt.**
- Shoes should be **polished** black leather business type shoes. Socks must be of a good length to cover the ankles.
- Rain Jackets must be the Marcellin College jacket and are not to be worn in class.
- **The Marcellin College cap must be worn for outdoor activities.**
- Students must have the Marcellin College school bag. A Marcellin excursion bag is also a helpful addition as no non Marcellin bags should be carried whilst in uniform. (After school training bags can be kept in lockers).
- The sports uniform is worn on Thursdays, the coloured house shirt is to be changed into at the venue. **Sports shorts and house shirt must be changed into for PDHPE practical lessons.**
- Hair is to be cut short and be neatly groomed at all times. **Cuts are to be evenly graded from the base to the neck. No 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.

**To assist with your planning, term dates for the year are as follows;**

Term 1 – 31<sup>st</sup> January to the 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Term 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> May to the 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Term 3 - 24<sup>th</sup> July to the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Term 4 - 16<sup>th</sup> October to the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

College attendance is a priority to maximise learning and minimise disruptions. A Medical Certificate is required for absences on the first and last days of term as well as for absences during examinations and assessment tasks. There are also a number of school activities that require your son's full support and attendance.

**The following events are compulsory and a Medical Certificate will be required if your son is absent;**

Wednesday, 31 January	7-12 Classes commence, Day 3 classes, full summer uniform
Thursday, 1 February	No sport, full summer uniform, College photo day, Day 5 classes
Friday, 2 February	Marcellin Swimming Carnival – Botany Pool
Friday, 23 February	Commencement Mass
Friday, 4 May	College Athletics Carnival – ES Marks
Friday, 8 June	Champagnat Day Activities
13-17 August	Camp Week
Thursday, 27 September	Graduation Day
Friday, 2 November	Walkathon

We strongly discourage breaks and appointments during school time, however, I have attached a link to the exemption from attendance form should you require it. Also, if your son needs to leave school early for a medical appointment, please provide him with a written note or an email to me the day before or the morning of, I will then write a leave pass to be presented to the office. No boy is to leave the College without the knowledge and permission of a year coordinator.

[http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/EXEMPTION\\_FORM\\_021105.pdf](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au/assets/pdf/EXEMPTION_FORM_021105.pdf)

It is imperative that the students establish a regular study routine each day. This study may cover class homework, research, revision, assignments and assessment tasks. Homework is to be recorded in the College Diary and completed each night. Year Nine should be aiming for 10-15 minutes per class, 60-90 minutes each night.

Students of Year Nine will be receiving new laptops in 2018. They must take responsibility for the care of their device as they are an expensive and essential tool to be used as instructed for their learning. Please do not allow the boys or family members to change settings or install unauthorized software as it hinders the performance of the College profile which is installed and updated regularly. They must be in good working order, have all required software installed and be fully charged for the start of each school day. Any issues need to be dealt with promptly at the College's Technology Support Centre. Regular random checks occur to ensure there is no excessive You Tube or game use, off topic web searches, chats or illegal content.

In order to further encourage your son(s) love of reading and build on his literacy skills, we run a reading program during Homeroom. The students must have a wide reading novel of their choice to read during this time. This is compulsory and I ask that you encourage an appropriate selection to develop an appreciation for recreational reading along with the innumerable other benefits that this will bring. Lynn Ford in the library is also available to guide the boys in the right direction if requested.

Effective lines of communication are fundamental for a successful partnership between the College and parents or guardians. Regularly refer to the College Website for up to date information. It is via the website that you will be able to access the latest announcements, the College calendar, and a copy of the Assessment Schedule outlining your son's assessment tasks and their due dates and a variety of other important details. Fortnightly Newsletters showcase the boys many achievements and activities. The Parent Portal of Sentral should be accessed for attendance, timetables and parent teacher feedback appointments. I would encourage you to visit this portal and ask your son(s) to print out their 2018 timetable and study it prior to the first day back.

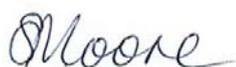
The College Diary is an important and valuable tool for students, parents and staff. It must be labelled and covered in clear contact or plastic. This is the most direct method of communicating between staff and parents along with a way for your son to stay organised and monitor homework. The first page asks for your contact details as a quick reference, there is also a place to tick and sign consent to administer Panadol if you wish this to be the case. Please sit down with your son and read through the 'College Expectations' and the 'Anti Bullying Responsibilities & Policy'. 'The Digital Device Student Acceptable Use Agreement' and the 'E-Learning Agreement' need to be carefully read and signed as a contract with the College that he understands and will agree to follow these policies closely. Please also take the time to read and sign the 'Student / Parent Commitment'. The diary should then be monitored closely, checked each evening and signed at least once every week.

This year we have a very caring team of homeroom teachers working directly with your son(s). The Year Nine Pastoral Team for 2018 is as follows. Sonia Curtis 9.1; Steven Brock 9.2; David Smith 9.3; Marianne Walsh 9.4; Ross Ursino 9.5 and Michael Steel 9.6.

The homeroom teachers are the first point of contact regarding your son(s). They are available via your son's diary, by phone or email. Teachers email addresses and other relevant information can be located on the College Website [www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au) or the diary. Your son's classroom teachers or KLA Coordinators are also available for subject specific queries or requests.

I sincerely look forward to working with you and your son(s) again this year and I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open. I anticipate that we will all work effectively together as we strive towards common goals. Ensuring your son's wellbeing and that of his fellow community members is a top priority for me as is ensuring that the high standards and expectations of the College are maintained. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to be in contact.

Yours sincerely,



Sharon Moore  
Year Nine Coordinator