Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

I am writing a separate letter to all families to forward material I see as important to all Marcellin families. As we begin term 3 I feel there are a number of matters that need some clarification and more detail than we can include in our fortnightly newsletters. I seek your continued support in taking these matters on board so as to ensure we maintain as settled an environment as can possibly be achieved for your son at Marcellin.

1. Newsletters

These are forwarded each fortnight either by email or a hard copy via your son. You should receive an email prompt on the day your newsletter is available or a hard copy version every second Wednesday afternoon. In term 3 newsletters will be sent home on the following days: 25th July, 8th August, 22nd August, 5th September and 19th September. If your email version is not arriving please contact the front office to review your email address.

2. Sacramental Programme

The College is offering this once again this year for boys wishing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist or Reconciliation. We will not be conducting this programme again for some time so if your son wishes to take part they are asked to make contact with me in the next week. To date we have 20 boys who will be participating in the 2007 Sacramental Programme. The formal lessons, conducted in school time, will begin soon.

3. Improvements

Over the last two weeks we have had quite a few improvements around the College.

- The Roger Wing has had new windows installed on the eastern and southern side of the block
- Weights room has new machines
- Rooms 71 and 72 have now been reconfigured to a more conventional classroom and had extra computers installed
- Renovation to the ceiling outside the canteen
- New stairs installed outside room 92
- Bus 1 has been repainted
- Considerable cleaning and other repairs done over the week
- $12,000 worth of new musical instruments

**Upcoming Improvements**

- New toilet facilities for the staff room
- More windows to be replaced
- Water tanks to be installed
- Increase the capacity in the Vaughan Centre
- Purchase of a new mini bus

4. School Uniform

I am currently in the process of looking for a newly designed shirt which could be worn minus the tie in term 1. This shirt would have a clearly visible College crest. The shirt would be designed so as not to button up at the top to allow for a tie. I will be seeking parent feedback and distributing a consultation form at the next Parents in Touch evening about this. The new shirt (minus tie) could be worn in term 1 and possibly late in term 4. Boys would wear the normal College trousers with this. Boys could choose to wear the current uniform as is with the tie if they so choose. Terms 2 and 3 would see all boys wear the current uniform with blazer.

**Wet Weather:** Boys may wear the College spray jacket on these days as an extra protection from the wet. No other jackets are to be worn. These are available in the uniform shop.

**College Bags:** Some boys are in need of a new bag. Bags must be predominantly black or navy. School bags are available from the uniform shop although it is not compulsory at this stage to use these.

If boys do not conform with a sensible selection of bag and maintain it in good condition I will review the arrangement of the bag and most likely introduce the College bag as compulsory for 2008. Hopefully this will not be necessary.

**Second Hand Uniforms:** Blazers, tracksuits and trousers are expensive items so I am currently looking into the coordination of a second hand uniform programme that may operate on certain days each term. Details will follow shortly. If you are in possession of blazers in good condition and have no further use for them please forward them to the school office.
5. Requests for leave and attendance

I once again need to convey my dissatisfaction to parents regarding the excessive requests for student leave and for the lack of support for regular attendance.

Football trips, holidays, ski weekends, long weekends are all well and good but I have not encountered a school where such a casual attitude to attendance is so prevalent. I acknowledge there will always be special need for exemptions but I must admit to being frustrated at the constant stream of requests for absences. I request that parents make greater commitment to the support of regular attendance as it is essential this be the case for a settled and positive environment at school.

Weekly attendance is quite good overall but Mondays are clearly a problem. Greater absenteeism is evident of a Monday which obviously reflects the tiring routine many boys live on a weekend. Once again I see school work and progress being hampered when the right balance is not being enforced.

I seek parent support in addressing these concerns as a matter of urgency.

Phoning in when your son is sick: Currently the ladies are wasting valuable time in chasing up boys who are not at school. I would ask parents to contact the office by 9.30am on each morning of absence to notify us of your son’s inability to attend. Please ring to inform us of this fact. Your attention to this request saves us many hours of work. I realise our phone system has not helped with adequate communication so I am hopeful that a new system will be in place this term. Our absentee number is: 9398 8009.

6. Parents in Touch Evening

The term 3 evening is on Wednesday 22nd August at 7.30pm. These are valuable nights and provide parents with up to date news about issues concerning your son. I would like to see a big roll up on the night so please reserve this evening. We finish promptly by 9pm and parking is available on site. Further details to follow.

7. Terms 3 and 4 Important Dates

Thursday 2nd August Sports Photo day
Monday 6th August Year 12 Trial HSC exams commence
Monday 13th August Pupil free day for all boys except Year 12 students who will still be completing their Trial HSC
Friday 7th September Is the designated Public Holiday owing to State Government legislation for the world leaders meeting. This will be confirmed in due course
Monday 17th September Year 11 Preliminary Exams commence
Friday 28th September • Final day of term 3 at 3.20pm
• Year 12 Graduation events
Monday 15th October First day of term 4
Friday 7th December Final day for Year 10. Year 10 Prizegiving at 9.30am
Wednesday 12th December Last day of formal lessons for Year 11 and Year 11 assessments will be held on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th December
Friday 14th December Last day of formal lessons for Years 7, 8 and 9
Monday 17th December and Tuesday 18th December Parents and teacher meetings to review semester 2 performance. Reports will be available at these meetings. Interview times will be communicated in term 4. Students would only need to be in attendance during interviews. These meetings will be for Years 7, 8 and 9 only at this stage.

My thanks to all parents for your ongoing support and participation in College life. I look forward to another successful and vibrant term ahead.

With best wishes

Br Bill Sullivan, fms
Headmaster