AFFIRMATION POLICY

Central to the Marist Charism is the belief in a person's worth. Affirmation reaches to all aspects of the College life, from formal College assemblies, to individual presence in the classroom. It also seeks to challenge peer group behaviour which inhibits or stunts the giftedness of other students. Special Achievements are recognised by the Headmaster via the noticeboard at the College Entrance and through the College Newsletter and assemblies. Students and parents are encouraged to advise the College of special achievements so that students can be appropriately recognised. The Champagnat Awards is another way in which students are identified for displaying the qualities of our founder Saint Marcellin Champagnat and these awards are usually given on a yearly basis as part of the Champagnat Day celebrations. Yearly awards are also given to recognise academic, sporting and cultural achievements at the College. Also part of the Affirmation Policy is the Merit Award System which sets out to recognise students’ achievements in a positive way.

AFFIRMATION PROCEDURES

Merit Award System
The Merit Award System at Marcellin College has been designed to provide positive reinforcement to all students in recognition of their contribution to any aspect of their schooling. It is therefore envisaged that any student, regardless of his academic ability, will be eligible for the attainment of awards in this system.

In order to gain maximum benefits, the Merit Award System must be seen as an integral component of the educational philosophy at Marcellin College Randwick. Through staff co-operation it is possible to acknowledge and offer praise to every student's individual academic achievements. This can only occur if we constantly encourage all our students to work to their fullest capacity. If used properly, the Merit Award System can be made to work in conjunction with and enhance the College's Behaviour Management Policy.

1. Presentation
   Bronze Award by Class teacher/Year Co-ordinators during class.
   Silver Subject Award by Year/Subject Co-ordinator at Year assembly.
   Gold Award by Curriculum Co-ordinator at College assembly.
   Headmaster's Award for Academic Excellence

2. All Awards must be signed on the back by either the KLA Co-ordinator or Curriculum Co-ordinator when they are presented for the attainment of higher awards. This permits the student to keep each certificate but not cheat the system by reusing certificates.

3. An adequate supply of Bronze Awards is be maintained in the teacher's staffroom

4. The size of a Bronze Award is half an A4 page - this makes it suitable to be easily stored in the College Diary. Silver and Gold Awards are printed on A4 size parchment paper.

5. It is the responsibility of the student to look after all of his Merit Awards. No new ones will be reissued if they are lost.

6. Any Bronze, Silver or Gold Award which is presented to a student is valid for that year only, as a new Merit Award System will begin each year.
7. Students should be strongly encouraged to take pride in being presented with Silver, Gold and Headmaster Awards.

**Bronze Awards**

These may be awarded by any staff member to a student in recognition of any form of good performance/behaviour in any aspect of academic performance/College life. The following list has been designed to provide teachers with a guide as to what can constitute giving a student a Bronze Award.

- Excellent assignment work
- Good assignment based on the student's ability
- Excellent classroom work throughout the term
- Good classroom work (based on student's ability) throughout the term
- Consistent and improved effort throughout the term
- Excellent student performance in an assessment task (essay, AFT, experiment, etc.)
- Improved effort displayed by a student in an assessment task
- Good Interim Report/performance
- Outstanding achievement in class room tests/competitions
- Active participation in an important College event associated with a particular subject
- Reading at liturgies, College masses, etc.

**Silver Subject Award**

In Year 7, when a student receives three Bronze Awards in the same subject area, it is then his responsibility to present them to the relevant Year Co-ordinator. In years 8-10 when a student receives three Bronze Awards in any area, it is then his responsibility to present them to the relevant Year Co-ordinator.

He/she will then sign the back of these Bronze Awards, return them to the student and then organise for this student to be presented with a Silver Subject Award at a Year meeting.

**Gold Award**

When a student receives any three Silver Awards, it is then his responsibility to present them to the Curriculum Co-ordinator. They will then be signed and returned to the student. This will then result in the presentation of the “Gold Award” at a College assembly.

**Headmaster's Award For Academic Excellence**

Once a student has received any three Gold Awards he may now present them to the Curriculum Co-ordinator. He will then sign the back of these Gold Awards and return them to you. This will result in the presentation of the “Headmaster's Award for Academic Excellence” at a full College assembly by the Headmaster.

December 2008