22nd January 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. This year promises to be an exciting one for your son who has now been elevated to the position of senior student. With this new status comes new freedoms but also added responsibilities and expectations, particularly in relation to the academic aspects of school life. My observations of this group from last year, is that they are highly motivated and ready for a new challenge.

Year Eleven is a unique year in the education of your son. It is a formative year, where the framework for future academic success is consolidated. Effective study routines as well as an organised approach to homework and revision are crucial. Similarly, cooperation in all areas of school life, particularly the classroom is imperative. Both of these areas are vitally important in ensuring your son attains his full academic potential, especially in light of the fact that the beginning of the Higher School Certificate coursework is now only three terms away.

Additionally, my hope is that this year will also be a time where the spirit of friendship and camaraderie flourishes and that the young men of this year group lead the younger students in the school by their actions and example. There will be numerous opportunities for your son to participate in a variety of programs outside the classroom and perhaps challenge himself in new, untried endeavours.

“Good Christians and Good Citizens” remains the College theme for 2015 and at its core are the words from 2Corinthians13:11” Try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you. “This theme will serve as a powerful reminder throughout the year of the uniqueness and potential of every student in Year Eleven, as they journey with a caring God through the next stage of their school life.

Similarly, Solidarity is a key area of focus for this year group. Your son will be expected to participate in the Matthew Talbot and St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol Program throughout the year as well as complete a week of ministry in the community in Term Three. A healthy balance between the demands of study and involvement in such programs, as well as other extra-curricular activities, will greatly assist your son’s development into a young man ready to take his place in the world outside of school.
Term dates for the year are as follows;

Term 1 is from the 29\textsuperscript{th} January to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} April.
Term 2 is from 20\textsuperscript{th} April to the 26\textsuperscript{th} June.
Term 3 is from the 13\textsuperscript{th} July to the 17\textsuperscript{th} September.
Term 4 is from 6\textsuperscript{th} October to the 17\textsuperscript{th} December.

As in previous years, 2015 has a number of key school events and activities that require your son’s full support and attendance. These include;

- College Swimming Carnival on Friday 30\textsuperscript{th} January at Botany Aquatic Centre
- Year Eleven Parent Information evening Tuesday 10\textsuperscript{th} February
- Commencement Mass Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} February
- MCC Swimming Carnival (compulsory for Year Eleven) 19\textsuperscript{th} March
- College Athletics Carnival on the Friday 24\textsuperscript{th} April
- Half-early exams 18\textsuperscript{th} -28\textsuperscript{th} May
- Parent / teacher interview night on Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} July
- Ministry Week 3\textsuperscript{rd} -7\textsuperscript{th} August
- Yearly exams 3\textsuperscript{rd} -11\textsuperscript{th} September

Please remember that the College website is an excellent source of information regarding upcoming events as is the College newsletter that is emailed out every second Friday.

Senior students are role models for the rest of the school. I therefore have high expectations for Year Eleven in regards to haircuts, being clean shaven and correctly attired at all times. The College also has a very clear policy regarding students driving to school. No student is to drive to school without the permission of the Headmaster. I would ask that you make yourselves aware of this information via the College diary or website and if need be, discuss this with your son.

Similarly, tattoos are not part of the College dress code and as such, any senior student with a tattoo needs to remember that at no stage should they be visible, particularly in regards to sports day, swimming and athletics carnivals.

For all Year Eleven students, any absences from school must be explained by way of a doctor’s certificate and any requests for leave should be made to the Deputy Headmaster well before the actual leave date.

As you have witnessed over the last four years, the real strength of the Marcellin community is the way the parent body and the school works together. Good communication is vital and I ask that if you have any concerns about your son’s school life that you phone or email the College. Your first point of contact should be
your son’s homeroom teacher who will then determine the best course of action. Teachers email addresses can be located on the College Website (www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au). The homeroom team for 2015 is Mr Garry McDonald, Mr Anthony Burke, Mr Jacob Gibbons, Miss Rosemary Wehbe, Mr Robert Sheens and Miss Anita De Francesco.

Finally, my aim as Year Coordinator is to ensure that students remain focussed, work hard but more importantly enjoy their school life. I will ask only that they do their best.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to working with you this year.

Yours sincerely

Paul Daley

Year 11 Coordinator