Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the Year Eight Coordinator for 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year and invite you to continue your active involvement with your son’s education. It is an exciting time and I am very much looking forward to working with parents, caregivers and the Year Eight students in the coming year.

The students of Year Eight 2015 will already be anticipating this next stage in their schooling career with some excitement and perhaps even apprehension. It is important that we support this transition and encourage them to be the best that they can be. Any issues that arose in Year Seven have hopefully been resolved and advanced from in order to make improvements for the future. “Good Christians and Good Citizens” remains the College theme for 2015 and at its core are the words from 2 Corinthians 13:11 “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 Eight, as they journey with a caring God through the next stage of their school life. I will be encouraging students to take on this theme and to ‘defame no-one, be peaceable, considerate and always polite to everyone’.

Year Eight will present the students with countless opportunities and challenges. They should aim to be highly involved with all aspects of College life. I urge you to encourage your son(s) to set goals aimed at involvement in the academic, social, sporting and cultural dimensions of the College. The focus of the Pastoral Care Program in Year Eight will continue to be based around the College’s Code of Conduct. A special emphasis will be placed on respect, solidarity, organisation, study skills and the responsible use of technology. We will also be focusing on the important issue of mental health and resiliency. The students will be exposed to a variety of Solidarity Initiatives throughout the year and it is expected that they will support them fully.

To assist you in planning for the new school year 2015 and to ensure this is a smooth transition it is imperative that all students return to school meeting the standards of Marcellin College. It is an expectation that all students will return to school with the correct College uniform and haircut. 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, so please do not buy these for your son. Socks must be of a good length to cover the ankles well.
- 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 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. Joggers should be running shoes that are lace up and predominantly white or grey. If you are asking the question about whether the joggers have too much colour, it is likely that they do, and I suggest you purchase ones that are whiter or grey.

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. 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.

Term 1 commences on Thursday 29th January with full College summer uniform to be worn as there will be no sport on the first day of school. Normal sport training and games will resume in Week 2.

Term dates for the year are as follows;
Term 1 is from 29th January to the 2nd April.
Term 2 is from 20th April to the 26th June.
Term 3 is from 13th July to the 17th September.
Term 4 is from 6th October to the 17th December.

There are a number of school activities that require your son’s full support and attendance. These events are compulsory and a Medical Certificate will be required if your son is absent. This is not a complete list and I encourage you to check the College Calendar regularly. Please remember that the College website is an excellent source of information as is the College newsletter that is emailed out every second Friday.

I would like to draw your attention to the following events:

**Term 1**
- Friday, 30 January: Marcellin Swimming Carnival – Botany Pool
- Friday, 6 February: Meet and Greet Evening
- Friday, 13 February: Commencement Mass

**Term 2**
- Friday, 24 April: College Athletics Carnival – ES Marks
- Wednesday, 6 May: Yr 8 Family Mass
- 1-3 June: Yr7-9 Examinations
- Friday, 5 June: Champagnat Day

**Term 3**
- Wednesday, 15 & 22 July: Years 7-11 Parent/Teacher Night
- 3-7 August: Activities Week

**Term 4**
- Friday, 23 October: Walkathon
- 16-20 November: Years 7-9 Examinations

The classroom experiences presented to the students in Year Eight will continue to be Information Communication Technology (ICT) rich and allow them to foster a strong commitment to life-long learning. 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. Students must also check their school email account at least once daily as it is being increasingly used by teachers for important correspondence. I will be providing time, support and a quiet place for students to study each Wednesday afternoon from 3.20-4.30. Attendance at these sessions...
may be compulsory at times if a student is struggling to complete homework or assignments. As we continue to deliver curriculum that is ICT rich I will also use this time to assist students with data management, electronic communications and submission of assignments. Students must take responsibility for their laptops as they are an essential tool for their learning. 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 in the Devlin Centre.

The student diary as an important and valuable tool for students, parents and staff. 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. Please sit down with your son when he first receives his diary and read through the ‘College Expectations’ and the ‘Anti Bullying Responsibilities & Policy’. There are two agreements that then need to be read, discussed and signed by you and your son(s). ‘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 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 each week.

This year we have a very caring team of homeroom teachers working directly with your son. The homeroom team for 2015 is Ms Carmelina Fede, Mr Thomas Gardiner, Mrs Hayley Spencer, Mr Anthony Graziano, Mr David Ross, Mr Anthony Noyes and Mr Steve Roemling. 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).

Another vital point of contact is the Parent and Student Portal of Sentral, you will find this link on the College Website. It can be used to access student timetables and attendance records. I would encourage you to visit this portal and ask your son(s) to print out their 2015 timetable and study it prior to the first day of school.

I look forward to working with you and your son(s) this year. I anticipate that we will strive together towards common goals. Ensuring your son’s welfare and that of his fellow students is met and that the high standards and expectations of the College are maintained. If there are any questions or concerns regarding your son please do not hesitate to contact your son’s Homeroom teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Sharon Moore
Year Eight Coordinator