Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as your son’s Year Coordinator. 2015 will mark my first year at Marcellin College and I feel very blessed to be joining such a wonderful Catholic community.

Whilst new to Marcellin, I am an experienced teacher having taught for 20 years in a number of Catholic schools. My areas of teaching expertise are in the HSIE and Religious Education key learning areas. Additionally, I have served in Year Coordinator and Pastoral care roles for the past 12 years. I am eager to get to know the parents and young men of the Year Nine cohort. I look forward to working with you and your sons in the coming year, building the mutually respectful relationships that are fundamental to the learning principles of the College.

My role is primarily to ensure that your sons are safe, well looked after and focussed on their studies. I oversee their welfare and work with the Year Nine homeroom teachers to develop your son’s confidence and capacity. Your son will be challenged and encouraged to excel across the broad range of activities offered at Marcellin. At the same time I will ensure that your sons enjoy a structured, disciplined and ordered environment.

Year Nine will present many opportunities and challenges for your son. I encourage him to embrace these occasions and realise the potential they provide for his academic, personal and social development. “Good Christians and Good Citizens” remains the College theme for 2015. The focus will centre around 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.” These words will provide the basis for the Year 9 Pastoral Care Program and will be explored further throughout the year. It is hoped that all students will embrace and embody this theme.

Your son’s homeroom teacher will play an important role in his development this year. The homeroom teacher should be your first point of contact for any concerns regarding day-to-day matters. Email is an effective way to contact any teacher including your son’s homeroom teacher. Teachers email addresses can be located on the College Website. The Year Nine homeroom teachers for 2015 will be as follows: Ms Jeannie Scevity, Mr Nathan Weller, Ms Emma Clifton, Mr Scott Wilkie, Ms Gillian Clarke and Mr Darko Stipic. For subject specific issues please contact the appropriate Subject Coordinator and for any behavioural concerns, please contact me.

School will commence for Year 9 students on Thursday 29th January. Students must wear normal College summer uniform as there will not be any sport on this day. As always, all students are required to meet the expectations clearly described in the College diary. I have high expectations for the young men of the College in relation to their uniform and grooming. There are very clear expectations set down at the College and all Year Nine students must adhere to these. These expectations will apply from the first day of the year through the duration of 2015. It is imperative that students take pride in their presentation and the role as ambassadors of the College in the public domain.

Essential to your son’s development and success this year and leading into his senior years will be his organisation. The College diary is one tool provided to your son to assist him in effectively organising his homework, study routine and school activities. It is expected that students enter their homework into their diary at the end of each lesson and that a parent signs it each week. The diary is not only an organisational tool but also a communication channel between parents and staff. Please take the time to review your son’s diary on a weekly basis to keep up to date with his progress in class and to familiarise yourself with due dates of assessments and homework tasks.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Effective lines of communication are fundamental for a successful partnership between the College and the parent body. I encourage you to 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, a copy of the Assessment Schedule outlining your son's assessment tasks and their due dates and a variety of other important details.

The College organises a number of events to assist in the whole development of the students. Each of the following activities in 2015 command compulsory attendance:

- College Swimming Carnival at Botany Aquatic Centre - Friday 30th January
- Commencement Mass - Friday 13th February
- College Athletics Carnival - Friday 24th April
- NAPLAN Testing - Tuesday 12th – Thursday 14th May
- Champagnat Day - Friday 5th June
- Year 9 Half Yearly Examinations – Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd June
- Year 9 Parent & Teacher Interviews - Wednesday 15th or Wednesday 22nd July
- Year 9 Camp - Monday 3rd to Friday 7th August
- Walkathon - Friday 23rd October
- Year 9 Yearly Examinations - Monday 16th to Friday 20th November

A doctor’s certificate must be provided to explain absence from any of the above College activities.

Year Nine Camp is a highlight for the students this year. The camp provides students with the valuable opportunity of developing friendships with those both in and out of their peer group and also the chance to engage in activities designed to build resilience and teamwork. In addition to a doctor’s certificate, students who fail to attend the Year 9 Camp will have to attend the Camp the following year.

To assist you in organising family holidays the term dates for this year are below.

Term 1 Thursday 29th January – Thursday 2nd April
Term 2 Monday 20th April – Friday 26th June
Term 3 Monday 13th July – Thursday 17th September
Term 4 Tuesday 6th October – Thursday 17th December

Your support in organising holidays in the designated school holiday times is appreciated.

Some other dates that may interest you throughout this year include:

- Meet & Greet - Friday 6th February
- Parents in Touch P&F AGM Wednesday - 11th February
- Mother’s Day Mass - Friday 8th April
- Old Boys Mass & Lunch - Saturday 22nd August

I look forward to a fruitful and beneficial year in which your son will continue to build on the firm foundation that has been laid in in his junior years at the College. Year Nine is a challenging year that has the potential to be a valuable time in your
son’s development. As always, many opportunities will be presented to your sons, I encourage all students to immerse themselves in all that the College has to offer.

I am excited to be joining the Marcellin College community in 2015. I look forward to working with you, your son and his teachers throughout the year. Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time should you have a concern or wish to discuss your son’s progress at the College.

Yours sincerely,

C. Behan

Mr Christopher Behan
Year Nine Coordinator