



Lighthouse

Volume 37 Number 10

15 September 2021



Greg Ptolemy

A Message from the Principal

Dear Members of the SFX Community,

“TIME FOR A BREAK”

I feel certain that the advertising department for Kit-Kat would concur that each member of our community is indeed due for a well-deserved sabbatical. The last few months have tested the resourcefulness, patience, and commitment of everyone, as lockdown has continued to extend, while release has remained just beyond our reach.

Our Year 12 students in particular have had a difficult path to navigate with ever-changing conditions and regulations being applied to their HSC. Uncertainty is one of the greatest challenges for each of us in these difficult times, yet at every stage, our Year 12 cohort has handled themselves with patient grace – a trait that will serve them well as they venture further into the journey of life.

Nevertheless, in my assembly address last week, I called on them to take a break these holidays and, in keeping with our Marist theme for 2021, to breathe.

They have worked bravely in difficult circumstances and will now be required to continue their endeavours for longer than anticipated. It is important that they take some time out now to unwind, relax, and laugh, before they lift themselves at the commencement of next term for a final concerted effort.

TERM 4

It will certainly be an unusual start to Term 4 at the College with both Year 11 and 12 cohorts still engaged with learning. The current health advice would indicate a likelihood that the early weeks will continue to be dominated by online activities. At this stage, we await further advice regarding the requirements for a Covid-safe return to school later during the term.

Year 12 have now covered all of the required course content. Students will therefore move to an extended preparation period during which they are encouraged to seek support and advice from their classroom teachers as required.

To support the students in this preparation, we will be running an alternative online timetable during the initial weeks of Term 4 which will feature every examinable course. Students are invited to tune in for a range of activities as determined by individual faculties and teachers, ranging from seminars, lectures, masterclasses, interactive tutorials, and various other presentation forms. There will be three presentation timeslots each day which will allow students the opportunity to intersperse their own revision and practice with some input provided by College staff.

We are hopeful that this new structure might provide students with a good balance in their preparation and might re-energise them for the last stretch of their journey. It is also a structure that should stand them in good stead for studies later in life. The timetable and associated information will be provided before the commencement of Term 4.

Courses not requiring students to undertake an examination will not feature in this timetable, although there will be an opportunity for VET students to potentially complete competencies for their courses.

Under the current health advice, we are continuing to plan for a possible return to school for Year 12 students during Week 4, which will hopefully culminate in a modified Final Assembly and Liturgy. Year 12 will then have a final week of personal study preparation prior to the examinations in Week 6.

As you would be aware, the revised timetable for HSC examinations now clashes with our scheduled Graduation Dinner so this cannot proceed on the originally advertised date. We are currently considering alternative arrangements which will be dependent on the health advice once the examinations are completed.

Year 11 will commence their HSC studies in an online environment. New timetables reflecting class changes will be issued to correspond with the commencement of the HSC courses.

As always, these plans are conditional on current NSW Health advice updates and will be modified as required.

PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Diocesan Perpetual Day of Remembrance occurs each year on 15 September. While the COVID-19 pandemic might make it difficult to mark this occasion in the customary ways, it is vitally important that we commit to stand alongside all those who have suffered and continue to suffer. May we be people of hope through our commitment to solidarity, prayer, and change.

ASSEMBLY OF CELEBRATION

We will be marking the final Friday of the term with a celebratory extended assembly. Year 11 and 12 will be invited to join us in the morning as all other classes will be cancelled for the day. We are looking to focus on a celebration of achievement for our Year 12 students as we acknowledge some of their achievements and work during their time at the College. We are looking forward to an uplifting and joyful conclusion to the term and I hope that all students will be able to celebrate with us.

Enjoy your break – take care.

Greg Ptolemy
Principal



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OLIVER GETS A MAKEOVER

The SFX Library team has given our catalogue (Oliver) a make-over, with a new colour scheme. We're trying it for a while, and it might change again soon! We are also always working to improve our provision of valuable resources, and to that end we've added a number of new pages to our website, including a "Lockdown Resources" page, and a "Research Support" page. **Navigate to Oliver via the Favourites star in Compass** to access these helpful resources, and much more.

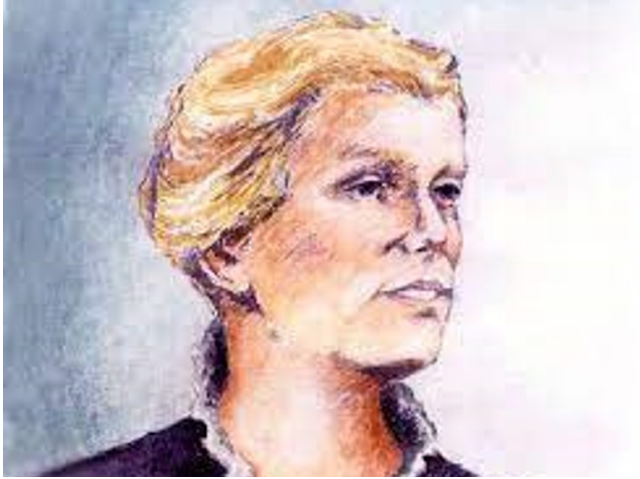
HSC DAY AT THE STATE LIBRARY

The State Library of NSW is hosting an online HSC Day on 23rd September, focusing on English (Standard, Advanced and Extension), Ancient and Modern History, and Society & Culture. To find out more or to register, click [here](#).

HERE TO HELP

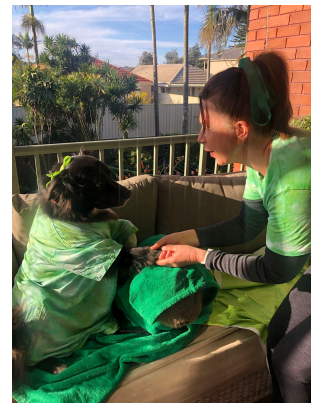
The library team consisting of Mrs Hoey, Mrs Ellem, and Mrs Hayes are always here to help, so click [here](#) to email with any questions you have.

McAuley Day

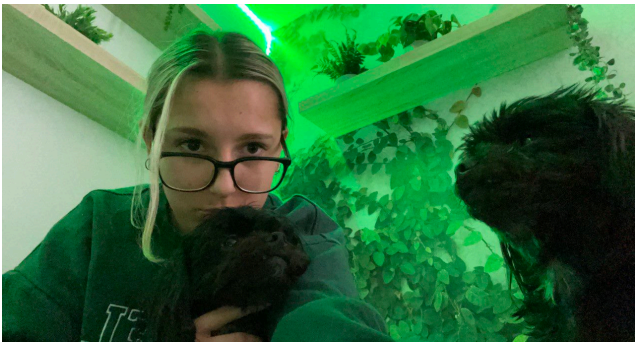


On Friday 27th August, Year 11 gathered in an online environment to celebrate McAuley day. Catherine McAuley founded the sisters of Mercy in Ireland, in her words “It began with 2, Sister Doyle and I”. She helped those who were marginalised in society and those who were oppressed by unjust social attitudes, this was done through establishing a House of Mercy in Dublin. This house helped with educational, religious and social services for women and children who were at risk of homelessness. House of Mercy was founded on Catherine McAuley’s values with their motto “To meet all with peace and love”. In Long Tutor Group, Year 11 took part in watching a video clip

and playing a Kahoot based on Catherine McAuley and her life achievements. First place from each Tutor Group then went in the draw to win a Keep Coffee Cup, where the winner was Ava Douglas! The day also saw the launching of “The McAuley Green Photo Challenge” in which Mr Ptolemy donated five dollars for every photo submitted. All money raised went to the Refugee Hub to support local families experiencing hardship. Despite McAuley Day being different compared to our other House Days this year, it was a successful day that included activities to encourage our community to get up and get creative. Written by Year 11 McAuley House Captain – Sophia De Marchi TG76



Students and Teachers
dressing up for McAuley
Day Celebrations





Music Department



Year 12 –

Congratulations to our HSC Music students for completing their HSC Music Practical Examination last week. These examinations are worth 70% of the students' HSC Music Mark. Our Year 12 musicians have been very busy rehearsing, sending in practice videos to the music staff and using feedback to ensure that they could produce their very best on the due date. Many students focus on performances, and these were submitted as videos to the music staff this year following NESA's Covid adjustments. Some students have participated in live Viva Voce Examinations where Zoom discussions with the music staff ensured that the students were able to complete this musicology elective as close as possible to the original HSC plan. Some students have submitted compositions, and these are a clear example of the students' creativity and hard work.

Well done to all of these HSC music students for their commitment to overcoming many challenges. They have recorded performances and participated in their Vivas at home in loungerooms, bedrooms, garages and even under the stairs. We hope that they will all look back at these circumstances and be proud that they did their best. We do know that as music staff, both Erin and I are so proud of the students. They have never complained, they have just worked hard and done what needed to be done to fulfill the NESA requirements.

Year 11 –

All Year 11 music students have submitted their performance and musicology portfolios for Assessment Tasks. Just like the Year 12 music students, performance recordings were made in loungerooms, kitchens, bedrooms and garages as students tried to find spaces in which to record themselves performing. With no ensembles, students mostly performed with backing tracks, and it was fantastic to see this Year 11 talent emerging. It is always exciting for us as music staff at this time of the year as we begin to look ahead now towards next year's HSC and the possibilities for our students.

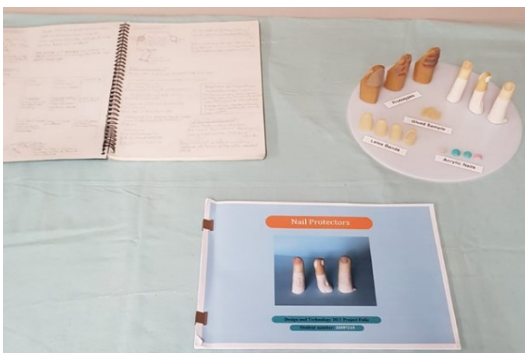
We know and we can see and hear it in the performances and submissions, that music is such an important part of these students' lives and it is a genuine mode of personal expression and a creative outlet. Congratulations to all of our music students.

Melissa Wattus and Erin Sweetman
Music Staff

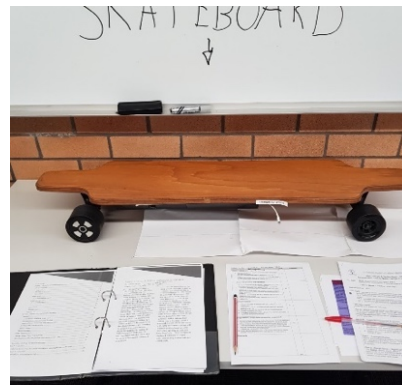
TAS Major Projects 2021

The Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design students have continued to work hard during lockdown on the completion of their Major Projects. It has been difficult and challenging for each student to complete their Projects with limited access to equipment, machinery and class teachers. All Projects were due this term and contribute 60% of the total external HSC mark for Design and Technology and Industrial Technology. The Textiles and Design Major Project contributes to 50% of the students HSC mark.

The **Design and Technology Major Project** requires the students to solve a problem and document the process. Below are a number of solutions to various problems:



Ruby Edwards
Nail Protectors



Jai Coxon Electric
Skateboard



Gerard Saccasan
Cargo Restrainer



Ally Boertje
Touch Free Hand Sanitizer



Ethan Hancock
Adjustable Entertainment Station

Many of the **Textiles and Design** students have created innovative and creative Major Projects. Keep an eye out for some of these names as the designers of the future.

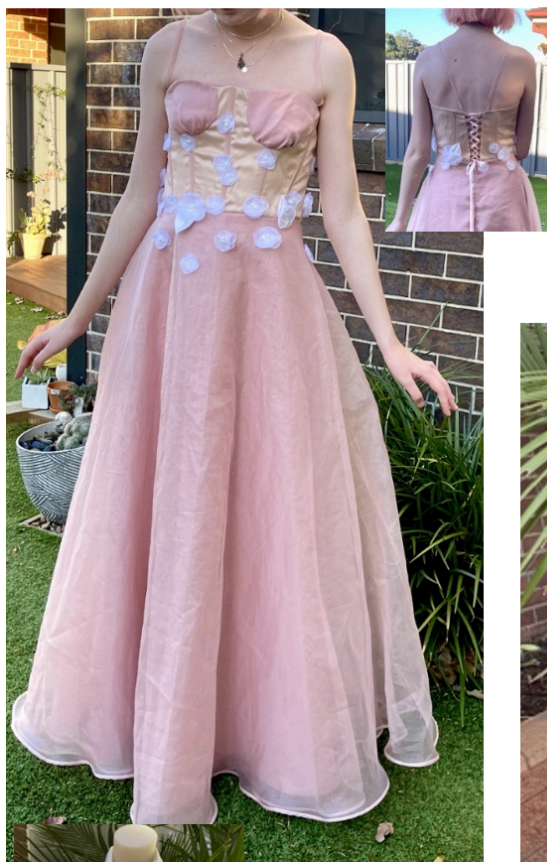


Lani Smith – Maori inspired wall hanging



Layla Phillips
Applied Jacket

Ellie Giles Ethereal inspired gown



Lucy Taylor – Indigenous
hand painted dress



Jasmine Hole - Suit with
contrasting lining and bucket



Angus Smith Men's Robe
flame applique



Jessica Skovgaard – Plaid 1950s inspired dress



Jade Brown – Patchwork
denim embodied skirt



Casey Taggart - Olive green hand embroidered gown



Tamika Reynolds-Martin –
Gatsby inspired chemise



Charlotte Combs – Wedding dress and veil

Poppy Bailey – Hand crocheted jacket,
accessories, and dusty pink flares



Ruby Croker –
Black evening Dress



Coco Walker



Sports News

Jack Hartigan (Year 12) Cricket



Jack developed a love of cricket at a young age. He was exposed to the game at 3 years of age by his dad and extended family. It was a given that he joined in when the family was ‘mucking’ around in the back yard and at the local park. By the age of six Jack was playing competition cricket.

His representative history is noteworthy. He has represented Newcastle from the age of 10 through to the age of 16. He has been involved in the senior Newcastle Rep squad which is made up of 26 players and which is then split up into two teams (Newcastle Blasters and Lake Mac Attack). Jack was picked for Lake Mac Attack in the NSW Men’s Regional Bash who made the state final and played at the SCG in February this year.

Jack has also represented NSW/ACT Country U/17s at Nationals in Cairns and was captain of the team in 2019. In 2020 he played for NSW Men’s Indigenous team in Alice Springs at the National Indigenous Cricket Championships. In 2021 Jack played for the U/19s NSW/ACT Country side where in one of the matches he scored 111 not out against NSW Metro. Other representative honours in 2021 include selection in the NSW/ACT Country U/19s for this and NSW Combined Catholic Colleges team.

When Jack plays Cricket he is not only representing himself but his indigenous heritage. His father's side of the family hails from the Goulburn region and are part of the Gundungurra people. His great grandmother was part of the stolen generation. Jack says that “anytime you're able to represent your culture it is pretty special”.

Jack loves cricket as well as Rugby League. He relishes the team aspect of these sports. Representative cricket has also allowed him the opportunity to travel to places all around Australia. He has met many young people and developed lifelong friendships. His passion for cricket has extended to coaching. He has coached the Hamilton-Wickham Colts U/15’s Division 1 side for the past two seasons. Coaching has allowed Jack to share his knowledge and skill set to a new generation of athletes. Watching the kids develop and seeing the excitement and enthusiasm for the sport grow gives him great deal of satisfaction.

Playing at an elite level comes with sacrifices. During the cricket season Jack trains 4 days a week and plays on Saturday and some Sundays. Training includes strength and conditioning and running sessions. This does not include normal team practice of batting, bowling and fielding. State teams commitments requires him to travel to Sydney for training camps once a month. Jack admits that he did not have a good balance between school and his sport in year 10 and 11. However, he has been working on managing his time better between school and sporting commitment as he moves towards his HSC Exams.

Jack's goal is to make the U/19s NSW/ACT Country side again and go to the National championships. He has his sights set on being selected in the Australian U/19s side which will play in the World Cup in the West Indies in January 2022. When Jack has finished Year 12, he would like to move to Sydney and play Grade Cricket and hopefully gain a rookie contract with the NSW Blues men side.

The impact of Covid has had a significant impact on Jack's sporting competitions and opportunities: In 2020 he was unable to travel with the Australian U/19 Indigenous team to New Zealand where the team were to play the New Zealand Māori side in two one day games and a T20 match that was to be played before the which was to be played before the Australia vs New Zealand Game. The U/19s National championships in 2020 were cancelled as well as the NSW Indigenous men's tri series games against NSW Country, ACT and Qld country. However, these setbacks have not dampened Jack's enthusiasm for the sport he loves and his aspirations of representing Australia in Cricket. Good Luck Jack.



Amy Bruniges & Rosemary Wilkinson
Sports Coordinators

Religion Faculty

Yr. 12 Studies of Religion II Unit students have been enthusiastically applying feedback from their recent Religion and Peace assessment in a variety of ways. Some classes have been experimenting with form by scripting and recording a podcast which showcases their course content.

Students were set the challenge of creating the first instalment of a series of podcasts which was intended to provide expert knowledge and understanding of each HSC topic. Hypothetically, the podcast was to be broadcast on local Christian radio, Rhema FM, and was to be aired for the benefit of fellow students throughout the region. Along with addressing core outcomes, students were encouraged to share their love of learning- including that of other world religions.

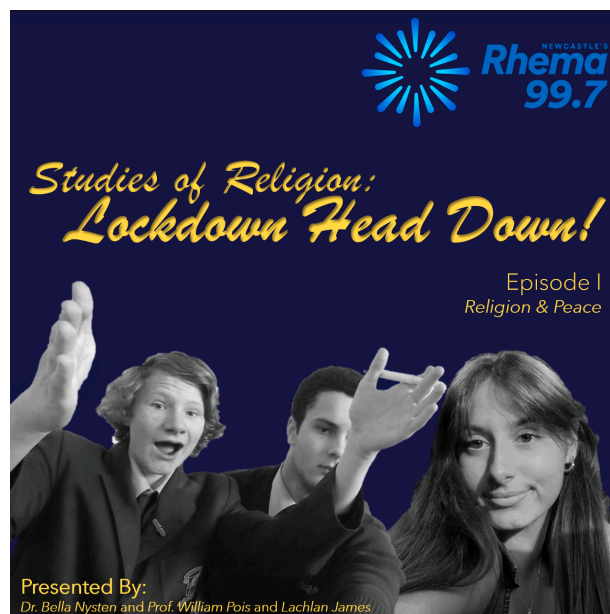
Support was provided regarding how to script, record, and edit a Podcast, while laptops were used to access free sound recording software.

Peer / teacher marking discussions, which provide an invaluable learning opportunity, continue.

Scout Brown's and Lachlan James' feedback on this project is very encouraging.

Jane McNaughton & Monique Williams

Teaching Staff



Commonly, one may imagine a school group task to be a selection of students gathered around a table sharing ideas and being encouraged to make progress by the approaching lunch bell and rumbling stomachs. However, in an online schooling environment, this is not the case.

Messages retrieved from a group chat on the 9th September:

"Guys we should really get something done today"

-five hours later-

"Yeahhhh"

-two hours later-

"Look at my poached eggs!!"

Did you know you can make poached eggs in the microwave?

Pardon me, I'm doing it again. See, this is what I mean. Home-schooling is exactly that - an entanglement of distractions.

However, whilst endeavouring to create a religious masterpiece that we believed would, “re-invent the meaning of a ‘podcast’,” Jemma, Michael, Heaton, and I came to an understanding, or a cognitive development for humanity if you will. We realised that although we lived in trying, inconsistent and unanticipated times - amidst a pandemic and attempting to complete our senior year alone in our bedrooms - we had the consistency and stability of each other.

Although it was challenging - as life is - the podcast allowed us to engage in an activity that welcomed communication amongst ourselves and encouraged the strengthening of friendships in a time when we need it most. Not only did we understand the prevalence of Buddhist and Islamic teachings in our lives today, but we used this as a point of discussion into our personal lives and experiences of lockdown.

This activity further inspired our group to interview significant religious individuals, of whom we placed in Greater Sydney, experiencing their 10th week of lockdown. Through this angle, we were able to achieve a connection to our audience, whose lives have been heavily changed and challenged by Coronavirus.

This idea also allowed us to recognise our connections to one another, understanding that although we faced the struggles of lockdown and isolation, we faced them together.

12SRE3 kindly thank Mrs Williams for not only her support in this task, but for maintaining a focus on our wellbeing throughout the entire lockdown experience.

Scout Brown

Yr. 12

When confronted with a team project in a state-wide lockdown, I’m sure it’d be easy to imagine there would be some sense of anxiety or hesitancy. Well, that is precisely what some of the students encountered when given the “*Studies of Religion: Lockdown Head Down!*” Podcast project.

However, when working through this task, William Pois, Bella Nysten, and I were pleasantly surprised with what posed as a creative outlet and stress relief to the typical sob story of a Year 12 Student in Lockdown.

Most students have found that learning the *same* revision through the computer screen these last few weeks has been *less than* riveting at the best of times. But our Studies of Religion II class was creatively and positively challenged when confronted with this alternative approach to revising the content and applying knowledge.

This last week, several students across the cohort have dedicated some of their abundance of newfound free time to develop a podcast to engage and challenge our understanding of *Religion and Peace*.

My team and I had some much-needed laughs and *scholarly* conversations as we reinvented ourselves as reporters, doctors, and professors who are in pursuit of knowledge in relation to inner and world peace. This included “interviewing” individuals such as the Dalai Lama and other influential figures on the world stage.

In the end, we created a piece we were proud of and involved ourselves in a joyous escape from the day-to-day challenges of the typical lockdown blues. We thank our teacher, Ms. Jane McNaughton, for creating the task and her continued support in finding new ways to engage her students through the screen over the last month!

Lachlan James

Yr. 12

Science Land



What'll happen to the Wattle?

Our Wattle seeds have arrived after their 6 month stint on the International Space Station. They have had their time in quarantine and are now safe at school, waiting for us all to come back so we can start our experiments.



CAREER NEWS



Please remember to check
your emails
on a regular basis!

***SRS (Schools Recommendation Scheme - Early Entry) Applications close Sunday 19th September.**

***Presentations from Mrs McLoughlin and Mrs Phillips on:**

UAC Applications

SRS Applications

EAS Applications

Applying to TAFE

Looking for Work/Resumes

Can be found on the School Portal; Careers tab (under School Links); Universities tab.

Careers Coordinators

E: julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au

E: ashley.phillips@mn.catholic.edu.au

ASPIRE

MUSIC.DANCE.DRAMA

AUDITIONS 2022



Auditions for ASPIRE 2022 are now open for students from Year 4 to Year 12. The auditions will be held at the Newcastle Convention and Exhibition Centre (Wests Newcastle), which is on the site of the Old Newcastle Workers Club in Newcastle.

Registrations for Auditions close on **Friday 17 September 2021.**

An email will be forwarded to you during the first week of the holidays with all relevant audition information including your date and time.

// HOW TO AUDITION FOR ASPIRE 2022

The ASPIRE Audition Application is an online process.

The following instructions will direct you to the online audition form.

- 1/ Go to the ASPIRE website: aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au
- 2/ Click on JOIN US
- 3/ Click on 2022 AUDITIONS
- 4/ Click on the link: [CLICK HERE TO APPLY ONLINE FOR ASPIRE 2022](#)

Please contact Anne Atkins if you have any queries regarding auditions by email: anne.atkins@mn.catholic.edu.au or by phone 02 4979 1331

// AUDITION DATES

DANCE

Monday 18 October 2021

DRAMA

Junior: Tuesday 19 October 2021
and Wednesday 20 October 2021
Senior: Wednesday 20 October 2021

INSTRUMENTAL

Monday 18 October 2021

VOCAL

Thursday 21 October 2021

aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au

Please refer to the ASPIRE website for all ASPIRE information, forms, updates, photos and the newsletter.

ASPIRE

ENROLMENTS FOR YEAR 11, 2022

Now Open

St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



To apply for
2022 Enrolment
into Year 11

Year 11 2022 enrolments are now open. Should you require an enrolment package please email admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au with the following information:



- ✓ Student's Name
- ✓ Student's Date of Birth
- ✓ Student's Current School
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s Name/s
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s mailing address including post code
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s mobile phone number
- ✓ Parent/s, Carer/s email address



St Francis Xavier's College

Address: 286 Parkway Avenue, Hamilton
Office: Hebburn Street, Hamilton
Postal: PO Box 300, Hamilton NSW 2303
Telephone: (02) 4961 2863
Email: admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au
Web Site: www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

Student Services

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:10 pm
Telephone: (02) 4961 2110
Email: hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au

*All student related phone calls can be made directly to Student Services.
If the phone is unattended please leave a message.*

Switch/Reception

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:30 pm

Finance Office

Hours: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm
Email: hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au



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Do you have empathy, patience and a calm phone manner?
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Register your interest by contacting Teresa King on 0473 002 729 or
email : teresa.king@vinnies.org.au



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NSW
good works