



Lighthouse

Volume 36 Number 1

7 February 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of SFX

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome everyone to the new school year. I hope that the Christmas and New Year period provided you with a chance to unwind and enjoy the company of family and friends. As you would be aware, the Marist Brothers stepped down from the leadership of St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton during the course of 2019. I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to now lead the community as we move into a new era. In saying this, it is important to note that the college will remain closely aligned with the wider Marist community and will retain the Marist values as fundamental principles in our undertakings.

By way of introduction, my teaching career has carried me to five schools across our diocese (St. Joseph's Aberdeen, All Saints College St Mary's Campus Maitland, St Paul's High School Booragul, St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead and now St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton). During this time, I have held leadership positions as both a Studies and Student Co-ordinator and been an Assistant Principal for thirteen years. My central teaching areas have been Religious Studies, Drama and English.

Each of these teaching experiences has helped to shape my understanding of the vital role that learning plays in the human journey. It is the ongoing process of renewal through learning that enables us to grow and realise our potential. I am committed to encouraging all members of our community to embrace learning actively and purposefully, and I have been delighted to discover that this belief is one that is shared by so many of our wonderful staff and students in the college – it is certainly a vibrant place.

A Thought for the Year Ahead

In my initial address to the College for 2020, I seized the opportunity to clarify some fundamental **expectations** for the year ahead, as well as to provide students with a **challenge**.

Expectations

My expectations for students in the College are clear and not negotiable.

1. Respect – self and others
2. Attend – regularly and punctually
3. Uniform – wear it with pride and uniformly
4. Learn – actively and with purpose

Challenge

In the film *The Imitation Game* (2014), Benedict Cumberbatch plays the extraordinary Mathematics professor Alan Turing whose work in developing the first digital computer helped crack the German Enigma code and became decisive in assisting the Allies to significantly reduce the number of casualties and duration of World War II. While the movie deals with complex moral and ethical issues as it explores Turing's life, the focus of my challenge to the students came from one line in the film that is repeated on multiple occasions:

Sometimes it's the very people who no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.

The Christian tradition often visits this theme as out of the most humble of beginnings arise people of faith who accomplish the very things that no one could imagine. The most powerful example, of course, arrives in the Son of God himself, who is born to unassuming parents and becomes the most influential human to grace the Earth.

So, my challenge to the students in their aspirations at the commencement of a new year, is to not be defined by preconceived conceptions of their limitations. Sometimes these limitations are placed upon us by others, whilst other times, we limit our own capacity through self-perception. For each of us, our life journey began many years ago, but right now we have the chance to redefine our capabilities, to reimagine what we can achieve, and to put in place the systems to help us in the pursuit of such dreams.

May our College in 2020 be a place where imagination, faith and learning journey together.

I am looking forward to meeting each of our students and feel privileged to share in this brief part of their journey. I also look forward to meeting our wider community at functions throughout the year.

May God bless.



Greg Ptolemy
PRINCIPAL

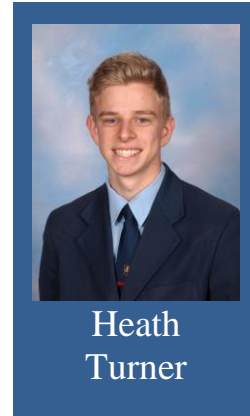
St Francis Xavier's College

Student Leaders 2020

Captains



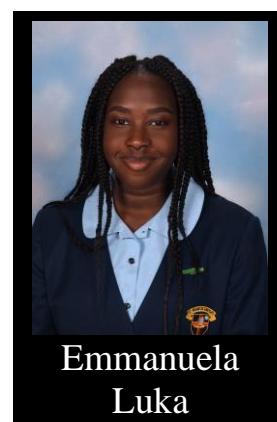
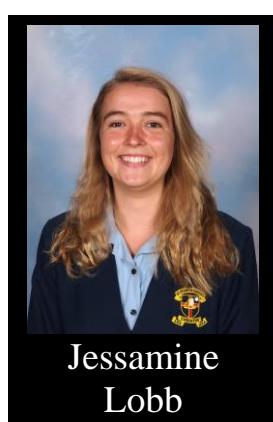
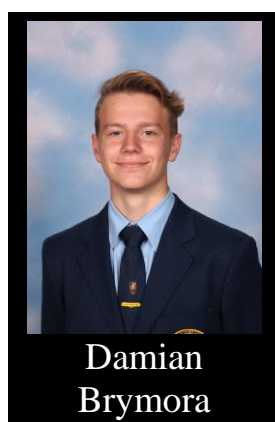
Vice Captains



House Leaders



Solidarity Leaders 2020





Year



2020

Year 12 HSC and Beyond Day **Tuesday, 18 February**

This is a compulsory school day. Students may wear appropriate casual clothing and covered footwear.

This day allows Year 12 students the opportunity to consider and address issues leading up to and after the HSC. The aims of HSC and Beyond Day are:

- to provide students with an opportunity to listen to positive and motivating post Year 12 options.
- to challenge students to consider their post Year 12 options.
- to facilitate students to focus their academic efforts in Year 12 in 2020.

Information about this day has been forwarded to parents.

Year 12 Information Evening **Wednesday, 19 February**

Commences at 7:00 pm in the College Hall

Entrance to the College Hall is via Hebburn Street Hamilton.

Parkway Avenue, Ada Street and Hebburn Street school gates will be open.

Year 12 Mid-Course Exams **Monday, 16 March until Friday, 27 March**

These exams commence on **Monday, 16 March and conclude on Friday, 27 March 2020**. Students will be emailed an examination timetable and receive a hard copy. Please be advised that as per our Assessment Policy ***leave will not be granted during exam blocks***, therefore students should carefully check commitments during this 10 day period.

Year



2020

Year 11 Getting To Know You Day **Tuesday, 18 February**

This is a compulsory school day.

Year 11 will participate in a **Getting To Know You Day (GTKYD)**. The main purpose of this event is to provide opportunities for each Tutor Group (i.e. students and teacher) to become better acquainted.

*The GTKY day will be held on the College grounds. A special program will be followed and therefore it will be an **out of uniform day**. For the day students are expected to:*

- wear **appropriate and sensible casual clothes** (there will be both indoor & outdoor activities). Skirt length and shorts should be consistent with the College uniform policy.
- for outdoor activities - skin/sun care still important - **shirt, sunscreen, hat**.
- Wear closed in footwear - **no sandals or thongs**.

Information about this day will be forwarded to parents.

Year 11 Information Evening **Tuesday, 3 March**

Commences at 7:00 pm in the College Hall

Students are not required to attend.

Notification inviting parents to attend this evening will be sent home shortly. We encourage all parents to commit to this evening.

The session will commence in the Hall with a welcome and overview of what has been happening with Year 11. Greg Ptolemy (Principal), Julia Lederwasch (Assistant Principal, Dean of Students) and Colin Mulhearn (Assistant Principal, Dean of Studies) will be available throughout the evening.

**Parents will then join their child's
Tutor Group Leader
for a briefing, and to answer any concerns.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Classes

- The school day starts for the majority of students at 9:05 am with Tutor Group and finishes at 3:10 pm.
- Extension classes and some other classes commence at 8:00 am.

End of the School Day

The school day concludes at 3:10 pm.

Please **DO NOT** phone to collect students earlier, or for students to leave early, unless it is an emergency.

Students on School Premises

Students are to remain on the premises for the entire school day unless permission has been granted for leave and students sign out from Student Services.

Change of Addresses and Phone Numbers

In case of an emergency it is important that students' contact details are up to date.

If there have been changes to family details please have your student go to the Administration Office where an appropriate form will be issued.

Parking in Parkway Avenue

A reminder to students and parents that it is illegal to park on the median strip in Parkway Avenue. Even more importantly, parking in this manner puts students and drivers at risk as it is a very congested area at 3:10 pm. Newcastle Council Officers will be monitoring this area, with our full support, and therefore it would be in everyone's best interests to comply with regulations!

Students are NOT to park in the Staff Car Park.

Students driving to school are to hand in their car registration number to the Student Office. Please refer to 'Road Safety' form on the back of this Lighthouse.

Mobile Phone, iPod and other Devices

LIABILITY

Students bringing mobile phones to the school do so at their own risk.

The College cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones.

The same applies to portable computer games, iPods and similar devices.

Out of Uniform Days

Due to Work Health & Safety regulations, on these occasions students are still required to wear **covered in shoes**. Dress should be appropriate for a school setting ie. no inappropriate slogans on clothes, no short shorts, singlet tops.

Students Applying for Exemption from Attendance at School

Students wishing to apply for leave from the College are required to submit a letter from a parent/guardian describing leave requested.

Please be aware that leave will NOT be approved during exam periods.

School Leaving Age 17 Years of Age

If students leave under the age of 17 years, the College must sight documentation that they have enrolled in approved education or training or have gained full time paid employment (average 25 hours/week) or a combination of these.

Crossing Roads

All students are reminded of the importance of crossing roads in an appropriate manner and at an appropriate place. Students who need to cross King Street of an afternoon are to cross at the Traffic Lights at the crossing in King Street, in front of the TAFE, opposite Wood Street. Students are to follow the directions of staff on duty at this crossing.

TAFE

Students approaching the College in the morning or leaving the College in the afternoon in the direction of the TAFE are asked to walk **AROUND** the TAFE not through it. The TAFE grounds are private property and are not to be used as a shortcut to King Street.



Instructions for student/parent/caregiver/legal guardian

1. Please read this document carefully.
 2. Discuss the Road Safety rules with your child.
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Arriving and Departing

Parents/carers and family members are encouraged to inform students about and reinforce correct and responsible road use behaviours.

There are four designated points of entry to St Francis Xavier's College.

- Everton Street
- Parkway Avenue
- Hebburn Street
- Ada Street

Arrival and Departure on Foot

Given the large number of students who drive to school, students need to exercise caution when approaching and leaving the College grounds and the environs. Students are not to walk along the median strip along King Street but must use the pedestrian crossing and lights appropriately.

Staff will be on duty after school to supervise the students using the crossing on King Street in front of the TAFE.

Arrival and Departure by Car

Parents/carers, family members and students are expected to use the legal street parking spaces for pick up and delivery of students. It is illegal to park on the median strip in Parkway Avenue.

The College has a large student population. Drivers should ensure that they exercise caution and arrive and depart the College and its environs in a safe, responsible and legal manner. Similarly, pedestrians must exercise due caution given the large number of relatively inexperienced drivers who arrive and depart around the same time.

The car park is for staff and visitors only. Students are **NOT** to use the car park unless given permission by the Principal for exceptional circumstances. There is a disabled parking spot for appropriate use.

Students who utilise the Assisted Travel Scheme are accompanied to and from the vehicle by a staff member.

The school is located in a 40km school zone where a 40km speed limit applies for the hours of 8:00 am – 9:30 am and 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm on school days. The speed limit is lowered to 40km during these hours to increase the safety of the students arriving and departing the school. Drivers must abide by these speed regulations.

ROAD SAFETY



Students who drive a car to and from school



Please read the following, complete this document and return to Student Service when you start driving to school.



Agreement

The following information is required as a part of the College Road Safety Policy which seeks to provide a framework of common understanding for students, staff, parents/carers and the community who interact with the College to provide a safe environment.

This information will also be used to inform students should their car need to be moved if they have inadvertently encroached upon a neighbour's driveway which prevents access.

In the event of complaints from members of the public regarding dangerous or careless driving practices, parents will be informed.

I agree to the following:

1. My car will not be used during the day to leave the school grounds without permission from the College who will seek permission from a parent/carer.
2. I must hold a valid driver's licence.
3. The car I will drive must have current registration, together with current comprehensive insurance or third party property insurance.
4. I will drive in a safe manner and follow all road rules.
5. I agree that no student passenger will be transported in this vehicle unless permission has been given by their parent/carer.

Please print

Student Driver's Name & Tutor Group	_____
Student's Licence Number	_____
Date of Licence Issue P1	_____
P2	_____
Vehicle Make/Model	_____
Registration	_____
Insurance Details	_____
Company	_____
Comprehensive/Third Party	_____
Policy Number	_____
Parent/Carer Phone Number/s	_____
Student Signature	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	_____
	Date _____



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: 8:45 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 the 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



Uniform Shop

Telephone: (02) 4962 4423
Email: stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au

Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:

Tuesday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Thursday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Shop Online at www.alintaapparel.com.au