



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 10 Term 2 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

What a Term – What a Team!

The Term is almost complete and as I reflect on the last 10 weeks, I have certainly not experienced a period like it in my extensive career in education.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all parents, students, families and staff of the College for the tremendous work and support that has been provided this year. We have all had to face and navigate new challenges in our personal lives, in our work and in our learning. On the whole we (and I do use the term “we” purposely) have achieved some remarkable and unexpected outcomes.

As we know, the challenges thrown up by COVID-19 are far from over and the repercussions will continue in both the short and long term. I firmly believe that our work with your young people on our six growth domains will give them the skills, resilience and attitude to face these challenges and support each other in making this world a better place. I have witnessed this work over the past few months and it will continue, but only with your support, as family are the vital third leg of the partnership.



College Calendar

One of the short term issues is our College Calendar.

We are juggling all the dates in the second half of the year to ensure the best outcomes for our students. The revised calendar will be issued shortly. Again, many events are still pending; awaiting the determination and guidelines from relevant authorities in relation to Covid-19. *Adaptation and flexibility* have been two necessary skills that have certainly been needed and will continue to be developed over these coming months.

Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings - have been transferred to Weeks 1, 2 and 3 at the start of next Term, as outlined in the Assistant Principal's Report, along with booking details.

The College is supporting our Year 12 students through the **Passion into Excellence Program (PEP)**. This will continue over the coming two week break with both face-to-face and online **MasterClasses** as well as supervised time to work on their various major works. All Year 12 students have met the reading, writing and numeracy minimum standards ensuring everyone is positioned for their upcoming Trial HSC Exams and HSC Exams in October.

Year 11 Leaders

As Year 12 is focusing on their upcoming exams, the **new student leadership structure** is almost complete for 2021. I would like to acknowledge and thank the 48 students in Year 11 who applied for *badged* leadership positions. In my view, all our Senior Students have leadership responsibilities, and some nominate themselves for more formalised roles; badged roles within the College.

Thank you to Mr Johansen, Ms Todd and Ms Jones for their time in organising this program.

Careers & Pathways

Over the past two months our Leader of Community Partnerships and Pathways, Ms Timmerman, has hosted and recorded 40 Careers Virtual Talks. She has met with many of our Year 9 to 12 students exploring the various pathways available post leaving school. Ms Timmerman provides a vital tool kit for our students, assisting them to set goals and investigate opportunities, which is so important because as we know the world of work and study is no longer linear.

Term Dates

This **Friday, July 3 is a Diocesan School wide Student Free Day** (a substitute for the first day of Term III). Bishop Anthony and our new Interim Director of Schools, Mr Danny Casey will be presenting to all school staff the *Catholic Schools Toward 2025 Vision, Purpose, Strategic Statement and Values*.

Please have a safe and peaceful break if you are taking time out of your normal routine. It is important that we all maintain our guard and practice the health guidelines associated with Covid-19.

To ensure student learning is maximised, there will be no further 'student free days' for 2020, meaning students will return for Term 3 on **Monday, July 20 – Day 1 Week A**.

Tony Gleeson
Principal



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga
NOW ENROLLING
YEAR 7 2022
stleos.nsw.edu.au
LIMITED PLACES
YEARS 10 & 11 2021
Enter with passion - graduate with greatness

The poster features a group of five students in school uniforms. A small crest with the text 'ST LEO'S WAHROONGA' is visible in the bottom left corner of the image area.

1 We are now enrolling for Year 7 2022 (current Year 5) as well as limited Years 10 & 11 places next year. Contact the College for more information, and please spread the word!

North Shore Mums
For mums, by mums



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga: Demand soars after \$25m upgrade

North Shore Mums Advertorial 25 June, 2020

Demand for places at St Leo's Catholic College Wahroonga is at an all-time high thanks to the College's strong academic

2 Did you see us featured on the North Shore Mums website this week? Read it here (Click on image)

From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place during the first three weeks of next term.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, these interviews will take place in the Light of Christ Centre between 3.30 – 8.30pm on the Wednesday evening of the relevant week for your son or daughter:

- **Week 1 – Wednesday, July 22, 3:30 - 8:30pm – Years 11 & 12**
- **Week 2 – Wednesday, July 29, 3:30 - 8:30pm – Years 9 & 10**
- **Week 3 – Wednesday, August 5, 3:30 - 8:30pm – Intake 2020 (Year 7) & Year 8**

Parents are requested to **remain outside the Light of Christ Centre until their first appointment**. This will assist in minimising the number of adults within the centre to manage Covid-19 restrictions. Seating will be provided along the verandah for those waiting outside.

**** BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN VIA YOUR COMPASS NOTIFICATION ****

How to book your Parent Teacher Interviews:

All registered parents/caregivers will receive an email notification from Compass inviting them to nominate appointment times for parent teacher interviews.

The process is quite straightforward, but please follow these steps if needed to access the **‘Conferences’ portal in Compass**:

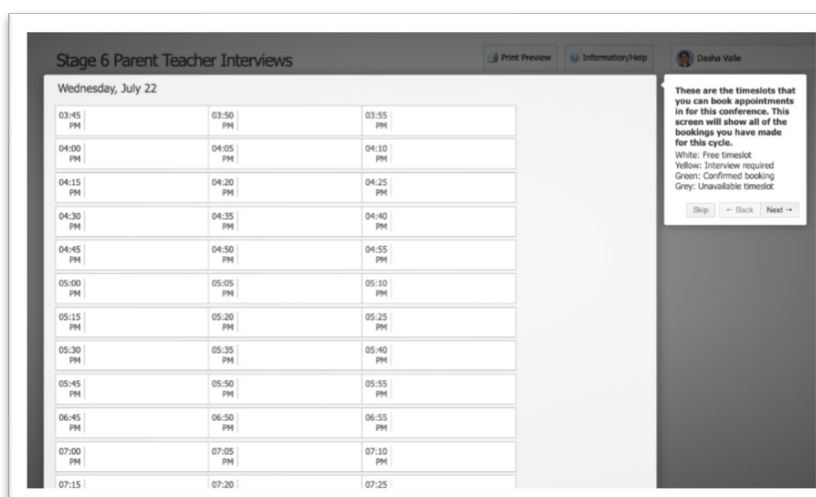
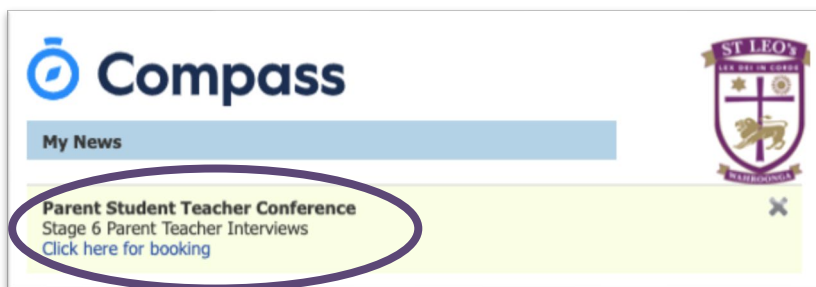
1. **Log into Compass** (if you need help with this, check the [Parent's Guide to Accessing the Compass Parent Portal](#))

2. Once logged into Compass, a **notification will appear under ‘My News’** informing you that the Parent teacher interviews are now open to make appointments.

3. Select **‘Click here for bookings’ with this notification**, which will take you to the bookings where your son or daughter’s teachers’ names will appear.

4. **Select a teacher’s name and an available timeslot (in white)** to book a time. Repeat for each teacher.

5. There is also a button **‘Show me how to book’** which will give you further instructions if needed.



Vaping/e-Cigarettes - Important Information for Parents/Caregivers

It has come to our attention that e-cigarettes have become increasingly popular in the community over the past six months. **The College maintains a strict zero tolerance policy towards such items and their usage.** The College held an assembly today to emphasise this policy and to highlight the harm it causes to the body.

Please read the information below regarding e-cigarettes, and a particular brand called Cuvie. We also recommend all parents/caregivers access the information on the [Alcohol and Drug Foundation website](#) and additional resources [HERE](#) to assist you with keeping up-to-date with this important adolescent area.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your young person in addressing these issues. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like further confidential support/advice please contact the College via your son/daughter's Year Leader.

What is a 'Cuvie'?

A Cuvie is a disposable e-cigarette. They are small in size (8 x 2cm), but each Cuvie generates 300 'hits' or 'puffs' per pod and costs approximately \$10-20.



Does a Cuvie contain nicotine?

Yes - each Cuvie has 50mg of nicotine in it. The 300 puffs equate to approximately one packet of cigarettes. This is a concern as young people may be using these discreetly at night and unknowingly consume the equivalent of a whole packet of cigarettes.

Are they dangerous for your health?

Young people may not be aware of some of the short and long term effects of using e-cigarettes. Research has shown that there is an increased prevalence of lung conditions such as asthma, wheezing and bronchitis. Even more concerning is the impact of nicotine on the developing brain. This can affect learning, memory and attention. Researchers also indicate the use of e-cigarettes as a young person increases chances of developing a cigarette or substance abuse problem later in life.

Are they legal?

It is illegal to sell e-cigarettes and accessories to a person under 18 years of age. Anyone who sells cigarettes or e-cigarettes to someone under the age of 18 can be heavily fined.

What is the College Policy on e-cigarettes?

E-cigarettes are a strictly prohibited item at the College and serious consequences will apply to any student(s) in possession of e-cigarettes and/or using e-cigarettes.

How are young people using e-cigarettes and hiding their behaviour?

Since many vaping devices, especially Cuvies, are inconspicuous in size and overall look, many adolescents may find it easy to hide their habits. The vapour from the e-cigarettes is odourless (or has a sweet smell, depending on the flavour), so parents are less likely to detect an aroma. Online purchasing appears to be one avenue that an adolescent could pursue to bypass the age limit barrier.

What should I do?

It is important that parents sit down with their young person for an open conversation about the effects of nicotine. It is also important to encourage help-seeking behaviour. For information and examples of how to generate a conversation around this topic, please watch the SchoolTV resource from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg - SchoolTV: e-cigarettes & Vaping.

If there are any concerns regarding your son/daughter, please contact myself, Mr Johansen as the Director of Students or the relevant Pastoral Leader. Thank you in advance for your support.

Semester One Reports

A reminder that the College will be releasing Semester One Reports to parents **via Compass** on the following dates. We are pleased to be offering the addition of a Year 11 Report at the Conclusion of Semester One as the College aims to increase its feedback on the learning journey of each student.

Years 7-10: Released via Compass: **Wednesday, July 1**

Year 11: Released via Compass: **Friday, July 3**

Social Media Usage at Home

Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to engage and be aware of their daughter or son's social media usage. This 'digital playground' provides the potential for undesired comments to be made that go unnoticed or unchallenged. Instances such as these can lead to low self esteem and a problem can quickly develop into a significant issue with social, emotional, physical and spiritual impacts.

If a parent or guardian becomes aware of an issue, please do not hesitate to contact the College so that the necessary steps can be taken to resolve the issue. **While social media in the home is outside the campus**, such activity has tangible impacts on relationships and activities here at the College. Students are often unwilling to raise concerns due to concerns of 'making the situation worse'. Please feel encouraged to follow through with contacting the College and allowing our highly specialised Pastoral Care team to assist you with your concerns.

Every blessing for the winter break ahead.

From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation:

Mr Nathan Smith

Year 12 Retreat – Mon 21-Wed 23 September

The College's Evangelisation Team has been hard at work and I am pleased to advise that we have dates and a venue for Year 12 Retreat. Details include:

When: *Monday 21 September – Wednesday 23 September*

Where: [Naamaroo Uniting Venue](#), Lane Cove National Park

At present, based on the current Covid-19 restrictions that are in place, it would mean that the retreat would not be able to go ahead due to requirements around four-square-metre distancing in spaces, maximum capacities in venues, and the alike. It is hoped, however, that by September, the current Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted (or significantly changed) so that we can proceed with the experience for students. A decision as to whether the retreat will proceed or not will be made in late August.

Year 12 Students will receive a Retreat Information Pack on Wednesday this week (tomorrow). Parents/carers are asked to keep an eye out for this pack as it contains key pieces of information and permission slips.

Completed paperwork needs to be returned to the College by no later than **Friday 31 July**.



3 Read the latest Broken Bay News (click image). The St Leo's 'Online Gym' is highlighted on pages 22-23 as part of the Remote Learning feature.

Home-Based Spirituality

The Catholic Schools Office have been hosting a number of **Home-based Spirituality** workshops over the course of this term. They have asked for feedback from parents/care-givers who participated in the workshops. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access a survey where your comments can be noted:

Some light reading and reflection...

*"Trusting in God does not mean never arguing with him"
The Pope says.*



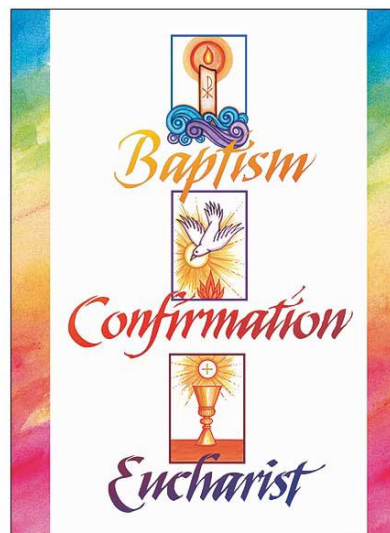
In the story of the patriarch Abraham — honoured by Jews, Christians and Muslims — faith becomes a direct relationship with God that is marked by constant prayer, which sometimes takes the form of "debating" with God, Pope Francis said.

[Click here](#) to read the full passage.

Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion @ St Leo's

St Leo's Catholic College would like to offer any students who have not completed their Sacraments of Initiation the possibility of being prepared through the College. Some parents may have left the decision of baptism to their children, and high school would be a good age to have the conversation with them whether they would like to become part of the Catholic community. Other students may have for various reasons missed out on the sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist when their peers received them in primary school. High school students may feel awkward attending sacramental preparation classes with primary school students.

St Leo's will prepare the students for the sacraments at school in partnership with the local parishes. Please contact Rev Gomez if you are interested in finding out more or would like to involve your child in this program. We already have 6 students who have expressed interest before the COVID lockdown put things on hold. We are hoping to get their preparation started in Term 3. What they will need to complete depends on their individual circumstances.



Please contact: Deacon Adrian Gomez via [email](#) or phone 0425 451 307.

Other Upcoming Activities and Events

A reminder that the following events are now confirmed on the College calendar (subject to any Covid-restriction changes):

- **Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola - Friday 31 July**
- **Schools Tree Planting Day and Liturgy - Friday 31 July - CONFIRMED**
- **Feast of the Assumption Mass - Friday 14 August - CONFIRMED**

From the Dean of Curriculum and Professional Development

Mr George Morad

July Holiday MasterClasses

We will again be holding a series of senior workshops in the upcoming holidays - our 'HSC MasterClasses' will focus on honing in on the HSC exam and target specific areas in each subject with the aim of improving

students' overall marks in those areas. This is to ensure that St Leo's 2020 cohort experiences a comparative learning gain across all subjects.

If a Master Class is run via Zoom, it will be recorded so that it can be uploaded to the Year 12 Year Group Google Classroom, as CAPA and TAS will need to utilise time for major works and projects that may clash with master class times.

A list of all Master Classes was sent to all Year 12 students last week, but can be accessed again [HERE](#). We will also be running Master Classes in the September school holidays.

Free HSC Online Lectures

ATAR notes are offering lectures for senior students during the holidays from 28 June - 17 July 2020. Please see the list of lectures [HERE](#).

From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

Student Leadership 2020/2021 - Update

On Monday and Tuesday last week, **40** Year 11 students were interviewed for the 2020-2021 College Leadership positions. The quality of the shortlisted candidates was outstanding and they presented extremely well at the interviews. Following the interview process, the selection panel carefully reviewed all candidates' applications, voting results and interview performance. After this discussion, recommendations were presented to the Leadership Team (Friday) and further deliberation occurred.

The final 34 students have now been selected; however, their positions will not be announced until early next term as there are still some portfolio allocations to be confirmed. Candidates who were successful for a 2020-2021 leadership position will be **informed this week**.

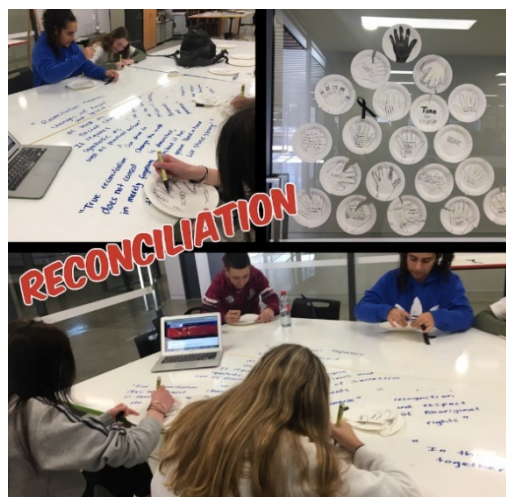
Reconciliation Awareness Day - Thank you

Last Wednesday, the Year 12 Leaders and the Student Representative Council successfully drove our Reconciliation Awareness Day at the College. All Year 7-10 students participated in a specially designed paper plate activity that effectively conveyed the message of reconciliation.

As with all Social Justice initiatives, **raising awareness is the most important objective**, and it was wonderful to observe both the enthusiasm and discussion generated by this activity. The College also raised **\$1070** that will be donated to our nominated Catholic charity, **SafePlace**.

A wonderful effort from our generous St Leos' community and well done to all our College leaders :)

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact the College if there are any queries or concerns - enjoy the upcoming holidays with your families!



From the Director of Administration

Ms Therri Ellison

Year 12

Year 12 Trial HSC timetable is now available: [TRIAL TIMETABLE](#). There are some important instructions on the first page. Please ensure your son/ daughter reads these.

Year 10

Subject selections have been completed and many students have had interviews with a member of the College Leadership Team or a KLA Leader. The remaining interviews will take place this Wednesday (tomorrow). Most interviewers provided feedback that the students (in consultation with their parents) have made good choices for what appears to be a good pattern of study. Final subjects will not be available until Term 3.

Community Notices

ATTENTION GIRLS

SEASON 2020



HORNBY HEIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB


HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING OUT ON EXERCISE DURING COVID19?

WANT TO GET BACK TO THE BEAUTIFUL GAME OF FOOTBALL??

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Hornsby Heights Football Club have limited spots available for girls to join our Women's All Age team! If you are a player looking for a new team or someone looking for a challenge, then come join us at Hornsby Heights Football Club!

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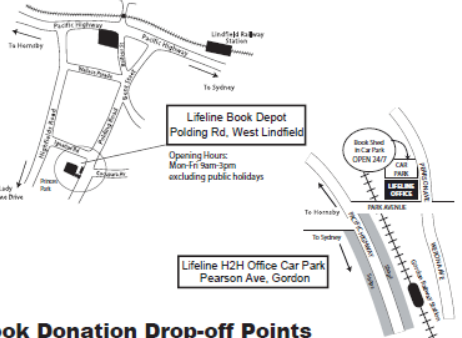
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