



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 1 Term 3 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

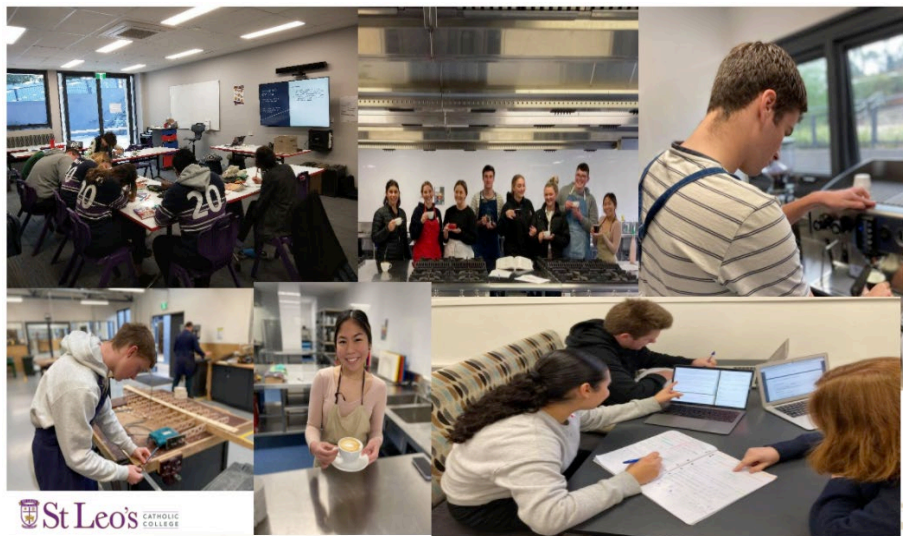
A warm welcome back for our second semester for 2020 and the start of Term 3. I hope you all had a chance to recharge the batteries after a most eventful and unusual Term 2.

Semester One Reports

I trust all parents received the promised new look Semester One Reports at the end of last term and you had an opportunity to review it with your young person. It was the first time we generated the reports from *Compass*. Coupled with Covid-19, and the massive changes that occurred, I acknowledge and thank our College staff and parents for your patience, time and understanding whilst we dealt with a few teething problems. We introduced individual teacher comments for all subjects in Years 11 and 12. This will be extended for all future reports across all Year Groups.

The review of these reports by parents and students is important. In my Year 9 Mathematics class I have spent some time ensuring the students understand the different grades and terminology used on the reports. I want them to identify their *behaviours*, *actions* and *attitudes* that are recognised by the teacher and therefore *identify and articulate the reason* why they were awarded that grade/standard. At the end of the analysis, I asked the students to '*predict the future*' and gave them a blank template for their Semester Two Report. I asked them to complete it - based on their actions, behaviour, attitude; all elements that are solely their responsibility.

It was a great goal setting exercise - maybe something you could try at home? We all want to see an improvement from one semester to another, and it is vital students not only know what those standards are, but more importantly, how to get there.



St Leo's CATHOLIC COLLEGE

HSC Holiday Workshops

'Closing the Equity Gap'

During the break, I witnessed a large number of our Year 12 students taking the opportunity to attend the MasterClasses that our staff generously ran over the two week period. I also had the opportunity to read a report from the *Grattan Institute* about identifying and assisting our students most affected by the Covid-19 scenario last Term. I addressed the staff about this report yesterday and I have tasked Mrs Sykes and her team to not only identify these students at St Leo's, but also devise a possible program that would assist these students in closing the equity gap. It is a very useful report - something I hope goes across the Prime Minister's desk! You may wish to read this report [HERE](#).



Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

As advised in my email on Monday, we have decided to modify arrangements for face-to-face Parent Teacher Interviews that were in place for the first three weeks of this Term due to the current status of Covid-19. **The final arrangements are being made for an alternative format and dates, and we will advise you by next Monday at the latest.**

Remote Learning Survey for Parents/Caregivers and Students

On Friday, I will release the survey that I spoke of late in Term 2, asking for your **feedback around your experiences connected with Remote Learning**. The survey is **NOT** looking at the three models we developed throughout Term 2, but rather the **overall experience and if there are any aspects of the Remote Learning we could 'weave' into our existing programs** to improve the outcomes for our students.



These remain challenging times. However, I want to guarantee you that the College is making every effort to not only provide the best possible educational experience for all our young people, but to also keep everyone in our St Leo's family safe and healthy. A huge thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation. The success of our Remote Learning Program last Term was in no small part due to the excellent collaboration and cooperation of staff, parents/carers and of course our young people.

It is in times such as these that our Christian heritage comes to the fore. All of our House Saints and Patrons, despite suffering endless setbacks and disappointments in their lives, persevered in both their work and their faith because for each one of them, they were doing God's work. Part of their and God's legacy is right here at St Leo's. We pray in gratitude for what we have, and we pray in hope for God's blessing for the 10 weeks ahead in Term 3.

Tony Gleeson
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

Year 8 Subject Selection Process

On **Wednesday July 29**, Year 8 and their families will digitally receive the Subject Selection Handbook for Year 9 2021. Parents are asked to peruse this document with their children. Students will then participate in a Subject Selection Presentation Assembly on **Thursday July 30**, where representatives from the courses

on offer in 2021 will provide students with an insight into what each course involves. Following this assembly, students will receive via email a confidential webcode that they will require to complete their subject selections at a later stage of the process.

The College will then be hosting a Parent Information Evening for Year 9 2021 Subject Selections from 7pm on **Monday of Week 3, August 3**. Due to present Covid-19 restrictions, the College will be hosting this evening as a **Zoom meeting**. You can access the Zoom session via the following: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android via [THIS LINK](#).

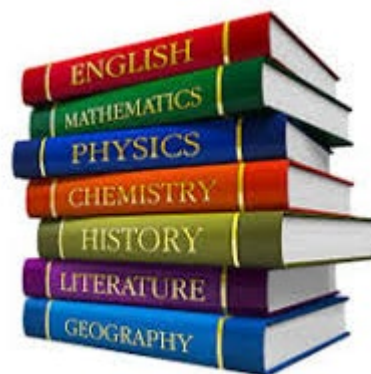
Join from telephone (meeting ID: 940 9276 5849):

(02) 8015 2088 (Sydney), (07) 3053 8570 (Brisbane), (08) 7150 1149 (Adelaide), or (03) 8375 9112 (Melbourne)

Parents have the opportunity to access the FAQ's link within the handbook, to list any questions prior to the information evening they wish answered during the zoom session.

We expect the presentations to be approx. 30mins, followed by Q&As. Members of the College Leadership team and the College Pathways Coordinator will also be present for this important transition in the learning journey of your daughter or son.

By **Wednesday August 5**, students are required to have entered their subject selections via the webcode that they received via their College email address. The printed summary form that requires a signature by the student as well as parents is due to reception by Thursday 6th August. We look forward to the journey ahead as they pave their way towards their Stage 5 studies.



Semester One Award Ceremony

The College will be celebrating the wonderful success of our students during Semester One. A digital award presentation will highlight the development of our students across the Six Growth Domains. This will replace the traditional format of a face to face ceremony that is required due to Covid-19. Parents and guardians will receive this digital award presentation via the Parental Lion Roars Week 2 Edition.



Use of Electronic Cigarettes

Use of Electronic Cigarettes, also known as Vapes or Vaping, appears to be spread across most years in secondary schools and involves a large enough number of students to justify this school-wide communication. This is an issue that several Sydney schools are dealing with, and whilst it is illegal for people under 18 to purchase Electronic Cigarettes students have been obtaining them.

As far as the College is concerned, the following applies to vaping:

- Any student who is found to be in possession of any form of Electronic Cigarette or accessory at school, or found to have made use of one whilst on campus or on the way to/from school in College Uniform, will be suspended immediately.
- Any student found to be purchasing, selling, or distributing any form of Electronic Cigarette or accessory will involve further discussion with the College Principal

All students have been made aware of our stance. It is unfortunate that such serious action is required, however, the College remains committed to ensuring that all students on campus learn within a safe and healthy environment. This activity can have serious



effects on your child's health and does not align with the high standards that we have of our students, and that the community has of St Leo's Catholic College.

What are Electronic Cigarettes?

- Electronic cigarette or e-cigarette is a phrase for the different electronic devices used to vape. These devices may or may not look like a traditional cigarette. They are battery-powered devices that heat a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales and then exhales.
- The liquid used in e-cigarettes, called e-liquid, even when labelled 'nicotine-free', can contain harmful and widely varying substances such as nicotine, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and cancer-causing chemicals.
- The e-liquid comes in hundreds of flavours such as coffee, apple or doughnut so may or may not smell like a traditional cigarette.
- Users have reported experiencing respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or chest pain) and some have reported gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea) and many of the chemicals in electronic cigarettes are known carcinogens.

Under the NSW Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008, it is illegal to sell e-cigarettes or e-cigarette accessories to a person under 18 years of age. E-cigarettes may be shaped and coloured to make them look like cigarettes or other tobacco products or they may look like everyday items such as pens or USB memory sticks as below.

I ask for your support in raising and discussing this issue with your daughter or son and have provided more information below:

- [Healthdirect](#)
- [Health NSW](#)

From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation:

Mr Nathan Smith

Welcome back to Term 3! As we begin another exciting and challenging school term, let us do so with a prayer for strength. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those members of our College community who are unwell or who are doing it tough at present. In particular, we keep in our minds the Year 12 students who will soon be sitting their Trial HSC exams, as well as our Year 11 students who, at the end of the term, will sit their End of Preliminary HSC course examinations.

O Lord, You are the light that guides my feet.

You are the map that gives me direction.

You are the peace that makes me strong.

You are the leader whom I faithfully follow.

May Your light illuminate my life and Your guidance bring direction.

May I find inspiration in Your word and peace in my heart as I follow You.

We ask this in Your holy name.

Amen.

Laudato Si Mass – National Tree Planting Day

Unfortunately, due to the developments in the Covid-19 pandemic and an adjustment to the health and safety guidelines, we have had to to **postpone** this Mass which was scheduled for Friday 31 July.

We are committed to celebrating this environmental-themed Mass but will need to do so at a more appropriate time. We will communicate when to parents and students in due course but at this stage, it will more than likely take place in 2021.

Upcoming Events and Activities

There have been a number of Evangelisation and Catholic formation events and activities that had been scheduled in Term 3. However, due to the current Covid-19 situation, we will need to reassess whether these planned events can proceed.

We are working through this with the relevant stakeholders and will provide an update to our College community as soon as possible. However, please be assured that the health and safety of all students, parents/carers and staff is of paramount importance and will form the basis of any decision that is made.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding of the difficult decisions that will need to be made.

Regular Prayer at the College

A reminder of the regular opportunities we have for prayer at the College throughout the week. Every day the College prays the daily Examen at 1.10pm. In addition, we have the following opportunities for regular prayer during the week:

- **Morning Mentor prayer**
- **Rosary in the Chapel on Wednesdays at recess**
- **Lunchtime Mass on Fridays in the Chapel**
- **Prayer during Religious Education classes.**



In addition to these regular prayer opportunities, the College Chapel is open all day for students who wish to say their own personal prayer or who may wish to have a quiet space for reflection. I encourage all students to make use of this beautiful space within their school.

From the Director of Teaching and Learning

Mrs Josephine Cali

HSC Minimum Standards

Congratulations to all Year 12 Students for not only meeting but exceeding the HSC Minimum Standards for the 2020 HSC, and well ahead of time!

“For the first time this year, students have to meet standards in reading, writing and numeracy to obtain their HSC qualification. Most students in the class of 2020 have already met the requirements, but thousands [in New South Wales] have not.” (Sydney Morning Herald, 8 April 2020),

And while some principals have also called for the HSC Minimum Standards to be abandoned during COVID-19, this is something St Leo's does not need to contend with. Every one of our Year 12 students (with a minimum of 10 HSC units) at the College has met (and exceeded) the minimum standards and are 'on track' and eligible for the award of the HSC at the end of the year. Students have 5 years after completion of the HSC Examinations to meet the minimum standards, but all our student achieved the standards with plenty of time to spare, allowing them to focus on the upcoming Trial and HSC Examinations.

HSC MINIMUM STANDARD

You need reading, writing and maths skills for everyday life after school. This is why you are required to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2020.



Year 12 Online Accounts – Download your Certificates Now

It is a good idea for students in Year 12 to log in to their [Students Online Account](#) to access and save an electronic copy of their HSC Minimum Standards Certificates. Schools Online Accounts will terminate shortly after the HSC is completed, so please download and save these as soon as possible. Access to these certificates (as well as the RoSa eRecord) after a student's Schools Online has closed will incur a cost from NESAs, so we recommend you download these before your accounts close to avoid unnecessary costs. You can also read more about [HSC Minimum Standards](#).



Year 11 Minimum Standards

While the majority of Year 11 students have completed the HSC Minimum Standards Tests and achieved the Minimum Standard, there are a few students who missed the exams due to absence or illness. These students are asked to see Mrs Cali within the next week to arrange completion of the tests which can be taken during a study period or at another time by negotiation.

Active Kids Vouchers - Years 7-12

The NSW Government is helping kids get active with the Active Kids program, providing two \$100 vouchers for parents, guardians and carers of school-enrolled children to use towards sport and active recreation costs each year.

Voucher 1 is valid January to December and Voucher 2 is valid July to December.

The vouchers may be used with a registered activity provider for registration, participation and membership costs for sport, fitness and active recreation activities. To use a voucher, find a [registered activity provider](#) and present your voucher when you sign up.

St Leo's Code Camp - Available at No Cost with the Creative Kids Voucher

St Leo's are giving our students the opportunity to learn more about coding by participating in a 10 week [Code Camp](#) starting Week 3 of this Term.

We have arranged for an experienced external provider to provide lessons in coding skills after school on one afternoon per week, or students can complete the lessons online at home. The government's Creative Kids Voucher covers the entire cost of the program, meaning that parents/caregivers do not need to outlay any cost towards the program. More information will be provided in the next week. If you have already used both of your Creative Kids vouchers, students are still able to participate in this activity for a total fee of \$100 for 10 weeks.

If you would like to try one lesson for free, you can [claim a free session](#).

Please see Mrs Timmerman (Leader of Community Partnerships & Pathways) or Mrs Cali (Director of Teaching and Learning) for more information.

Academic Domain - Year 12

Year 12 students should be utilising the Past HSC Examination Packs published each year by NESAs. The packs include the previous year's exams, marking guidelines, sample answers and feedback from the markers of the HSC Examinations. Students are encouraged to use past HSC Questions as well as the Sample HSC Questions provided by NESAs for courses with new syllabuses.

How to access these:

1. Select the course from the [NESAs Course List](#).



2. Scroll down to Assessment and Examination Materials where you will find sample HSC questions for each course with a new syllabus.

We wish Year 12 all the best with their upcoming Trial Examinations. The link to all of the Term 3 Assessment Tasks for Year 12 is available [HERE](#).

Year 11 End of Course Examinations

Year 11 Students will be completing their Year 11 End of Preliminary Course Examinations (Yearly Examinations) in Weeks 8 and 9 of Term 3.

Students will then have one week after their exams to collect feedback so they can use the Term 3 holiday period to further refine their understanding of Year 11 concepts and optimise their learning in Term 4 when they commence HSC Courses.

We encourage all Year 11 students to commence their study plans as early as possible and have made online study planners available to them via Google Classroom. Mentor Teachers and other members of the Leadership Team are all available to assist them.

Year 12 Study Skills Handbook (also relevant to Year 11 students)

The College has a paid subscription to an excellent educational resource to assist senior students with their personal and academic goals. They use the link and login details below to access a range of videos and resources.

The current videos series of six videos (Series 3) focuses on what students could do to maximise study goals, improve memorisation techniques, improve results to the next level or Band and how to approach the start of Term 3. There are guidelines on when to watch each video, as well as handouts, grids, planners and discussion questions for students to complete.

Please note that this link is confidential to students from St Leo's Catholic College.

[Access the Study Skills Resources](#) (Username: **drsalter**, Password: **videoseris3**)

Illness Misadventure Forms (Years 10-12)

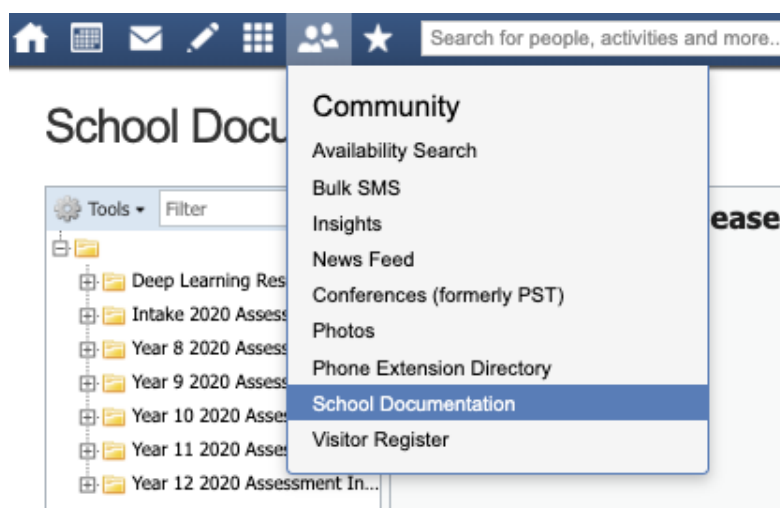
From time to time, students may experience disruption to their learning due to a variety of factors.

Students who have been affected are required to complete an **Illness/Misadventure Form** with appropriate evidence of the circumstances or disruption to their studies or assessment task preparation.

The form should be completed as soon as they are aware of any illness or misadventure and are **available from Mrs Robyn Wilson (Curriculum Support) in the Aquinas Resource**

Centre. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Josephine Cali at the College if there is anything we can do to assist affected students. Further information and specific details regarding Illness Misadventure are available in the relevant Year Group Assessment Handbooks which are available on Compass (Community > [School Documentation](#))

Parents/caregivers are reminded to contact the relevant Year Leader if their son or daughter will be absent on the day that an assessment task is due.



Year 7-10 iPad and Year 11-12 iPad/MacBooks - Connection to the College Internet

All students are required to use/access the College Internet while at school. Over the holidays, some further improvements to the College WiFi were made and students have been assisted by staff from the Catholic Schools Office to access the updated College Wifi. If your son or daughter is unable to access the College Wifi via the new network or if they were absent from school over the last few days, please ask them to see **Mr Santos in the Aquinas Resource Centre**, with their device, so that we can assist them.

Please don't hesitate to [email me](#) if you have any questions regarding Teaching and Learning at St Leo's.

From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

It was wonderful to see our 7-12 students again after the Term 2 holidays. They appeared rejuvenated and ready for another term of opportunity at St Leo's. I spoke to a number of them last week, both in and out of the classroom, and it was pleasing that many want to make a *positive difference* this term, both academically and with their chosen co-curricular pursuits.

Uniform

Students are expected to wear full Winter uniform including blazer every day except if have sport. Other garments worn (such as hoodies) will be confiscated. If students have a reasonable issue with uniform/grooming on a particular day, they should see their Year Leader before 8.30am for a Uniform Pass.

All students are expected to wear the blazer to and from the College every day. Year 12 may continue wearing their College jersey. Please see the Student Diary if any uniform/grooming expectations need clarification. **Regular uniform inspections** continue every week during each term.

Student Leave Forms

Where necessary circumstances require a student to leave from the College, parents/caregivers are required in the first instance to make a **formal written (email) application to the Principal** for exemption from attendance.

If the student leave is approved, which is not automatic, the student then has permission to negotiate the completion of any assessment task(s) due during the leave period with both their subject teacher and respective KLA Leader.

Depending on their leave request, students are required to make contact with ALL teachers via the relevant College application form and ensure that the classwork and assessment sections are fully completed.

It is important to note that the **College does not support families taking extended holidays during term time and/or during College examination periods** as it impacts on a student's learning.

Student Services & Compass Kiosk

All students are expected to sign in at Student Services (Compass kiosk) if they arrive late to School and also sign-out if they have an early departure via the kiosk and their Compass ID card. This is extremely important so the College has an accurate account of student movements. We would appreciate your support with reminding your son/daughter of this requirement.

Parents/caregivers are also requested to enter any relevant attendance information (sickness, early departure etc) using the **Add Attendance Note feature on the Compass Parent Portal** so that the College's database is up-to-date with student movements.

SchoolTV - Online Wellbeing Resources

SchoolTV has a number of special reports that may be of interest to parents/caregivers about raising young teenagers: [LINK](#)

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact the College with any queries or concerns.

From the Director of Administration

Ms Therri Ellison

Year 10 Vaccinations

NSW Health will be at the College to provide the Meningococcal ACWY vaccination to all Year 10 students on **Wednesday August 5** from 9.30am.

Permission forms have been given to Year 10 students and should be returned **to Student Services by Monday, July 27.**
