



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 8 Term 4 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

## From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

### Please Keep in Your Prayers

Please keep in your prayers the **Valderrama Family** (William, Year 9 and Alicia, Class of 2011) on the passing of their father last week from a serious illness.

Also **Mr Anthony Wilson**, and **Mrs Sharon Gartner** on the passing of their mother and father (respectively) over the past two weeks.



### Advent

Welcome to the season of **Advent**. The time of Advent is the 4 week period of preparation for the season of Christmas. Advent begins the cycle of the Liturgical Year and focuses on the coming of the Lord. The first weeks offer a vision of the future, looking to the end of time when Christ will come again. The final weeks point more specifically to the birth of Christ. Christ, the promised one, is awaited with joyful expectation.

### (Abridged) 2020 Swimming Carnival

Last Friday I had the pleasure of a quick visit to the Hornsby Aquatic Centre to see the 75 competitors and staff who participated in the abridged 2020 College Swimming Carnival.

Thank you to Mr **Michael Kember**, Ms **Carolyn Scott**, Ms **Meg Fletcher** and Mr **Michael de Paoli** for their expertise and assistance on this day.

See more in the Sports Round-Up section. Age Champions and House points will be announced next week.



## Intake 2021 - Homework for Parents

Last week we hosted the Intake 2021 (Year 7 2021) Information evening with our parents. I provided the parents with three readings. The purpose of these readings was to bring to their attention some current issues in Australian Education and to challenge some perspectives about the current education system.

I have provided these readings for all parents as they are very worthwhile. The three readings are short - less than 5 minutes for each one:

- [Rank Decisions - \(ATAR and other factors influencing course selections\)](#)
- [Geoff Masters on the problem with the current school curriculum](#)
- [Assessing Soft Skills \(how do we report on our 6Cs?\)](#)



## Final Reminder – 2021 ‘Teacher /Librarian’ Position Parent/Carer Feedback

Thank you to those 20 or so parents who have provided some input into this position that we will advertise shortly.

The role of Teacher/Librarian and the ‘Library’ space has changed dramatically over the past few years.

I see this position interacting widely with students, staff and parents. I would like to gather your opinion/thoughts on this position here at the College. I want to be able to advertise for a position that will meet the needs of our community here at St Leo’s. I have asked staff and students for their views as well.

I have listed a few questions on this survey to gather your thoughts, it is up to you how many of these questions you answer.

[Please give your feedback HERE.](#)

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the week.

**PS -** I was just putting the finishing touches on my report this morning before school and Mr Kember ducked in to tell me that he and another teacher were asked by the Cables Wake Park at Penrith yesterday to pop into their office at the end of the day.

They wanted to inform the teachers that they wished every school group they had at their Park were as well behaved as our Year 10 PASS (Physical Activity and Sport Studies) classes present there yesterday.

Well done Year 10 PASS!

**Tony Gleeson**  
**Principal**



## From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

### Year 10 'Step Up Into Year 11' Program

Students in Year 10 will commence their 'Step Up Into Year 11' Program from next Monday, 7 December. Their current timetable will cease on Friday, 4 December at 3pm. Students will be issued with a new timetable. This program will provide a taste of what to expect when they fully transition into Year 11 in 2021.

### Save the Dates: Important Upcoming Events

Event	Date
Year 10 Reports Released	Wednesday, 2 December
Xavier House: St Francis Xavier Feast Day	Thursday, 3 December
Year 9 Reports Released	Thursday, 3 December
Year 8 Reports Released	Friday, 4 December
Year 10 Semi Formal	Friday, 4 December
Intake 2020 HPV Vaccinations	Tuesday, 8 December
Intake 2020 Reports Released	Thursday, 10 December
St Leo's Day Celebrations	Tuesday, 15 December
Year in Review Awards Ceremony	Wednesday, 16 December
Last day for Students in 2020	Wednesday, 16 December

\*\*\* 2021 IMPORTANT DATES: [VIEW HERE](#)

### End of Year Celebrations and Events Week 10 2020

Below are the arrangements for the final week of Term 4 commencing on Monday, 14 December 2020.

#### Overview

Day	Activity
Monday, 14 December 2020	Normal Classes (Intake 2020, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 12) (Final day of the Step Up Into Y11 Program for Year 10)
Tuesday, 15 December 2020	St Leo's Day - Year Group Liturgies (no fair)
Wednesday, 16 December 2020	Year in Review (Streamed Live from The Light of Christ Centre to Mentor classes)
Thursday, 17 December 2020	Staff Professional Development
Friday, 18 December 2020	Staff Professional Development

### St Leo's Day Tuesday, 15 December 2020

St Leo's Day is the day dedicated to celebrating our College Patron Saint, Pope St Leo the Great. This day also marks the season of Advent in preparation of the Feast of Christmas. Traditionally this day is celebrated with a College Mass followed by a College Fair. This year due to covid restrictions, the Fair has been postponed and the College will host Year Group Liturgies. These will be held at the following times:

Tuesday, 15 December	St Leo's Day Liturgies	Location
Year 8	Period 1 (8:50 - 9:50)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 9	Period 2 (9:50 - 10:50)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Intake 2020	Period 3 (11:15 - 12:15)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 12	Period 4 (12:15 - 1:15)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 10	Period 5 (2:00 - 3:00)	Flora MacKillop Theatre

### Year in Review Wednesday, 16 December 2020

The Year in Review is the College celebration dedicated to highlighting student achievement in each of the six growth domains. Traditionally this ceremony would be open to parents. However due to covid, it will be streamed live via Zoom. It commences at 1:00pm and concludes at 3:00 pm. Please find the zoom link below: <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/96276123663>

Families and award winners will be notified via Compass (email) by the conclusion of Week 9 that their daughter/son will be receiving an award.

Schedule	Timing
<b>Mentor</b>	<b>8.35-8.50</b> - as normal
<b>Period 1</b>	<b>8.50-9.50</b> Practice for award winners in The Light of Christ Centre (LOCC)
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>9.50-10.50</b> - Practice for award winners in the LOCC
<b>Extended Recess</b>	<b>10.50 - 11.20</b>
<b>Movement</b>	<b>11:20 - 11.35</b> Move the the LOCC
<b>Year in Review Streams live from the LOCC</b>	<b>11:35 - 1:35</b>
<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>1.45pm</b>



# From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation

Mr Nathan Smith

## Virtual Road to Bethlehem – A Christmas Pilgrimage

St Leo's, in collaboration with St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah and Catholic Youth Broken Bay, have produced a series of Advent videos to be played in all schools in Broken Bay Diocese in the lead up to Christmas.

Each video begins with a Gospel reading dramatised by our students, followed by a reflection, dance, song or artwork organised by St Peter's. Then, there are videos of students (primary and secondary school) sharing what Christmas means to them. Eleven episodes have been prepared and each go for approximately 10 minutes. You can [view the the first episode HERE](#).



We are unable to unite as a whole school for our end-of-year College Advent liturgy, but in this way, we can join with each other and the whole Diocese in preparing for Christmas. We hope you and your family enjoy the Road to Bethlehem Christmas Pilgrimage videos!



## Christmas Hamper Appeal

As we enter the season of Advent, we continue to collect items for our Annual Christmas Appeal.

This year we are asking different Year Groups to bring in various items for our appeal. If your situation allows you to, we are asking students from different year groups to bring in the following items for the hampers:

- **Intake 2020 and Year 12:** Non-perishable food and Christmas food
- **Year 8:** Christmas accessories to be put in hampers
- **Years 9 and 10:** Donations to the Jesuit Refugee Services (such as food items and toiletries).

In addition, each Mentor group will decide on a **favourite book for a student their age to be donated to Youth Off the Streets**. A student from that Mentor group will be assigned to buy the book and deliver it to the Aquinas Resource Centre.

This Appeal will be driven through Mentor Groups and students have been provided with more information from their Mentor Teacher about specific items for the hampers. However, should you have any questions or if you would like to drop off additional items for the hampers, please contact College Reception.

## Year Group Advent Liturgies

On Tuesday 15 December, each Year Group will participate in a liturgy to mark the Advent season, as well as the end of the College year. These liturgies will be student driven and as such, we are seeking assistance and participation from students. If your child would like to participate in their Year Group's liturgy, please direct them to see their respective Year Leader.



## Upcoming Events

- St Francis Xavier Feast Day - Thursday 3 December
- Year Group Advent Liturgies - Tuesday 15 December

## From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

### College Uniform

**Sports uniform** is only to be worn to the College if a student has timetabled PDHPE/Sport or is representing the College in a relevant sport/activity otherwise full Summer uniform should be worn.

**College tracksuits** are only to be worn if a student has timetabled PDHPE/Sport or is representing the College in a relevant sport/activity, otherwise, full Summer uniform should be worn.

**Representative garments** with Broken Bay/CCC logos are only to be worn if a student is representing the College offsite in a relevant sport/activity otherwise full Summer uniform should be worn.

As stated in the Student Diary, the *wearing of the uniform correctly shows pride in one's appearance and enhances the reputation of the College in the wider community.*

Students who are not correctly attired and/or groomed should **see their Year Leader before 8.35am** - it is expected that respective students either produce a signed parent/caregiver note or entry in the diary first before a uniform/grooming pass is issued.



### Positive Parenting

Despite the best efforts of parents around the world, the reality is, there is no such thing as the 'perfect parent'. However, arming yourself with the right information is a good start!

Research shows that one of the most important protective factors in the lives of young people is a close relationship with a supportive adult. With the **mental health** of today's young people being at an all-time low, it is simply not enough to parent effectively. Parents now need to familiarise themselves with practical skills, knowledge, and strategies when it comes to raising children.

Sometimes parents today are overprotective, resulting in children being less independent, unable to problem-solve or self-regulate. Parents may not set clear boundaries, which unfortunately may make children feel less secure. There is a great deal of pressure on children in the 21st century.

**SchoolTV** is available on the College website and is a resource where parents can find out more about different approaches for primary and secondary school aged children. We hope you are able to take time to reflect on the information offered in this resource, and as always welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the College for further information or seek medical/professional help.

See [SchoolTV - Positive Parenting](#) for more information and online resources.

**Useful Fact Sheets:** [Young teens \(12-14 years\)](#), [Teenagers \(15-17 years\)](#)

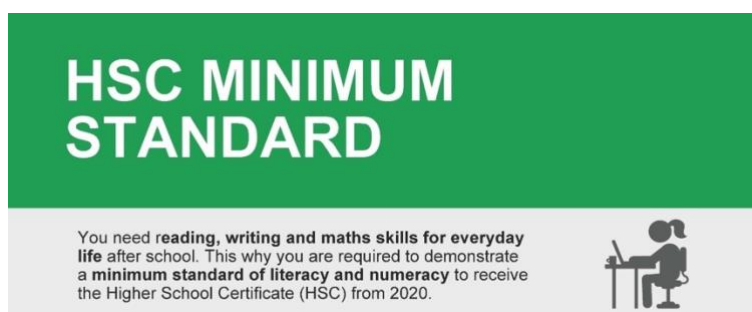


# From the Director of Teaching and Learning

Mrs Josephine Cali

## Year 10 - HSC Minimum Standards Tests

Test results for Minimum Standards Tests completed by students in the last few weeks have been sent to them via their NESA Student Online accounts. Parents and caregivers can ask their young person to share these results with them.



Students who were absent on testing days are asked to see Mrs Cali to complete these tests as soon as possible. This includes students who are leaving the College. The last date set by NESA for Minimum Standards Testing in 2020 is Friday, 4 December.

Test opportunities will recommence in 2021 so there is plenty of time remaining for students who have been unable to attempt these tests or for students who would like to reattempt the tests. Further support will be available for students who have not yet met the Minimum Standards in early 2021.

I am pleased to advise that the vast majority of our St Leo's students have met or exceeded the minimum standards on their first attempt for all three of the testing areas (Reading, Writing and Numeracy). In particular, 98% of students who have attempted the Reading Test this year have already met the Minimum Standard.

I commended Year 10 for the level of maturity they have displayed while completing these tests. I look forward to working with them in 2021 as they commence their senior studies.

## Creative and Active Kids Vouchers - Years 7-12

The NSW Government is helping kids get active with the Active Kids program. The Active Kids program provides 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.

This year, the Creative Kids Voucher can also be used to purchase art and craft supply kits online. Try searching for Creative Kids Art Kits to find suppliers that will send kits to you. Unused vouchers expire on December 31, 2020.

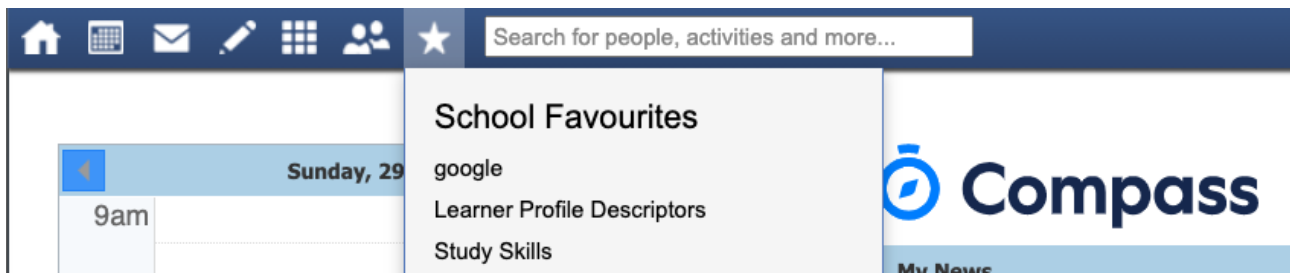
## Study Skills Handbook - Dr Prue Salter

St Leo's Catholic College subscribes to high-quality educational resources that support parents and students in their learning.



Parents/caregivers are welcome to access these resources which are for the exclusive use of the St Leo's Catholic College. They can be accessed via Compass. Go to **School Favourites** then click the link to **Study Skills**.

**Enhanced Learning**  
**Educational Services**  
*"the study skills specialist"*



## December Study Tips - Dr Prue Salter

### From the Director of Administration

Ms Therri Ellison

#### Vaccination Reminder

On Tuesday, 8 December 2020 the following vaccinations will take place:

- Intake 2020 (Year 7); HPV dose 2
- Intake 2020 (Year 7); HPV dose 1 catch up
- Year 10 Meningococcal ACWY, catch up.



Any Intake 2020 (Year 7) students who are absent at this visit can have their immunisation at your first clinic in 2021. They do not need to go to their GP because they are absent.

Any Year 10 students who are absent are strongly recommended to go to their GP to avoid any further delay in vaccination.

### From the Leader of Community Partnerships and Pathways

Ms Mel Timmerman

#### Summer Skills for School Leavers Program

Have you heard about the Summer Skills for School Leavers Program?

It is an initiative of NSW JobTrainer. It offers 2020 Year 12 school leavers the opportunity to upskill, prepare and get ahead through fee-free training courses in construction, coding, business, horticulture, social media, mental health and more. Find out more [here!](#)



#### What's coming up this week and next

1. **CodeCamp** (every Wednesday after school)
2. **Tradiebot AR/ VR** – 26 October to 14 December
  - Five Intake 2020 and Year 8 students have been selected for a special, and exclusive, pilot program with Tradiebot. These students will have access to the special course materials of Tradiebot and learn all the ins and outs around AR and VR programming and modelling. This program will run for the remainder of the Term and will continue in 2021.
3. **Careers in Sport Workshop** – 4 December
  - Cricket NSW and the Australian Institute for Sport (AIS) will be visiting St Leo's to deliver a dynamic presentation around Careers in Sports



- It will be presented by John Hutchinson, Education Network Advisor on AIS Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement, and Lachlan McBain, Player Development Manager at Cricket NSW.
- Learn more about:
  - The importance of nutrition for sports people and the importance of fuelling your body correctly;
  - How to work with athletes to plan a sports specific development plan and working with athletes identifying areas for development;
  - Careers at the AIS/ Sports & Pathways
  - Careers at Cricket NSW/Sport & Pathways
- Students can [still register](#) for this workshop.

## The 'Get Job Ready' Pack

This all-in-one pack is designed to answer all the basic questions that most young people (and plenty of older people) ask when starting work, including topics such as:

- What is a TFN (Tax File Number)?
- Where do I get a TFN?
- Why does my boss ask for a TFN?
- How does tax work?
- Why do young people often get tax refunds?
- What is the 'tax free threshold'? When do I claim it?
- What forms will my boss ask me to complete on my first day?
- Am I eligible for Super?
- How much is Super?
- Where does my Super go?
- How do I check my pay slip?
- How do I write a resume when I don't have much experience?
- How do I get a Christmas casual job?



You can download the pack [here](#).

Have a great week and don't hesitate to email me [via mel.timmerman@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mel.timmerman@dbb.catholic.edu.au) if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the information above.

## From the Aquinas Resource Centre

Ms Michaela Hashim

### Overdue Items

Overdue notices have been emailed to both students and parents. The prompt return of any items will be much appreciated.



### The State Library NSW - HSC Help Workshops

The State Library is holding a series of workshops designed to support HSC students discover how they can access free online resources. These workshops are free and, due to COVID, will be run online. Registrations are essential and can be made via these links:

[History](#): Wednesday November 25, 4.30pm-5.30pm

[Legal Studies](#): Wednesday December 2, 4.30pm-5.30pm

[English](#): Wednesday December 9, 4.30pm-5.30pm

[Society and Culture](#): Tuesday December 15, 4.30pm-5.30pm



These workshops are a fantastic way for students to step up their research skills and learn to go beyond Google to find relevant, accurate, and scholarly sources to support them in their studies. In order to access the available resources, students will need library membership. If they have not already done so, they can sign up for State Library membership [here](#). Alternatively, having membership in your local library grants you access to these resources.

If there are any questions, please email [michaela.hashim@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:michaela.hashim@dbb.catholic.edu.au) or students can come to the Aquinas Resource Centre to ask in person.

## Sports Round-Up

### Year 10 PASS (Physical Activity and Sport Studies)

The Year 10 PASS classes travelled to Cables Watersports Park in Penrith as part of both recreational pursuits and resistance training yesterday.

The students were involved in both kneeboarding and wakeboarding during the first part of the day, followed by Inflatable World. The students were challenged throughout the day developing new skills and building resilience. The students are to be congratulated on their application and behaviour throughout the day.



### College Swimming Carnival

On Friday, 27 November, 75 students attended the 2020 St Leo's Swimming Carnival. There was excellent College spirit demonstrated by all competitors, and there were many amazing and determined performances. A group of 15 Intake 2021 students also competed, showing great potential for the years ahead.

Sadly, this year it was not a whole school event, however the calibre and camaraderie of those who attended still made it a spectacular sporting highlight for the College.

Thank you to Mr Michael Kember who coordinated the event so well, allowing the students this opportunity when it otherwise may not have happened this year.



### BBSSA Tennis Gala Day

On Tuesday, 24 November, the St. Leo's Tennis Squad competed in the BBSSA Gala Day. The squad represented the College with pride, competing for every point and never giving up.

Congratulations to the Under 14 Girls for reaching the final. In the semi-final they defeated Mater Maria 2 sets to love. In a hard-fought final, the girls won the first set but then lost the next two nail biting sets going down to St. Joseph's, East Gosford.

Special mention also to the Under 17 Boys for getting through to the semi-final, only to go down two sets to love to Mackillop Catholic College. I would like to thank each member of the squad for their effort and contribution on the day.

## The Squad:

Championship Girls – Poppy B;  
Taleisha F & Holly B

U/17s Girls – Francesca B-M;  
Anastasia B & Pilar F

U/14s Girls – Anastasia S; Michelle D;  
Bo DB & Cindy H

Championship Boys - Matthew A; Will  
B; Alessio P & Miles F

U/17s Boys - Nicholas J; Madhi F N &  
Ari P

U/14s Boys - Ethan F; Riley L; Noah  
H & Max T.



## Women's Rugby League

Rugby League has taken off for our female players with currently two, 14 years and under teams, training twice a week and an Open team training weekly.



We were lucky to have NRL Women's Premiership Player, **Kirra Dibb** visit St Leo's last week. Kirra has represented her country as a Jillaroo and her state as an NSW State of Origin player.

She shared her story and observed a game between our two 14s teams. Kirra gave advice and feedback to our students on improving their game, and was extremely impressed by the level of competition considering the teams had only trained for 10 weeks, with many new to rugby league.



## From the CAPA Co-curricular Coordinator

Mr Vince Tavernese

### Music Tuition Program - 2021

St Leo's runs private music lessons onsite for students of all year groups and abilities. We offer a vast range of different instrument/vocal lessons including; Female/Male Vocals, Guitar (classical/electric), Bass Guitar, Violin, Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, French Horn, Saxophone and Drum Kit/Percussion.

If you would like more information please refer to the Expression of Interest form [Click Here](#) or feel free to [email me](#). 2021 is the perfect year to start your child's musical journey here at St Leo's Catholic College.





# Ensemble Schedule TERM 4

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before School</b>	<b>Before School</b>	<b>Before School</b>	<b>Before School</b>	<b>Before School</b>
	7:30am Max 12 - MML03	7:15am Stage Band - MML04	7:30am JNR Dance - MML01	
<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>
	Drum line MML04	Guitar Ensemble (11am - MML04) Rock Band - MML04 Accordion Group - MML03	JNR Art Club MM002	Girls Rock Band MML04
<b>After School</b>	<b>After School</b>	<b>After School</b>	<b>After School</b>	<b>After School</b>
		Year 7 Theatre Sports	String Ensemble MML04	