



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for **Week 4 Term 1 2021**.

From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

A Reminder to Parents - This Week

Last night the College hosted the first of our Information sessions (via Zoom) for parents/carers of Years 9 and 10. Tonight we have Intake 2021 and Year 8 sessions, and Years 11 and 12 on Thursday, where I will outline plans for 2021, and Year Leaders will address matters concerning each of their Year Groups:

Tuesday 16 Feb - 6.45pm - [Intake 2021 \(Year 7\)](#)

Tuesday 16 Feb - 7.30pm - [Year 8](#)

Thursday 18 Feb - 6.45pm - [Year 11](#)

Thursday 18 Feb - 7.30pm - [Year 12](#)

I hope all parents/caregivers are able to join us for one of these evenings.

'Home Learning' (Homework) Tips:

At this early stage of the academic year, it is important to look at *Home Learning* (Homework) as an important part of the routines and structures being established.

Home Learning serves many purposes. It may be to consolidate or check or extend the learning from the day, or prepare for the learning to come in subsequent days. It could be to do with longer term work such as assignments or preparing for tests and examinations. Ultimately it comes back to what school is all about – learning. And learning not just about learning content, but learning and developing skills.

At times, students feel the work they are doing at school is not relevant to their lives, however sometimes we need to look beyond the content to the purpose of the learning exercise. At times the content will be a vehicle to teach particular skills. Much of what we learn in Mathematics develops the problem-solving circuits in our brain. When you are analysing Shakespeare you are learning not just about Shakespeare, but to think critically and expand your point of view and broaden your experience of the world through examination of different lives, emotions and experiences. The message is that **everything you learn at school has purpose and value, even if you can't always quite see it at the time.**



There is much debate in the media as to the value of homework. In primary school it has been shown that only a small number of students actually benefit from doing homework in terms of academic achievement. The exception to this is reading at home – **every student benefits from this**. However, other benefits can't be discounted: developing independent working skills, establishing study routines necessary for learning in later years, helping students master things they are struggling with and allowing parental involvement.

In secondary school, homework has been proven to be an **essential component of academic success** in the senior years. The reality of Year 11 and 12 is that a large component of independent learning needs to be undertaken at home. One of the biggest problems for students transitioning to the senior years is that they have not learnt to work effectively and efficiently in the home environment.

This is why **developing good habits and learning to do at least a solid hour a day of home study** is essential in Years 7-10. It is also about developing the qualities of discipline and perseverance, both essential for senior studies. Students will not like every subject equally, so students need to learn how to make themselves do the work even for their least favourite subjects.

What can you do this year to manage your homework effectively?

Try these 'Top Tips for Students' from Dr Prue Salter:

Get organised straight away: As soon as you get home, unpack your bag before you have a break and something to eat. Lay out all the work first. It's easier to get started if you have everything ready to go.

Prioritise and plan: Before you start work, write a list of what needs to be done and decide in what order. Focus on what is most important, not just what subject you like best! Also write down how long you think each task will take to do.

Develop thinking pathways: Keep in your mind that it is all about learning. Try to look beyond the actual content to what type of skill this homework might be developing in you – analysing, critical thinking, writing skills, or problem-solving skills for example.

Chunk time into focused blocks: Do your work in 20-30-minute blocks with no distractions during that time. So switch off the TV, turn off your phone for that 20-30 minutes. When you just focus on the work that needs to be done, you'll be amazed at how much work you complete. Of course, if you are on a roll, you can keep going past the 30 minutes.

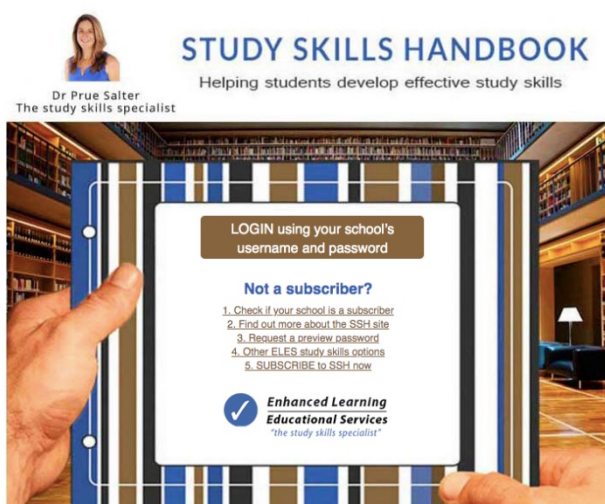
Alternate and chip away: If there is a task you really don't want to do then alternate this with a task you enjoy doing. For example, 15 minutes on the homework you like, 5 minutes on the homework you don't like. When you chip away at it you will be surprised how quickly you get through the work.

Learn more about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units in the [Study Skills Handbook](#)

Our College's access details are: Username: **leos** Password: **community**

Intake 2021

Starting Intake 2021 (Year 7) comes with mixed feelings of both excitement and challenges, particularly after the disruption of 2020. As Mr Johansen highlighted last week, many students may be feeling a bit more anxious than usual about their expectations of starting their secondary schooling in 2021. During this time of transition, parents and carers need to be supportive, but also realistic in their expectations while being vigilant about monitoring their child's mood and mental health.



The [SchoolTV Special Report](#) has a number of strategies that can make this transition period smoother and start things off on the right foot and I highly recommend you take the time to read it.

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

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the week.

From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

College Open Day 2021

About This Year's Open Day

Planning is well underway for our annual College Open Day to be held on **Tuesday, 16 March**. You may have already seen our local print or online advertising - or even seen one of the 12 local buses promoting the day!

Open Day is our single largest marketing event each year by far, giving prospective families the opportunity to see our facilities, speak to staff and students and experience our community in action. There will again be presentations by Mr Gleeson, information booths and displays, as well as various activities, demonstrations and performances by many of our talented students showcasing the huge variety of opportunities available at St Leo's.

The event will be held from 4pm – 7pm on the upper section of the College grounds, similar to last year, along Chanel Way between the main entrance and the Mary MacKillop Centre. While all our entrances will be open, main event parking will be via the Yardley Avenue entry.

Please pass on this information to anyone you know who may be interested in St Leo's!

Student Helpers Required!

To allow for setup and preparation, students will be **dismissed at 2pm** on the day. However, as this is a huge team event, we will require the assistance of our College Leaders and many more students across all Year Groups for a wide variety of tasks – from tour guides to performers and general assistants.

All students assisting will be provided with an early meal before the start of the event and need to be picked up from the College from 7pm.

Students who volunteer or are asked to assist will receive a permission note outlining what will be required of them over the next few weeks as activities and schedules are finalised.

Stay tuned for more information over the coming weeks!

Vaping

As the College continues to take a zero tolerance on vaping, please read below a few reminders regarding the seriousness of e-cigarettes:

- Vaping devices have changed significantly since they first appeared in public use. The majority of e-Cigarettes now contain the equivalent nicotine of two packets of cigarettes. This not only makes them highly addictive but dangerous to the health of developing lungs



- Vaping devices are now small, slim line in design and can appear as a tag on a key ring or a metallic crayon
- Many do not have a distinguishable scent but the plume is moist and visible
- Vaping devices contain significant quantities of neurotoxins and carcinogens. The long term health impact of these are yet to be measured within our health systems, but deaths have been recorded overseas due to unknown health complications mixed with the effects of the vaping device
- Vaping devices are easily accessible via purchase online or in person at shopping centres or public transport hubs
- It is illegal to sell a vaping device to children under the age of 18
- Some vaping devices have been laced with illicit drugs

Please hold a conversation with your daughter or son about the above information. The College will continue to inform students via PDHPE programs. Students are regularly informed of the consequences of using such devices at Year Meetings and assemblies.

Masks on Public Transport

The College has received reports that some students have been reluctant to wear their masks while on buses to and from campus. We ask your assistance in ensuring the students have a mask available in their school bag, and that you stress the importance of wearing such masks for their own health as well as the public. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Half Yearly and Yearly Examination Blocks

As part of a holistic approach to preparing our students for their senior years, students from Intake 2021 - Year 10 will be engaging in Half Yearly and Yearly Examinations. The first of these examination experiences will occur from 3 - 28 May. Students will receive substantial support and revision guides to assist their preparation for this assessment period. The 'Study Skills Handbook' mentioned above and during the Parent Information Zoom Evenings, is a valuable tool to assist your daughter or son in preparing for their exams. The extended breadth of the above examination window ensures that space is provided between each exam to allow adequate revision.

Important Dates for Term 1 2021

Term 1 Date	Event
Tuesday, 16 February 6:45pm Tuesday, 16 February 7:30pm	Intake 2021 - Parent Information Evening: Zoom - https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/99757353821 Year 8 - Parent Information Evening: Zoom - https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/94951674035
Wednesday, 17 February	Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Lent Begins)
Thursday, 18 February 6:45pm Thursday, 18 February 7:30pm	Year 11 - Parent Information Evening: Zoom - https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/92310837466 Year 12 - Parent Information Evening: Zoom - https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/95385832584
Wednesday, 24 February 7:00pm	College Principal Update Evening: Zoom - https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/96291385401
Wednesday 3 – Friday, 5 March	Intake 2021 Camp
Tuesday, 16 March 4pm	College Open Day/Evening (Student early departure at 2.00pm)
Thursday, 1 April 10am	Holy Thursday - Stations of the Cross

Parent Teacher Interview Evenings via Zoom

Please note that the Parent Teacher Interview Evenings via Zoom have been booked for the following dates. Appointment bookings will open **two weeks prior** to these dates and Zoom links become active. Instructions and further details will be made available to parents via email closer to the dates.

Parent Teacher Interview Evenings via Zoom:	Year Groups
29 April - 3pm - 8pm	Year 9 and Year 10
6 May - 3pm - 8pm	Year 7 and Year 8
13 May - 3pm - 8pm	Year 11 and Year 12

From the Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation

Mr Michael Neylan

Lenten Penance Letter - Bishop Anthony

Ash Wednesday (tomorrow, 17 February) marks the start of Lent. Bishop Anthony has issued a Lenten Penance Letter which gives guidance for observing Lent this year. Please take a few moments to read the [Lenten Penance Letter](#).

Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2021

In his message for Lent 2021, the Pope asks people to 'experience Lent with love', which 'rejoices in seeing others grow'.

'To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful... In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you' (Isaiah 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realise that God loves them as sons and daughters', Pope Francis wrote in the message published on Friday.

He emphasised that even a small amount of almsgiving when offered with 'joy and simplicity' can multiply, as did 'the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd'.

'Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness' the Pope said.

Read the full [Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2021](#).

Blessings for the week ahead.

From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

Public Transport and Covid Safe Travel Reminder

Please remind your son/daughter that they are required to 'tap on & off' with their opal cards as they travel to and from school. Travel to and from school is free of charge for many students, however, they are still required to tap on and off in order to validate their travel. This is particularly important during Covid, when tracing is an important part of the public safety strategy. Here is some [general information re. school students and Opal cards](#).

Importantly, **ALL school students over 12 years of age must wear a face mask when travelling on public transport.** You can also [read more information on this.](#)

Sickness and Injury at School - Important Steps for Parents/Carers to Note

Please note the correspondence below that was recently communicated to all 7-12 students:

Dear Student

RE: Sickness/injury whilst at school - important steps

It is most important that if you are unwell and/or injured during the course of the day is that you first report to Mrs Raso at Student Services (McAuley Administration building) with the assistance of another student and/or staff. An important first-aid assessment will initially be completed and, if required, parents/carers will then be notified by the College.

*Therefore, please **do not call your parents/carers first requesting a pick-up from the College if unwell/injured** - the steps outlined above need to be followed first.*

SchoolTV - online wellbeing resource available to the St Leo's community

A reminder that **SchoolTV** has special reports that may be of interest on [raising young teenagers](#).

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



From the CAPA Team

Ensemble Timetable for Term 1

Please find below the final Timetable for the Co-curricular Ensembles/Programs. Students are encouraged to attend the groups to register their names and receive more information (Invitational groups consist of Pride Dancers, Pride Singers, Pride Stage Band, Lion's Concert Band).

ST LEO'S CAPA ENSEMBLES/PROGRAMS					
Term 1 2021					
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School 7:15am for a 7:30am start		Pride Singers MML04	Pride Dancers LOCC Pride Stage Band MML04 Lions Singers MML01	Lions Dancers LOCC Cubs Concert Band MML04	Lions Concert Band MML04
Recess 11am-11:30am					Guitar Ensemble MML04
Lunch 1:15pm-1:45pm	Cubs Art Club MMG02 Girls Rock Band MML04	Media Production MMG04 (WEEK A)	Accordion Group MML04	Rock Band MML04	Cubs Singers MML04
After School From 3pm	Ceramic Classes MMG02 Cubs Dancers LOCC	Male Vocal Group MML04		String Ensemble MML04	

All exact times for programs will be shared to students by the program Leader.

Music Tuition Program

Here at St Leo's, we offer onsite private music lessons 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](#) or feel free to [email me](#). Term 1 is the perfect time to start your child's musical journey here at St Leo's.

From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader

Ms Kelly Li

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

New Participants

Any student interested in joining the Bronze Award this year must register before this Friday, 19 February to be able to fully participate and complete the Award before the end of the year.

Students should see me to collect the introduction and proposal letter.

Current Participants

Participants should be well on their way to setting their goals and seeking out their assessors to start their activities. Please ensure they have entered their goals onto the orb online and have let me know who their assessors are.

Bush Recovery (Service Activity)

Participants who wish to be involved in bush recovery of the area behind the ARC, please meet every Wednesday afternoon from 3.10pm for one hour to help out with this program.

Logging activities on the orb online

Instructions on how to correctly log activities have been posted onto students' Google Classrooms.

*For help participants can see me in **BHG03 at lunchtimes on Mondays of Week A, and Tuesdays of Week B.***



Community Notices

Free online presentation for parents and supervisors of learner drivers

TIME: 6:00pm to 7:30pm,
DATE: Thursday 4th March, 2021
WHERE: Via ZOOM - registration essential

This online session will offer practical advice about:

- current driving rules and requirements for L and P platers
- how learners benefit from supervised on-road driving
- how you can help make learning to drive a safe and positive experience

Visit <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/learnerdrivers>
for more information and to reserve your place. Or
email ltipping@hornsby.nsw.gov.au or phone 9847 6856



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