

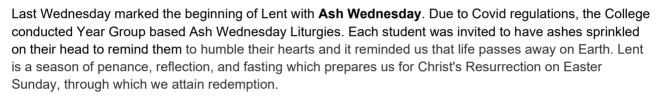
Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 5 Term 1 2021.

From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

Ash Wednesday Liturgies



Parent Information Evenings

Many thanks for your time last week at each of the Year Group Information Evenings conducted via Zoom. It was a great opportunity for parents to (virtually) meet the Year Leaders, discuss issues around the Year Group and hear from other members of the College Leadership Team about the *School Improvement Plan* (SIP).

There were plenty of questions in the Q & A session from our Intake 2021 group of parents and these became less as we moved into the older Year Groups.

Our Students in the Community

Some of our students (Year 9) were asked to assist at one of our local primary school swimming carnivals and at the NSWCCC Softball Championships. Here are two emails I received yesterday about them:

"Can't thank you enough for the helpers you organised for our swimming carnival. Nothing was too much trouble and they took much work off our teachers and our parent helpers. If I had to single out one (and that's hard) Lily was fantastic. Took our students aside and offered tips, advice and encouragement. Great students!"

"...I was one of the team managers today at the NSWCCC Softball Championships and just wanted to send you a quick email to let you know how impressed I was with one of your students."



"I had the pleasure of having St Leo's student Maddi in my team. Maddi was a real asset particularly supporting other athletes from a wide range of schools and role modelling great team spirit. For a

student only in Yr 9 this was very impressive, and the fact that these other students were competing for the same place on the NSWCCC team (so technically her 'competition' for a spot) made it all the more remarkable..."

Some would see it as a *day out of school*, well - it is. It is outside of the formal curriculum and traditional learning areas, no use denying that. However the *skills*, *attitude*, *giving*, *showing initiative*, *problem solving*, *leadership*, *responsibility* and *working* with adults and younger children alike is *terrific learning*. Hard to measure and report upon. BUT this is what I would call a great report for these students. Well done. Band 6 grades! At St Leo's we emphasis the development of the whole person! Great examples here. Any school work missed whilst they were developing these *other skills*, would be caught up knowing these students.

Invitation to all Parents/Carers to join our first 'Parents in Partnership' meeting – Tuesday, 2 March at 7pm

As outlined in last week's Year group Zoom meetings, next Tuesday, 2 March at 7pm you are invited to participate in a discussion around the formation of a **formal parent/caregiver body for the College**. This is our first **Parents In Partnership** Evening for 2021.



- The purpose, role and function of this body of parents/caregivers
- The consideration of other existing models of Parent/Caregiver Groups
- A suggested timeline

If you are able to attend, I can promise **you will not** leave holding a badge of President, Vice President, Secretary etc. This meeting will be for **consideration of a suitable model** that will meet the needs of our parents/carers.

Any decisions that are made next Tuesday evening, will be forwarded to ALL parents/carers of the College to ensure wide consultation and inclusivity.

I would hope to have the structure finalised for the start of Term 2 (mid April). From there roles of this group can be formalised through an agreed process.

Farewell to George Morad (Dean of Curriculum)

This week, we say farewell to **Mr George Morad, our Dean of Curriculum**. Mr Morad has been successful for the position of *Senior Assessment Officer - Literacy* at NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority).



Parents in Partnership

This is a great recognition of the work George has done here at St Leo's for the past three years, both in English and across all subject areas, working with our Middle Leaders.

His latest project was ensuring that our Semester Reports had personalised comments from each class teacher about their students' progress. We wish him all the best and thank him for his work with our staff, students and parents.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that **Mr Daniel Lane** (Leader of Science) will now be our Acting Dean of Curriculum. **Ms Leeta Caiger** will be our Acting Leader of Science. Both Mr Lane and Ms Caiger have successfully held these roles in previous schools, so the transition should be a smooth one for all.

Thank you for your time.

From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie

College Open Day 2021 - Only 3 Weeks to go!

As highlighted last week, planning is well underway for our annual College Open Day to be held on **Tuesday**, **16 March from 4-7pm**.

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.

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

Student Helpers Needed!

To allow for setup and preparation, all 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, Covid marshalls and general helpers.



All students assisting will be provided with an (early) meal before the event and need to be picked up from the College after 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.

Watch this space for more information over the coming weeks.

ePortfolios and the St Leo's Learning Den

A reminder that students from Intake 2021 - Year 10 will be working on uploading evidence during Mentor to their ePortfolio within the St Leo's Learning Den. Evidence should be uploaded for each of the six Growth Domains and for the two 2021 focus Deep Learning Skills - Critical Thinking and Christian Citizenship. Evidence should also be uploaded to illustrate their commitment and progress towards their passion goals and academic goals.

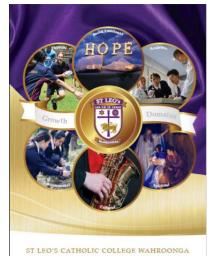
The Passion and Academic Goals are set in conjunction with the Mentor during a 'Growth Conversation'. These conversations are designed to glean further detail from each student to help design a PLP - Personalised Learning Plan.

A student's passion is an important part of this process as it often identifies areas of talent that might not yet be identified in their studies and may remain under nourished. During a recent Growth Conversation, a teacher noticed a small drawing on a students hand. It demonstrated a high level of skill. After a brief discussion, it became apparent that visual arts was a hobby and a passion, but not yet grafted onto a program that could extend her present skills.

The teacher then connected her with some research material that could provide opportunities for extending her talents. Below is a recent byproduct of this process where the student is now producing a body of work that can be uploaded as evidence of her Passion Goals, while also now pursuing the Visual Arts as an elective. Please encourage your daughter or son to discuss with you their progress thus far.



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PERSONAL PLANNER 2021

Student Planners - Intake 2021 - Year 10 Parent **Signatures**

On page zero of the Student Planner, it outlines the College Policy on the use of the planner (diary). Students from Intake 2021 - Year 12 need to ensure that they are using the planner to coordinate and plan for their homework, assessment tasks and co-curricular activities.

In addition to this, students from Intake 2021 - Year 10 need to ensure that their planner is signed by a parent or carer by the end of each week. Their Mentor will then sight and initial their diaries on Mondays.

Mobile Phone and Device Usage within Recreational **Areas of the College**

Students from Intake 2021 - Year 12 have been reminded of the policy to remove any devices from the recreation areas of the school. Before

school, at recess and at lunch students on the playground and ovals need to be device free to enable them the opportunity to strengthen friendship building skills and provide a platform for face to face conversations. This is balanced by those who wish to use a device for work or light recreation with friends can do so in the Aguinas Resource Centre.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: Half Yearly and Yearly Examination Blocks

senior years, students from Intake 2021 - Year 10 will be engaging in Half Yearly and Yearly Examinations. The first of these examinations 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.

As part of a holistic approach to preparing our students for their

Important Dates for Term 1 2021

Term 1 Date	Event
Tuesday, 2 March 7pm	College Principal Update Evening
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





Reminder: 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

Project Compassion

Last week we commenced our Project Compassion Lenten Appeal in support of Caritas Australia. Collections will continue during Mentor Groups on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Student Leaders will also run a number of other fundraisers throughout the Term.

By giving what we can this Lent through Project Compassion, we will help transform the lives like Jamila's.



Click on the image to view the video.

Jamila is a twenty-two year old single mother, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. A Rohingya woman, she fled the armed conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State to save herself, her elderly mother and eight month old baby daughter.

Watch her story and see how her life has changed, thanks to people like us.

From the Director of Teaching & Learning

Mrs Josephine Cali

Microsoft Office 365

Many students have taken the opportunity to use MacBooks as their learning device. While they are encouraged to use Apple software, they may not be aware that they have access to Microsoft 365 for as long as they are a school or university student. The information below outlines how they can access the software.



Staff use their school email address. You must log in as an educator or student for the free software. Once students have their Office 365 account they can then access the Educational Version of Minecraft.

Links:

<u>Free Microsoft Office 365 for Schools & Students</u> Minecraft EDU Sign In / Sign Up

Blackboard Configuration - Years 7-12

You may have noticed that your son or daughter has 'learning intention's in their workbooks or course materials. This is part of the St Leo's 'Blackboard Configuration' to improve student learning. Staff share the



learning intentions or learning goals with students for each lesson or a series of lessons, so that students are able to articulate what they are learning. Students and teachers also co-construct the success criteria. We encourage all parents/carers to engage in conversations about what your sons and daughters are learning about.

Read more about learning intentions and success criteria.

Academic Domain - Year 12

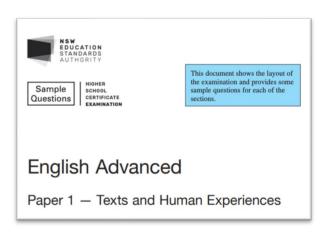
It's never too early for Year 12 students to study using Past HSC Examination Packs! Each year, NESA publishes the previous year's exams, marking guidelines, sample answers and feedback from the markers of the HSC Examinations. Students are encouraged to use past HSC Questions as well as the Sample HSC Questions provided by NESA for courses with new syllabuses.

How to access these:

- 1. Select the course from the NESA Course List.
- Scroll down to Assessment and Examination Materials where you will find sample HSC questions for each course with a new syllabus.

For example, English Advanced course has a new syllabus in 2019. NESA has provided Sample Questions on their website.

Many other courses have similar resources available.



NAPLAN Online 2021 - Intake 2021 and Year 9

NAPLAN 2020 Online testing at St Leo's will take place between <u>Tuesday</u>, 11 May 2021 and Friday, 14 May 2021. The tests need to be taken in a specific order. Individual students are not permitted to sit the online tests after Friday 21 May 2021. We will do our best to accommodate catch-up tests for absences due to illness during this test window but where possible, we ask parents/caregivers to avoid any planned absences during these dates.

Students with additional needs may access special provisions for the NAPLAN Tests. Parents/caregivers of students who require any form of special provision for NAPLAN Tests are asked to contact Mrs Tamara
Bowman (Leader of Learning Support) before March 15 to arrange these. Students will be undertaking Practice Online Naplan Tests so to support student wellbeing and learning, we require this information before students sit the Practice Tests. If you have any further questions about NAPLAN 2021, please contact Mrs Josephine Cali.

Education Perfect (EP) Spelling Competitions – Intake 2021 - Year 9

Students in Intake 2021, Year 8 and 9 are invited to participate in online Spelling Competitions via the <u>EP</u> Platform. The first Spelling Test Competition will close on 4 March. Students will be competing with students

in the year group. They will also be competing with themselves to improve their personal spelling skills. Certificates will be issued to each student who achieves 500, 1000 or 1500 points in each competition. The Spelling Competitions utilise spelling lists that incorporate words used in NAPLAN Tests. Therefore, students can use these competitions as a way to prepare for NAPLAN.



Australian Brain Bee Challenge - Year 10

The <u>Australian Brain Bee Challenge</u> (ABBC) is a competition for high school students in year 10 to learn about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses.

There are 4 Rounds to the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. The first two rounds of the competition are online. Students who wish to take part in this competition must contact <u>Mrs Josephine Cali</u> before February 27 to participate.

ICAS Competitions - Intake 2021 - Year 12

The ICAS Competitions take place in August this year. We are offering selected students the opportunity to participate in ICAS English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Writing, and Spelling. Click this link for further information regarding the ICAS Competitions





Creative and Active Kids Vouchers – Intake 2021 - Year 12

The NSW Government is helping kids get active with the Active Kids program. The program provides two \$100 vouchers for parents, guardians and carers of schoolenrolled 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.

Code Camp World - Intake 2021 - Year 11

Code Camp World takes place on Wednesdays as a cocurricular after school program from 3.15pm to 4.15pm commencing on Wednesday, 3 March, for students in Intake 2021 to Year 11. This course will continue into Term 2 and runs for 10 school weeks. The cost of the course is \$100 per term or FREE for students in exchange for their Creative Kids Voucher. Students can complete the online course at school or they can complete it at home.



First <u>access your student's Creative Kids voucher</u>. Once you have the voucher, you can <u>register for Code Camp 3D</u>.

Study Skills Handbook - Dr Prue Salter

St Leo's subscribes to highquality educational resources that support parents and students in their learning. Parents/caregivers are welcome to access these

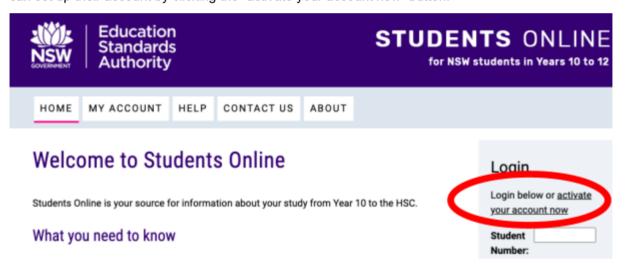


resources which are for the exclusive use of the St Leo's. These resources can be accessed via Compass. Go to **School Favourites** then click the link to **Study Skills**.

Students Online - Years 10 - 12

All students in Years 10, 11 and 12 have the opportunity to complete the Minimum Standards Tests so that these credentials appear on their ROSA.

Once students have met these standards, they are recommended to log in to their <u>Students Online Account</u> to access and save an electronic copy of their HSC Minimum Standards Certificates. Students in Years 10 can set up their account by clicking the "activate your account now" button.



NESA <u>Schools Online Accounts</u> will terminate shortly after the each year group completes their HSC Examinations or when they leave the College. Access to any records available from a Student's Online account is free for as long as the account is open.

From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

Attendance

Please watch the short video <u>Learning Every Day Counts</u> - this Diocesan initiative is extremely important for all parents/carers to note as it relates to **consistent attendance**. Any noticeable patterns of non-attendance will be promptly raised by both the relevant Year Leader and KLA leader so that the appropriate follow-up can be actioned with the student(s) and parents/carers.

Online Safety Information from the eSafety Commissioner

As parents and carers you know your child better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences. The resource Online safety - a guide for parents & carers

covers some of the **key online safety issues** for young people and includes a range of practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. You can also find a list of important services that can offer extra support via www.eSafety.gov.au/parents

Student Leave Requests - Reminder

All student leave requests, in the first instance, should be communicated in writing (email) to the Principal (Mr Gleeson) via Mr Johansen (Director of Students).

Students requesting leave should then see Mr Johansen near the Student Services office to obtain the appropriate paperwork. There are two forms – Exemption from Attendance (under 10 days) and Application for Extended Leave (over 10 days). All completed leave forms should be returned to the Director of Students office as soon as possible for processing. It is important to note that leave beyond 10 days must be considered by the Catholic Schools Broken Bay, via the College, before final approval.

The Compass parent portal should not be used for any student leave requests. Please note that the College does not support families taking extended holidays during term time and/or during College examination periods as it impacts on student learning.

COMPASS - Important Information for Parents/Carers

If your child is sick or injured during the day...

Note that sick and/or injured note entries should <u>not</u> be entered in the Compass by parents/carers if your child becomes unwell during the school day (8:30am - 3:00pm). In the first instance, **students need to report to Student Services** if they become unwell/injured during the school day so that a first-aid assessment can be made and then parents/caregivers/medical services will be contacted as required. The College will then record the appropriate documentation in Compass.

Late Notes in Compass

Parents are requested that when making a **late note entry** in Compass for your son/daughter, an estimate of the timing of 8:00am - 3:00pm should be entered. To ensure accuracy, when the student arrives at the College (via Student Services) their exact time of arrival will then be recorded in Compass.

Note all students are expected to sign-out, via Student Services, when departing the College.

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 Leader of Community Partnerships and Pathways

Ms Mel Timmerman

Senior Students – Unsure What to do post School?

I have noticed an increase in the number of Year 12 students especially who are unsure what they want to do after finishing their HSC, or which study and/ or career path to choose next year. A Careers Expert from SkillsRoad has kindly offered to visit St Leo's to discuss any study and career related questions or concerns and assist Year 12 students in particular.



These one-on-one conversations are also open for any Year 10 or 11 students who would like to receive more information about:

- Apprenticeships, Traineeships and School Based Apprenticeships;
- What to do when you are unsure about what you want to do after the HSC;
- How to find out which university and or other tertiary education provider suits best to your interests and needs;
- Early entries (year 12 only);
- And much more.....

Any Year 10, 11 or 12 student can register their interest for a <u>one-on-one consultation here</u>. *Please note that you can only register with a school email address!*

Upcoming Pathways Activities this Term

1. Hi-Tech @ Woolworths Career Talk

Steven Kernahan, Stores Infrastructure Engineer (SIE), will be visiting St Leo's on Friday, 26 February to talk about the exciting things happening in the Woolworths Tech Lab. From the use of Artificial Intelligence to stop shoplifting to Olive their Chatbot, and he will show you the robots they are currently working with.

Steven will share insight about what Woollies looks at when hiring new staff. What qualities do you need? What skills are preferred? And how home automation might give you a job in this well respected Tech Team at Woolies.

Still interested in a high tech job after this presentation? Chances are big that you will be invited by Steven to take a look around their Head Office Tech Lab in Norwest. Not to mention the possible traineeships options available to Tech Savvy students like yourself! You can register your interest for this workshop <a href="https://example.com/here-new-members-n

When: Friday, 26 February (9am to 10.30am) Where: St Leo's Catholic College, room TBA

2. Careers in Sport - (Very) Active Workshop with David Gower & Luke Williamson

David Gower will be visiting St Leo's for a hands-on workshop around careers in sport (yes, you will need to wear your sports uniform!).

David is a former professional rugby league footballer who played for the Parramatta Eels in the NRL competition. He will be joined by Luke Williamson, also a former professional rugby league footballer now coaching of the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles' NSW Cup team.

Make sure you join this active and fun workshop and learn more about Careers in Sport whilst getting your heart rate up and your blood pumping! You can <u>register here</u>. Please note that you can only register with a school email address!

When: Wednesday, 31 March (11.30am to 1pm) Where: St Leo's Catholic College, room TBA + Oval

3. Diversity in Surveying Conference - Consulting Surveyors NSW

Six of our St Leo's students have been exclusively invited to attend the Diversity in Surveying Conference at Dalton House in Sydney on the 8 March. Consulting Surveyors NSW have developed a special program for our students where they will experience different fields within surveying, followed by a networking lunch with some of the biggest surveying and construction employers in Sydney. Who knows - some of them might walk out with an employment offer by the end of the day...

4. JMC Creative Workshop - A morning full of inspiration....

The JMC Academy is visiting St Leo's again, and this time our Music Extension and Dance students will come together not only produce a song, but also an accompanying dance. Our Multimedia Team will be part of this morning too, to film the explosion of creativity and share this with all of you!



When: Thursday, 11 March

From the Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader

Ms Kelly Li

Bronze Award

New Participants

Any new participant who has joined the Bronze Award this year must see Mrs Li before this Friday, 26th February to start setting goals and receive commencement guides for assessors.

Ongoing 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**.



Mr Michael Kember

BBSSSA U/15 & Open Boys Touch Football Championships

Both teams travelled to Doyalson Touch fields to contest the BBSSSA championships that began in wet and windy conditions. The weather improved as the warm-ups began and after being drawn against strong opposition, the combinations began to flow and the level of play improved throughout the day.

The U/15 boys were narrowly beaten in the pool stages and finished in 4th position, which meant a difficult task against St Edwards in the quarter finals. The young side began strong but were overrun towards and were eventually defeated.

The Open boys had a win, draw and loss in the pool stages and finished in 2nd pool, then faced Mater Maria in the quarter finals. Unfortunately they also were defeated, however both **Ryan B** and **Jack O** were selected in the Open 'Possible and Probables' match at the end of the day and are shadow players for the Broken Bay team. Congratulations to you both.



NSWCCC Softball Trials

Yesterday (Monday), five St Leo's students (**Sophie O**, **Elecia K**, **Tara F**, **Maddi D** and **Milla D**) attended the NSWCCC Softball Trials at Seven Hills. On the day, all five girls played extremely well with all being selected in the 'Possibles and Probables' match. From this game, four were selected to represent NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools selections in early March. Congratulations to you all for your fantastic achievements.

Representative Trials

Over the last few week,s a number of sport trials have been held for our St Leo's representative teams. These trials are advertised for all students on their **St Leo's Sport Google Classroom page** (*Code: ziq743p*). Each week will have more trials for teams along with training sessions. These will also be outlined in the Daily Notices (via Compass). If students require more information about the trials they can contact me via email. As teams are selected they will be posted on the door of the Sports Office.

College Athletics Carnival

The College Athletics Carnival will be held early in Term 2, with more information to be provided soon. This week though, students will be handed entry forms for events that they need to fill in and return to Mr Kember. To ensure that the day runs smoothly, students will only be permitted to compete in events that they have entered. **Entries close on the last day of Term 1.**

Community Notices



