

The LION ROARS

Parent Edition



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga

Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 2 Term 1, 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

A warm welcome to all families for 2022, particularly our new students and their families.

It was lovely to see the students our new students on campus on Monday (Year 7 and new other students) and rest of the school return on Tuesday. To support our **Covid Smart**

environment, each Year Group had a Year assembly (in a large, ventilated learning space) where important information, expectations, goals and support mechanisms were outlined. I felt a strong sense of positivity and excitement across each year level as I reacquainted with many students that morning and wished them a great start to their respective year.

I would encourage each of them to take others along on the journey and to look for ways to support each other and to take advantage of the opportunities as they present themselves.

Please keep in your prayers and thoughts our Leader of CAPA, **Mrs Fiona Milkins** who is undergoing surgery today for a serious illness.

Parent Communication

It is very important that parents/guardians and students read the weekly **The Lion Roars** bulletin. It includes the most important updates from the Principal and College Leadership Team, vital information from teachers, and key dates for the weeks ahead. I strongly recommend that you read **The Lion Roars** when it is delivered to you each week, to ensure that you and your young person do not miss crucial information.

If you haven't already, please download the **Compass app** as important information (e.g., reports etc.) can be accessed online.

Welcome to our New Staff!

As our College enrolments continue to grow, I would like to welcome the following staff to our teaching and support staff team. They come from a variety of schools and workplaces, and I look forward to the teaching, learning and innovative skills that they will bring to their respective teams and the College.

Carolina Murdoch | Assistant Principal (*Student Achievement*) | St Edward's College, Gosford

Peter Grace | Assistant Principal (*Evangelisation and Catechesis*) | Executive Director, Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT



Melissa Barone | Maths | Catherine McAuley

Adam Barton | Maths | Crestwood High School, previously an Electrical Engineer

Rhyarna Bazih-Hutchinson | TAS/RE | St Joseph's Catholic College

Rosalie Belsey | Music | Peripatetic Tutor at St Leo's

Raelene Boyle | Learning Support Assistant | St Bernard's Berowra

Kayla Broad | Science | Mater Maria, Warriewood

Fiona Brown | RE | secondment from CSBB

Julia Carroll | Languages | Maria Regina Primary School

Patricia Cura | PDHPE | Marist Sister's Woolwich

Melissa Duff | Science | Northholm Grammar

Lauren English | TAS | New Graduate

Sam Groom | English | New Graduate (St Leo's Terms 3 & 4 2021)

Sunny Huo | Maths | Marist College Eastwood

Sadaf Khan | English | Australian International Academy

Louise Lawrenson | Learning Support Teacher | Parramatta Marist High School

Jeanine Medlock | Learning Support Teacher | (returning from Maternity Leave)

Scott Mulford | Director of Administration | Clancy Catholic College

Kristen Nicola | Drama/English | Mercy Catholic College

Jonathan Nicoll | HSIE/Joint leader of eLearning | Marist College Eastwood

Regina Takchi | RE | (returning from Maternity Leave)

Kurtis Thornton | Learning Support Assistant | St Edmund's, Wahroonga

Lillian Treanor | English | St Patrick's Dundas

Maria Valore | English/Religion | Bethlehem College

Tim Woodbine | Leader of Mathematics | St Clare's Hassall Grove

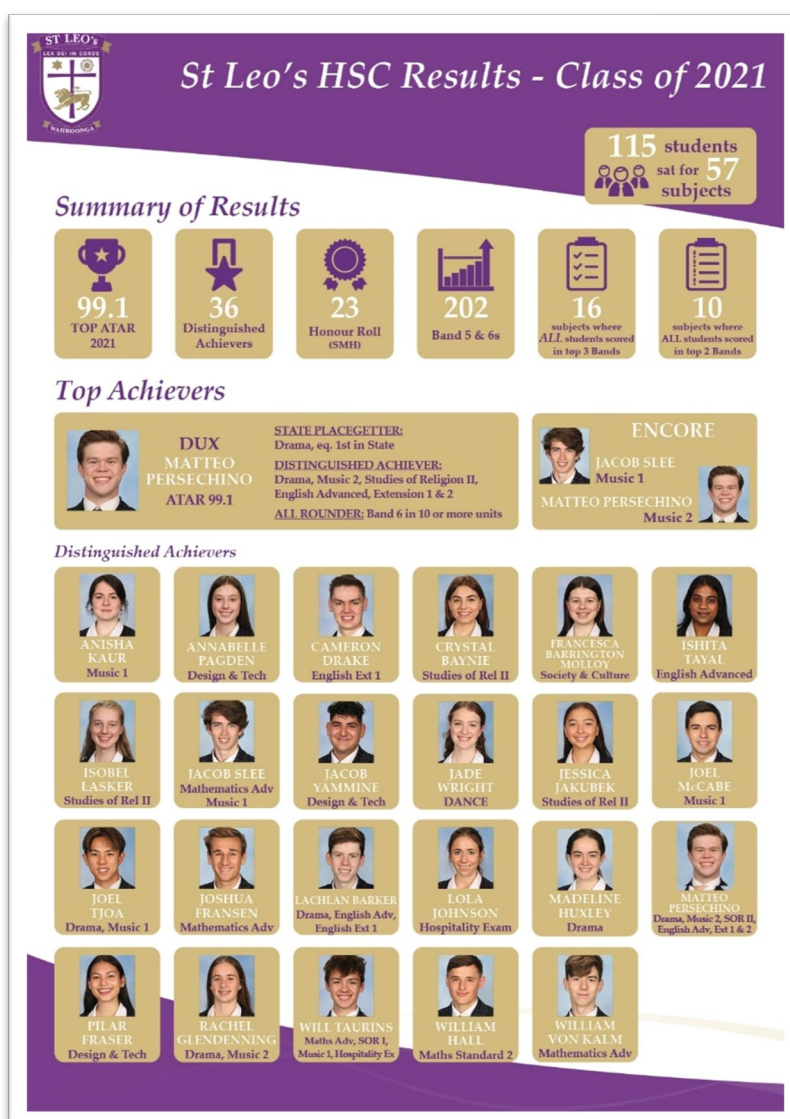


HSC Results 2021

Congratulations to our Class of 2021 for their outstanding HSC results, particularly after a difficult past two years. We are proud of every one of them, of their diversity and their achievements across many different areas.

Over 60% of our students were offered early entry places to various universities before the HSC exams.

Our Dux for 2021 was **Matteo Persechino**, who achieved an ATAR of 99.1, along with equal First in the State for Drama, Distinguished Achiever awards for six of his



subjects and an All Rounder award for achieving Band 6 in 10 or more units. He and **Jacob Slee** also received nominations for Music showcase ENCORE.

Congratulations also to the **22 other students who were attained 36 Distinguished Achiever awards** between them. Overall, the **115 students who sat for 57 subjects achieved 202 Band 5s and 6s across 11 subjects**, so well done to you all. View a [SUMMARY OF 2021 HSC RESULTS](#).

College Theme for 2022

The College theme for 2022 has not yet been decided. The Leadership Team is seeking advice from the Student Leadership Team for their opinions and input. The theme will be announced shortly after appropriate consultation with students has taken place.

In the past few years our themes have been:

2019 - *Live your Life Awake* (Matthew 24:42)

2020 - *Launch Out into the Deep* (Luke 5:4)

2021 - *A Future Full of Hope* (Jeremiah 29:11)

2022 – TBA...

Pop-up Wellbeing Kiosk

To assist the transition of the approx. 250 new students to our College campus, the Wellbeing team have set up a marquee on Chanel Way to provide support and assistance to students who may be lost or overwhelmed during their first week at the College.

Staff, Student Leaders and the College Leadership Team will be available to support students during recess and lunch, as well as between classes. Please encourage students to visit the marquee for any support.



Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

The College distributed rapid antigen tests (RATs) to families over the past week. We request that your young person assists with surveillance testing over the first two weeks of school. The College is expected to receive additional tests over the coming weeks, but the exact dates of these deliveries have not been confirmed.

NSW Teaching Staff Shortages

As indicated by the NSW Premier in a letter to parents two weeks ago, it is anticipated that schools may experience a shortage of available staff in the weeks ahead as a result of isolation requirements. Our aim is

to remain open and operational, as we have provided education for all students over the entire pandemic.

An excerpt from this communication that was sent to all parents/guardians...

Keeping Schools Open

- *Parents are asked to respect the rules at their child's school to help keep the community safe.*
- *Schools will do everything they can to maintain continuity of face-to-face learning including the use of more casual staff.*
- *Schools will need to make localised staffing decisions to ensure appropriate supervision can be maintained.*
- *Schools will not be able to guarantee particular staff for any cohort and students may not have their regular teacher for a class.*

In our school community at present, we currently have 15 students and three staff who are isolating at home with Covid-19, and 12 students who are household contacts in isolation at home. If your young person is unwell, please have them tested and stay at home.

Update on Campus Work

During the Christmas/New Year break a great deal of work was completed on the College site. Some of this work has been extended a couple of weeks due to the effects of materials and labour from the ongoing pandemic.

The old “C Block” (to be renamed after wider consultation with our College community):

- 11 completely refurbished air-conditioned (including fans) learning spaces with new furniture and technology
- Refurbished College canteen (with a new licensee)
- Access for all students
- Drama/performance space
- All OHS compliance issues have been met (e.g., heights of railings, window openings etc.)
- New power distribution board and electrical wiring and plumbing
- Removal of the aerial cables that were erected over our building program

The builders have now left the site (this morning) and we are currently laying and installing the blue ethernet cable from new servers and switches in the 3-storey building. It has been delayed as there was a shortage of this cable across the country due to Covid. The students should be occupying these spaces within the next two weeks.

Other improvements around the campus include:

- The provision of an additional Visual Arts learning space (located in the Mary MacKillop Centre)
- Refurbished staircase access (and handrails) to Donnelly Oval
- Refurbished Terrace Steps (located besides Donnelly Oval) for recreational use by our students
- Networked security cameras installed across the campus to ensure safety for all
- Maintenance and repair of the walls in the Aquinas Resource Centre.



College Strategic Planning

Over the next few weeks, I hope to be able to communicate with each one of you in a way that suits your lifestyle and needs our direction and plans for 2022.

With a restructured College Leadership Team, the appointment of two new Assistant Principals, **Ms Carolina Murdoch** and **Mr Peter Grace**, we have a structure that will support and drive the strategic plan you all have contributed to - *Towards 2025*. Besides having the structure, and with the building works just two weeks from completion, our community's will and desire to continually improve upon what we already deliver, which is evident from your input over the past 18 months, 2022 and beyond will be exciting and, I daresay, unique!

I am looking forward to continuing to improve our delivery of a quality, authentic Catholic education here at St Leo's in 2022 where each student and staff member can be the best that they can be.

Tony Gleeson
Principal

A Message from Peter Grace, our new Assistant Principal – Evangelisation & Catechesis

It is with great excitement that I commence the 2022 school year in the role of Assistant Principal – Evangelisation and Catechesis at St Leo's.

I come to you from my role as Executive Director of the Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT. Prior to that, I held the position of State Manager – Education Policy and Programs with Catholic Schools NSW, focusing on Mission and Student Wellbeing.

This followed my eighteen years in school-based roles, most of which saw me on the Leadership Team. I am thrilled to be returning to a school-based role, particularly in this position, given that I am passionate about the education and formation of young people.

I look forward to meeting students and families of the St Leo's community and working with staff, students, parents and clergy to deliver on the strategic intent of *Towards 2025*, inspiring hearts and minds to know Christ, to love learning, to use their talents to be the very best they can be.

I am grateful to Catholic Schools Broken Bay and the St Leo's College community for giving me this wonderful opportunity and for making me feel so welcome.

Once again, I'm excited about being here and look forward to getting to know you.

Peter Grace

Assistant Principal – Evangelisation and Catechesis



A Message from Carolina Murdoch, our new Assistant Principal – Student Achievement

As a passionate and committed educator, I am excited to take on the role of *Assistant Principal: Student Achievement* at St Leo's.

I come to you from St Edward's College, East Gosford, where I held the role of Director of Teaching and Learning. Prior to that, I worked as Dean of Learning and previously Head of History at Loreto Normanhurst. As an experienced History teacher and HSC marker, I still greatly enjoy teaching History and connecting with students.

I have worked supporting innovation and student learning growth and am a strong believer that Catholic schools offer the education of the whole person

from academic growth to spiritual development.

Having spent a few days at St Leo's at the end of the 2021 academic year, I was greatly impressed by the strength of the community and am truly excited to contribute to the ongoing development and growth of the St Leo's Catholic College.

I look forward to getting to know students and their families in the coming year.

Carolina Murdoch

Assistant Principal – Student Achievement

Covid Smart Update for Parents

Covid Isolation

- If someone in the household has tested positive for Covid, students are required to isolate for 7 days and conduct a negative RAT before returning to the College
- If a student tests positive to Covid-19, they are required to isolate for 7 days
- If your child is unable to attend school due to isolation requirements, work will be available on Google Classroom. If your child is unsure about any aspect of their work, they are encouraged to contact their teacher via email/Compass/Google Classroom.

Rapid Antigen Testing

- Families were provided with two weeks' worth of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) prior to the start of Term. Students should conduct these tests twice a week.
- We will provide additional information about the provision of additional RATs for the following two weeks once we have this.

Masks

- Masks are required on public transport and in all indoor spaces. They are our best defence against the transmission of Covid-19. **Students are required to provide their own facemasks** and it is **strongly recommended that they use Surgical or KN95 masks**.
- Please encourage students to bring at least **two masks** to the College every day.

Sport/PDHPE

- Students should wear their sports uniform to school on the days that they have Sport, practical PDHPE lessons or PASS practical lessons.

Lunchtimes

- Students are allocated Year Group areas for recess and lunchtime. In the event of wet weather, they will be either in a covered outdoor area where mask wearing is not required, or in an indoor area where masks are required once students have finished eating and/or drinking.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Update

Mr Nathan Smith, Director of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

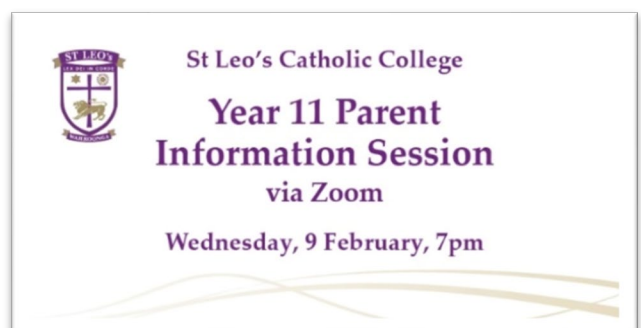
Year 11 Parent Information Zoom

There will be a Parent Information Session for Year 11 parents on **Wednesday 9 February at 7.00pm**, hosted by Mr Sammut.

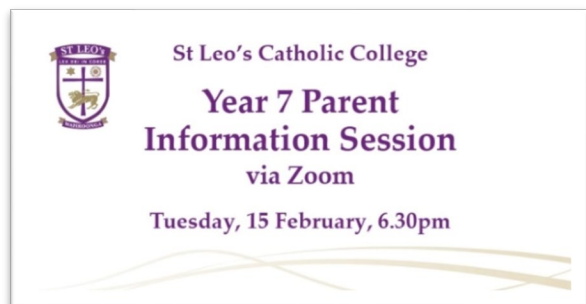
On this Zoom, important assessment information, NESA requirements, and other administrative items for Stage 6 will be shared with parents/carers and students.

We encourage both parents/carers and students to attend this Zoom. The meeting will also provide a forum to ask any questions that they may have following the first few weeks of term.

Please use the **[THIS LINK](#)** to access the Year 11 Zoom.



Year 7 Parent Information Meeting via Zoom



There will be a Parent Information Session for Year 7 parents on **Tuesday 15 February at 6.30pm**, hosted by Ms Watts and Mr Kember.

On this Zoom, they will share information and updates on how students have settled into the College, provide information on the upcoming camp, as well as other administrative items.

Parents will also have the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have following the first few weeks of Term.

Please use the [THIS LINK](#) to access the Year 7 Zoom.

Year 7 Camp

We are excited that the Year 7 camp will proceed this Term based on the current Public Health Orders and College Covid Smart Plan. Camp is a very important part of student transition into secondary school as it is where friendship and bonds are made. This helps students settle into their new environment.

Year 7 camp will be at The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Kincumber on **Wednesday 23 February – Friday 25 February**. Ms Watts and Mr Kember will distribute an information pack to students and families early next week. Please keep an eye out for this via Compass and the Year 7 Google Pastoral Page.

Co-Curricular Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Program

Ms Brittany Skea, CAPA Co-Curricular Coordinator

Free CAPA Ensembles

We are excited for another thrilling year of Creative and Performing Arts at St Leo's and welcome new and returning students into our program. CAPA offers a variety of ensembles and programs, which are free of charge for all St Leo's students!

Our Co-Curricular CAPA timetable will be released shortly as we develop a Covid Smart return to co-curricular activities in accordance with NSW Catholic Schools and NSW Health guidelines.



Private Music Tuition

St Leo's also offers our Pride Lands Private Music Tuition Program. If you are interested in receiving private lessons to learn an instrument and/or vocals, please complete the following [Expression of Interest form](#). Students are welcome to join the program at any time throughout the year, including mid-term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact me via College Reception on 9487 3555 or [email Ms Skea](#).

Representative Sport

Mr Michael Kember, Leader of Sport

Representative Trials

Sport trials will be advertised over the next few days for a number of sports with events taking place in Term 1. These will be advertised on **students' St Leo's 2022 Sports Google Classroom page** with the code: **lizdjsq**

More information about upcoming NSWCCC registrations will be published over the next week or so.

Community Notices

Transport Information - Buses

Transdev have provided a [School Bus Information Guide for Students and Parents](#) and [Code of Conduct](#) information regarding student and parent responsibilities.

Free online presentation for parents and supervisors of learner drivers



Helping learner drivers become safer drivers

The 90 minute 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

6:00pm to 7:30pm,
Thursday 24th February 2022

Via ZOOM.

Registration essential. Visit:

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/learnerdrivers

to reserve your place.

For further information

Phone: 9847 6856 or

Email: ltipping@hornsby.nsw.gov.au



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