



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 8 Term 1, 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Open Day Wrap

Last Tuesday, thankfully amid clearing skies, the College held its annual Open Day. We had over **1500 visitors** pre-register to attend and see first-hand everything St Leo's has to offer. It was great to see and speak to not only prospective families, but also those parents who are already part of our community.

I would like to thank the **220 students** who volunteered to be guides, participants in the various activities, or even dress up in the Leo the Lion's suit! I received many comments about the pride and friendliness of the students, so congratulations to you all for your being outstanding ambassadors for our College. Below is a collage of just a few of our many helpers in action!

I would particularly acknowledge **Ms Fiona Morsink-Ryan** (our Marketing Officer) on her overall coordination of this key event for our community.

Well done to all involved!





Invitation: Parents in Partnership Evening - Call for Agenda Points

Just two years ago, the College community (parents and staff) began developing a new way of inviting and involving parents and carers in a similar way to a traditional Parents and Friends group. We called this our [Parents in Partnership Model](#).

In Term One last year, we had over 130 parents join online for our first Parents in Partnership Evening. The format we are currently using is via Zoom. Of course, if this model is now outdated (given the easing of the Covid restrictions) this can be discussed at the meeting. In fact, I am listing this as an agenda item.

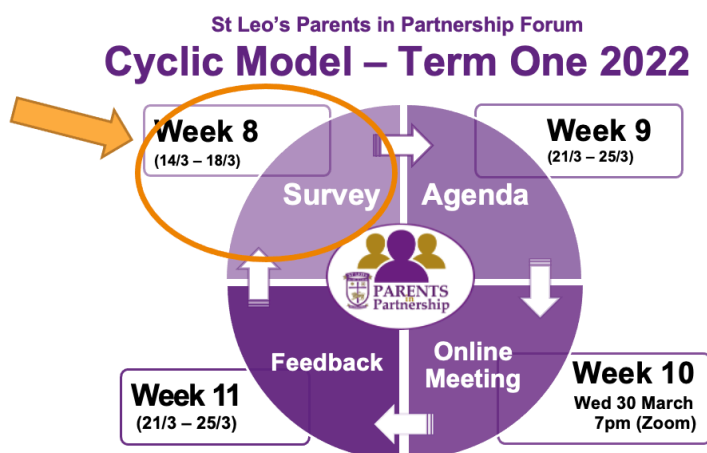
I have asked **Mr Peter Grace** (Assistant Principal - Evangelisation and Catechesis) to co-host this meeting, given his expertise and experience in his previous role as the *Executive Director of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT*.

This year, our Term One meeting (via Zoom) will take place on **Wednesday, 30 March at 7pm**.

I now call for the submission of any [agenda items that you may wish to discuss via the Google Form here](#). The link for agenda items will **close this Monday, 21 March at 9am**.

A reminder that these agenda items should be items that would **pertain to all or many parents/carers**. (If there are one-on-one issues, these are best dealt with via the normal channels, through email/phone to the respective staff member or Year Leader).

The agenda (as well as the Zoom link) will be sent out next week via this newsletter.



Blackboard Configuration - Years 7-12

You may have noticed that your son or daughter has 'Learning Intentions' 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 conversation about what your sons and daughters are learning. For more information on learning intentions and success criteria [click here](#).



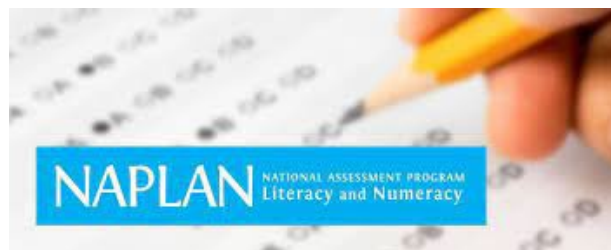
Student Attendance

As part of our School Improvement Plan for 2022, we focus on **student attendance** through the **Every Day Counts** program. Could I ask parents to ensure that your young person attends each day - except when he/she is ill. I will be speaking about this and presenting some data at our *Parents in Partnership* Evening on 30 March.

Tony Gleeson
Principal

Academic Matters

Mr Daniel Lane, Director of Learning Improvement



Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN Assessments

Students in Years 7 and 9 will be participating in NAPLAN this year. Parents and students are reminded that the purpose of NAPLAN is for schools and school systems to gain valuable information to inform our current teaching practices and professional learning offerings for staff.

In preparation, students have been requested to download a lockdown browser to their iPad. Details for this were sent in an email to parents and can also be accessed by students on their Year Group Google Classroom page. If there are any issues related to this, please contact the College and we will assist where we can.

To support students in preparing, Practice NAPLAN tests are scheduled in the next few weeks. This practice consists of a 40-minute omnibus test that provides students with examples of the Numeracy, Spelling, Language Conventions and Reading questions, and a 40-minute writing test. The purpose of these tests is to familiarise students with the online test format and the types of questions they will be asked. These tests also provide an opportunity for the school to work out any technical issues that may occur with the test or devices.

Practice tests will not be marked, and students will receive no feedback on their performance.

The dates for NAPLAN practice tests are:

- **Year 7 Practice Test: Thursday, 24 March** during **Periods 1-2**
- **Year 9 Practice Test: Friday, 1 April** during **Periods 3-4**

The testing window for the **actual NAPLAN test is from 11-20 May**. Students and parents will be advised of the St Leo's testing dates early next term.

Year 12 Student Learning Conferences

Year 12 parents are invited to attend Student Learning Conferences on **Wednesday 6 April, from 3:30 - 7:30pm**. This is a great opportunity to have a discussion with your child and their teacher about their progress in class and what they need to be working on improving in the lead-up to the HSC.

Information about the booking process (via Compass) and further details will be sent out shortly.

HSC Preparation

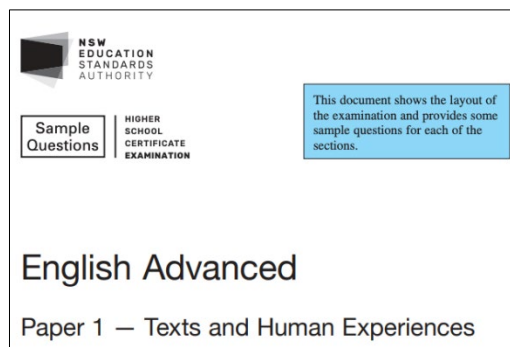
It's never too early for senior students to study using Past HSC Examination Packs!

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:

- 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.



Here, for example, is the English Advanced course. NESA has provided Sample Questions on their website.

Many other courses have similar resources available.

COVID Smart Update

Guidelines at School

The following guidelines are currently in place:

- Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in indoor spaces in schools
- Staff and students will be supported to wear a mask if they choose to do so
- St Leo's continues to follow NSW Government COVID Smart guidelines focusing upon adequate ventilation and social distancing. There are more specific guidelines in place for CAPA activities and these are outlined in the CAPA update (see p. 7).
- Masks continue to be mandatory on public transport. This applies to students aged 12 years and older, and staff when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport or by chartered transport services. Please ensure that you son/daughter has face masks to use on public transport
- Schools will no longer need to keep students in their class or year group cohorts. This means schools can remove staggered start and finish times. All cross-year activities can resume
- Families will be provided with RATs during Week 9 during Mentor Group. Students should conduct RATs if they have any COVID-like symptoms. If students experience prolonged symptoms, it is recommended that they go for a PCR test and isolate until they have received a result.

School Attendance

- Students should not attend school if they are a household contact or if they test positive to COVID-19
- If students are isolating, they should complete their schoolwork as set on their Google Classrooms. If they have any questions, they should contact their teacher via email or on Google Classroom.

In Case of a Positive Result

- If a student tests positive to COVID-19 on a RAT or PCR they, you and all their household contacts must isolate at home for 7 days (unless you have recovered from COVID in the last 28 days)
- You should inform the school that your child is isolating due to their COVID status or because they are a household contact

- You must self-isolate at home for 7 days from the date you got tested, even if you are fully vaccinated. Self-isolation means staying in your home or accommodation and remaining separated from others. Please see the [Self-Isolation Guidelines](#) for further information on how to self-isolate and what supports are available to you should you need them
- You must tell people you live with that you have COVID-19. Your household contacts must also self-isolate for 7 days, and have a rapid antigen test (RAT) as soon as possible and again on Day 6.
- Schools must provide regular updates on COVID cases in the school community (*see right*)
- It is recommended that students who return to school after recovering from COVID-19 not participate in rapid antigen test surveillance for 28 days (four weeks after recovery) following release from self-isolation. This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 28 days. After 28 days (from week five after recovery), students and staff may resume participation in RAT surveillance.

Covid Figures this Week

| Year Group | Covid Positive | Close Contacts |
|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Year 7 | 4 | 9 |
| Year 8 | 2 | 6 |
| Year 9 | 10 | 2 |
| Year 10 | 2 | 3 |
| Year 11 | 3 | 4 |
| Year 12 | 2 | - |
| Staff | 2 | 3 |

Aquinas Resource Centre News

Mrs Megan de Kantzow, Leader of Information Resources

Revamped Library & Study Spaces

If your young person has been in the ARC (Aquinas Resource Centre) recently, they'll have noticed that the spaces have been reorganised and refreshed, with new study areas, new bookshelves and books, and big re-arrangement of fiction and non-fiction. Shelves are labelled, but if they are looking for something and can't find it, please encourage them to ask for help!



Premier's Reading Challenge

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is now open! It aims to encourage students' love of reading, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It's not a competition, but a challenge to each student to read, read more and to read more widely. You can find out [more about the PRC](#) or [find reading inspiration](#) in the 'booklists by categories'.

Students who have a logon from a previous school, should contact **Mrs de Kantzow** in the ARC, who can change their PRC details over to St Leo's - otherwise their certificate will be sent to their previous school! If they don't have a logon, this can be set up.

Leo's Writers

The **Leo's Writers** group meets on Friday lunchtime in the ARC. Interested students can just turn up with their writing materials! See Mrs de Kantzow, Ms Price or Sofie (Year 12) for details.

Social Justice & Youth Ministry Update

Our Amazing Caritas Collection

Our work to support **Caritas** this Lent continues, with collections for Project Compassion every Wednesday and Friday morning. The Year 11 College **Vinnies Conference** did a great job on Open Day running a BBQ, the proceeds of which will be split between buying food to feed the homeless in Hornsby through **St John's Dish**

(which students do each Term) and **Project Compassion**. The total raised by the College for Caritas so far this year is now **over \$3,500** - an amazing effort that speaks to the character and compassion of our community.

Eggs, Socks & Jewellery Update

Donations of **Easter Eggs** and **new socks** for the homeless, as well as **old jewellery** for the domestic violence group have also been very generous. **Please keep these coming in** - they can be dropped directly to the Youth Ministry room or given to the student leaders who come around during Mentor on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Social Justice League & Environment Group

The **Social Justice League**, open to any Year 7-12 students, continues to meet on Tuesdays. They have been looking at ways of engaging the students for Harmony Day. The **Environment Group**, also open to all students, meets on Thursdays. They have been exploring ways to raise awareness and support for animal welfare issues locally. Both these groups meet in the Youth Ministry Room at lunchtime - all are welcome to join.

Street Retreat for Year 10

Each fortnight a small group of Year 10 students are taken by Mr Kershler on Street Retreat - something all Year 10 students are encouraged to sign up for during the year. Antony wrote about his experience after he attended on Wednesday:

"Today's experience of the Year 10 Street Retreat was an eye opener, as we got to experience true homelessness in the centre of Sydney.

Mr Kershler gave us a tour around the city areas of Woolloomooloo and Kings Cross. These areas are highly populated with homeless people, with each person carrying a different story to tell. In the short amount of time we spent with some people we got to learn a lot about their lives and how tough living on the streets of Sydney really is.



This day taught us to respect people on the street and to never judge them as we are all the same and each have our own different stories. It taught us that no matter what we have going on in our lives, it only takes a short period of time to lose it all.

The experience we had today was like no other as we got to see homelessness up close with our own eyes. We hear about homelessness in our everyday lives, but to talk with homeless people was a whole other experience.

This day showed us why we should be thankful for our blessings and it reminded us how much God really does for us and what God wants us to do for others." Antony, Year 10.

Pathways Program

Mr Justin Slowey, Leader of Pathways and Partnerships

STEM - Robotics and Coding Incursion

There are many Pathways opportunities being planned for 2022 including a STEM incursion later this Term or early Term 2 on Robotics and Coding.

We still have 30 places available to students in years 8, 9, 10 and 11. If you would like your child to participate in this free event, please complete this [Expression of Interest Form](#). This will operate on a first come first served basis.

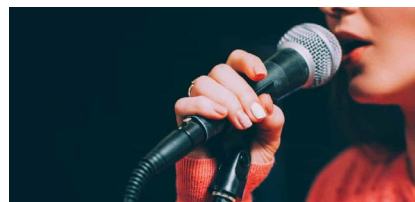
Parent Career Connections Wanted

We are always seeking parent volunteers to join our St Leo's parent database to offer a connection to your area of work. Please complete [this form](#) if you or your organisation are available to offer voluntary support to students &/or teachers within our Pathways & Partnerships program and would have the time to offer real world experiences, advice and support to help connect students' interests with potential future career pathways.

CAPA Covid Smart Plan Update

Our CAPA Covid-19 Smart Plan has been updated with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. If your child attends any of our CAPA Ensembles or Programs and/or our Pride Lands Private Music Tuition Program, please read through the updated Smart Plan. This will be **effective from Monday, 21 March**. If you have any questions, please contact [Ms Skea](#).

- [Private Music Tuition Smart Plan](#)
- [CAPA Ensemble / Program Smart Plan](#)



REMINDERS:

Private Music Tuition

St Leo's offers our Pride Lands Private Music Tuition Program. Recently, due to popular demand, the College has expanded the number of tutors on site, especially in **Guitar and Vocals**. If you are interested in receiving private lessons to learn an instrument and/or vocals, please complete the following [Expression of Interest form](#). Students from beginners to advanced 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 [email Ms Skea](#) for further information.

