EXPLANATION OF FEES & CHARGES 2015

Being mindful of family circumstances, we have limited any increases in fees as much as possible to the change in 2013/14 average weekly earnings (AWE) of 5%. In some areas it is not possible to restrict increases to the AWE – mainly the excursions, camps and retreats where there have been increases in transport & accommodation costs.

Please Note: A number of these fees should be tax deductible, but please consult your tax agent / accountant.

CEO Tuition Fee
The Catholic Education Office (CEO) Tuition Fee is established and charged by the Sydney Archdiocesan Catholic Schools (SACS) Board and is common to all Catholic Systemic Schools. This fee is charged on an increasing incremental basis as students progress through to the HSC and on a decreasing incremental basis for the second and subsequent child attending a Catholic Systemic School. It contributes to:

- wages for teachers and support staff
- special programs
- providing support services
- resources for schools
- student accident insurance
- public liability and volunteer workers insurance

The sibling reduction is 20% for the second child and 45% for the third child in the system, with any subsequent children in the system free of charge.

Parish School Building Fee
Following the financial constraints on schools imposed by the NSW Government, together with the imminent commencement of a building program, the CEO has increased this fee by $25 per family. It is used for the purpose of servicing debts owing on the construction of the College’s buildings and facilities. If there are students from the one family in two Catholic systemic schools in the Archdiocese, only half the levy is charged at St John Bosco College (if we are notified). Likewise if there are students at three Sydney Catholic systemic schools, only one third of the levy is charged at St John Bosco College.

Subject and Resources Fee
This year we have generally been able to limit the general Subject and Resources Fees to less than 5.0% above the fees for 2014. There have been some reductions and some small increases in a number of elective subjects to include the cost of excursions / incursions not previously charged in the fees, and to cover increased costs of some excursions. This fee covers the cost of conducting the educational programs and providing educational experiences, equipment, materials and resources. As much as possible these fees also include the cost of excursions required in any subject. In Years 9 to 12 this fee is supplemented by the Electives Fees, which are charged depending on the nature of the elective and the types of experiences, equipment, materials and resources necessary for that particular elective. Due to the number of students changing electives in Term 1, the elective charges are now only spread over 2 Terms (Terms 2 & 3). The Subject and Resources Fee covers the costs of:

- text books and photocopied resources
- teaching resources and materials
- classroom, workshop and specialist equipment
- library resources and equipment
- most, if not all, excursions, incursions, performances and special events
- targeted learning initiatives, including study skills sessions
- curriculum booklets distributed to students and parents
- specialised classroom and workshop furniture & equipment
- house badges for all students, and a Yr 12 badge to recognise the importance of their final year
- student diaries

Pastoral Care resources
careers programs and information materials
literacy workbooks (Years 7 – 10)
photo ID cards for students

PLEASE NOTE: Families who received fee reductions in 2014 are required to re-apply for these each year. Hence, they will need to complete a new application form for 2015 and have an interview with the Principal.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE: Students whose families are receiving fee reductions or are not up to date with fee payments are not permitted to attend or participate in non-compulsory activities, events and excursions for which there is a payment.

eBooks Years 7 to 10
eBooks were introduced to Bosco College for the first time this year. There are two eBooks for English and Maths in Years 7 to 10 costing $75.
Student Administration Fee
The Administration Fee is charged by St John Bosco College on a per family basis and is used for the purpose of covering the recurrent and capital costs of operating the College, including:

- electricity, gas and water
- telephones and internet
- cleaning and waste management
- general repairs and maintenance
- printing and photocopying
- postage and stationery
- awards and presentations
- staff professional development
- College newsletters, yearbook and calendar
- buildings improvements
- equipment
- major classroom furniture and equipment
- administration requisites and equipment

Information Technology Fee
There has been a necessary increase in the Information Technology Fee this year, as every student now has a laptop computer or iPad. Two ICT technicians are necessary to help maintain the College’s outstanding information and communications technology (ICT). This fee is charged per student. As you would be aware, Bosco College continues to be recognised as a lighthouse school for its ICT, remaining a technologically pioneering school. The Information Technology fee in Years 7, 8, 10, 11 & 12 is $282 per student. The ICT fee in Year 9 is $315 which covers the base IT levy ($282) plus the external drive & software ($100), the cost of which has been spread over 3 years at $33 per year.

Years 9 & 11 Laptop Hire
The Year 9 hire fee is $288 per student per annum over 3 years. The Year 11 laptop hire fee is the second $252 per student / annum over 3 years. This is the first year of a hire scheme for laptops in Yr 10, and the laptop hire fee is $252 per student / annum over 3 years.

College Backpacks
All students in Year 7 and new students have been issued with a new College backpack (older students already have them). This is being charged in the fees at the cost of $69. Students in Year 7 need these backpacks for their books and iPads. Students in other years may purchase replacement backpacks from the Canteen.

Sport & Grounds Maintenance
All students pay $42, as it contributes to the maintenance of the Reichel Court, Boys’ Town playing fields, College grounds and the gymnasium, as well as the costs of many activities & programs including equipment and contributions to sporting carnivals. All students in Years 7 to 10 pay the $42 and also pay an annual fee of $171 (a total of $213) for transport and participation in Friday sport, whether they play representative sport or non-rep sport.

Camps and Retreats
All students participate in some form of camp or retreat experience during the school year. The costs for these have increased a little this year, due to increases in transport & accommodation charges and the higher costs of activities. This fee also includes transport & admission costs for end of year picnics & events for Years 7 to 12. Please note that the specified fee should be regarded as indicative, and a supplementary fee may apply depending on the final total cost. Attendance at and participation in the camps and retreats is compulsory and bookings are made up to two years in advance. Hence, should a student be prevented from attending a camp or retreat because of illness, injury or other reason a refund will apply only to those components of the fee for which the College itself is able to receive a refund (ie. some non-refundable booking fees for which the College is not entitled to a refund will not be able to be refunded to parents).

State and Federal Grants
The State and Federal Governments provide the Catholic Education Office with recurrent grants. However, on average, each student in a Catholic systemic school receives only 90% in total government funding than their peers in government schools. This shortfall is a burden that falls on parents / guardians through school fees & building levies. These grants do not come directly to the College – they are used by the Catholic Education Office primarily for the purpose of paying staff wages.

Fees Payment Options
Accounts are issued at the start of the year (with reminders in Terms 2 and 3) and are due on the date of issue but, unless otherwise stated, are deemed payable within 30 days. Where students join the school during the year a pro rata account for fees will be arranged.

We encourage periodic payment options, as they make it easier for many families to budget throughout the year (see accompanying form). Alternative arrangements such as monthly, fortnightly or weekly payment of fees are possible; however families are required to notify the College on the accompanying Agreement at the start of the year if they wish to enter into such an arrangement.

Fees may be paid by EFTPOS, BPay, credit card, cash or cheque. Families unable to meet fee payment schedules must contact the Principal or Business Manager in advance to discuss alternative payment plans.