



NEWSLETTER in brief



Last Wednesday, the Church celebrated the Feast of Mary Magdalene. We have very little solid information about Saint Mary, and both scholars and traditions differ on the interpretation of what we do know. She was a friend and follower of Jesus. Filled with sorrow over her sin, she anointed Christ, washing his feet with her hair. He exorcised seven demons from her. She was at the crucifixion and the Risen Christ visited her. There are also arguments about her life after the Crucifixion. The Greek Church maintains that she retired to Ephesus with the Blessed Virgin Mary and lived there the rest of her life. A French tradition says that Mary, Lazarus, and some companions went to Marseilles, France, evangelised and converted the whole Provence region, and then retired to live 30 years as a hermit at La Sainte-Baume. Whatever the tradition, Mary will be always revered as a woman who repented for her sins and chose to follow Jesus. With Mary, Jesus' mother, she is one of the first disciples. She is the patron saint of penitent sinners, hairdressers, perfumers, pharmacists and all converts.



From the Principal

Parent / Teacher Days: The Parent / Teacher interviews that were held at the end of last term proved to be very successful. Given the COVID restrictions, a significant and pleasing number of parents took the opportunity to discuss their son's / daughter's progress and achievements for the first semester. There has been some outstanding academic achievement so far this year and it is important to recognise and celebrate it. Alternatively, a number of students realise that they need to be more focused and better prepared for assessment events. Obviously, remote learning processes played a significant factor here. It was especially an important opportunity for parents of Year 10 students to discuss their child's progress. It is from these results much of the Year 11 subject selections are generated. I thank parents for making themselves available for the interviews. Any parent who missed this opportunity is still welcomed to contact the College to arrange times to phone or meet with staff.

Year 10 Subject Selection and Career Path Seminars: Late last term, Year 10 had been involved in a process that enables them to start to think about subjects and career paths post 2020. They were presented electronically with information that will help in the selection of subjects for 2021 or consider Apprentice / Traineeships. Following this, **parent / student subject selection zoom interviews** will take place on **Monday 3 Aug, 3:45 – 7:30 pm**. These are booked online. The purpose of the interviews is to outline the various pathways for students over the coming years and to help / advise both parents and students about clear selection of subjects for their HSC or alternate career pathways. Finally, a reminder that **all subject selection documentation** has to be **completed online by Friday 7 August**.



Archdiocesan Secondary Sport Review - online survey for students, parents and staff:

Sydney Catholic Schools has employed Ernst & Young to conduct a Secondary Sports Review across the Archdiocese of Sydney. All school communities are being invited to participate in the survey. On behalf of SCS, I ask you to take some brief amount of time to respond to this simple survey. A link to the survey will be emailed to you **via COMPASS**. The final date for responses in **Fri 31 July**. I thank you for your support.

Uniform and Grooming: I am pleased to say that most students have returned to school this week well-groomed and in correct College attire. However, there are still a few who have incorrect or poorly presented uniforms. The College consistently asks for support in regard to these matters. Mr Halpin and I addressed the student body at a brief assembly this week concerning this and other matters. A more detailed explanation is provided in the Assistant Principal's message that follows.

Mr Damien Carlton
Principal

CALENDAR 2020

Friday 31 July
Parent/student sport
survey final day

Monday 3 August
Parent/student subject
selection zoom
interviews

Friday 7 August
Final submission of Year
10 subject selections

Thursday 13 August
Year 10 Vaccinations

Monday 17 August
Parent Advisory
Committee Meeting
6pm

Monday 17 August
HSC Trial exams commence

Tuesday 1 September
Athletics Carnival

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Thursday 23 July we held a brief College assembly. We felt it important, as we begin a new semester, to address the students about College expectations. We spoke about establishing and maintaining high individual and College expectations, and how important this is to ensure that Bosco College remains a great school. There is an understanding that, with the challenging circumstances around COVID-19, teachers have been more lenient than normal in regard to challenging students who were not meeting expectations. While this was considered acceptable for Term 2, it will not be continued into Terms 3 and 4. In the spirit of fairness to all students, our assembly was to inform them of this.

One of the areas that was addressed was College uniform. Students were reminded of the significance of wearing the uniform correctly and with pride. They were reminded about the numerous times and places that they are expected to dress and present in an appropriate manner. If they have a job, they are expected to present as per company policy or not keep their job. If they represent a sporting club, they are expected to wear the full uniform, or not play. When they attend certain venues, they have to abide by dress codes, or not enter. On none of these occasions are they told "don't worry about it today, just make sure you fix it by next time".

The majority of students at Bosco College take great pride in wearing their uniform correctly at all times, and ensure that their personal appearance meets expectations. There are, however, those students who constantly pick and choose which components of the uniform they will abide by and which they won't. As members of the College community, and as committed to when they enrolled, these students do not have the right to make these choices.

As of Monday, 27 July any student who arrives at the College in anything other than the full College uniform will be held accountable for the choices that they have made. If the breach of policy can be immediately fixed (e.g. removal of excess jewellery) the student will receive the appropriate consequence and remain at school. If, however, the breach cannot be immediately fixed (e.g. a haircut that breaches policy), the student's parents will be notified, and the student will be sent home until the breach can be fixed.

The support of parents/carers in ensuring that students dress and present in line with College expectations is vital. Students will often want to challenge expectations, and it is the responsibility of parents/carers and the College to educate them on the importance of meeting expectations, not just at school but in all areas of life.

We ask all parents and carers to review the College Uniform Policy with their daughter/son, and to reinforce the expectations surrounding this policy. You will find the policy on pages 22-24 of the College Diary.

As I have said many times, the manner by which the students present themselves reflects not just on them personally, but it also reflects on their family and, of course, the College as a whole.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the College in the education of your child.