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27 January 2017

Congratulations go to one of our College music specialist, Mrs Ruth Ross-Pe'er a 2017 Moreton Australia Day Award recipient. She will be recognised for her work at the community vigil for Manmeet Sharma, who died so tragically last October at Moorooka.



best port of call in the first instance. The Pastoral Middle Leaders for 2017 are:

- Year 7** - Mrs Anita Macknish
- Years 8 & 9** - Mr Phil Parkinson
- Years 10 & 11** - Ms Lucy Toumbas
- Year 12** - Mrs Celeste Amos

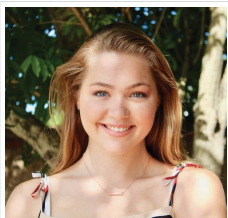
If you are concerned about your daughter's learning or how she is coping in class, in the first instance, please contact the relevant class teacher. The email addresses of all staff are on the College Portal. If you have forgotten your login details, please email Mrs Vicki Sharp in the office or Mrs Twomey in the library. For ongoing concerns you may wish to speak to the Curriculum Leader associated with the subject of concern. They are:

- The Arts (Art, Music, Drama, Instrumental Music)** - Mrs Bianca Johnston
- Business and Vocational Education** - Ms Paula Geraghty
- Home Economics and Catering** - Ms Rhiannon Hughes (Term 1)  
Mrs Marion Holland
- HPE and Sport** - Mr John Boumford
- Humanities (English and Social Science)** - Ms Danielle Moore
- Learning Enhancement (Gifted, Support & ESL)** - Mrs Tina Ellis
- Mathematics** - Mrs Kate Brims
- Science** - Mr Graham Tilbury

If you are planning a family holiday during the Term and your daughter will be missing time from school, please email me on [sannerley@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sannerley@bne.catholic.edu.au)

Remember that it is vital in Years 11 and 12 that if a student is away on the due date of an assignment or for an exam that a parent contact the relevant class teacher. In keeping with QCAA policy, a medical certificate is also required. In Years 7 to 10, please provide a letter of explanation. If the medical condition is ongoing, Mr Anthony Stevens (Deputy Principal) and Mrs Dona Archer (Assistant Principal) should also be made aware of your daughter's circumstances.

## Principal's Message



## Welcome

Welcome to the 2017 school year and a special welcome to all of the new families to the Our Lady's Family.

We also have some new staff and some staff returning from leave to welcome:

- Ms Cassie Boisen** – Science, Mathematics and Chemistry specialist.
- Ms Rhiannon Hughes** – Home Economics & Catering Leader during Term 1 whilst Mrs Holland is on leave.
- Back from leave this year are:** Mrs Sarah Bruce as part-time Science teacher, and Mrs Angela Piantes teaching English and Religion.

It is sometimes confusing in a secondary environment to know who to contact when you have a question or concern. If the matter is in relation to health or personal matters, your daughter's pastoral care teacher and Pastoral Leader are the

## Excellent Teachers + Excellent Students = Excellent Results

Congratulations to our 2016 Year 12s on their outstanding achievements! Our OP 1-5 students joined us for our beginning of year assembly and shared their study pathways:

**Mattisse Jacobs** – Bachelor of Science (UQ)

**Morgan Lynch** – Bachelor of Business & Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (QUT) Morgan has also received a QCE Certificate of Academic Commendation for QCAA as well as a scholarship.

**Mercedes Canal** – Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) (UQ)

**Sophie Cyranowicz** – Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (QUT)

**Kym Mationg** – Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) (UQ)

**Thao Nguyen** – Bachelor of Laws (Honours)/Justice (QUT)

**Mi Mi Pham** – Bachelor of Commerce/Business Laws (Griffith) Mi Mi has also received the Sir Dean Samuel Scholarship.

**Laura Spenceley** – Bachelor of Environmental Science & Bachelor of Laws (QUT)

**Jessica Mann** – Bachelor of Behavioural Science/Phycology & Bachelor of Social Work (QUT)

As a teaching staff, we are very proud of the girls who showed dedication and tenacity in their studies. This together with highly professional and knowledgeable staff who supported the girls in their learning, QCS preparation, and mentoring program resulted in wonderful achievements for the girls. A wonderful outcome!

### Building Update and P & F Success

At the end of 2016 building work began on renovation to the toilets in A block, decommissioning of the older C block toilets, renovation of the Year 10, 11 and 12 locker rooms, and building new bathroom facilities in the Tenison Woods Wing. While progress has been steady, hold up with supply of some materials has meant that we have had to instigate some short term arrangements. We are very appreciative of Mary Immaculate Primary School for assisting us with additional bathroom facilities in the short term: Arrangements specific to each year level have been conveyed to the girls by their respective Pastoral Leader.

Last year, the P & F applied for a Grant to be used for shade provision in the College. Such an application involves serious preparation particularly in terms of the provision of financial information and an understanding of the nature of our school community. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our Business Manager, Mr Vince McDonald to this task, and the foresight and commitment of the P & F Association to this task. The P & F have also committed funds to add to the grant. The total cost of the project is in the vicinity of \$100 000. The grant and P & F support significantly contributes to that sum. This is a great outcome and gift to our community for 2017. Factoring in other work and securing the funds and an appropriate contractor sees scheduling the installation for a mid year timeframe in school holidays.

## “Let us show love in our acts” Mary MacKillop

Each year our community has a quote by our foundress, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Significant input into the quote comes from the incoming Student Leaders. Mary was pragmatic and practical and at the heart of the many quotes that she left to inspire us is the notion of action. In all that we do, she calls us to show love to others. As we know, we can approach a task or assist someone with graciousness – or not! Our quote this year calls us to think of the other person first and to be kind and thoughtful in all that we do.

Shalom

**Paula Goodwin**  
**Principal**

## Teaching and Learning

Welcome back to the majority of students and staff of the Our Lady’s College Community and a warm welcome to our many new students and staff in all year levels.

### OFFICE ROLES

As the Deputy Principal, my role focuses on the successful completion of courses that our students undertake. Again this year, it will be my primary focus to ensure that our girls are studying the courses that best prepare them for their future. Hard work and diligence are indeed important to success but being on the correct path ensures our students a happy and successful future. Our Year 12 students are currently well under way with their preparation for the QCS tests later in the year, as well as being deeply immersed in their subject work. As well, my role will involve the day to day organisation in the College.

### RESULTS

Huge congratulations go out to our past Year 12 students for their impressive performances in their final results. Students in the OP 1-5 range have been invited back to our first assembly. Statistically speaking, we had 18% of our students in the OP 1-5 range with some outstanding results in our OP 1s and 2s. We had 47% of our students in the OP1-10 range (up from 35% last year) and 82% in the OP1-15 range (up from 71% last year).

Understanding the awarding of grades is often problematic for some students and parents as the processes that are used by the QSA are very complex. It is certainly not a simple case of 5VHAs = OP1 as every level (VHA for example) has 10 levels of grade within that is not reported to students by the QSA on the Exit Statement. Added to the information are the results from the group in the QCS Test so that, when all of the final calculations are completed, 5VHAs does not always beat (for example) 3VHAs and 2 HAs. The final calculations depend on the strength of the group in the subject and then, in turn, the strength of the result in the group. This complex mix cannot be explained simply or watered down to simple rules of thumb. Equally, the strongest factor in any result is the performance of the individual student.

Needless to say, we had outstanding results from our senior students, but it doesn’t end there. Last year, you would have heard of our NAPLAN results placing our school averages **for every category in Year 9 NAPLAN tests** ahead of every other

BCE school – that’s First Place in all of the NAPLAN areas across every BCE secondary school in the greater Brisbane district.

## TIMETABLES

Students in the senior Year levels will either have a blank space on the bottom of their timetables on Mondays and Tuesdays, or some allocated study lessons throughout the week. This is because of the different conditions for senior students. For those who do not have classes in Period Six on Mondays and Tuesdays, this signifies that the school day finishes for them at the conclusion of Period Five (2:02pm on those days). Any student who has study lessons allocated throughout the week due to University studies or TAFE commitments, will receive a customised letter explaining the options regarding these lessons.

## SENIOR ASSESSMENTS

It is important to point out, particularly for seniors, that all senior assessments are graded according to strict criteria, which is moderated through the QCAA. In all subjects, there are NO POINTS FOR EFFORT. If you encounter a grade throughout the year which is less than what you expect (this does happen from time to time), always refer back to the written criteria and how well this is addressed in the assignment – not by how long the assignment took or how much effort went in. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the assessment, initial contact with the class teacher can often explain exactly how the grading occurs. As usual, all email contact addresses are available through the college website.

## ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

Assessment schedules will be available soon in an electronic calendar format. This is so that students can easily integrate this into their electronic calendars on their computers and parents can have live access to the latest information. Most of the information regarding assessment times etc is already available through both the Student Portal and the Parent Portal – please contact the College Office if you are unsure how to access the Parent Portal.

Should parents have any questions regarding courses of work, assessment items or timetables, please do not hesitate to contact me via the College Office.

## LAPTOPS

Laptops have been distributed in the first days of the year. Like mobile phones, there are times when laptops provide tremendous support to students and a time when they can be used as a distraction. Please embrace good sense when setting boundaries at home for these devices.

### Simply:

- Internet access should be supervised all of the time—consider whether the location for the computer allows for easy monitoring by parents. “Researching” behind a closed bedroom door is never advisable. Ensure that YOU can see the screen as you walk past (not that your daughter can see you before you get to the screen).

- Communication Technology has “off time” – if your daughter cannot yet self-limit her use of email, chat or other communication technologies, make sure that the computer “recharges” overnight in your bedroom. This will reduce the temptation to stay up late into the evening.
- It never hurts to ask – ask you daughter how the computers are being used in the classrooms. Ask the teachers. Talk with other parents about good study habits etc.

## STUDENT PROTECTION CONTACTS

Please note that contacts for Student Protection for 2017 are the Principal, Assistant Principal – Student Wellbeing and Guidance Counsellor. Any reporting of suspected sexual abuse, harm or inappropriate behaviour by an employee towards a student should be directed to these contacts who will follow the processes of Student Protection as per Brisbane Catholic Education Policy. A hard copy of the document can be found in the College library and an electronic version can be accessed on the College Portal.

## ABSENCES

In the situation where your daughter is absent from school for any reason we would ask you to let us know. An automated phone line is available and details are outlined on the front of each newsletter. This helps us to verify where your daughter is so we can be sure that she has not met with any accident on the way to school. If you do not phone us we will SMS you to inform you that your daughter is absent and ask you to SMS or call us back to verify her whereabouts. Please carefully check the details that you have given us and ensure that we always have your current phone number—it is essential that we have this number so that when we SMS we are making a contact with you. When your daughter has a planned absence, legislative requirements are that you write a letter to the Principal seeking her permission for the absence. This note should be given by your daughter to the office. It is a legal requirement for students to be at school and only the Principal can excuse her. In general, letters should be submitted two weeks before the planned absence.

## MEDICATION FOR STUDENTS

A Student Medication Request Form, if required, is available for your daughter to collect from the College Office. For any medication to be administered at school (including Panadol and Asthma medication) this form must be filled in, authorized by a parent and/or medical practitioner and returned to the College ASAP. Please note that we cannot administer any medication without proper authorisation.

The value of family support can never be understated in the role of achieving success for our students. It should be understood by all students that personal achievements rely on the depth of your commitment to the task at hand.

In all things: do your best, be your best - AD ALTIORA

Enjoy the fortnight ahead

**Anthony Stevens**  
**Deputy Principal**

## Community Matters

Welcome back or welcome to Our Lady's College. It has been lovely to see all the students arrive over the last few days excited at the prospect of a new year and new educational opportunities. I wish every student all the best this year and remind them that their Pastoral Leader and the Guidance Counsellor are here to support them with their wellbeing, so that they can achieve to their full potential.

One of the first tasks this year for the Pastoral Team was the training of this year's Big Sisters. The Year 10 students sacrificed two days of their holidays, one to train for the role and the other to support the new Year 7 students on their first day of high school. On their training day the Big Sisters highlighted that their mission for the semester was to help each of the new students feel like the College was their second home. A very sweet vow from these girls who will no doubt do their very best to make sure each Year 7 student feels like they are safe and belong in this community. I wish this group of students all the best for the semester long program and I'm sure they'll experience both enjoyment and success. Thank you to Year 7 Pastoral Leader, Anita Macknish, for her support of these students and the Big Sister Program

A reminder for Year 7 Parents that a Brisbane City Council Immunisation Program consent form has been sent home this week. This is due back to the College on Friday February 3rd. If they are not returned by this time please be aware of the change in legislation that allows the Brisbane City Council to make contact with families who have not returned forms that either consent or prevent their child from being immunised at school. As long as a form is returned to the College clearly stating whether or not your child will be immunised in the program you will not be contacted.

Year 12 Parents this week have received an invitation asking them to join with members of the College Leadership Team and Pastoral Team for an informal chat about how to best support your daughter as she navigates the challenges of Year 12. This will be held from 2:00pm in Ad Altiora Place on Tuesday 7 February. We hope to see you there.

I wish you and your daughters all the best for 2017.

**Dona Archer**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Student Wellbeing**

## In the Tradition

### Year 12 Rosies Service Learning

Year 12 students have the option this semester of being involved in the Rosies Street Outreach program. This is a challenging program and students will receive training to assist with their participation and understanding. Students attend one Sunday night session in the City and serve coffee, simple food and offer friendship. Based on the responses from the debrief sessions at the College on the Monday, the girls find it a very rewarding experience. Information will be forthcoming about this social justice action and numbers are capped.

## Opening Mass

Each year Our Lady's formalises the start of the academic year with a College Mass to ask for God's blessing on our community. Monsignor Peter Meneely will celebrate with us on Tuesday 14 February. After the Eucharist, there will be a formal induction of our Year 12 students followed by a morning tea for Yr 12 students and parents.

## Year 7 RE Classes

All students at Our Lady's College study Religious Education as a subject. For some of our students this is a new experience. The classes are designed to explore aspects of Christian faith as well as other religions. The course also covers historical issues, modern issues and morality topics. Students will be given regular homework and assignment tasks similar to other subjects and will develop their literacy skills further. Year 7 starts with an introductory unit that explores our College, Mary MacKillop and our Josephite tradition which is very helpful for the students in their initiation into the College.

In God's love,

**Linda Brandenburg**  
**Assistant Principal**  
**Religious Education**



## Campus Minister

### WELCOME

Welcome back to our current staff and students and welcome to Our Lady's College to our new students, especially the Year 7s who began their high school journey with us this week. May this year of 2017 be a fruitful one filled with grace and growth. We celebrated the beginning of our school year with a college assembly on Wednesday and welcomed our Year 7 group and other newcomers to our community. In prayer the school leaders introduced our 2017 Mary MacKillop quote: "Let us show love in our acts."

During the year we hope you will involve yourselves in some of the many opportunities to help others who may be struggling a bit. Next week Years 11 and 12 will be offered opportunities to be involved in visiting the nearby TriCare Aged Care Centre or participate in the Rosies Outreach program.

### PRAYERS PLEASE...

During the holidays, staff member Graham Hockless and his wife Kerry welcomed baby daughter, Pippa, to their family. Pippa was five weeks early but is doing well. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Blessings

**Kay Holmes**  
**Campus Minister**

## Guidance Counsellor

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful break and are feeling energised for this new school year.

Many of you will be familiar with my position at the school, but for those who are new to Our Lady's College, my role as Guidance Counsellor is to provide a relaxed and confidential space where students and/or parents can discuss with me any concern regarding mental health and wellbeing. This includes problems such as feeling worried, stressed or down, having difficulty focussing, problems managing anger, anxiety about tests or exams, or coping with relationship conflicts. I am also here to answer questions about subject choices, pathways after school and careers.

My aim is to help students become more resilient and in control of their lives, in a positive way, and to help others understand what students are going through.

I work in collaboration with the Pastoral Middle Leaders and the Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing to promote the health and resilience amongst the student body. Part of my role involves speaking with students at year level assemblies. In the next few weeks I will talk with the Year 7s about the transition to high school and to the Year 12s about managing with the changes and expectations that come with the final year of study.

Students can make an appointment to see me one-on-one to discuss issues affecting them. If students would like to make an appointment they can contact me by email ([anna.wallace@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:anna.wallace@bne.catholic.edu.au)), come to my office in Student Services, or make an appointment with me at Student Services with Mrs Sharp or Mrs Dinnen. Parents are also welcome to contact me by email, phone or make an appointment with me at Student Services.

I wish you all the best for Term 1!

## Wellbeing Resources and Information

### Year 7 Getting Ready For High School

The Queensland government has put some resources together for Year 7s to help them transition to high school.

<http://flyingstart.qld.gov.au/getting-ready-high-school/starting/Pages/home.aspx>

## Career Resources and Information

### UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test)

Year 12 students considering undergraduate admission to Medicine (provisional entry) or Dental Science at the University of Queensland will need a UMAT score to apply. 2017 UMAT registrations are open from now until 2 June.

<http://umat.acer.edu.au>

## Australian Defence Force (ADF)

The ADF are running a careers information session on the 2 February from 6 – 8pm.

<http://events.defencejobs.gov.au/event/S8YMLB/>

**Anna Wallace**  
**Guidance Counsellor**

## Middle Leaders Report

### MATHEMATICS MATTERS

Parents and teachers can foster enjoyment and success in Mathematics by creating what psychologists call good conditions for “flow”: a challenge that’s well-matched to the child’s skill level, with clear goals and unambiguous feedback. Students who feel little self-efficacy in mathematics, who fail to see the usefulness of the subject, whose parents evince a lack of interest and who don’t enjoy doing math are the ones who will turn off and shut down (Paul, 2012).

Our dedicated and experienced mathematics staff have developed programs that aim to foster a fluency in mathematical skills and an appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in everyday daily life. Through participating in the Mathematics program students will have opportunities to develop problem solving, reasoning and critical thinking routines. To best develop ‘flow’ we:

- Work in ‘fluid classrooms’ where, when appropriate, class groupings are needs based rather than one class with one set teacher all year.
- Use various approaches including (but not limited to) rich task activities, the use of manipulatives, routine practices and web based interactive sites.
- Offer before school Mathematics support (see below for details)
- Use various methods of feedback including assessment for learning and assessment of learning

While we do our part at school, we ask that you encourage your daughter to engage positively in mathematics classes, persevere when they feel challenged, and seek support if need be.

Paul, A.M., 2012. *How Do You Spark a Love of Math in Kids?*

<https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2012/05/25/how-do-you-spark-a-love-of-math-in-kids/>

## MATHEMATICS SUPPORT

**Where:** D2.1

**When:** Tuesday and Wednesday Mornings 7:30am – 8:30am (Weeks 3-9)

**Who:** ALL ARE WELCOME

**What to bring:** bring questions you have struggled with, assignment work, any mathematical questions you want to better understand

**Why:** because sometimes a little extra help can go a long way.

**Kate Brims**

**Mathematics and Numeracy Middle Leader**

## College Newsletter and 2017 Calendar

Access our College Newsletter and 2017 College Calendar via the College website –

<http://www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au>

## Important Dates and Deadlines

<b>31 Jan – Tuesday</b>	Yr 7 Parent Evening, Ad Altiora Place 7:00 -8:00pm BCE Parent Assistance 6:00 – 7:00pm
<b>3 Feb – Friday</b>	Spirit Day
<b>6 Feb – Monday</b>	Inter-House Swimming Carnival, Yeronga Pool
<b>7 Feb – Tuesday</b>	Year 12 Parent afternoon tea, 2:00pm Ad Altiora Place
<b>10 Feb – Friday</b>	Red for Rosies Day & Friendship Day
<b>14 Feb – Tuesday</b>	College Opening Mass, College Hall – 9:10am

## Absentees

**Please Phone: 07 3426 8095 prior to 9.00 am daily**

**Email Link:** [www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au](http://www.ourladyscollege.qld.edu.au)

**Absentee Email:** [absenteeOLC@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:absenteeOLC@bne.catholic.edu.au)

**Or via the Parent Portal**