22 January 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR
As a new academic year begins I would like to welcome staff, parents and students to a new year at Mater Dei College, especially those students who are attending Mater Dei College for the first time.

I trust the holiday period has been a restful and enjoyable time and, now, as the new academic year approaches, students are keen to resume their studies as they progress towards achieving their educational goals.

I would encourage all students to make best use of the opportunities that are provided so that 2016 will be seen as a very rewarding and successful year. I would like to highlight some of the changes for this year and list some activities that will be occurring in the first weeks.

DEANS OF STUDENTS
The College has three Deans of Students who are part of the administration structure of the College. Each Dean of Students will have responsibility for two year levels.

Mrs Teresa Cosgrove will oversee Year 9 and Year 12. Mrs Tamara Boyer will be responsible for Year 8 and Year 11. Mr John Sullivan will look after Year 7 and Year 10. Each Dean of Students will work with the respective Year Coordinators to support our students in achieving their optimal educational outcomes.

ORIENTATION FOR STUDENTS NEW TO THE COLLEGE IN YEARS 8, 9 & 11
New students joining the College in Years 8, 9, or 11 have a special Orientation program on Monday 1 February. The program starts at 8.30 a.m. and concludes at 10.30 a.m. The gathering point to begin the day is the Student Services building. Parents of these students are invited to join the students and Year Coordinators for morning tea on the day from 10.00 to 10.30 am.

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL
There is a staggered start to the academic year. All Year 7, Year 10, Year 12 students and Year 11 Peer Support Leaders begin the year on Monday 1 February and have a special program that flows during their first day. The Year Co-ordinators will provide some detail about the activities of this first day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>8.30 a.m.</td>
<td>2.10 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>8.30 a.m.</td>
<td>1.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Peer Support Leaders</td>
<td>8.50 a.m.</td>
<td>11.30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>8.30 a.m.</td>
<td>1.00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Students to College (Year 8, 9, 11)</td>
<td>8.50 a.m.</td>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
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Year 8, Year 9 and Year 11 students then join with the other year levels to begin their classes at 8.35 a.m. on Tuesday 2 February. The Cafeteria will be open from Monday for Recess and Lunch.
UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE
It is imperative that students present themselves impeccably right from the start of the year.

The Uniform Shop has been open for many days and there should be no reason why students are not properly attired in their correct summer uniform. No student will be permitted to attend classes whilst wearing the incorrect uniform. Parents/guardians will be contacted to correct any problems that emerge.

Equally, students should present themselves in a manner that complies with the College standards of dress, hair length and colour, make-up and jewellery. These standards are clearly outlined in the various documents provided to parents. Again, parents/guardians will be contacted to correct any issue that needs attention.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS
During the early weeks of Term 1 there are a number scheduled Parent Information Evenings for the various year levels. Parents/guardians should make every effort to attend these important information evenings and we would expect that at least one parent/guardian is present.

- Year 12 Parent Evening  Monday 1 February at 7.00 p.m.
- Year 8 Parent Evening  Wednesday 3 February at 7.00 p.m.
- Year 7 Parent Evening  Thursday 4 February at 6.30 p.m.
- Year 9 Parent Evening  Monday 8 February at 7.00 p.m.
- Year 11 Parent Evening  Monday 15 February at 7.00 p.m.
- Year 10 Parent Evening  Wednesday 24 February at 7.00 p.m.

COLLEGE COMMUNITY MASS
The Opening College Community Mass for parents, students and staff is to be celebrated in St Anthony's Church, Wanneroo, on Tuesday 16 February at 6.30 p.m. We are encouraging all to attend, but, in particular, Year 7 students and their families, as we come together as a College for the first time in 2016. The occasion is also a chance to congratulate successful Year 12 students from last year, to acknowledge long-serving staff members in our College and introduce new staff to the College community. Come and share in this opening celebration.

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
The College Newsletter, Dei to Dei, is published electronically every Friday during Term. Please take time to read the information provided in the Newsletter.

COLLEGE CALENDAR
The College 2016 Calendar will be posted on the school website (www.mdc.wa.edu.au) by the end of next week so that parents/guardians can look ahead when compiling the family diary.

STUDENT TIMETABLES
Timetables will be visible on SEQTA on Friday 29 January for students and parents to view prior to commencement.

With the myriad of opportunities provided for students at Mater Dei College, I feel confident that 2016 will be an enjoyable and successful year.

Barry Alfirevich
Principal