**Dear Parents**

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that each family had a restful break with their children and that your Easter celebrations were full of joy. Whilst on leave, I was lucky enough to spend Easter Sunday at St Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna and listen to the Vienna Boys Choir accompany the liturgy. It was a genuinely uplifting experience in a majestic space steeped in history. Despite my German speaking skills being nothing beyond simple greetings, the universal Easter message of celebration in the Mass and symbolism in the liturgy was very easy to hear and understand.

I would like to thank Mr. Lo Cascio and Mr. Costin for their work during my leave at the end of the term. We are very lucky to have such capable people leading our school.

Term 2 is two weeks shorter than last term and there are a lot of things happening across Years 7-10. Please read the newsletter carefully to keep on top of events and due dates for return of notes and other items. School Photo Day is this week and a reminder to parents that the photos are taken by the College for administrative purposes and we then give you the opportunity to purchase them should you wish. They are not a glamour photo shoot. As such, students should present themselves as they would normally in their full winter school uniform, no hair product and girls with their hair tied back and everyone with nice shiny shoes!

Enrolment interviews begin next week. Over 200 applications for Year 7 alone have been received and we are in the process of finalising interview times. Due to the high demand this year, interviews by the panel will be conducted until Week 8, so we ask for your patience as we work our way through the applications.

Our Stage 2 buildings are nearing completion and we look forward to moving in this term! Tender documents for Stage 3 (Science Labs, Staff Study and additional Car parking) have been published in the newspapers.

Australians have (perhaps rightly) become a very cynical lot. Much of what is covered in the media fuels our cynicism, particularly around trustworthiness of anyone in positions of authority. Cynicism though, eats at your soul. Like Judas in the lead-up to Easter, Thomas is a biblical character forever known for his failure as a human being. We hardly ever refer to him simply as Thomas, without the extra moniker, Doubting. But as one commentator observes, it’s not just his doubt that resonates with us. Who of us hasn’t struggled with cynicism at some point in life?
Despite hearing, over and over, the witness of Jesus' followers, he wanted proof of life. In asking to ‘inspect’ and ‘touch’, Thomas stepped beyond doubt to scepticism then into cynicism.

When Jesus appears, as the Gospel account tell us, with the greeting of Shalom, or ‘Peace,’ he turns to Thomas and counters his cynicism with a challenge of faith. Thomas responds with two titles for Jesus: Lord and God. In doing so, he acknowledges the rightful place of Jesus as Lord; he also saw God working through the Risen Christ.

In these weeks after Easter, may we each be able to move from cynicism to faithfulness and hear Christ’s gift of Shalom in our hearts, minds and lives.

Michael Hanratty

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**WINTER UNIFORM**

We have been made aware that some items of the winter uniform are not available from the uniform shop at the moment. If your child does not have a correct item of uniform could you please write a note in their diary.

With regard to Photo Day on Thursday, arrangements will be made for those students who are waiting on blazers from the Uniform Shop.

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**HATS**

Students who do not have their College hat when participating in PDHPE classes and all sporting activities will be issued with a concern notification for incorrect uniform.

Hats are now available from the Uniform Shop and (a limited number) from the College office for $15.

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**HALF YEARLY REPORTS**

With Half Yearly reports to be issued at the end of this term, it is important that all students (and parents) are checking the Assessment calendars available on the College website.

Half yearly exams for Years 9 and 10 will take place during the week commencing Monday 26 May.

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**The Vietnam War Remembered – A visit from ex-serviceman Mr Ray James**

Throughout our studies of Australian History, the students of Year 10 have spent Term 1 investigating the impacts of the Vietnam War. On Friday the 28 March, we were enlightened by guest speaker Mr Ray James, who came to share his first-hand experiences of the war. Mr James is the grandfather of Year 10 student, Caitlin Whalan and served as a sailor aboard famous ships throughout the Vietnam conflict. He told us of his story and how at the age of fifteen he left his high school, friends and home, bound for a Western Australian military academy. It was with a great sense of empathy that Year 10 wondered what it must have felt like to leave home and friends to head straight into a war torn country. Mr James gave us a soldier’s perspective and opinions of the Vietnam War that helped us to understand how war scars even the toughest of men with physical and psychological issues that live long through the decades to follow.

Overall it was a very informative discussion and we are most grateful that Mr James helped to broaden our understanding of the impacts of war on people’s lives through describing his own experiences in the Vietnam War.

Nicholas Connor Beavan
Year 10 History student
On Friday 25 April Mr Lo Cascio and Mr Costin accompanied a group of students to the ANZAC Day March in Camden. Several other students participated with the Army Cadets and the Air League.

The College will hold a brief ceremony on Wednesday. *Lest We Forget.*
Congratulations to Gabrielle Davis & Carol Halim (year 7), Alex Kolokotas (Year 9) and Alex Mougios (Year 10) on completing the Australian Informatics Competition paper – this was the first year students at St. Benedict’s have entered the competition and our thanks go to these 4 students who represented the College. Alex Mougios received a Credit in the Year 10 division, while Alex Kolokotas received a Distinction in the Year 9 division.

**Important Dates**
- May 13/14th: Naplan Testing (Year 7 and 9 only)
- Week 6 to 8: Mathematics Association ‘Challenge Stage’ Competition for extension students
- Term 3, August 7th: Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)
- Term 3, August 25th to 31st: National Literacy and Numeracy Week

**Term 2 Assessment Dates/Topics**
- Year 7: Week 6A June 4th [Whole Number Operations, Angles, Integers, Fractions Decimals and Percentages]
- Year 8: Week 6A June 4th [Algebra, Percentages, Triangles and Quadrilaterals]
- Year 9: Week 5B Exam Block 27th – 30th May [Financial Maths, Surface Area/Volume, Indices]
- Year 10: Week 5B Exam Block 27th – 30th May [Financial Maths, Equations, Indices, Simultaneous Equations]

**Some strategies to assist your son/daughter in Mathematics:**
- Talk about current class work and how it relates to our everyday lives, rephrasing, discussing and using words from the days lessons are important literacy skills.
- Encourage a sound understanding of ‘mental mathematics’ skills such as estimation and proficiency in the times tables (this basic skill is essential).
- Provide supervised access to Internet based resources (all students have access to HotMaths, moodle and are encouraged to review alternative explanations on sites such as Khan Academy/YouTube, etc.).
- Develop a revision plan and study timetable with your son/daughter, research has shown that focused revision is a skill to develop early on.
- Ask your son/daughter to bring their last assessment task to ‘Mathematics Help’ to review.
- Target improvement rather than a specific grade – form a plan based on what am I going to do differently/better than last time in my assessment preparation.
- Every student has a Mathematics ‘Grid’ book (used for class work) and ‘Procedure/Study Book’ (used to summarise learning and highlight main concepts/revision) – ask to see each of these on a regular basis.

**MATHS UPDATE**

Welcome back to Term 2 at the College.

A reminder that
‘Mathematics Help’ is on at lunch
every Monday and Thursday in Room 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Current Topic</th>
<th>Some ideas to talk to your son/daughter about ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Integers</td>
<td>Discuss temperature change, talk about positive and negative numbers in relation to money, imagine walking on the number line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Percentages</td>
<td>Talk about discounts/sales “25% Off”, the GST – 10% on which items? What does %DI mean on your McDonald’s wrapper – What % of fat is in ‘Low Fat’ milk?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Surface Area</td>
<td>What is your body surface area in m² - Why does a baby overheat so quickly in a car? Why do you buy a Litre and not 1000 cm³ of milk – are they the same?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Indices</td>
<td>How can we handle very large and small numbers in an easy way – what is a googol? How do we measure the strength of earthquakes?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
St Benedict’s Catholic College Presents ….

Understanding & Parenting Your Teen
... for first timers and those who don’t want to forget!

Ever wondered what happened to the Angel at YOUR Table??

Can’t work out what’s “got into them”?

St Benedict’s Catholic College presents a two night seminar on coming to grips with the teenager in your house.

To be held in an informal and welcoming local setting and whether it’s your first teen or fourth, our experienced College Counsellor Gloria Melham, will walk you through some of the struggles of adolescence and the strategies in parenting to assist you in meeting each of the adolescent hurdles as they emerge at different stages.

BE INFORMED! SHARE YOUR OWN PARENTING STRATEGIES!

VENUE
St Benedict’s Catholic College

DATES
Wednesday 28 May 7:00pm—8:30pm
and
Wednesday 4 June 7:00pm—8:30pm

PLEASE NOTE:
Both sessions must be attended.
The seminar will start at 7pm SHARP!

COST
The seminar is free to all parents.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

To register your attendance please ring the office on 4631 5300.