Dear Parents

A very warm welcome back to the 2014 Academic Year. A particular welcome to our new families in Year 7 and the many who have enrolled their children in Years 8 to 10. I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas break with your children and are ready for the exciting year ahead at the College.

Welcome!

In 2014 we have our biggest intake also of new staff. We welcome
Mrs Natasha O’Flynn (HSIE Coordinator)
Mr Andrew Lundy (Year 8 Coordinator)
Miss Kirstie O’Connor (English)
Mrs Emily Cranney (Mathematics)
Miss Chloe Chalmers (Science)
Mrs Lynette Reavell (TAS)
Mr Tim Manns (PDHPE/Sport) who is replacing Mrs Pereira until her return in Term 3.

We also welcome back our two staff from Maternity Leave, Mrs Sharon Degeling in Art and Mrs Laura Hayden in Science. Mrs Degeling will be sharing a teaching load with Ms Sara-Jane Hempenstall in Art.

In our Office area, we welcome
Mrs Gwen Rumble (Finance)
Mrs Sue Young (Admin) on Mondays and Tuesdays
Mr Matt McGovern (IT) on Tuesdays

Building Update

We move into Stage 1 this week with our Visual Art and TAS facilities available immediately. Stage 2 (Hospitality, Food Technology, Café and 6 classrooms) is progressing well and will be available for use for the students by the end of Term 2. The roof will be on and walls will be up this week and the building is clearly visible from Oran Park Drive. Make sure you continue to check www.designmyschool.com.au to watch progress.
The Basketball Courts and associated earthworks also have started and we are hoping to have them available to the students by early Term 2.
Final design work is being completed on the six Science Labs, Staff accommodation and additional parking. We plan to have those completed for the end of 2014 for use at the beginning of 2015.

Second Hand Clothing Pool

With Year 10 moving into Senior Uniform, a reminder to parents that if you have items of clothing you no longer require, our second hand clothing shop will be open for business this year and donations of uniform items that are clean and in good condition are gratefully accepted at the front office.

Buses/Transport

Busways have increased the number of buses to the College through Harrington Park and this will make the morning journey and connection at John St for country buses less of a problem this year. The changes should be in effect from 17 February. Our Busabout routes remain unchanged. Bus routes and number of services are always dependent on the number of students from a particular area and it is always a “best fit” for the bus companies. As always, let us know if there is a significant problem that the timetablers have missed.

Parking

If you are dropping your child to school, please DO NOT turn across the marked chevrons (there were dividers there last year) but go down to the Primary gates and turn around there. There have been several near accidents in the driveway with parents taking illegal shortcuts.
The “Drop Zone” for students continues in the same location at the entrance to the temporary school and is clearly marked.

Late News:
If you have been unable to purchase a school hat from the uniform shop could you please contact the Office for alternate arrangements.
**Lockers**

This year we move to individual lockers for the students. The College is providing a combination lock, for which there is a small rental fee. As we have a master key this stops Year Coordinators having to go around with bolt cutters when students (invariably) lose their keys and saves parents having to continuously purchase another one. Lockers will be available to students in the first week of March when they are installed across the school.

**Parent Satisfaction Survey**

Our annual Satisfaction Survey will go out this week for families in Years 8-10. We hope you can find the time to either post, scan and email or send back the completed form with your child. It only takes a few seconds to answer but is very important for us to know what the “silent majority” are thinking.

**Upcoming Events**

Our Opening College Mass will be held at St. Paul’s Camden on Monday 10 February at 9.30am. All parents and family members are welcome.

Year 7 parents: 1:1 Laptop Rollout Evening on **Wednesday 5 February at 7pm** (letter to follow)

Wine and Cheese Welcome Evening **19 February at 6.30pm** (details to follow)

**Working Bee!**  **Saturday 15 February** (more details on separate insert)

Following our highly successful day last year, we intend to start early again, so sharpen your tools, get those wheelbarrows and squeegees ready rev up the bobcats as there is plenty to do again!

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**How do you find out what’s going on at St Benedict’s?**

Your child has been issued with their new Diary this week. This is an important tool for both your child’s organisation as well as an invaluable means of communication between the College and yourselves. Parents are required to check their child’s diary on a regular basis and **sign the Diary** in the designated space **every week**.

The College Newsletter is published every second Tuesday. On the alternate weeks a smaller version, Benny’s Bites, is issued. The Newsletter is used to highlight upcoming events, notify you of changes, and to generally keep you up to date with what is happening around the College. It is important for every family to have access (and to read) these Newsletters.

**How do you get the Newsletter?**

The Newsletter is uploaded to the School Website. We will email to each parent and student a notification that the latest Newsletter is on the website with a link to that document. **If you do not receive your Newsletter over the next 2 weeks, or if you have changed your email address, please notify the Office as soon as possible.** If you do not have internet access we are able to provide a paper copy. Please contact the office to arrange this to be sent home with your child. Alternatively if your child opens the email at school they may download a copy of the Newsletter to their laptop for you to view at home.

In addition there is an **App** that can be downloaded for Apple and Android devices (see directions below).

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**St Benedict’s Catholic College - Skoolbag App**

Are you using the Skoolbag App? Many parents are now making use of this valuable addition to our communication outlets. Available now for iPhone and Android is the St Benedict’s Skoolbag App. This will provide links to the College calendars, coming events, newsletters and important notes and announcements. There is also the ability to notify us of Student Absences and of Changes to Address and Phone number details.

You can download this **FREE** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play site (for Android phones). Use the search: **Skoolbag St Benedict** and download.
BIG BENNIES CLEAN UP 2014!

From 6:45am in the temporary school. 7am - 11am

BBQ breakfast from 9am

Jobs to do include window cleaning, weeding, mowing, removing cobwebs, painting doors and general cleaning.

Bring your buckets, cleaning cloths, mowers, edgers, wheelbarrows, gloves a hat and some sunscreen.

info@sbcc.catholic.edu.au