



MCCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Integrity

Justice

Peace

3 February 2015

From the Assistant Principal

Dear Parents

Students across all years have adapted to school quickly after the holidays. Most senior students are showing good signs of study focus around their subjects. There is a high expectation on all students given the quality of our HSC results from last year. Of those students who sat the HSC last year, 20% received an ATAR above 80.

Year 7 students seem to have their bus routes home under control; a few small hiccups, but it is all very new and early days. Bus passes are coming in and will be distributed as they arrive. Buses will take time to get right as the bus companies always adjust their schedule at the start of the year. There is an issue that many students still do not travel on their correct bus because they want to go to Penrith or travel elsewhere. We may well have to find a way of designating a student's pass so that they are on their correct bus. Too often we have had buses filled by students who should not be on that particular bus.

I have sent a text message to parents about chewing gum and ask parents to read the letter on the website dealing with this issue specifically. The school needs your support on this matter.

Social media and bullying relationships is a constant concern. Recently we had a small number of Year 11 students return with a relational dispute between a boy and girl that spilled over to their friends. I have little time for any student who engages in ant-social behaviour through social media or verbal harassment of other students. I have no tolerance for senior students who should know better. The school cannot adequately investigate or waste their time finding out what was written on social media last night or on the weekend. The problem is, this is brought to school and played out in the playground. Parents need to closely monitor what is written on social media and if needed inform the police of threatening behaviour. Parents need to understand that too often the water is muddied by claim and counter claim. If there is clear evidence that a student is bullying another, either physically or electronically then we will intervene, the key factor is always clear evidence.

Yorke books have delivered text books to the school. There were some still missing due to stock issues. iPad training is ongoing for our Year 7 students. The electronic diary for Year 7 is not yet in place.

Regards

Glenn Trefoni

Assistant Principal