

# St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

**BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE**



**Newsletter 6.24**

**Thursday 11 April 2024**

## Principal's Message

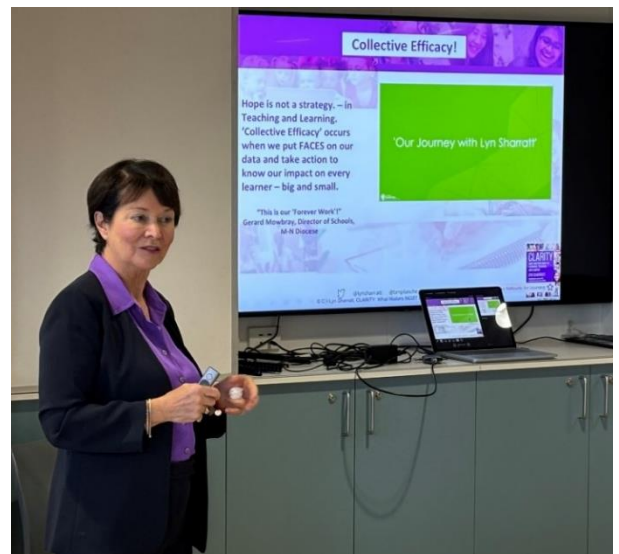
Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members

The recent Long Weekend was a welcomed opportunity for all of us to reset towards the end of a very busy term and enjoy some quality time with family. I trust all families managed to enjoy the time with each other. It was also a time for us to celebrate Easter, the most significant event in the Church's calendar. As Christians, Easter signifies a period of contemplation, rejuvenation of the spirit, festivity, and compassion. It's a moment to express gratitude for the sacrifice made by Jesus.

### Lyn Sharratt and Diocesan Staff Learning Visit

Last Thursday 4 April, Dr Lyn Sharratt an internationally renowned and a highly accomplished practitioner, researcher, author, and presenter visited us along with 39 Diocesan leaders, principals, and teachers from other schools to observe and hear about the learning that is going on here at St Mary's. As part of the visit our guests were divided into groups and taken on learning walks across classrooms that were in action.

I am tremendously grateful for all the teaching staff, especially to Mrs Carpenter, our Pedagogical Mentor, and to Mrs Belinda Flood, Acting Assistant Principal, for the work that was done on this day. I am also grateful to the students and teaching staff who opened their classrooms to so many people. Our visitors left with a feeling of amazement in the



learning that was evident across all the classes and the work by teachers in identifying individual student needs and implementing strategies to help them succeed.



### **Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences**

It was wonderful to meet so many families at the recent parent, student, teacher conferences and the conversations had that were all centred on each child’s learning. Parents are the primary educator of their child. The vested interest they show in their child’s education and discussing where they are at with their learning, and what they need to improve supports them in their growth.

### **Staff Update**

It is with pleasure I announce the appointment of Levi Briggs to the position of Aboriginal Education Worker. Levi is a former student of the College and left here in 2022. He is a proud Gamilaroi man who is very passionate about his culture and proud of his opportunity to immerse himself in the life of the College. Levi has worked as a disability support worker for Dreamtime culture since July last year, where he engaged young people in cultural activities. He appreciates that being connected to culture can have a significant positive impact on everyone’s spirituality and emotional health.

Levi’s role will encompass working with students through cultural activities and in classes supporting building literacy and numeracy skills and keeping students engaged.



I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe, happy, and enjoyable holiday together. We look forward to the students return on Monday 29 April.

Kind Regards

**Brett Donohoe**  
**Principal**



## Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching

Congratulations to students and their ‘first teachers’- parents and carers, for a wonderful start to the 2024 academic year. As we work together to provide positive learning experiences and opportunities for individual student growth, we also look to the value of collective efficacy through the College Mantra – Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner. Strong relationships enable wonderful things to happen at St Mary’s.

### ANZAC DAY

The Student Pastoral Council had the privilege of attending the Combined Schools ANZAC Service at the Civic Theatre on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Students across our Diocesan Schools are given the opportunity to audition and be a part of this wonderful ASPIRE production. St Mary’s celebrates the creative talents of our ASPIRE students Chloe Griffin, Wendi Harris, Abbey Toshack and Chloe MacDonald and the pride felt in two members of the Catafalque Party Lochlain Farrell and Ella Young



An ANZAC Ceremony will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April by the Lions Club at Charlestown Park commencing at 11.00am. All students and any parents/carers who wish to accompany their child are most welcome to attend this commemorative service. School uniform is preferable for those students in attendance. Belinda Flood and Ben Frize will be in attendance.

The College Anzac Service will be held during the Wednesday Assembly time in Week 1. We especially thank the Student Pastoral Council, Ms Louise Hatcher, Ms Adele Weekes, Mrs Ruth McCrae and Mrs De-Anna Addicoat for their work in preparing students for this auspicious occasion.

## **YEAR 10**

- Term 2 Week 1 **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** Compulsory Geography Field Experience/Excursion to Stockton Beach.
- Term 2 Week 2 **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** Year 10 (Year 11 2025) Information Evening  
We invite Year 10 students and their families to engage in the first steps of the process in the Stage 6 learning journey (Preliminary and HSC). The evening introduces the subject selection process, looks at ATAR and Non-ATAR pathways and engages students and their parents/carers to be informed and accountable participants. More information will be forthcoming next term.

## **YEAR 12**

The first week of Term 2 is the Year 12 Retreat week. For the 2 days of this week that students are not in attendance at the Retreat, the expectation is that work will be set by their teachers and accessible on Compass/Teams and One Note. Students will need to complete this work in readiness for their return to normal classes in Week 2.

## **PERIOD POSITIVITY PROGRAM**

The Period Positivity Program has been incredibly well supported by students and staff this term as we focused on accessibility, dignity and equity. The information program run by a team of our Senior Leaders and led by Annabel Brown and Halle Johnston, has enabled all dispensers to be stocked and accessibility to the products occur from day one of next term.

Great thanks to the students and their families who attended the Parent /Student/Teacher conferences last week. It is an integral process in a student's learning journey to be supported by a team, their parents/carers and their teachers, through the '5 questions' reflective practice. Staff have had time to reflect upon the great support for these opportunities and will endeavour to improve upon these considerations and ensure better practice.

The teaching and support staff of St Mary's wish all our students and their families a very safe, restful and happy holiday break.

Belinda Flood

**Acting Assistant Principal - Learning & Teaching**



# Sister Carmel Hanson

## 2024 Newcastle Local Woman of the Year



Described as the “heart and soul of the House of Hospitality”, Sister Carmel Hanson RSJ is the 2024 Newcastle Local Woman of the Year.

The annual award acknowledges a resident, within the electorate, who is an inspiration to others.

And, Sister Carmel certainly offers that.

The House of Hospitality founder and coordinator has devoted her life to helping those less fortunate. Since entering the convent at the age of 18, she’s pursued careers in teaching, psychology and law.

“I find people who’ve very little are the most generous,” Sister Carmel said.

“I’m honoured to have been nominated for this award, let alone be the recipient. “I, like most others, don’t do it for the recognition.”

While working as a psychologist for the St Vincent De Paul Society, Sister Carmel noticed many men in alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs had few accommodation options, often residing in pubs.

In 1991, she established the House of Hospitality, originally in Adamstown. It provided a safe shelter and an alcohol and drug-free home. While it’s since moved to Broadmeadow, it’s also opened its arms to other residents in need, such as women and children escaping domestic violence, asylum seekers and women who have completed a detoxification program.

In that time, Sister Carmel has made available shelter and support to thousands of people.

And, there’s no signs of her slowing down either. “I think providing a safe and affordable refuge for people who are in need and often on the fringe of society is a wonderful thing,” she said. “The greatest achievement anyone can get out of life is to become a better person. “I founded the House of Hospitality to help others do that in a safe and supportive space.”

Newcastle MP Tim Crakanthorp said Sister Carmel was very deserving of the recognition.

“House of Hospitality has been a safe haven for so many Novocastrians over the past 30 years,” he explained. “And, Sister Carmel’s quietly helped and cared for our most vulnerable community members for decades. “So, this recognition is long overdue. “Her compassion and generosity is an inspiration to us all.”



*Courtesy of Newcastle Weekly*

## English News

Is it even Easter without eggs! In the lead up to Easter, Ms Lindsay's Year 7 English students popped open a shiny plastic egg and pulled out a writing prompt (and a chocolate surprise).

Low-stakes writing is quick, fun and provides a stimulus to launch student creativity. The writing prompt in this lesson was sweeter than ever!



Georgina Lindsay  
Leader of Learning – English



## Creative Arts News

Congratulations to the following Elective Music Students whose song entries have been shortlisted for the Aspire Songwriting Competition. All of these students will have the opportunity to workshop their song on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at The Factory Theatre, St Pius X Adamstown. From there, the students will perform their songs on Thursday 16 May 2024 at the Factory Theatre, Adamstown at 6.00 pm.

The winner of the competition will be decided on the night.

We are very proud of you and look forward to hearing your songs on May 16th at The Factory Theatre.



Congratulations go to:

### **Year 11 Music**

Macy Nash

### **Year 10 Music**

Piper Araujo, Joe Jarvie  
Amelia Bubenicek, Olivia Brown  
Abbey Gorlick

### **Year 9 Music**

Xanthia Wadwell, Kate Whitby,  
Matilda Knowles

Ruth McCrae

**Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement, Year 9  
And proud Music Teacher!**

## VET Construction Incursion: Tiling Installation

The VET Construction students have reached a commendable milestone in their educational journey. Over the course of Year 11 and Year 12, these diligent students have been deeply engaged in a hands-on construction project that has taught them the fundamentals of building. This project has not only equipped them with valuable industry skills but also instilled a sense of accomplishment and pride in their craft. As they move forward, the experience and knowledge gained from this project will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation for their future endeavours in the construction industry.



Clint Crispin  
**TAS Leader of Learning**  
**VET Construction**



## Aboriginal Education

### Bush Tucker with Kentan

This week Mrs Flack's Year 12 Biology students and Aboriginal students across Years 7-10 participated in Workshops running throughout the day exploring Bush Tucker and Bush Medicines. Kentan Proctor, from Bahtabah Land Council, shared his amazing knowledge of Botany, Archaeology and Ecology using plants he brought along with him and the plants in Kennedy Creek and in our own Bush Tucker Garden.



Students also cooked their own 'Wattleseed Johnny Cakes', spread with either Davidson Plum jam or Finger Lime jam. They also tried Lilly Pilly Cordial and Illawarra Plum Cordial. If gardening is your thing come up and see us as we are always seeking advice!



### Culture Workshops with Roo

During Term 1 Aboriginal students were invited to participate in a series of sessions exploring culture with Roo. Activities included painting, language and dancing. Well done to the students for some impressive art works and dancing.



### Dancing in Term 2

Our students have been asked to dance as part of the 'Welcome to Country' for a National Reconciliation Week liturgy at our Diocesan Head Office next term. Please keep an eye on emails and Compass for details.



Paul McKay, Roo Faulkner and Levi Briggs  
**Aboriginal Education Team**



## U14 Boys Rugby League

Another great day for our school's rugby league program with the U14 boys travelling to Aberglasslyn during Week 9 to compete in the 2024 NSW CCC Cochrane Cup. Throughout the day the team showed great determination and skill and have now qualified for the Cochrane Cup Grand Final.

In their first game, the team played St Paul's Booragul, in what was described as a solid whole team performance, the boys ripped in and started the day with a strong 54 - 0 win. The team then played St Joseph's Lochinvar in round 2 of the competition. Through powerful attacking runs and dominating defence the team over-powered their opposition 20 - 6.



The team then progressed to the semi-final where they came up against St Catherine's Singleton. What followed was a high intensity game filled with fast paced action and attacking flair. Through exemplary discipline, exhilarating attacking plays and hard-hitting defence, the boys were able to secure a 22 - 6 victory.

All players should be proud of their achievements throughout the day and are to be congratulated for their efforts as they played with great

commitment and sportsmanship. Notable mentions go to Arakai, Cougar, Nicholas, Fletcher and Ben.

A huge thankyou to Stephen Burns and Declan Meagher for coaching the team, as well as our elite sports trainer Brayden. The U14's will now progress to the Cochrane Cup Grand Final at Cessnock during Week 2 Term 2 where they will play St Joseph's Aberdeen. We wish the team and coaches good luck.

## Diocesan and Northern NSW Country CCC

Earlier in Term 1, several students travelled to Raymond Terrace to trail for the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Rugby League Teams. The following students were successful in being selected for the Diocesan teams.

U15 Boys = Jake Dalby

U18 Boys = Jace Cox, Diesel Hagan, Fletcher O'Doherty

U18 Girls = Stevie Botham, Vaikalafi Sefo

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in the Northern NSW Country CCC Teams

U15 Boys = Jake Dalby

U18 Boys = Jace Cox, Diesel Hagan, Fletcher O'Doherty

U18 Girls = Stevie Botham

This is an amazing achievement as this team is a combination of all Dioceses in Northern NSW. These students will now travel to Sydney during Term 2 to compete in the NSW CCC Rugby League Championships where they will hopefully achieve selection in the NSW CCC Team to compete at the Australian Championships.

Kieran Knight

**Rugby League Coordinator**



## Sporting Achievement



On the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April Banjo Brown Year 7, represented the Hunter Valley at a Special Olympics Basketball competition in Shoalhaven and was placed third in her division. She played her heart out and represented herself well both on and off the court. Banjo was one of the youngest competitors but that didn't let that stop her. This is one of 4 major competitions she'll play this year.

Well done Banjo!

## Basketball Clinic

Year 9 and 10 students were treated to a mini basketball clinic run by Martin McLean, a former professional basketball player and coach on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>. The students were thrilled to be part of the session and found the time with Martin McLean invaluable. We thank Martin for generously giving his time with our students.



Ruth McCrae  
Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement Year 9



## You're Invited

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment.

**Time & Location:** Thursday May 2nd, 2024

**Time:** 6.30pm 8.30pm

**Location:** MacKillop Function Room  
7 Milson St, Charlestown 2290

**Cost:** FREE

### Contact Details

RSVP: Please scan the QR code to register. Feel free to contact Yvonne Rego, if you need assistance with registration or if you have any questions.

Mobile: 0450 323 206 Email: Yvonne\_rego@hotmail.com



**Please contact the college if you are interested and we will send you an application form**



# GUITAR & VOCAL LESSONS

## Charlestown

\*Valid WWCC\*  
\*All Welcome\*  
\*Creative Kids\*

Book now through website:  
[WWW.DAPHZIE.COM.AU/DAPHODILSTUDIO](http://WWW.DAPHZIE.COM.AU/DAPHODILSTUDIO)

**TERM 2 ENROLMENTS ARE  
NOW OPEN**



**DAPHODIL  
STUDIO**

We are a new music studio/tuition space in Charlestown. Founded by local songwriter, live musician and guitarist, Lili Crane.

- Affordable Guitar, Vocal & Songwriting Lessons
- Demo Recording

Check out our website and share with any budding rockstars and/or parents of... Anyone is welcome!

Book in for a free trial

[!https://www.daphzie.com.au/daphodilstudio](https://www.daphzie.com.au/daphodilstudio)

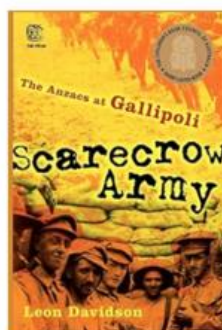
# BOOK CLUB LUNCH

SMG LIBRARY

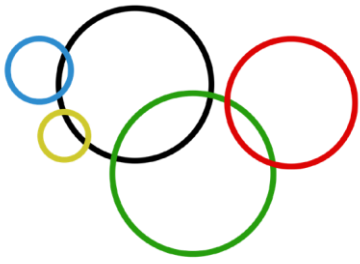
YEAR 7 AND  
YEAR 8 BOOK  
CLUB

PICK UP YOUR  
COPY AT THE  
LIBRARY BEFORE  
THE END OF THE  
TERM & READ IT IN  
TIME FOR BOOK  
CLUB LUNCH

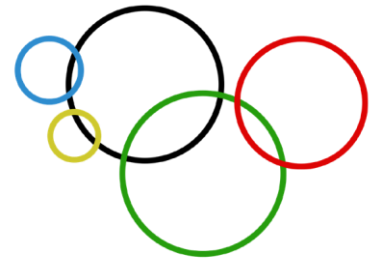
**30  
A  
P  
R  
I  
L**



# THE ETHICS OLYMPIAD



## Case Writing Competition



**The Ethics Olympiad Case Writing Competition** is an opportunity for high school students to write cases for The Ethics Olympiad. All submitted cases will be considered for use in Junior School, Middle School, Senior School and Tertiary Ethics Olympiad case sets.

Submit your own case today for inclusion in the 2024 Ethics Olympiads. One grand prize winner will receive **\$250** and two runners up will receive **\$100 each!** A special prize of **\$100** will be awarded to an N.Z. entry. Sponsorship has kindly been provided by the Ethics Centre & Humanity Matters NZ.

Submission deadline: **26th April 2024**  
Winners announced: **17th May 2024**

All currently enrolled high school students in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore & Hong Kong are eligible to enter. Go to [ethicsolympiad.org](https://ethicsolympiad.org) to read the submission guidelines and submit your case online at [ethicsolympiad.org/?page\\_id=1506](https://ethicsolympiad.org/?page_id=1506).

Submissions should follow the general format for Ethics Olympiad cases: a scenario, between 400 and 800 words long, which highlights a clear moral issue is appropriate for middle or high school students and is written in a way that encourages civil discourse.



The Ethics Centre is proud to support The Ethics Olympiad Writing Competition. For articles, videos and podcasts that will inspire, visit [ethics.org.au](https://ethics.org.au).



Humanity Matters  
New Zealand  
*Tāngata Mea Aotearoa*

Ethics Olympiad | ABN 52606554367  
PO BOX 116, Dernancourt 5075  
Email: [admin@ethicsolympiad.org](mailto:admin@ethicsolympiad.org)



THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

# DISCOVER SORA

[HTTPS://SORAAPP.COM/LIBRARY/CENETAU](https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau)

**ACEN Digital Library : Catholic Schools: Maitland Newcastle Diocese**



1. On any device go to:  
<https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau>
2. Click on the drop down menu and select 'ACEN Member Collection'

3. Click on 'Sign in using ACEN Member Collection'



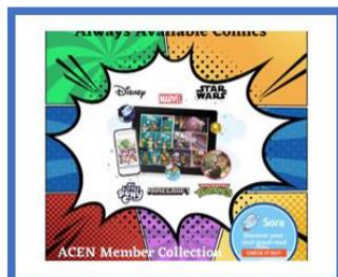
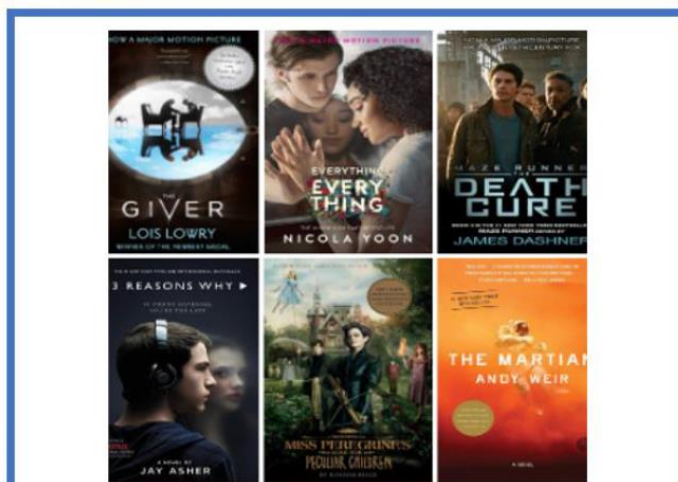
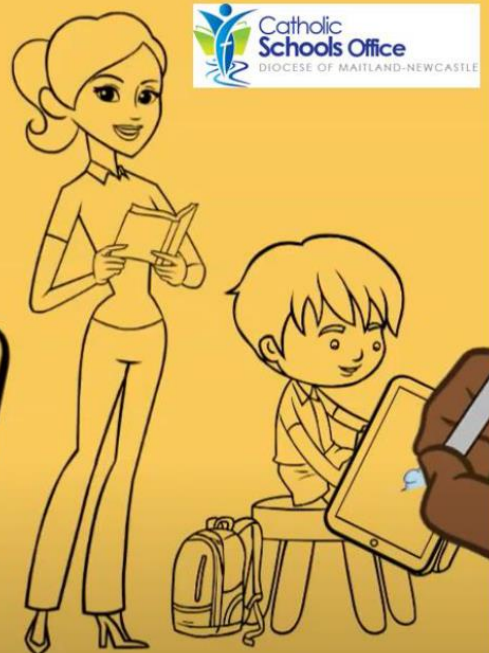
4. Log in using your school username and password.

5. Select the explore icon on the bottom tab to browse collections.



6. Select a title and click on Borrow to read.

- Or download the SORA app.
1. Ignore 'Find my school' and use the setup code 'cenetau'.
  2. Then follow the instructions given adjacent.



<https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau>

SELECT YOUR SCHOOL : ACEN  
(Australian Catholic Education Network)

**Spoiler Alert!**  
Some of your favorite TV shows & movies started as eBooks.

**SYDNEY ACADEMY OF CHESS  
Presents**



**2024 MAITLAND CHESS  
CHALLENGES**

**TENAMBIT COMMUNITY HALL**

**ONE DAY CHESS TOURNAMENTS FOR KIDS UNDER 18 WHO  
WANT TO HAVE FUN AND CHALLENGE THEMSELVES!**

<b>DATES</b>	Thursday 18 April (Autumn) Thursday 11 July (Winter) Thursday 3 October (Spring)
<b>VENUE</b>	Tenambit Community Hall Tyrell St nr Kenneth St, Tenambit NSW
<b>COST</b>	\$40 per player <i>\$50 if paid after 5:00pm the day before tournament</i>
<b>TIME</b>	9:15 am Registration 9:45 am Round 1 begins 12:00 pm Lunch break 1:45 pm Prize giving There are short breaks between the rounds.
<b>FORMAT</b>	These tournaments are individual and not team events. The tournaments are restricted to players under 18 years of age. The tournaments are 7-round 'Swiss' competitions. This means that all players play 7 games and no-one is 'knocked out' of the tournaments.  The time limit is 15 minutes per player per game.  These tournaments will be JCL rated.



**PRIZES**

Trophies will be given for: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place

Medals will be awarded for age prizes to be decided by the arbiter on the day.

- ✓ All participants receive an electronic certificate of participation

Players are eligible for only one prize.

To enrol please pay online with your credit card or debit card at [www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment](http://www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment) enter the code **BLWPDCT25H** and fill in the electronic form, with your child's details.



<b>CALENDAR 2024</b>	
<b>TERM 2 - Week 1 – (A Week)</b>	
Mon 29 April	Year 12 Retreat (Group 1) to Wednesday 1 May – see Compass for more details Return to school for Term 2
Wed 1 May	Year 12 Retreat (Group 2) to Friday 3 May – see Compass for more details ANZAC Assembly
Thurs 2 May	Year 10 Geography Field Trip
<b>Week 2 – (B Week)</b>	
Tues 7 May	U18 Boys & Girls Rugby League Year 10 (Year 11 2025) Information Evening <b>Extended Professional Development for Teachers – Students released at 2.40pm</b>
Thurs 9 May	U14 Boys Grand Final – Cochrane Cup National Indigenous Tennis Carnival – TBC Landcare Year 12 Conference Bookings open
Fri 10 May	College Leaders Morning Tea with local Member for Charlestown Newsletter 7.24
<b>Week 3 – (A Week)</b>	
Mon 13 May	Year 7 King Tut Truck incursion
Tues 14 May	U13 Knights Knockout
Wed 15 May	Year 12 Visual Art excursion – Sydney Biennale TBC
Thurs 16 May	U13 Boys Knights Knockout Careers Expo
Fri 17 May	Year 7 Formation Day
<b>Week 4 – (B Week)</b>	
Mon 20 May	Year 12 PST Conferences – 3.30pm to 7pm – more details to follow Murrook Cultural excursion Beginning of Catholic Schools Week
Tues 21 May	<b>Extended Professional Development for Teachers – Students released at 2.40pm</b>
Wed 22 May	Inquisitive Minds incursion – Year 8
Thurs 23 May	U15 Boys Knights Knockout Newsletter 8.24
Fri 24 May	<b>Pupil Free Day - Staff Formation Day</b> Year 7 2025 enrolment period CLOSES
<b>Week 5 – (A Week)</b>	
Mon 27 May	Year 9 Formation Day
Wed 29 May	U14 & U16 Girls Rugby League
Thurs 30 May	Oztag – NSW Championships
<b>Week 6 – (B Week)</b>	
Tues 4 June	<b>Extended Professional Development for Teachers – Students released at 2.40pm</b>
Wed 5 June	Year 8 RE Literacy Test
<b>Week 7 – (A Week)</b>	
Mon 10 June	Public Holiday – King's Birthday
Tues 11 June	Year 10 (Year 11 2025) Subject Selection Evening 6pm
Wed 12 June	Year 7 immunisations
<b>Week 8 - (B Week)</b>	
Wed 19 June	Knights Knockout Boys Grand Final U13, U14, U15, U18
<b>Week 9 - (A Week)</b>	
Wed 26 June	U14 & U16 Girls Rugby League Catholic Championships
<b>Week 10 - (A Week)</b>	
Tues 2 July	U14 & U16 Girls Rugby League All Schools

### COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION

St Mary's Catholic College, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) and Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are committed to providing a positive, safe environment for all staff and students. There are occasions however, when members of our schools and wider community are concerned about something happening at a school that appears to be unsatisfactory or unreasonable. If you have a complaint, please follow this procedure: