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Dear Parents and Friends of Holy Cross

**1 December 2011**

Between Sunday and Tuesday of this week, the College's Leadership Team took several days out to bring together the fruits of the process of consultation and discernment towards a new strategic plan. That process began with the Community Listening Assembly held at the College on 3 May this year and will result in a Strategic Management Plan which will guide the College in its work and direction over the years 2012–2015.

Initially, I would like to share with you the key areas which mark our priority areas for development. We have given careful thought to the values which underpin each of these seven priorities. I firmly believe that if we are clear about our values and what we stand for, the decisions we make become all the more obvious to us and will be the right ones which will take us forward towards our goals.

And so, with a Mission of providing quality, Catholic education for boys in the tradition of the Patrician Brothers, these are our priorities and the values which underpin them:

**Our Priorities and the beliefs which underpin them**

**Priority 1: Catholic Life. Patrician Identity and Religious Education**

*We believe in a loving creator God. We believe that Christ is our role model and the Gospel is our script. We seek to build a Patrician community of welcome and hospitality that reflects the work of the Spirit. Religious Education is at the heart of our mission and has an organisational priority.*

**Priority 2: Pastoral Care**

*We believe that all staff, parents and students are valued members of our community and are respected through genuine and honest relationships. Students learn best and are happiest in a structured, organised and disciplined environment which is positive and safe.*

**Priority 3: Quality Teaching**

*We believe that quality teaching requires the teacher to know each child as a learner. Teachers must cooperatively and collaboratively plan, design and implement teaching in accordance with that knowledge. Quality teaching has an uncompromising insistence on high standards.*

**Priority 4: Quality Learning**

*We believe that every child has the right and the capacity to learn and must be challenged and motivated to achieve their personal best and take responsibility for their learning. We believe in the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the diverse range of students' achievements.*

**Priority 5: Finances, Resources and Facilities**

*We believe in the responsible stewardship of finances which promotes appropriate distribution of funds to deliver quality educational facilities and resources. A professionally-presented environment aids quality teaching and learning.*

**Priority 6: Parents, Partnerships and Promotion**

*We believe that quality Catholic education happens in partnership with families and is a shared responsibility of the community. We believe that the College must engage parents to enhance the quality of learning and promote it to the wider community as a school of excellence.*

**Priority 7: Strategic Leadership**

*We believe that strategic leadership influences and empowers others to make decisions and take action in a planned, deliberate manner. We believe that risk-taking and transparent evaluation leads to creative and innovative solutions that enable incremental improvements in Holy Cross as a school of excellence.*

I would be most pleased to receive feedback from the parent and wider community about these underpinnings. Responses can be made in writing or via email to [info@hccryde.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@hccryde.catholic.edu.au).

In the final Crossroads of the year, following a final consultation with staff, I will share with you the College's Strategic Management Plan, 2012–2015.

In cruce salus

Adam Taylor  
Principal

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Annual Awards  
Night**  
**Wednesday, 7 December 2011**  
**7.30pm– 9.30pm**  
*Award recipients will receive notification by letter  
from their Year Coordinator on  
Friday 2 December 2011.*  
*It is the expectation of the College that all students  
receiving awards are present on this night.*

## From the Assistant Principal

As the year quickly draws to an end, I would like to point out the necessity for students to work hard right up until the last day of school. This week (Week 8), units of work are being finalised and important revision is being given in preparation for the exam and assessment week. All students will have numerous exams and or assessments throughout week 9. With this in mind, I would encourage parents to ensure that their sons are not only completing their homework each night but are also doing effective study and revision. The commitment to hard work needs to be evident in every classroom right up until the last exam on Friday week. There will be a Christmas Liturgy on the last day of school and my expectation is that every student is in attendance until this very day.

I would like to wish all families a very merry Christmas and safe and happy holiday.

### Recommendations for Boys

By Ian Lillico

Adults need to be optimistic about the future so that boys will be also. Our media is very negative and doom and gloom is in our papers and lounge room every day of the week. Adults must balance the negativity with hope and optimism as many boys fear the future, are anxious about their future lives as men and often don't want to *grow up*.  
<http://www.boysforward.com.au/>

Mr. Buxton



### STAR OF THE WEEK – Daniel McDermott, 7 Gallagher

Daniel is a kind and considerate young man, who prides himself on 'looking after others'. He works well with his peers and contributes positively and interacts well in both the classroom environment and out in the yard with his mates.

Daniel has represented the College this year in MCS Touch Football, Rugby League and Cricket and his enthusiasm for both sporting and academic aspects of College life make him a well-rounded student.

I congratulate Daniel on being our final Star of the week for 2011.

Daniel comes to us from, St Charles in Ryde.

Mrs Natalie Russell  
Year 7 Coordinator



### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Dear Parents

As part of the College's environmental policy we are in the process of moving to a full electronic version of all College correspondence, this includes term fee statements. To comply with our needs we request that all parents supply the College with their email address.

You can notify us by addressing an email to:

[cathie.dickinson@hccryde.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cathie.dickinson@hccryde.catholic.edu.au)

Simply put in the subject box: Communication Update.

### Student Verification Form

Each student was sent home a Verification form. All details must be checked by a parent/guardian and returned to the school office.

### SCHOOL FEES THIS TERM ARE NOW OVERDUE

Thank you to all those families who have paid. Overdue fees need to be paid immediately. If you are having difficulty please contact Mr Michael McCormack (Business Manager) for an appointment to discuss this matter.

### Holy Cross College UNIFORM SHOP

*Located next to the Chapel  
in the Bishop Carroll Building*

#### Normal Opening Times

Tuesdays: 8.00am—9.30am

Fridays: 8.00am—9.30am

Enquiries: 9449 9777

Email: [andrew@cowanlewis.com.au](mailto:andrew@cowanlewis.com.au)

Fax: 9440 8931

See School Calendar for opening times  
January 2012

### HCC SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP NEXT OPEN

Wednesday 7 December 2011

8.15am—9.15am

*Located in the Bishop Carroll Building*

# MCS Sports Report

## MCS Cricket

Our Round 6 and 7 games were against Terra Sancta Schofields and St.Gregory's Campbelltown. They were both cancelled due to the inclement weather we have had over the past 2 weeks. Our next opponent and final game of the year is St.Dominic's Penrith. This should be a tough round with victory here putting us in contention for the Semi Finals next year. Good luck to all teams.

## MCS Basketball

In Rounds 6 and 7 we faced Terra Sancta Schofields and Patrician Brothers Fairfield. They were both extremely tough rounds with all our teams working hard for victory. While most of our games ended in tough defeats we had a brilliant victory with our Year 10 team against Terra Sancta Schofields. They were down by 17 points at half time. Under the guidance of Mr.Luschwitz and Mr.Matheson, the team was able to rally and produce a memorable victory. They ended up winning 26-24 keeping their final hopes alive. Congratulations to all teams for their hard work but especially the Year 10 team for their great win.

	HCC Ryde	Terra Sancta Schofields
A Grade	7	48
B Grade	Bye	
Year 10 Opens	26	24
Year 9 Opens	8	15
Year 8 Opens	2	24

	HCC Ryde	Patrician Brothers Fairfield
A Grade	37	69
B Grade	6	60
Year 10 Opens	21	49
Year 9 Opens	4	60
Year 8 Opens	7	71

## MCS Website

There is now an MCS Website with all the competitions and sports that students and parents can follow. By navigating your way through the different sports you can see updated draws for each competition, results from current competitions and pathways for students to following for representing at higher levels for their sport. Please go to [www.mcscolleges.com](http://www.mcscolleges.com) for any information you need for the many different MCS sports.

## Internal Sport

A reminder to all students that they must have their House shirt for all sports on a Thursday afternoon. If a student fails to bring his house shirt then he will be placed on Sports Detention for the afternoon. Students may be in Sports Detention until 3:00pm.

Mr.Whitty

## **Solidarity with South Sudan Patrician Brothers Involvement**

**Solidarity with South Sudan** is an act of solidarity between religious congregations and the Bishops' Conference in South Sudan. This initiative, concerned with health and education professional training, reflects a new model for religious congregations to collaborate and respond more effectively to the immense and urgent needs in South Sudan.

On January 9 2011 South Sudan voted overwhelmingly for secession from the North after years of civil unrest. As a result 85% of the people are displaced, social structures for health and education have been completely disrupted. South Sudan ranks as the most illiterate country in the world. Less than 10% of teachers have had any kind of training. There is currently an unmet educational need for 26,000 primary and secondary teachers.

The need for trained health personnel is equally severe. One in four children will die before the age of five – there is one physician per 100,000 - maternal deaths at childbirth are among the highest in the world.

Today *Solidarity with South Sudan* has 19 religious sisters, 2 priests, 3 brothers and one laywoman living and working together in South Sudan. Coming from a diversity of religious congregations, this rich core of talent has provided Sudan with the means to develop educational, health, agricultural and pastoral services. *Solidarity* provides hope for a new country to realise its dreams.

Recently it was announced that two Patrician Brothers will be joining the *Solidarity* team in September 2012. Brother Tom Muldowney from the Indian province and Brother Placido Kaburu from the Africa region have volunteered . We commend them for their generosity, the inspiration they give us and assure them of our prayers and good wishes.

**Br Mark Ryan**

# CALENDAR

## Thursday, 1 December

Rd8 Cricket/ B'ball

## Friday, 2 December

CCC Cricket Berg & Downie Rd4 to be completed

## Sunday, 4 December

National Schools Basketball Tournament till 5th

## Monday, 5 December Week 9

Year 7-9 Examination Week

## Tuesday, 6 December

National Schools Basketball Tournament

Marist Cricket Carnival

## Wednesday, 7 December

Wednesday Morning Mass 8am

Prize Giving Night 7.30pm—9.30pm

## Friday, 9 December

CCC Softball 2012 Closing Date

Last day for all students

Year 10 Reports distributed

Year 11 Assessment Day

## Monday, 12 December Week 10

Yrs 7, 8, 9 Second-hand Book Sale Centenary Hall 12.30pm

Yrs 10, 11 & 12 Second-hand Book Sale Centenary Hall 2pm

## Wednesday, 14 December

Wednesday Morning Mass 8am

## Monday, 19 December

Year 12 2011 BBQ 11.30am

## Sunday, 25 December - Christmas Day

## Monday, 26 December - Boxing Day

## Tuesday, 27 December - Public Holiday

## Sunday, 1 January 2012 - New Year's Day

## Monday, 2 January 2012 - Public Holiday

## Monday, 23 January 2012

School Office opens

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 2pm—5pm

## Tuesday, 24 January 2012

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 2pm—5pm

## Wednesday, 25 January 2012

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 2pm—5pm

## Thursday, 26 January 2012

Australia Day Public Holiday

## Friday, 27 January 2012

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 2pm—5pm

## Monday, 30 January 2012 Week 1

Yr 7 Commence + All New Students to the College

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 2pm—5pm

## Tuesday, 31 January 2012

Students Yrs 8-12 Return

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 8.00am—9.30am

## Wednesday, 1 February 2012

Annual College Swimming Carnival

Wednesday Morning Mass 8am

## Thursday, 2 February 2012

Day 3 (in lieu of Swimming Carnival)

Rd9 Cricket/ B'ball

## Friday, 3 February 2012

Whole School Portrait Photos (staff and students)

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open

## Monday, 6 February 2012 Week 2

NAPLAN Trials Year 7 & 9 (Literacy)

## Tuesday, 7 February 2012

NAPLAN Trials Year 7 & 9 (Numeracy)

Cowan & Lewis Uniform Shop Open 8.00am—9.30am

## Wednesday, 8 February 2012

Year 7 Camp – Morrisset till 10th

Wednesday Morning Mass 8am

# LETTERBOX



21/11/2011 [Year 9 Return of Loan Notebook Computers](#)

21/11/2011 [Year 11 End of Year Notebook Procedures](#)

21/11/2011 [Arrangements for the use of Notebook Computers in Year 9- 10](#)

15/11/2011 [Yr8 ACE Geography Excursion](#)

**All Hallows Five Dock  
Christmas 2011**

**\*\*\* Reconciliation Programme \*\*\***

**Communal Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Tuesday 20 December at 7.30pm  
(with several priests assisting)

**First Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 9.30-10.00am  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 9.30-11.00am  
4.00-5.00pm

**\*\*\* Christmas Mass Times \*\*\***

**Christmas Eve – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Family Mass 5.30pm

Carols begin at 11.30pm followed by  
**Christmas Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**  
8.30am & 10.00am  
There is NO evening Mass

**Boxing Day – Monday 26<sup>th</sup>**  
9.00am

## Christmas Twilight Market at St Michael's

53 Maxim Street, MEADOWBANK

You are invited to the St Michael's Meadowbank, 3rd Annual Christmas Twilight Market on Friday, 2nd December from 5pm til 9pm.

The market promises many exciting stalls with opportunities to buy lovely gifts for your family and friends.

Activities for the children, street style entertainment, gorgeous Christmas hampers, stunning home wares, special Christmas delicacies, hand-crafted jewellery, Kids Zone, Christmas decorations and delicious food will all be on offer. Also, what Christmas event would be complete without Santa, who will be available for photos in Santa's Grotto. This will surely be a great way to start warming up for Christmas!