

St Bede's Principal's Newsletter 2: 6.3.17

Approaching the mid-way point of Term 1, progress is continuing at a pleasing rate in preparing for the opening of St Bede's Catholic College for the start of 2018 which initially for 2018 will be for boys and girls entering into Year 7. Two Information Sessions have been scheduled for parents interested in enrolling their children for next year on **Tuesday 21 March** in the Function Room at East Maitland Bowling Club, Bank Street, East Maitland. The morning session will be from **9.30 – 11.00am** and the evening session from **6.30 – 8.00pm**. Please note that these meetings are not for the students themselves as separate meetings for students from the feeder schools have already commenced and will be broadened to include students from non-feeder schools later in the year. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please RSVP Rachel Quirk, rachel.quirk@mn.catholic.edu.au, no later than Friday 17 March.

Included in the meeting agenda will be the following:

- Building Up-date: Including details on the overall architectural and building design of the campus and an up-date on the first stage of the building works which will provide staff and students a modern designed and furnished learning spaces.
- Visual Identity: Including details on the College colours, crest, motto.
- Enrolments: Clarification on enrolment boundaries for those who do not attend one of the two feeder schools (Our lady of Lourdes at Tarro and St Aloysius at Chisholm).
- Foundation Plan: Launch of the 2017-18 Foundation Plan that will outline the Mission and Vision of the College, key objectives and strategies. Details of this are outlined below.
- Student Lap-tops: Including an outline of a process being established to decide on a provider for a specified device for all students.
- Uniforms: Including the appointed uniform provider and details of an interim Uniform Committee.
- Proposed Year 7 Camp: Including date, costings and intended purpose.
- Whole and optional group question/answer session.

A significant part of the last fortnight was allocated to community consultation which became an important component in the development of a 2017 - 18 Foundation Plan. Included in the consultation was a full day at both Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro and St Aloysius Chisholm, where staff, students and parents all positively engaged in discussion forums. There was also an evening meeting with parishioners who will have so much to offer when St Bede's commences and an additional evening meeting with parents from non-feeder schools and parents from the feeder schools who were unable to attend the day time sessions. In total over 300 members of the community contributed to discussion forums/workshops where all responses to key questions were tabulated, analysed and presented to a special project team that has been overseeing the planning of St Bede's. With the assistance of an educational consultant, who was contracted to assist in this process, work has continued with a number of key stakeholders in developing a Foundation Plan that is in its final stages of finalisation. By distributing and explaining this Foundation Plan at the Information Sessions on the 21 March, parents will be able to appreciate the very clear strategic direction that will guide the College in its decision making, policy making and employment of staff.



The process of consultation and collaboration in developing a Foundation Plan will be typical of the strategies that will be adopted in establishing this new and exciting secondary school that will provide exciting learning and faith development opportunities to students and an opportunity for parents and parishioners to build a community based on three core Gospel values – love, truth and compassion.

Please note that enrolment packages are going home this week to Year 6 students at both St Aloysius Chisholm and Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro. Packages will be posted to parents of students from non-feeder schools who have made enrolment enquiries. Information pertaining to enrolment at any Maitland Newcastle Diocesan secondary schools can be accessed by clicking on the link below. All enrolment information is now available on the CSO website by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/parents-community/how-to-enrol/>

I look forward to seeing you at one of the Information Sessions on Tuesday 21 March and in continuing to build positive relationships with the community.

John Murphy
Foundation Principal

