



## NEWSLETTER NUMBER 14 — OCTOBER 2017

Welcome to Newsletter Number 14 - the first for Term 4. Included in this newsletter are details of some exciting staff news, an outline of our recent Student Reflection Day, an announcement on the Catholic Church theme for 2018, and the confirmed uniform prices.

### STAFF NEWS

Continuing on in building a great staff that will be part of this very special community, it is with great pleasure that I introduce Leah Finlay as our Finance Officer. This position, like all the other positions, attracted a wide pool of highly skilled and recommended applicants. Leah was employed as a Senior School Officer at St Francis Xavier's Primary School at Belmont, where she had been at for the last 8 years. In addition to being highly regarded in her current position, Leah is a mother of a young family which is an important asset in being able to appreciate the financial and time demands of our families. Apart from Leah's great work ethic and high level of expertise in finance and other Office skills, she will bring to St Bede's a great love of children and a tremendous capacity to work with a wide diversity of people. Leah comes to us highly recommended by her referees and has already commenced in her role here at the College. Leah will be a key person in structuring practices and processes to make the financial aspect of parents commitment to the College as practical and easy as possible. I encourage parents to contact Leah if you have any questions related to finances.

In now shifting the focus to the employment of teachers in non-leadership positions, we have been inundated with the highest quality applicants. I have great pleasure in announcing that Liane Buckley has been appointed to the Science/Mathematics position. Liane is a highly experienced and loved teacher from San Clemente Mayfield. Liane has a long history of proven success in engaging students in their learning and getting the very best from them. Her commitment to positive relationships and authentic teaching makes her a great fit for St Bede's.

The Catholic Schools Office, in overseeing the allocation of counsellors/psychologists across all the schools in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese, have appointed Thibaut Huens as the St Bede's Counsellor/Psychologist. From all reports, Thibaut's appointment is another good news story for St Bede's.

An official warm welcome to Leah, Diane and Thibaut and we congratulate them on their appointments.



# MEET OUR NEW FINANCE OFFICER

## COORDINATOR — LEAH FINLAY



### Qualifications:

Certificate IV in Business  
Certificate IV in Building & Construction  
Advanced Diploma in Project Management

### Work experience:

I have been at St Francis Xavier's Primary school in Belmont as Senior School Officer for the past 8 years. Prior to this I was employed with a Government debt collection agency.

### Family background:

I was raised in the Maitland area before moving to Newcastle and starting a family. Having purchased a beautiful farm in the Maitland area where we are building our family home.

### Personal Interests/Passions:

I am a mother to 3 gorgeous girls Lily, Madison and Ellie. While my girls keep me busy with all of their extra-curricular activities I spend my down time entertaining friends and family, horse riding, playing soccer and going for dirt bike rides with the kids.

### My hopes and dreams in coming to St Bede's:

To be part of a growing Catholic community that is passionate about helping students achieve their goals.

I'm very excited and feel privileged to be part of the St Bede's Catholic College team.

### Advice to the incoming Foundation Students:

Care for each other – there will be a multitude of experiences you share with each other and you will have these memories for the rest of your lives. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of our students, parents and school community as we work together to build a wonderful learning environment for our children.



## INAUGURAL STAFF LEADERSHIP PLANNING DAY

Monday 9 October was a historical day in that the seven leaders who have been entrusted with the responsibility of developing a Catholic High School that will provide each incoming student with a quality catholic education. Following a very successful recruitment program, we met for the first time as a group in one of the meeting room at the Beresfield Bowling Club at 8.30am and worked enthusiastically until 6.00pm before going out for dinner. In addition to working through a large list of tasks, we were able to set a framework that will set the platform for the modelling of teamwork, progressive thinking, collaborative management and a commitment to making the Foundation Plan a lived reality. We were also joined at different times throughout the day by the Director of the Maitland Newcastle Catholic Schools Office, Dr Michael Slattery, and the Assistant Director who has been working closely with me, John Tobin. Reflecting the positive connections built throughout the day, the team then capped off a great day by going to dinner. Three of the leaders have now joined our two office staff and myself at the Office at 39 Heritage Drive Chisholm and are available to assist you with any queries or concerns. The names, positions and starting date of the St Bede's staff to date are:

- Principal: John Murphy - commenced at start of 2017
- Assistant Principal: Brett Donohoe - commenced on 9 October 2017
- Student Coordinator: Jasmine Hutchinson - commenced on 9 October 2017
- Learning Support Coordinator: Amy Butler - commenced on 9 October 2017
- Religious Studies Coordinator: Fiona Duque - will commence start of 2018
- English/HSIE/CAPA/Languages Coordinator: Andrew Cornwell - will commence start of 2018
- Maths/Science/P.E./TAS Coordinator Tamara Borkowski - will commence start of 2018
- Senior Clerical Officer Rachel Quirk commenced at start of 2017
- Finance Officer: Leah Finlay - commenced on 9 October 2017
- College Counsellor/Psychologist: Thibaut Huens - will commence start of 2018



From left to right: Dr Michael Slattery, John Murphy, Fiona Duque, Andrew Cornwell, Jasmine Hutchinson, Amy Butler, Tamara Borkowski, Brett Donohoe, John Tobin.

## STUDENT REFLECTION DAY



Blessed with beautiful fine weather, our Student Reflection took place on the last Tuesday of last term, 19 September, at the Pat Hughes Community Centre Thornton. The Reflection Day was an outstanding success with students from both the feeder and non-feeder schools getting to know each other more closely and engaging in a fun-filled spiritual reflection day. The day was predominately run by the inspirational Mr. Brian Lacey, Head of Religious Education & Spirituality Services at the Catholic Schools Office. It was also an opportunity for our incoming Assistant Principal, Mr. Brett Donohoe, and our incoming Religious Studies Coordinator, Fiona Duque, to address the students on their hopes and dreams for the future. I had the opportunity to address the students on a range of topics, including a progress report on some of our recent developments, expectations for everyone's total support and enthusiastic involvement and my recent immersion trip to Kenya which will be a focus for next year's Lenten Appeal. There was also an address from Mrs. Rebecca Piefke, Rebecca: ACTiv8 Youth Co-ordinator, Chisholm Pastoral Region on some of the exciting ways that the students could become involved in some youth activities next year. Rebecca then stayed for the duration of the day and ably assisted in some group activities. Three of our primary school teachers also actively engaged and contributed to a very successful day— Samantha Hillier (Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro), and Nick Hughes & Alexis Morgan (St Aloysius Chisholm).



In addition to thanking all those staff listed above, my sincere thanks to our Office Manager, Ms Rachel Quirk, and the following mothers who worked tirelessly in providing the students with some delicious food and drinks throughout the day— Natalie Easey, Michelle McDonald, Kelly Mate, and Katie Wicher.



The next St Bede's Student Orientation Day will again take place at the Pat Hughes Community Centre Thornton on Tuesday 14 November.

# STUDENT REFLECTION DAY



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The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) has declared 2018 as a Year of Youth for the church of Australia. The Year of Youth will commence with the gathering of over 15,000 young people in Sydney in December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF). The theme for the Year of Youth is, **Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment**. The Year of Youth highlights the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the Church and society. It calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church. There will be numerous ways in which we will celebrate the wonderful gift of our youth. Included in this will be an array of options through our regional youth worker, Rebecca Piefke. In getting to know our incoming students already, I'm excited about the prospects of how their gifts and enthusiasm can be harnessed in celebrating the 'Year of the Youth'.

## UNIFORMS

Below are the finalised uniform garment pricing, noting that the blazer is optional. Details of uniform fittings will be announced in coming weeks.

<b>BOYS UNIFORM</b>	
Boys Shirt	\$37.25
Boys Shorts	\$43.25
Boys Trousers	\$52.25
Boys Adjustable Belt	\$18.95
<b>GIRLS UNIFORM</b>	
Girls Shirt	\$37.50
Girls Skirt	\$41.50
Girls Shorts	\$50.25
Girls Slacks	\$56.50
<b>UNISEX UNIFORM</b>	
Polo Shirt	\$37.25
Sports Shorts	\$23.50
Spray Jacket	\$51.75
Track Pants	\$37.25
Blazer (Optional)	\$210.00
Zip Tie	\$18.50
Socks (3 pack)	\$24.25
Hat	\$17.50
Pullover	\$60.50
Tights	\$13.50

## STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS



Ashley Price is an outstanding young lady coming to us from Morpeth Public School as part of a package with her twin sister. With a strong commitment to inclusiveness and looking after younger students, Ashley is energetic, fun loving and highly motivated. She is highly competitive in sport and is a current house colour captain, as well as a Humanitarian Officer and Friendship Group Leader. Amongst the numerous sports she juggles is athletics and netball. She is keen to get back into cheerleading and be part of a mighty St Bede's cheerleading team. Ashley wants to be part of something special in being a member of our Foundation cohort and will no doubt make invaluable contributions to the development of St Bede's.



Caitlin Price is the other half of the dynamic duo and has an equally impressive list of personality traits, with her care for others being at the top of the list. Caitlin is the current vice-Captain at Morpeth Public School—a position she is thriving in. She too loves sport, including athletics, netball and also wants to be part of the St Bede's Cheerleading Team. Caitlin, like her sister, has a real interest in the creative and performing arts and as such we can expect both of them to feature in our team that will dazzle the stage at major events like Diosounds. Caitlin is excited about being part of the first ever student group to attend St Bede's and wants to contribute wherever possible. We welcome Caitlin to the St Bede's community.



Charlee Jones from St Aloysius will be the first of three children to attend St Bede's. A highly motivated student who is involved in an extensive range of school and club activities, Charlee is a current House Captain. In addition to achieving good results in her studies, Charlee excels at sport and often has to juggle multiple sporting commitments during her very busy week. Included in some of these sports which she already has competed at a high level are soccer, touch football, cross country, netball, swimming and at the top of the list is being a triathlete at the Hunter Academy of Sport. In addition to being a confident public speaker, Charlee is committed to gaining good results so she can achieve some possible career choices that she is already contemplating.

## STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS



Jack Surtees from St Aloysius loves sport , particularly soccer where his club team were grand Finalists. No doubt he will be a key player in representing the College in soccer in future years. In enjoying the great outdoors, Jack is looking forward to the camp and having had previous camp experience will be of great assistance to those who may be on a camp for the first time. Jack enjoys the flexible learning arrangements of St Aloysius and will be keen to utilise the excellent facilities offered by St Bede's. We look forward to Jack being a positive member of the 2018 Foundation Group.



Molly McGinniskin is coming to us from Edgeworth Heights Primary School. She is an outgoing, kind and positive girl who is involved in a range of activities and sports, including dancing, netball, acrobatics and athletics. Molly has put her talents over the last few years by being part of some major productions, including 'Starstruck' and 'Greeze the Musical'. Complementing her dance and drama skills, Molly is currently undertaking guitar lessons and wants to be involved in any school music/drama productions. No doubt Molly will be part of the 'Diosounds' performance next year at the Newcastle Civic Centre. We look forward to welcoming Molly at our Term 4 Student Orientation Day.

**Our Mission:** Inspired by Jesus Christ, St Bede's Catholic College nurtures a vibrant and welcoming community; Seeking knowledge and realising gifts through persistence and collaboration; Living the Gospel in word and action



**Our Vision:** Students will leave St Bede's Catholic College as confident, resilient and reflective young adults, embracing learning, searching for truth and living their faith in a contemporary world.



John Murphy  
Principal