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10 November 2017

The Prayer of St. Bede

I implore you, good Jesus, that as in your mercy you have given me to drink in with delight the words of your knowledge, so of your loving kindness you will also grant me one day to come to you, the fountain of all wisdom, and to stand forever before your face. Amen.

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE – JOHN MURPHY:

Welcome to our mid-Term 4 newsletter in which I can report that we are now in an excellent position to commence next year ready where we can best provide our inaugural Year 7's with the very best opportunities for success.

Included in this newsletter are up-dates on a range of developments ranging from staffing and student enrolments through to uniforms. In short, we have recruited amazingly well which is being evidenced by the work of those additional staff who commenced at the start of this term. Enrolments continue to increase and are much higher than what other Foundation Schools have commenced in the past, with the 100 mark now being passed. The building continues to take shape which will be the first of four large modern interconnected buildings that will open in early Term 2 next year. The flexible learning village is on track to provide a temporary, functional and air conditioned school site for Term 1 next year which will remain operational until the commencement of the fourth and last building in a few years' time. Planning for next Tuesday's third and final Student Orientation Day and the up-coming fourth and final Parent Information Session on Thursday 23 November is continuing. Policy development is on-going with details of two of these policies being outlined in this newsletter.

Within this newsletter is a link to the 2018 Fees Schedule Please note at the end of this newsletter is an important four-page document outlining the fee structure for 2018. Included in this document is an explanation of where funds are spent and some

of the exciting pastoral works occurring across the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese.

LEARNING DOMAIN

Staff News - John Murphy

In continuing the sharing of the staff profiles of our 2018 staff, today's profile is on Sarah Hopkins who has been employed as a Personal Development/Health/PE (PDHPE) and Mathematics teacher. We are very excited to have recruited Sarah who comes to us from St Philip's Christian College Cessnock where she already has served in a number of formal leadership roles. Liane has been employed as a Science/Mathematics position and comes to us as a highly experienced and regarded teacher from San Clemente Mayfield. Both these teachers will make outstanding contributions to St Bede's in the years ahead.

In building upon our close relationship with our two feeder schools, we will be outsourcing canteen services for 2018 & 19 before launching a fully serviced and commercially viable Canteen/Hospitality Centre in 2020. This temporary outsourcing will occur by the linking of our canteen services to St Aloysius which will be coordinated by their Canteen Manager, Tracy McGovern. Details of these services are outlined in the Finance Manager's article. We welcome Tracy McGovern to St Bede's.

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 Cornwall - will commence start of 2018
- Maths/Science/P.E./TAS Coordinator: Tamara Borkowski - will commence start of 2018
- Office Manager: Rachel Quirk commenced at start of 2017
- Finance Manager: Leah Finlay - commenced on 9 October 2017
- College Counsellor/Psychologist: Thibaut Huens - will commence start of 2018
- Science/Mathematics Teacher: Liane Buckley – will commence start of 2018
- Personal Development/Health/ PE (PDHPE) and Mathematics Teacher: Sarah Hopkins– will commence start of 2018.
- Music Teacher: Michelle Burgess: - will commence start of 2018.
- **Tracy McGovern to St Bede's as she operates in the dual role as Canteen Services Manager**

Red colour denotes additional staffing announcements since the last newsletter.

St Bede's is committed to building a culture of enquiry which fosters continual improvement in teaching and learning. Staff have already been busy building capacity through ongoing professional learning to ensure the students at St Bede's receive the very best contemporary and engaging Catholic education.

Name: Miss Sarah Hopkins



Family background: I grew up in a town about 3.5 hours from here, called Mudgee, with my Mum, brother and sister. My Dad also lived in Mudgee and I got to see him regularly. I lived there for 18 years and then moved to Lennox Head to attend university. Conveniently, my Mum also moved there then as well. I now have a large family, with a step-dad, two step-brothers and a step-sister, very much like the Brady Bunch! I then moved down to Newcastle to finish my university qualifications. I am set to get married in the April holidays in 2018, which is very exciting!

My hopes and dreams in coming to St Bede's: I am so excited to be part of the St Bede's family! I am really looking forward to being part of the team that builds the foundation and culture of the great things this College will do for the community. I can't wait to help the students of St Bede's feel connected to the College and assist in developing them, not only on an intellectual level, but also mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Teaching qualifications: Bachelor of Sport & Exercise Science at Southern Cross University in Lismore and a Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) at Avondale College

Teaching experience: I have been teaching at St Philip's Christian College in Cessnock since 2012. During this time I have taught PDHPE and Maths, which is what I will be doing at St Bede's. I was the Year 7 Team Leader for two years and I am currently the Assistant Head of Middle School, which I have also been for two years.

Personal Interests/Passions: I love spending time with my beautiful family (when they visit) and my friends. My family and friends are all over the place, so I enjoy travelling on weekends to see and spend time with them.

I genuinely love my career as a teacher and lots of my time and energy goes into that!

I also enjoy keeping fit and active (I think I have to say that, being a PDHPE teacher!).

Advice to the incoming Foundation Students: Don't be nervous!! The best thing about this is that we are all new and in this together! What a privilege it is to be part of such a significant beginning! I can't wait to meet each and every one of you. It is going to be a fun-filled and exciting journey.

Name: Liane Buckley

Family background:

I grew up in Lake Macquarie with my parents and my older brother Damien who is also a teacher.

I met my husband Chris in our Chemistry class, Year 11 at St Francis Xavier, Hamilton.

We have 3 children, my daughter Morgan is 17, and two sons Isaac, 16 and Griffin, 11 years old.

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

I am very excited to be part of St Bede's Foundation year. I look forward to developing positive relationships with staff, students and families. I hope to create opportunities that inspire students to challenge themselves, recognise their strengths and strive for their personal best. I hope students will not just survive, but thrive in their new community.

Teaching qualifications:

Bachelor of Education (Science) - University of Newcastle

Teaching experience:

I have been a school teacher for 20 years. Currently I am at San Clemente High School Mayfield where I have been teaching Science, Agriculture and Marine Studies. Prior



to this, I have also taught Science and Mathematics at St Peter's High School Maitland and St Mary's High School Gateshead.

Personal Interests/Passions:

I treasure my family, friends and teaching. Heading to the Myall Lakes in our caravan, waterskiing and wakeboarding with my family and friends, is a highlight of my holidays.

I enjoy playing tennis, and watching my children play sport.

I love to have a cup of tea on the verandah at home with my dogs Barry and Graham.

Advice to the incoming Foundation Students:

- Challenge yourself
- Organisation is important
- M**ake connections with others
- M**anage your time effectively
- U**ncover your strengths
- N**ew opportunities should be seized
- I**dentify good choices
- T**reat others with respect
- Y**ou have something special to offer the St Bede's community.

WHO IS ST BEDE? – Jasmine Hutchinson

In St Bede being our patron saint, he will be a model to the whole community of what can be achieved through hard work, persistence and commitment. He will also be a model of how this can be achieved whilst maintaining the personal qualities of compassion, love and devotion. We want to develop the same qualities of moderation, persistence and gentleness and to develop a life-long thirst for learning.

Bede was born in 672AD in the English region of Northumbria. He was a monk, a Benedictine and a saint. At the age of 7, his family entrusted his education to the care of the Benedictine Monastery at Wearmouth. In 682AD, Bede moved to the monastery at Jarrow, where he spent his life. He died at the age of 63 whilst completing his final work "The Ecclesiastical History of the English People".

He lived during a time where kings of regions of England fought for supremacy. Bede removed himself from this chaos and committed himself to giving the gift of literature to England. Bede was widely regarded as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars. His scholarship covered subjects including commentaries on the Bible, science, geography, observations of nature, music and poetry. Bede completed over 60 books in his lifetime.

Bede gave absolute priority to prayer, fasting and charitable hospitality, reaching out to the world without leaving his monastery. He was a great teacher who taught hundreds of students at the monastery and its school and some of the

most illustrious members of society made pilgrimages to his monastery to seek guidance.



Student Introductions – John Murphy

Zoe Daniel will be joining us from Iona Public School. Zoe has a bubbly personality and enjoys the company of her family and friends. She was attracted to St Bede's because of the nurturing environment that we want to provide and that she will be commencing an exciting journey with her future class mates and teachers. Zoe is a current environmental leader and has a strong social conscious. She loves her pet goats and enjoys watching movies as well as exercising. Zoe will bring her funny, kind and caring personality as we commence the journey next year together.



Macleay Swarzes from Grahamstown Public School is a delightful young girl who has many gifts that will be built upon at St Bede's. Macleay is strong academically and enjoys being extended in her learning. As a current House Captain, Macleay has a great love of sport and no doubt will be involved in many different sporting activities at St Bede's. Always trying to better herself, Macleay has recently entered into public speaking competitions and will be keen to volunteer to represent St Bede's as the opportunities arise. We welcome Macleay to St Bede's and look forward to getting to know her at next week's student Orientation day.



Jack Pearcey from Woodberry Public School has been keen to come to St Bede's since last year and is delighted to be joining us. He's excited about being part of a new school and making life-long friends which often comes about with the first group to go through a new secondary school. Jack is a strong academic performer and wants to excel in his studies. He is also passionate about his sport, particularly cricket and triathlons. He plays cricket in the Raymond Terrace district and will be a key member of our cricket team and also in the Maitland Triathlon Club. We look forward to seeing Jack thrive at St Bede's as a successful and happy all-round student.



Josh Tassell will come to us from St Brigid's Raymond Terrace. Josh is a proud Aboriginal from the Biripi tribe and is hoping that St Bede's can offer a diverse multicultural program which we are definitely keen to do. Josh has both musical and sporting talents. He enjoys playing the guitar and is hoping to be part of the musicals that will become a big part of St Bede's. Being a fast runner and of strong build, Josh is keen to join the St Bede's Rugby League team. We look forward to seeing Josh excel in the full range of activities that will be offered at St Bede's.



Ashton Darcy will be joining some of his friends who currently attend Thornton Public School. Like so many of our staff and students, Ashton is a sport enthusiast and is a current House Captain. In hearing about our commitment to creating a friendly and safe environment, Ashton is looking forward to making new

friends and enjoying the diverse sporting program of St Bede's. With his recent experience in public speaking, Ashton is equally keen to explore the cultural life of our school which will include celebrating and public speaking competitions.



Cooper Lea is a fun loving boy who is a talented sportsman. Cooper particularly loves cheerleading and could well be the missing link to make the St Bede's cheerleading team a force to be reckoned with. Cooper is also a talented dancer and will be keen to see how he can add his skills and enthusiasm into the St Bede's acts at next year's Diocesan Musical, 'Diosounds'. Cooper is looking forward to being part of our exciting journey and is committed to making the most out of the learning and cultural opportunities that will be offered.



Portable Learning Devices – John Murphy

An up-date on the choice of specified learning device will be given at the upcoming Parent Information Session on Thursday 23 November. As explained at the different Information Sessions and in various newsletters, the College has gone for a specified learning device platform. Some schools, including the one I was last at, have a Bring Your own platform in which students can bring whichever device they please. Such a platform requires a proven IT infrastructure and a large IT team. Appropriate for a Foundation and smaller school where additional staffing requirements would lead to unnecessarily high school resource fee, we will have a specified device where all parents will be required to purchase the chosen device on an on-line ordering portal that will be linked to our web-site.

With the assistance of one of our incoming Studies Coordinators who is currently employed as an Education Officer at the Catholic Schools Office, Andrew Cornwell, we believe we will be offering an excellent priced device that will best meet the needs of our students for the next three years. Initial indications were that such a device priced upwards of \$1,200. However, a thorough tendering has meant that our preferred supplier may be able to offer a latest model durable and functional device for a more affordable price. Parents are asked not to

purchase alternative devices as we are clearly committed to the specified learning device platform which will be the only device operatable on our server.

Finance Update – Leah Finlay

Thank you to all our families who have returned their Sibling Discount forms and Concession forms for 2018. If you have not returned your form please ensure this is done by 18 November, 2017 to ensure you receive your discount.

We have also been busy getting the Skoolbag and QKR APPS ready for our parents/students for 2018.

The Skoolbag APP is now up and running so if you haven't downloaded it already please do so.

QKR will be ready for our parents to download in the upcoming weeks. We will send out notification and instructions via the Skoolbag APP and school website.

QKR can be used for canteen purchasing, Term sport selections, and will also have a payment option for school fee's.

We have been finalising the Resource Fee which will include school resources, educational activities, subject charges, incursions and amenities. Significant individual charges may be listed as a separate individual item on the account.

St Bede's Backpacks

St Bede's backpacks are now available for purchase from our office at 39 Heritage Drive, Chisholm. The backpacks are a mandatory item and may be purchased for \$80.00 each. They have a 15-year warranty, Internal 'S'; shaped spinal rod, hard wearing, moulded EVA hard base, easy sponge clean material and 1.2kg in weight are some of the features.



SERVICE & GOVERNANCE DOMAIN

Enrolment Up-date – John Murphy

With word quickly spreading of the momentum being gathered at St Bede's, it with much excitement that I announce that we have officially passed the 100 confirmed enrolments. With teacher staffing and timetabling for 2018 now completed, we will be capping our enrolments at 120 students for 2018. Enrolments for future year groups will be capped at 180, with trend data indicating we are track to have a St Bede's school population of over 1,000 students when we our first cohort commence Year 12 in 2023. With limited spaces still available, I encourage any parents that you might know who have yet to finalise their son's or daughter's 2018 school enrolment to contact the College Office as soon as possible.

Uniform Policy – John Murphy

After a long consultative process, the St Bede's Uniform Policy has now been fully endorsed and is available on our web-site. With a commitment to high standards and to building a sense of pride and belonging, it is important that the Uniform Policy is understood and supported. In listening, and responding to the feedback from members of the Uniform Committee, the policy reflects the original design brief when we went out to tender for our uniform provider which resulted in the appointment of Williamson International. This brief was to design a uniform that was cost effective, durable, smart looking and adaptable to the extreme weather conditions and student preferences. This policy can be found on our College website by clicking on the 'Enrolment' and then 'Uniform' tab or can be accessed directly by clicking on the following link

http://www.chisholmsb.catholic.edu.au/media/1120/st-bede27s-uniform-policy_final-2017.pdf

In all of us working towards building a school that we can be proud to call St Bede's, I would ask that parents and students fully support this policy. The unnecessary challenging of our high uniform standards will only distract us from our core business of offering the best possible opportunities for our students

Uniform Ordering – Rachel Quirk

Please read letter link below from Greg MacLeod at Williamson's Uniforms with regards to fittings and ordering of the school uniform. I will be sending a link out shortly to book in your 20-minute fitting time for your child. Fittings will be by appointment only at 39 Heritage Drive, Chisholm.

<https://sbccchisholm.sessionkeeper.com.au/>

Complaints and Grievances – Brett Donohoe

St Bede's will foster a harmonious, positive and productive school and community. The College will rely on clear and open communication with the community and will aim to resolve complaints and grievances fairly, efficiently, promptly and in the best interests of all. Confidentiality and privacy will always be respected in processes taken to resolve any matter.

Parents/Carers have the right to raise a complaint and grievance and have it responded to promptly, fairly, without fear of repercussions and according to principles of procedural fairness. It is important our community understands that schools are complex environments and not all complaints and grievances can be resolved. Opinions vary widely.

Please refer to the brochure below which outlines the complaints and resolution pathway and important points to consider in the handling of any complaint. Copies of this brochure are in the School Office and will routinely be referred to in this newsletter. The St Bede's Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy is now available on the College website. We encourage you to read this document.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Student Orientation Day:** Tuesday 14 November at Pat Hughes Hall, Thornton. Buses departing from St Aloysius and Our lady of Lourdes at 9.00am with all non-feeder school students meeting at 8.30am at 39 Heritage Drive Chisholm.
- **Parent Information Session:** Thursday 23 November from 9.30 – 11.00am or 6.30 – 8.00pm at Beresfield Bowling Club - "Rainbow Room" - Anderson Drive, Beresfield.
- **Community Social:** Tuesday 12 December from 5.00 – 7.30pm at St Aloysius, Heritage Drive Chisholm – next to St Bede's.