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Lumina

Issue 12 · 29 Jul 2021

Welcome to Issue 12. Back at campus after lockdown the College is again buzzing with activity, albeit under restricted conditions. Please find in this edition information about our musical and re-scheduled Walkathon. There is much to be celebrated at St Mary's College, enjoy reading Issue 12.

Director of Development | Elaine Doyle

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From the Principal

Terry Blizzard

As we recommence onsite learning following another lockdown I can only marvel at and be proud of our community and its ability to take up the challenges imposed on them. It is amazing to see our staff and students so quickly adapt to a different kind of learning. Each new lockdown presents new challenges and new learnings - some students, a minority I suspect, flourish in the remote setting; and as I mentioned following the previous lockdown, remote learning continues to highlight the social divide in our community and the capacity for some families and young people to cope. Discussion of the social disparity featured often in the public domain in 2020, but not so much now. As a school we are very much aware that not all students are equal in these times and are aware of our need to be supportive and to reach out with compassion.

'The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' **Matthew 25:40**

School Sport

We have just received notice from the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria that interschool sport ACC and SCSA falls in line with the Government COVID safety definition of 'community sport'. As such we are pleased to announce all inter-school sport will be able to resume on Monday 2 August.

Walkathon

In our previous Lumina I expressed my thanks to all families for their very generous commitment to our Walkathon fundraising and to the causes we are working on behalf of. For the second time we have had to postpone this event due to lockdown, but I do want to assure families that we are committed to this service event and as such have rescheduled it to

Thursday September 9. The Walkathon speaks to the heart of our mission as a school, let us hope that we that we can plan without any further interruptions.

God Bless

Principal | Terry Blizzard



Around the College

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire

Most of the articles in this newsletter will reference our recent time in the 5th lockdown period that Melbourne has experienced over the past couple of years. I would like to take this opportunity to cast the net wide in my thanks and gratitude for the way the St. Mary's College community has once again managed to work through this significant change to the way school is supposed to be.

Despite the restrictions, we were very fortunate to still be able to hold the Year 12 formal a couple of weeks ago. This was a postponed event from Term 2 and highly anticipated by all in the year level. As expected, our students and their guests were looking wonderful on the evening and enjoyed each other's company in the best of spirits. The staff in attendance were delighted to see them dance the night away and enjoy the hospitality of The Park Melbourne in Albert Park.

We were not so fortunate with the re-scheduled Social Justice Walkathon, set to take place last Friday. As has already been communicated to parents / carers and students, the Walkathon has now been 're-re-scheduled' to Thursday 9 September, which is the second last week of Term 3. We are very hopeful that this revised date will enable a return to outdoor,

public events such as this, and look forward to the possibility of some improved weather on the day as we enter spring.

In the coming weeks, students in Years 7 – 11 will engage in the process of subject selection. This becomes a more significant part of the educational journey as the years progress, as it is an opportunity for students to exercise a greater degree of control over their pathways and subjects. I strongly encourage all students and families to ask lots of questions through this process to ensure that we are working together to make really good decisions about this important aspect of school life.

Deputy Principal | Shaun Lancashire



Identity

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston

Service is a significant part of our school community. As a Catholic school in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice (1762-1844) we are committed to acting with compassion and justice whereby we inspire one another to shape a better world for all. We can all do this by being of service to others, in our school, our local community and globally.

Blessed Edmund Rice looked at the world around him and saw many injustices. This did not sit well with him, so he went about serving those in need and creating social change. He did this because he wanted to build a better world for all.

Edmund knew that helping the underprivileged would change lives, so he acted with love and compassion for those who were suffering. As students of St Mary's College we are called to follow Edmund's example of faith and generosity, to live lives of love and service.

This year, the Mandela Service Awards were launched to recognize the service of our students. Named after Nelson Mandela and inspired by his work and that of St Mother Teresa who felt that everyone deserved to be treated with dignity.

We are aiming for students to serve a minimum of 67 minutes each term. Why? Just like Blessed Edmund Rice who served those around him in need many others have also generously served others. St Teresa of Calcutta and Nelson Mandela, both dedicated 67 years of their life to public service.

To acknowledge and honour the service of those who have gone before us students are asked to volunteer 67 minutes of their time per term to make a difference in the lives of

others. Service is our way of making the world a better place for all.

Service is when we overcome our own needs and reach out to those less fortunate, transforming lives along the way. Service is not a feeling, it is a decision. Students who make this decision are recognized with a Gold, Silver or Bronze Mandela Service Badge. The House who has the most Service points will be awarded the Mandela Service Cup.



Love in action is service

St Teresa of Calcutta

1910-1997



What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others.

Nelson Mandela

1918-2013

Director of Identity | Kate Johnston



Wellbeing

Helping our children through these times

There is no doubt the coronavirus has had a major impact on the mental health of many students. It has turned their lives upside down and they have felt uncertain, confused and worried about what the future holds. Throw into the mix two stints of on-line learning, and some may be really struggling.

So how can we tell if your son or daughter is struggling?

There are a few tell-tale signs.

- They are finding it hard to get out of bed, are sleeping more or less than usual, or are always tired.
- They've stopped taking care with their appearance or personal hygiene.
- They're eating more or less than usual.
- They've become withdrawn, avoiding friends, family and activities they used to enjoy.
- They have outbursts of anger or irritability.
- They're tense and restless.
- They're engaging in risky behaviours.
- They're self-critical (e.g. they refer to themselves as 'worthless' or 'stupid').

From ReachOut

If you have noticed these signs with your son or daughter, the first step is to talk to them about what you have noticed. As you'd know, the trick here is to choose the right time and place, so you are not rushed and talking with them in a public location. The next trick is to truly listen – without any judgement or interruption. It's good to tell them that you have noticed a change in them and ask how they are feeling. Don't dismiss any feeling because for them, these are real. They might be sad, stressed, anxious or depressed.

Try to avoid telling them what they need to do. Instead, ask them what would help them to get back to their old selves. If they struggle to think of ideas, offer a few thoughts.

Some ideas might include keeping to realistic routines, having a balance between school and downtime, exercising regularly, having at least eight hours sleep and keeping to a good sleep wake routine, keeping positive and checking for unhelpful, negative thoughts.

You might like to involve the school counsellor or seek external help. For external help, the best way to do this is to have your son or daughter see a GP and then they can be advised from there. If your son or daughter is reluctant to seek help, then encourage them to talk with a trusted adult or family member. You cannot force them to open up. They have to be ready.

You might like to suggest some useful websites, phone lines and services offering online chat or forums, such as the [ReachOut Forums](#), [BeyondBlue](#) (1300 22 4636) and [Kids Helpline](#) (1800 55 1800).

Let's hope our coronavirus world settles and our students experience a greater sense of normality. Together we will get through this difficult period. It will end in time.

Student Counsellor | Catherine McMahon



Learning

Again we find ourselves just out of lockdown, but at least the Year 12 students were able to enter lockdown with the excitement of having been at their Formal, which they seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

Lockdown can be difficult for many students and it is important for them to ensure that they remain connected by attending classes and contacting teachers if they have any concerns. The pastoral team are always willing to assist the students and they have a number of support systems in place. So please encourage your child to reach out to their homeroom teacher or Pastoral Leader.

While we were prepared for the GAT Exam, again it has been postponed for Thursday 12th August. This gives students a little more time to acquaint themselves with the format of the exam and to complete some of the practice GATs given to them at the end of last Term. We will ensure that appropriate COVID safe practices will be implemented according to Health Regulations.

The Term is progressing quite quickly and this Term can be quite busy for students with a lot of assessment tasks and SACs needed to be completed before we can prepare for the end of year examinations. It is important that students should implement a home study program in preparation for the exams which will be here before we know it. Students should still follow a routine even while in lock down and have regular breaks away from technology. They should ensure that they get fresh air and get some exercise to break up their study routine. Students

should now be assigning time each evening to prepare for their exams. This may include writing up study notes for Unit 3 studies or even starting to do practice exams. Students should also ensure that they are keeping up to date with their Unit 4 studies and plan for their upcoming SACs so they are prepared. As always, students should speak to their subject teachers to provide subject specific advise for their exams. I am always willing to chat with any students and provide advise on how to best study.

We hope you remain safe and remember to contact any VCE staff if you have any concerns regarding your child or their studies. It is a very busy term but the VCE staff are never too busy to chat with you.

VCE/Digitech Co-ordinator | Sylvia Pastore



Co-curricular

Notices

Music Centre News

Music Showcase re-scheduled

As the lockdown meant we had to cancel our Music Camp and our rehearsal schedule was disrupted the Music Showcase planned for Wednesday 11th August has been moved to term 4. Information will be forthcoming in future Newsletters.

Musical Production – Help requested

Our amazing cast of students preparing 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' have been powering ahead with online rehearsals during the lockdown. They have all attended these rehearsals and have been incredibly dedicated and committed. This will be a great show! If any parents/guardians have craft/tailoring skills and would like to volunteer their help with costumes and props please contact me at: domeara@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

Combined Carols

When the St Mary's Concert Band returns to normal rehearsals they will commence preparing music for our Combined Carols on Thursday 2nd of December. This will be a great event held at the Presentation Campus and a wonderful way to see out what has been a challenging year for our young musicians. More information in forthcoming Newsletters.

Never underestimate the power music has to change lives!

Director of Music & The Bandmeister | David O'Meara

 Associated Catholic Colleges

**ACC Y9 & Y10
DEBATE COMPETITION**

DEBATE TEAM

**LEARN PERSUASIVE
SPEAKING SKILLS**

18 AUGUST 2021

Email Ms Vandrine to join



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**



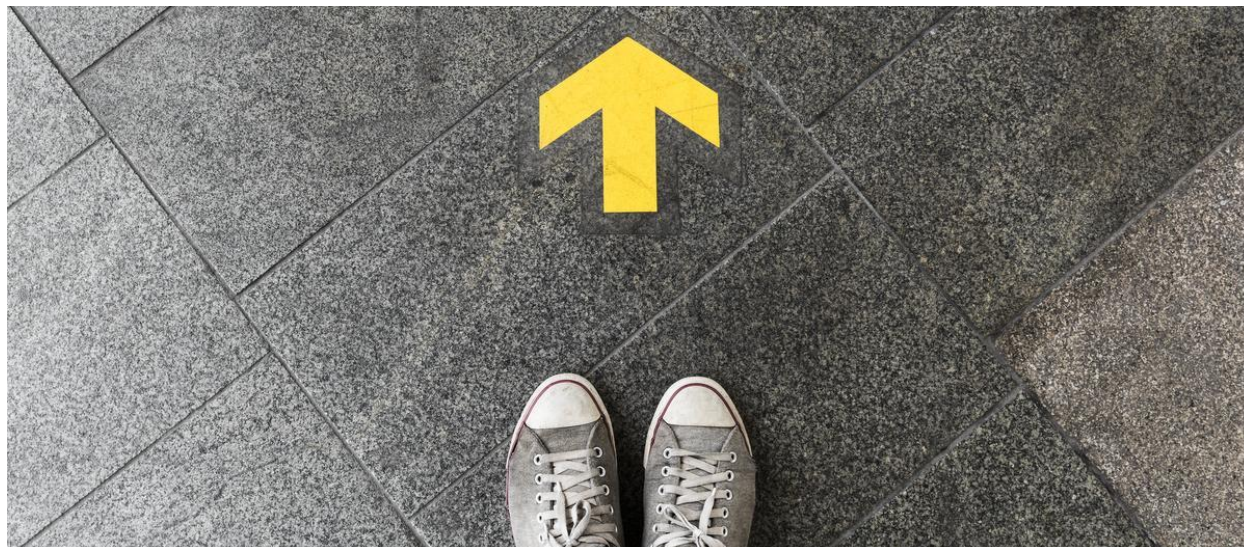
Improve your public speaking skills

Join the 2021
**ACC Intermediate
Public Speaking Team**
Y9 & Y10 students

Competition date 18 August 2021
+ prior preparation sessions



email Mr Wynne to join
rwynne@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au



Pathways

Careers Counsellor | Mandy Ellwood

Decision Time!

It's all happening for our senior students in Term 3! For most students, this is a time to make some big decisions, ones that they will be living with for quite a while. However, with proper research and careful consideration, good decision-making and flexible thinking will lead to the best outcomes for each student.

Of course, we have all learned that circumstances can change quite quickly, so flexible thinking is a vital life skill for all. Yet we know that a person's underlying interests remain in some form over a lifetime. It is how we apply these that allows us to adapt to change. This is why careers interest tests, like Morrisby, which provide a snapshot on the day, are useful for a lot longer than the year in which they are completed. Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 can gain a lot by logging in to Morrisby and having a play around with their options before they make these major decisions in Term 3. To do this, go to

<https://newapp.morrisby.com/login>.

For Year 10 students it will be a busy few weeks. Starting later this week, they will be shown in class how to work with their Morrisby Profile to produce the optimum lists of Career, Course and Subject suggestions. In the first week of August they will be introduced to the Senior Studies Handbook and the system the College will use for Subject Selection. Parents will be provided with information on all this too, as well as the opportunity to ask questions.

Monday 9 August will be a day for Subject Selection Meetings for all Year 10 students and families.

The most important thing that students can do, and that parents can do to help them, is to carefully read about all the possibilities in the Senior Studies Handbook, which will be published this week. In addition you can gain more insights by looking at some of the VTAC resources:

[The VTAC Year 10 Guide](#)

[Guide to Researching Tertiary Education](#)

And also the wealth of information on **[the St Mary's College Careers Website](#)**, including videos and students quizzes.

Research is also relevant for **Year 11 Students!** Whilst this group are well on their way in decision-making, they should ensure they are choosing their subjects for their final year very carefully in order to ensure success. They can also check out the **[Guide to Researching Tertiary Education](#)**, in addition to their own **[VTAC Year 11 Guide](#)**.

Any student considering tertiary study should be attending **[the Tertiary Open Days](#)**, starting next Sunday and throughout August, whether virtual or in person events.

Year 12 students are already gearing up to choose their courses for 2022. In the first week of August, there will be a session on making applications through VTAC, when students will be assisted to **Register** and **Apply**. They will need information supplied by the College and so should **not apply** before this session.

An important **NEW requirement** this year is that every applicant must have a **USI or Unique Student Identifier**. Many will have a USI already from their VET studies, but if they do not, it is easily obtained from **usi.gov.au**

Year 12 students are able to research their options using the VTAC resources:

[VTAC Year 12 Guide](#)

[Guide to Researching Tertiary Education](#)

They should also check **[the Tertiary Open Days](#)**, but need to watch for changes here! Any opportunity at any stage this year to actually set foot on campus and check how each University or TAFE institute “fits” your needs will be worthwhile!

All Year 12 students will have at least one Careers Meeting this term to finalise their choices and get assistance with SEAS and Scholarships.

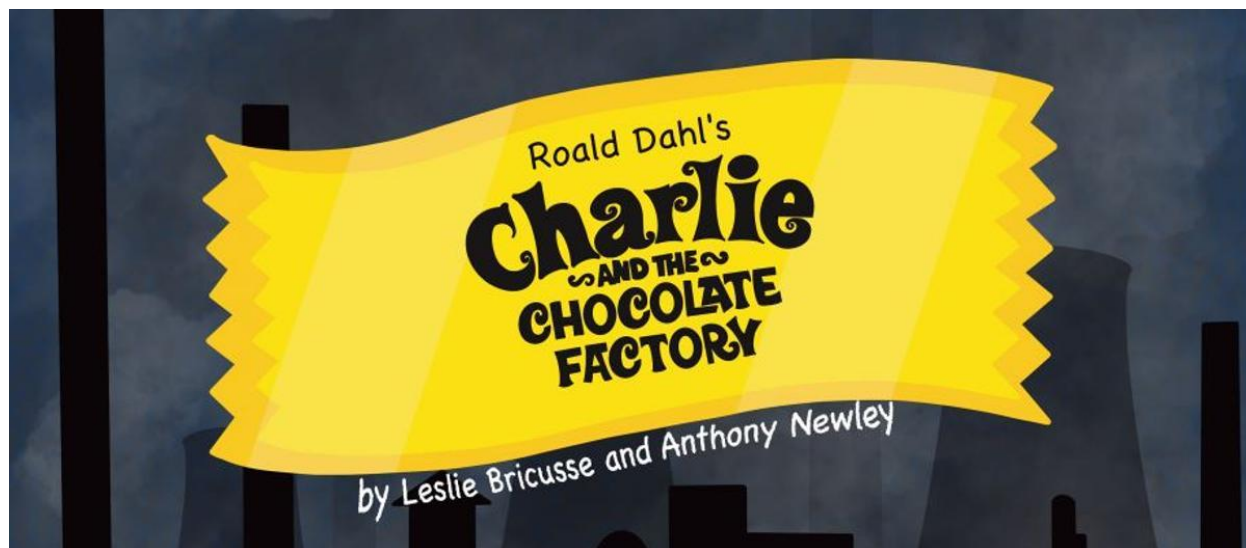
Parents often feel a little out of the loop, so VTAC is providing them an opportunity to take part in a series of online information sessions from Monday 2 August, when VTAC applications open. There are two main types of sessions, with a variety of start times available for each to suit student and parent schedules:

- **Applying for tertiary courses (and understanding the ATAR):** provides an overview of the entire application process, including finding courses, preferences, results and offers. Includes a brief discussion of SEAS and Scholarships.
- **Understanding special consideration (SEAS) and scholarships:** provides detailed information about applying for SEAS and scholarships.

The webinars are free, and open to all students and parents, however registration is required as **places are limited**. Students and parents can book now at: <https://vtac.edu.au/events>. If you miss out, you will usually find that, having registered, you can access a recording of the webinar a few days later.

Finally, parents who have further questions are welcome to email me on mellwood@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au.

Careers Counsellor | Mandy Ellwood



Musical

Production Manager/Musical Director | David O'Meara

A Musical For All!

After school rehearsals, weekend rehearsals and online rehearsals! Since April a passionate, committed and talented group of students have been preparing the College's production of the musical '*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*'. It will be presented in Rahilly Hall on the Presentation Campus with performances each night at 7:30pm from Wednesday 1st September through to Saturday 4th September.

Direction is by professional director and actor Emily Wheaton with lead roles performed by: James Cappola, Jeremy Baxas, Perran Silveira, Maddie Leroi, Kate Damman, Gianfranco Forti, Mitchell Hoskin, Allanah Hager, Noah Douglas, Audrey Smart, Aiden Lim and Archie Fraser with an outstanding supporting ensemble.

Choreographed by our very own Anouk Thaddeus this will be wonderful night's entertainment of a funny and tuneful musical. Tickets will be available soon so please come along and support our hardworking students whilst enjoying a great night's entertainment.

Production Manager/Musical Director | David O'Meara

ST MARY'S COLLEGE
presents..

Roald Dahl's
Charlie
AND THE
CHOCOLATE
FACTORY

by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley

Wed 1/9 - Sat 4/9
Performances 7:30pm at Presentation Campus
Tickets through [Trybooking.com.au](https://www.trybooking.com.au)

Musical artwork designed by Year 11 student Hope Fratzeskos



Our Students

Return to School

Today is the day of the relaxing of the fifth lockdown. I'm feeling excited and empowered to return to school! I can hardly wait to return to science and play downball in the yard with my friends and classmates. Further, I know today will be fun in more ways than expected – something remote learning can't really offer.

As the week progresses, I am looking forward to getting back into my studies, seeing how my friends are going, catching up with my teachers and involving myself in extra-curricular activities.

Wishing all our families a good return to normality – let's have a good term together!

Year 7 Student | Aidan S



Our Community

View our College Calendar for events and important dates

Please note that due to COVID restrictions it has been necessary to move the date of many events.



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

Walkathon 2021

DONATE NOW

Sponsor our students

Congratulations - we have currently raised \$27,313.00

Our 2021 Walkathon has been **rescheduled to Thursday 9 September**. It will be the 53rd Walkathon for our College community. Every year we put into action our commitment to support those in our society who are living on the margins by raising funds and advocating for justice.

We are still collecting donations and this year our donations will go to the Fr Bob Maguire Foundation and our continued support of charities for school children in India who so desperately need our help during these COVID times.

Walkathon ID Numbers:

Students and staff please use your Walkathon ID number

Parents & Friends use ID 709

Alumni and Community use ID 708

Be a part of our updated College video

Expressions of interest are sought for a parent who would be willing to be filmed in a short testimonial for our Video. You will need to be available on Friday 20 August for the filming at 8:30am. For more information please contact Director of Development Elaine Doyle by Monday 2 August edoyle@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

Talk and Tour Dates for 2021

Please pass on to friends and family who are interested in a co-educational Catholic education

Thursday 12 August at 10:30am - full

Monday 13 September at 10:30am

Thursday 14 October 10:30am

[Book Now](#)



**TOURS
SCHOLARSHIPS
ENROL TODAY**

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

Midford Uniform Shop

The Midford Uniform Shop trading hours

Tuesday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Check in, hand sanitizing and wearing masks are conditions of entry with 1 customer capacity limit.

Did you know you can order online uniforms from the Midford Uniform Shop?

Online orders are welcomed and provide a COVID safe way to purchase uniforms

<http://www.midford.com.au/>

(enter **SMC2021**).

Ph **9520 8519**



Parents & Friends Association

P & F Committee Meeting

Next meeting: Monday 6 September
venue to be advised

Dates for social and fund-raising events for 2021

'Nolan Cup' Family Day, Albert Park Driving Range: Saturday 9th October

Stay tuned for more information about: An Afternoon at the Movies, Bunnings BBQ, Family Picnic/BBQ, Guest speakers

Fifties Style Trivia Night



It is with great disappointment that the P & F in conjunction with the St Mary's College leadership team have made the decision to cancel this years Trivia Night. The uncertainty regarding COVID-19 restrictions have made it impossible to plan ahead with any certainty.

We thank everyone that purchased tickets as well as the amazing generosity from supporters and donors. We also thank staff at St Mary's for the effort and offers of help especially Jane Balme, David Joyce and Sandie Saundrie. Much work has also been done by our team of P&F volunteers which is greatly appreciated. Stay tuned for the results of our raffle of Apple AirPods Pro (launched at the Mother's Day Breakfast) which was due to be drawn on the evening.

The P & F hope that we will be able to go ahead with this event bigger and better next year.



P & F Recycled Uniform Shop

Volunteering at our Recycled Uniform Shop is a great opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to our school community and to meet other St Mary's College parents. If you can spare a few hours on the first Saturday of each month to help Julie Gallagher at our shop it would be greatly appreciated. Please keep an eye on the St Mary's College Social Media for confirmation of the next open date. There will also be a link to an electronic sign up sheet for volunteering at the Recycled Uniform Shop.

Parent helpers

The P & F community is vibrant and active and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings and other events during the school year. We are always on the look out for new members and volunteers. If you have an interest in volunteering your skills and time at any of our up-coming school events, please contact Jane Blame jbalme@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au and we will email you with details to which you can reply with your availability. Help once or help often... all contributions are valuable!

Parent helpers required to assist with the **College Musical**. [Click here to find out more](#)



Notices

Business Manager | Andrew O'Brien

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund

2021 Applications Close 3 August 2021

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Funding (CSEF) is a \$225 annual payment to schools that can be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of eligible students.

To qualify for the CSEF your family must satisfy the following criteria or be an eligible beneficiary of one of the following cards:

- Veterans Affairs Gold Card
- Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC)
- Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, or
- be a temporary foster parent, or
- the student is 16 years or older and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card).

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists.

For more information, see:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

The CSEF is paid directly to St Mary's College and will be credited against your Fee Account at St Mary's College to contribute towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. If you believe that you may be eligible for the CSEF, please complete and return the CSEF Application Form, which is available through the above link.

Please note that 25 June 2021 is the last date that St Mary's College can lodge an Application Form on your behalf for the current year.

2021 Fee Accounts

All 2021 Fee Accounts were due and payable by 31 March 2021, unless an approved Payment Plan was in place by this date. All families wishing to enter a Payment Plan arrangement should have already completed, signed and lodged a 2021 Fee Payment Agreement Form with the Finance Office. If you have not done so, please lodge the relevant documentation as soon as possible.

All payment arrangements must be finalised by 31 October 2021.

Documents in relation to Fees and Payment Arrangements can be found in the Parent Access Module PAM (SIMON)

Business Manager | Andrew O'Brien