

Dear families,

As we come to the end of a remarkable year at St Mary's College, I would like to offer you thanks for your continued support this year.

A new era on one campus ...

Together, we have navigated the complex challenge of undertaking a significant building project on time and on budget, completed a major upgrade of our classroom technology, and vacated the Presentation Campus. While we worked assiduously to minimise the impact on classroom learning during the year, some disruption was inevitable, and my admiration goes out to our staff and young people who maintained focus during this time of great change. It was immediately apparent when we resumed in Term 4 that the school community was rejoicing in being together (once more) on the Edmund Rice Campus. While cohabitation presents its own mix of obstacles, it was our "better together" message that seemed to be the common sentiment being expressed and the potential for school spirit to flourish was undeniable.

VCE results ...

Congratulations to our College Dux, Adam Tran, and our graduating class of 2024. Jaeda Thornhill and Tyra Williams join Adam with ATARs over 90. An outstanding achievement. There are many 40+ study scores across a range of subject areas and we especially congratulate Tyra, and her teacher, Ms Halvatsis, on achieving 49 in Business Management. Our median ATAR is 63 and 25% of students achieved an ATAR over 70. Without diminishing the achievements of those seeking high ATARs, it's important to remember that success looks different for every young person. I would like to make special mention of 26 students who followed the Vocational Major (VM) pathway and, therefore, go unscored. Many of these young people are well advanced in moving into a full apprenticeship and the world of work and it is a delight to see each flourish. We are proud of the way all our young women and men have ended their secondary schooling at St Mary's this year. They showcased their maturity on the evening of the Graduation Dinner, where they displayed gratitude and kindness for the care they had received from their parents and their teachers.

We pray to St Mary ...

In offering thanks for the year just passed, it is apt to remember that St Mary's College is named after the first of all saints, St Mary of the Immaculate Conception. In our daily life at St Mary's, we strive to reflect Mary's example. Her unwavering faith and quiet strength inspire our students to become compassionate leaders, grounded in empathy and resilience. Mary's dedication to nurturing others encourages our students to support their peers, embrace opportunities to serve their communities, and approach challenges with grace and perseverance.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

A calendar full of events ...

Throughout the year there have been many significant events that have provided opportunities for our young people to showcase their talents. The outstanding ACC Arts and Technology Show at Federation Square; an excellent production of *Little Shop of Horrors*; numerous ACC and CGSAV sporting achievements; music recitals; debating and literary competitions; robotics challenges ... are just some examples that come to mind and there are too many to mention all. It has been a joy each fortnight to see *Lumina* full of happy young people being celebrated for sharing their gifts and their endeavour. We hope that our young people have ended this year fulfilled that they tried something new and learnt something about themselves in the process.

Welcome Day in 2025 ...

I'd also like to take the opportunity of this communication to share with you the plan for recommencement next year. Please find in the following pages information about Welcome Day 2025 and the return to school program.

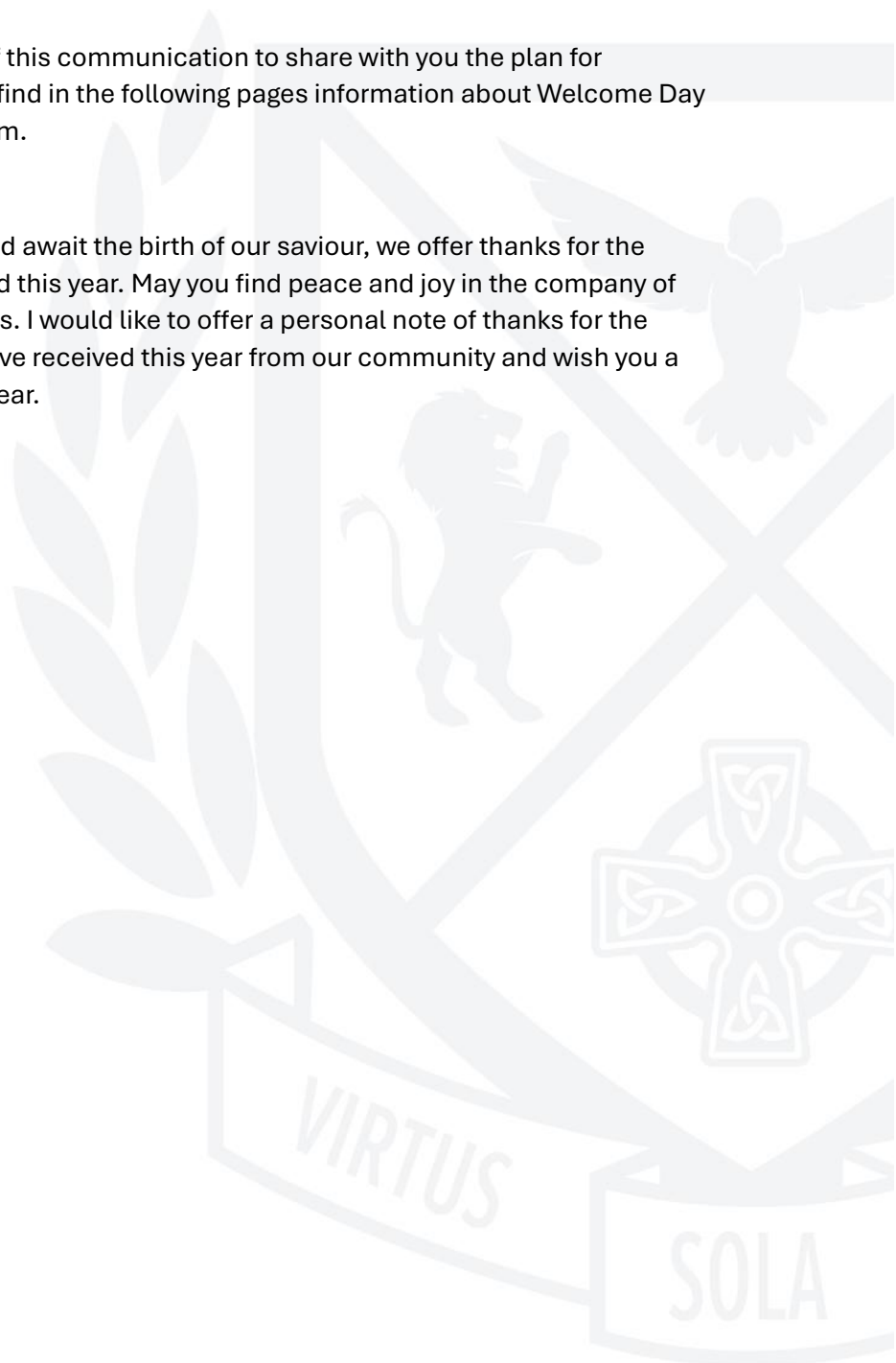
Wishing you a Merry Christmas ...

As we enter this Christmas period and await the birth of our saviour, we offer thanks for the many blessings that we have received this year. May you find peace and joy in the company of your family and friends these holidays. I would like to offer a personal note of thanks for the warm welcome and support that I have received this year from our community and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,



Darren Atkinson
Principal



Welcome Day 2025

On Thursday, 30 Jan 2025, the College welcomes all students from Years 7 – 12 for the start of the school year. On this day, students will meet their Pastoral Care Teacher and Pastoral Care Leader, have their school photograph taken and be involved in pastoral activities. These activities aim to foster a sense of belonging to the community and establish positive working relationships for the year ahead.

To assist in the organisation of Welcome Day, a staggered start and end time will be in place for each year-level. Students should arrive at the College on time to meet their Pastoral Leader as follows:

Year Level Attendance Details

Year 7 Pastoral Leader: Lucy Dickson	Meeting Point: Plaza Assembly start time: 8.30am (Parent Morning tea to follow brief assembly) Assembly Location: Logue Hall Dismissal time: 11:30am (approx.)
Year 8 Pastoral Leader: Annie Driver	Meeting Point: Plaza Assembly start time: 9.00am Assembly Location: Logue Hall Dismissal time: 11:45am (approx.)
Year 9 Pastoral Leader: Lucy Waghorn	Meeting Point: Plaza Assembly start time: 9.30am Assembly Location: Logue Hall Dismissal time: 12.15pm (approx.)
Year 10 Pastoral Leader: Nick Nedelkovski	Meeting Point: Plaza Assembly start time: 10.00am Assembly Location: Logue Hall Dismissal time: 12:45pm (approx.)
Year 11 Pastoral Leader: Brendan Tollit	Meeting Point: Plaza Assembly start time: 11.00am Assembly Location: Logue Hall Dismissal time: 1:45pm (approx.)
Year 12 Pastoral Leader: Judy Vandrine	Meeting Point: Plaza Assembly start time: 11.30pm Assembly Location: Logue Hall Dismissal time: 2:15pm (approx.)

Welcome Day Structure

- Students will be welcomed in the Plaza by their Year Level Pastoral Leader and Pastoral Care Teacher
- A Year Level 'Community Meeting' will be held in Logue Hall
- Students will spend time in their Pastoral Care groups undertaking activities designed to create positive relationships with each other and their Pastoral Care Teacher
- Student lockers will be allocated – students are encouraged to bring some of their academic books and stationery on this day
- Athletics carnival Sign-ups will take place
- Student official photographs will be taken
- A tour of the College will be conducted for Year 7 students

Uniform Requirements

SUMMER UNIFORM

College Blazer (**must be worn on Welcome Day**)

College Summer Shirt

College Shorts or Trousers

College Socks (black)

College Summer dress (top of knee length)

Black lace-up shoes

(College jumper is optional)

Uniform and personal presentation is to be in accordance with the College Uniform Regulations, which is available on our website: [St Mary's College website](#) and in the Welcome Booklet for new students.

It is important that students come to school on Welcome Day in full school uniform. Any student wearing incorrect uniform or demonstrates personal presentation that does not meet College expectations will not be able to have their photograph taken on the day.

We look forward to your support in ensuring all students meet the guidelines above, which will ensure a warm and welcoming first day. Please don't hesitate to contact the relevant Year Level Pastoral Leader if you have any questions or send an email to: enquiries@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

Mobile Phone Policy

To create an environment conducive to learning with minimal distractions, we have a mobile phone policy in place. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phones during class time, phones must remain turned off and stored in lockers throughout the school day. If Parents/ Guardians need to contact their child, please do so via the school office.

Snack / Lunch

Students should bring a water bottle and snack / lunch on Welcome Day, according to the time their year-level will be attending school. Please note that the canteen will not be open on this day.

Locks

Locks went home with students on the last day of 2024. Students need to bring this lock to school for the start of 2025. If a lock has been lost the replacement cost is \$15. Year 7 students will be issued a lock.

Ordering School Photos

School photo orders can be placed following Welcome Day. All orders are placed directly with the photographer, Arthur Reed Photos, at: <https://www.arphotos.com.au/>

Further details, including ordering codes, will be provided to students on Welcome Day.

Parent Access Module - PAM

One of the primary modes of College communication is via the College Parent Access Module - PAM. Key College information is accessible to parents on PAM such as uniform, policies, fees, etc. as well as student information such as attendance, assessment reports and parent teacher interviews.

Parents can login to PAM using the link to on our website in the 'portals' section:

www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

New families to the College will find their login details in the Welcome Booklet they have received. PAM login details for new parents will become active early in January 2025 and parents/guardians will receive an email at that time confirming that their PAM account is active.

Any parents/guardians who may have forgotten their login details can use the 'Forgot Password?' link on the PAM Login page.

Parent Contact Details

Please ensure the College has up to date parent/guardian contact details including email addresses and mobile phone numbers for all parents/guardians and emergency contacts. If unsure, please email your current contact information to enquiries@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

Student Health Information

Please ensure your child/children's up to date health information has been provided to the College prior to Welcome Day. This can be done via the Parent Portal (PAM) under your child's 'Medical Profile'. Students with medical conditions including Asthma and Anaphylaxis should bring up to date medication and action plans with them on Welcome Day which will be held at reception.

Key Dates - Term 1, 2025

22 Jan, Wednesday	College Office opens
30 Jan, Thursday	Welcome / Photo Day
31 Jan, Friday	Classes commence
14 Feb, Friday	House Athletics Carnival
10 Mar, Monday	Public Holiday - Labour Day
13-14, 17 Mar	NAPLAN
27 Mar, Thursday	Parent Teacher Interviews, all day
4 April, Friday	End of Term 1

Period / Bell Times 2025

Please see below the bell times for the school day in 2025. The main changes for next year are:

- First bell is 8:35am, 10 minutes later than in 2024
- 10-minute Pastoral Care takes place after Period 1
- There is no travel time between periods 2 – 3, and 4 – 5

First Bell	8:35am
Period 1	8:40am – 9:40am
Travel	9:40am – 9:45am
Pastoral Care	9:45am – 9:55am
Recess	9:55am – 10:20am
Travel	10:20am – 10:25am
Period 2	10:25am – 11:25am
Period 3	11:25am – 12:25pm
Lunch	12:25pm – 1:05pm
Travel	1:05pm – 1:10pm
Period 4	1:10pm – 2:10pm
Period 5	2:10pm – 3:10pm

We look forward to welcoming all students and families to St Mary's College in 2025. If you have any questions, please direct them to your child's Pastoral Care Leader, Jen Howard (Director of Students), or Shaun Lancashire (Deputy Principal).