

26 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

This is the last whole college information letter for 2021. We all know, just like in 2020, it has been a challenging and different 11 months of learning and teaching due to COVID-19. During the year we continued to create varied and different events which still showed what a great community we have here at St John Paul II Catholic College.

Being a Catholic College, students, and staff, in smaller numbers, did have the opportunity on several occasions to attend mass and liturgies.

Learning at StJPIICC

As we wait upon receiving the HSC results on 24 January 2022, St John Paul II Catholic College's performance in our internal assessment has shown for most students, an increased learning gain. All Year 10 students who are required, have achieved the national minimum standard average requirements of reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. Our Year 7 and Year 9 NAPLAN results have continued to improve and are all above the national minimum standard.

Student Attendance

Congratulations to all students and parents/carers for working together in 2021 as we have improved our overall student attendance rate by 10%. This 10% is the increase from 2020 of students who attended school for more than 9 days out of 10 per fortnight. St John Paul II Catholic College continues to have a higher student attendance than most secondary schools in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Communication

Schools and teachers know that good communication with parents/carers and students is important as it helps us all learn and succeed. The parents/carers and students' responses in the Tell Them From Me Survey responses this year again has shown the implementation of Compass has improved the home school partnership with more timely and relevant communication. Further implementation of the different modules with Compass will occur in 2022.

At the College we also recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher. Please continue to direct your emails to the teacher, as you could appreciate, teachers read their emails at various times throughout the school day. Further, other than in the case of a genuine emergency, they are generally not expected to respond to emails from parents/carers and students outside of normal working hours. Please keep in mind that if you send an email to a member of our staff outside of normal working hours, a reply may not be received until the following working day. We appreciate your assistance and understanding. If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me at the College.

Communication between parents/carers, teachers and students is crucial to ensuring a student's education and wellbeing is at its best. In response to the ever-increasing digital communications via social media, we will continue to embrace these technologies in a positive and productive manner. Currently we use Compass, College website, Facebook, Instagram, intranet, SMS, and email as the information is provided closer to the date of the event.

The use of Zoom for the parents/carers/student/teacher interviews has also resulted in a higher number of interviews being completed in comparison to interviews being held on site.

Staff Update

This year we also say farewell to the following permanent staff who are taking up positions at other schools as part of their professional development, or moving to another location interstate:

Mary Clark

Allison Gardiner

Jessica Gibbs

Michael Kelly

Jacob Lewis

Brennan McLean

Dermott Morgan

Two long serving staff will be retiring at the end of the year and we wish them all the best.

Terri Brotheridge - 20 years - Support Staff

Chris Wilson - 24 years - TAS

Three staff who have been on temporary contract are also finishing with us at the end of the year:

Branden Sarafov

Mary Zore

Sean Mein

We welcome the following staff to St John Paul II Catholic College in 2022:

Amy Bennett (Science)

Ananya Gautam (Mathematics)

David Pidd (Mathematics)

Isabella Plust (Religion / CAPA)

Kyle Romero (TAS)

Carly Rosser (Dance / English)

Karen Tolson (Support Staff)

Celestine Tuitupou (Diversity / English)

As announced by Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta I have been appointed as Principal of Penola Catholic College, Emu Plains commencing Term 1, 2022. Mrs Angela Hay, current Principal of St Patrick's Marist College will be the new College Principal. Mrs Hay has completed several visits to the college during Term 4 to meet with staff and some of our students. There will be an opportunity for parents/carers early in 2022 to meet Mrs Hay, in accordance with the COVID-19 requirements at the time.

I would like to say thank you to each student, parent/carers, and staff for the incredible trust you have placed in me during my nearly 23 years in a leadership position at Terra Sancta / St John Paul II Catholic College.

It has been a privilege to have been a leader of this great college, to work with and support our outstanding students, staff, wonderful parents and carers and the most amazing community. As teachers our rewards are simple – we rejoice when we see our students learn, when we see the spark of understanding that lights enthusiasm and passion and unlocks talent – and we have, and have had, wonderfully talented students here at this college over the years. We celebrate just as much for the student who achieves a remarkable HSC result, as well as the student who works hard and makes their way in life.

I wish every family all the best and I know every student enrolled here will continue to enjoy the exciting educational opportunities provided by StJPIICC. I wish everyone a safe, happy and above all holy Christmas.

Regards



Jim Fanning
Principal

Term 4 2021 & Term 1 2022 Calendar Events

TERM 4 – 2021	EVENT
Tuesday 7 December	Year 12 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at Nirimba - 10am (by invite only) Year 7-11 Semester 2 Reports sent via Compass
Wednesday 8 December	Year 12 Formal
Wed 8 Dec – Fri 10 Dec (3 days)	Year 10 into Year 11 Transition Program at the Nirimba Campus
Friday 10 December	Term 4 concludes for Year 10 only.
Tuesday 14 December	Last day of timetabled classes for Year 7, 8, 9 & 11 Term 4 concludes for Year 7, 8, 9 & 11 Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Interviews Via Zoom 3.15pm - 5.15pm
Wednesday 15 December	Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Interviews Via Zoom 8.00am - 9.50am
Wednesday 15 December	Staff Learning / Pupil Free Days
Thursday 16 December	
Friday 17 December	College Closed for School Holidays
TERM 1 – 2022	EVENT
Thursday 20 January	7.30am – 3.00pm School Office Open at Schofields 8.00am – 2:30pm Uniform Shop Opened at Schofields
Friday 21 January	7.30am – 3.00pm Office Open at Schofields 8.00am – 2:30pm Uniform Shop Opened at Schofields
Monday 24 January	HSC Results Released 8.00am – 2:30pm Uniform Shop Opened at Schofields
Tuesday 25 January	7.30am – 3.00pm School Office Open at Schofields 8.00am – 2:30pm Uniform Shop Opened at Schofields
Wednesday 26 January	Public Holiday – Australia Day
Thursday 27 January	7.30am – 3.00pm School Office Open at Schofields 8.00am – 2:30pm Uniform Shop Opened at Schofields
Friday 28 January	Staff Learning / Pupil Free Day
Monday 31 January	Staff Learning / Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 1 February	Years 7, 11 & 12 return to school - Term 1 8.30am – 2:30pm Uniform Shop Opened at Schofields
Wednesday 2 February	Years 8, 9 & 10 return to school - Term 1