WELCOME

Welcome to St Gregory’s College Boarding! St Greg’s has a vibrant, exciting boarding school in an idyllic rural setting and outstanding facilities. The boys have individual rooms and are cared for by a dedicated and competent staff in a family atmosphere. Study is well-ordered and regimented and is coupled with excellent co-curricular opportunities.

The boys are a caring group who make visitors welcome and take great pride in their school and home. They help look after the farm and often are involved in community service, in and outside the immediate community. There are also many sporting opportunities where we travel and host local, interstate and international opponents.

This booklet is designed to answer all of your questions regarding boarding at this fine Independent Marist School. I trust that you and your son will have a wonderful and productive time at St Gregory’s College.

Quae Seminaveris Metes

Mr Matthew Brennan
Director of Boarding
INTRODUCTION

Boarders at St Gregory’s College are members of a unique extended family. They can expect to receive a quality of care and attention that is surpassed only by that received in their loving family homes. Boarding staff are professional men and women who aim to facilitate a well-balanced school and home experience for your son.

There is certainly no place like home, but young people are good at adapting to new challenges. In their boarding house, the biggest challenge for the boys is to be aware of the needs of a number of other people around them, much as they would be expected to do in a larger family. To help them meet this challenge, our boarding staff demand a high level of conformity to routine and encourage the boys to develop a sense of community. Though there are specific rules, consequences and rewards attached to many actions in the boarding school, boys are encouraged to be self-disciplined. The aim is to promote the initiative, growth and responsibility that is appropriate for young men.

Your son will be well cared for and treated with respect. At the same time, the College will challenge him to achieve his best in all areas so that he makes a valuable contribution to the school community and develops a healthy level of self-respect. He will be given many opportunities to use his skills and initiative in a supportive and structured environment.

OUR STORY

St Gregory’s College is a Catholic secondary school founded by the Marist Brothers. It has its origins in the vision of Marcellin Champagnat, a man dedicated to the education of children. The Mission of Marist schools is to lead young people in the way of Mary, to know and love God in the belief that they all can become good Christians and good citizens.
COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to maintain regular contact with their son, as well as their son’s Boarding House Coordinator. The College website should also be a regular port-of-call for relevant, current information on events and issues in the boarding school.

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BOARDING

DIRECTOR OF BOARDING
Mr Matthew Brennan
Ph: (02) 4629 4134
Fax: (02) 4629 4135
Email: matthew.brennan@stregs.nsw.edu.au

TRAVEL/LEAVE COORDINATOR
Ms Kate Bryan
Ph: (02) 4629 4269
Fax: (02) 46281594
Email: kate.bryan@stregs.nsw.edu.au

SEANAN HOUSE COORDINATOR
Mr Max Spencer
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4274
Out of Hours Phone: (02) 4629 4294  Mobile: 0437 763988
Email: max.spencer@stregs.nsw.edu.au
Senan House Student Phone: (02) 46294280
EDGAR HOUSE
Mrs Rebecca Graham
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4106
Out of Hours Ph: (02) 4629 4113  Mobile: 0427 236 721
Email: rebecca.graham@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone: (02) 4629 4107

FINGAL HOUSE
Mr Paul Fox
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4108
Out of Hours Ph: (02) 4629 4114  Mobile: 0408 869 854
Email: paul.fox@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone: (02) 4629 4109

VALENS HOUSE
Mrs Rachel Newell
Office Ph: (02) 4629 4297
Out of Hours Ph: (02) 4629 4115  Mobile: 0448 410 910
Email: rachel.newell@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

BOARDER’S CLINIC
Ph: (02) 4629 4217

COLLEGE RECEPTION
Ph: (02) 4629 4222
Fax: (02) 4628 1594
REGISTRAR – for all enrolment information
Ms Kate Bryan 46294269 email kate.bryan@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director of Boarding

The Director of Boarding is responsible for the direction and oversight of the boarding school. The Director of Boarding reports to the College Headmaster. The Director lives on College grounds.

The House Coordinator

The House Coordinator assumes responsibility for the boys in his or her care. They are the primary contact point for parents. They monitor the day-to-day care of their boys. They live on College grounds.

Residential Supervisors

These staff members live in the same house as the boys in their care. They provide after-hours care and work on a normal supervision roster.

Casual Supervisors

When on duty, supervisors assume immediate responsibility for the boys in their care. In conjunction with the House Coordinator they contribute to the day-to-day care of the boys.
YOUR SON AND BOARDING

Boarding Options

St Gregory’s College offers a range of boarding options to suit the individual needs of families.

Full-time Boarding
This is the most common boarding option, in which boys live full-time at the College and participate in the whole range of boarding activities. A number of weekends through the year are designated ‘Free Weekends’, during which boys travel home for an extended weekend during the school term.

Weekly Boarding
This option allows your son to board on weeknights and return home for the weekends.

Extended Day
Boys can participate in the boarding routine over a specified number of nights, or for parts of nights, after which they return home.
Preparation

Once you have made the decision to have your son board at St Greg’s, consider taking a number of opportunities that may constitute useful preparation for the boarding life. For a start, your son should feel comfortable with the idea; talk about it as much as necessary. It may be useful to have your son spend some time away from the family, perhaps by visiting friends or extended family, as a way of developing his sense of independence. He should be encouraged to develop those skills necessary for independent living; making his bed; caring for his clothing; being aware of personal hygiene requirements. A daily routine of chores at home will be carried through in boarding.

Homesickness

Boarding College can never replace home or the presence of the family unit, and a period of adjustment to this new situation is therefore normal. Sometimes your son’s expression of homesickness may worry you. It is advisable in such instances to avoid excessive phone contact with your son; this can often exacerbate the homesickness. Rather, maintaining contact with your son’s House Coordinator is a more useful way of ensuring that all is well.

Encourage your whole family to maintain regular contact with your son. Telephone calls, letters, emails and care packages are all touches of home that will be appreciated. Also encourage your son to become quickly involved in the varying opportunities for work and recreation available in the boarding school. This enhances a feeling of belonging and also prevents prolonged periods of time alone.
HEALTH AND PASTORAL CARE

The boys are supported by a network of people who care for their emotional, spiritual and physical wellbeing. We are fortunate to have an active community of Marist Brothers on campus, and their involvement with the boys is extensive. Furthermore, our supervisory staff members are professional adults who oversee the care of the boys and provide ready advice or just ready shoulders. The School Counsellor is also available to the boys by referral or appointment.

Medical care is provided to the boys whenever the need arises. During school hours boys have access to Br Daniel McEwen, an experienced First Aid Officer, who oversees their care in the school sick bay.

The Boarding Clinic, staffed by a Registered Nurse, opens between 3:00pm and 5:00pm every weekday. The Nurse arranges for any off-campus medical care, including x-ray, physiotherapy and dental appointments.

Two afternoons a week Dr Satish Goyal attends the clinic at the school. At other times boys are transported to Dr Goyal’s rooms in Airds Medical Centre when necessary. At all other times staff with First Aid qualifications are available, and out-of-hours trips to the local hospital are undertaken if necessary.
Boarding Accommodation.

Each boy has his own space within the boarding house with his bed, desk, storage cupboard and drawer space which allows privacy at the same time as encouraging community within the house.
The boys go on regular weekend trips and enjoy special “Theme Nights” in the ref where they get to experience all different types of cuisine.
ROUTINE

Each boarding house and age group alters times to suit their particular needs, but below is an outline of the general daily routine.

Weekdays
Morning 6:50am  Wake up; shower; preparation; clean room
7:45am  Breakfast
8:15am  School day begins
Afternoon 3:00pm  House opens for ½ hour a/tea
& 3:30pm  Recreation – sport training or free time
evening 5:00pm  STUDY SESSION 1 – in classroom
6:00pm  Staggered dinner times begin.  Free time.
7:30pm  STUDY SESSION 2 – in house
8:15pm  Study ends for younger students.
Staggered end times from now.
Free Time.  Supper.
9:15-10:15pm  Lights-out, time dependent on age

Saturday
Day varies according to sport timetable.
Wakeup between 6:45 and 7:45am
Sport – either at St Gregory’s or travel to venue
Houses open at conclusion of sport for free time.
6:00pm  Dinner
7:30pm  Free time/ organised activities
10:00pm-11:00pm  Lights-out, time dependent on age

Sunday
8:00am  Wakeup
8:45am  Breakfast
9:30am  Visiting Day/ Free Time/ Activities
5:30pm  All students returned.
6:00pm  Mass
7:00pm  Dinner
7:30pm  Free Time
9:15pm-10:00pm  Lights-out
ROUTINE

Mass
The Mass is regarded as the most significant event in the weekly timetable of the boarding school. The entire boarding community joins to celebrate mass and build a sense of family spirit.

The significance of the event should be reflected in the boarders’ attire. The boys need to have at least one good set of clothes to wear to Mass; a collared shirt, trousers and closed shoes.

Parents visiting the College on Sunday are most welcome to join us at Mass. Boys are expected to miss no more than two Sunday night masses per term, so we encourage any parents who have requested overnight leave for their son to keep this in mind when making arrangements.

Meals
Boys take their meals in the Boarder’s Refectory (The ‘Ref’). Meals are provided by ‘Alliance Catering’ and the menu is designed according to the likes of the boys, the allocated budget and achieving a nutritional balance. Boys receive breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and supper. The weekly menu can be accessed on the College website.
Dining should be a relaxed yet respectful affair. Boys must be punctual to each meal, respectful to kitchen staff and dressed tidily; singlets, pyjamas or a lack of shoes are not acceptable.

**Recreation**

Boys have many opportunities to undertake recreational activities, both formal and informal. The boys have access to extensive grounds; a swimming pool, a gym, tennis courts, volleyball court, basketball courts, football and soccer fields, cricket nets, and the farm. Boys access activities on weekday afternoons, evenings and on weekends.

![Boys playing basketball](image.png)

**Saturday Sport**

Boys are involved in full seasons of sporting fixtures. Saturday sports include rugby, football, cricket, basketball and fitness sessions. Some sport involves travel as far a-field as Orange and Bathurst, but most is local metropolitan or at St Greg’s itself. The College is involved in the ISA Rugby and Basketball competitions. Families are invited to enjoy carnival days when sporting fixtures are held at St Greg’s.

**Student Leadership**

There are many opportunities for boys to become involved in leadership. Informally boys demonstrate their leadership through involvement in fundraising, working bees, school functions, undertaking altar-serving or reading roles at Mass, and more. Formally, boys may be recognised as
leaders through their appointment to the Boarders’ Council, including
roles as Boarding Captain and Vice Captain.

Study

Boarders are fortunate to be able to avail themselves of study resources that may be less easily accessed by students outside the boarding setting. Tutors and study supervisors actively assist the boys in their learning. Boys can benefit from peer assistance, as both learners and teachers. The environment is one where silent, independent study is encouraged for significant amounts of time most nights, but where boys can also explore other study options that may be of benefit, under guidance from staff. Learning Support staff are available for students along with a dedicated Indigenous Liaison Officer.

All boarders have access to computers and to the school computer network. As with study time in general, time spent on computers is monitored and managed by staff.

By having study time built into the daily boarding routine boarders should be well-placed to undertake a relevant quantity and quality of academic work. We believe that one way we show our care for our boys is through challenging them to achieve their best in their studies.
POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

In a Boarding College the establishment of an atmosphere of trust and respect is essential. This enables staff and boarders alike to live together harmoniously. It facilitates the smooth running of the College and ultimately ensures the security and safety of your son. It is for this purpose that rules and regulations exist; the boys are aware of their boundaries and may exercise their initiative within them. They must abide by these regulations, yet they are also protected by them.

The Golden Rules of St Greg’s Boarding:

1. No smoking

2. No alcohol consumption. Suspension automatically follows.

3. No illegal drugs. Any involvement with illegal drugs will result in the student being asked to leave the College immediately.

4. Students are not to venture out of bounds. Each student in the boarding Houses knows where he should be at any time of the day.
If a student is out of bounds, particularly after lights-out, we view this as very serious and the consequences will match.

**General Conduct**

- There are set times for every activity undertaken by the boarders. All boys are to be punctual as per their House timetable.
- Staff, visitors and other boys are to be treated with courtesy and respect.
- Study is an area of priority. At the beginning of the year the study routine of each House will be outlined to the boarders.
- The Boarding House Co-ordinator is to be made aware of the whereabouts of boarders at all times.
- The houses are living areas for a large number of people. Each house has a set of rules which exist to ensure the comfort and wellbeing of all.
- After the official “lights-out” time, boarders are to remain in their rooms. One basic presumption about remaining in Boarding College is that when you go to bed you stay there.
- There are a number of daily responsibilities which boarders must fulfil in order to contribute to the effective running of the boarding school; these will be made clear by each Boarding House Coordinator.

**Grooming**

After each school holiday boys are expected to return to the College ready to begin the school term. This means they arrive at their boarding house well-groomed and with an appropriate haircut. Boys do not need to wear jewellery while they are on the College property. A watch and a simple cross on a chain suffice. Further clarification of these policies can be found in the Student Diary.
**Mobile Phones**

There are significant privacy and security challenges associated with the use of mobile phones, particularly those which have image, video and sound recording capabilities. Students using a camera phone to record and/or share material that could be considered intrusive and a form of harassment, will face serious consequences bringing the involvement of the College Headmaster. Boarding students have no reason to take a mobile phone to school; as a result, all mobile phones of boys in Yrs 7-11 are collected before bed and returned at the end of the school day.

**Information Technologies**

The way the internet is used in the boarding school is under perpetual review. Generally the same rules apply as for mobile phone use. Each time the boys log on to the College network they click a user agreement; failure to adhere to this brings severe consequences.
The full range of College policies can be viewed on the College website and/or in the Student Diary. Other key policies which impact particularly on the boarding school include:

- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- College Rights and Responsibilities Document
- Enrolment and Attendance Policy
LEAVE

In an effort to have the boys see as much of their families as possible the school calendar allows for a number of ‘Free Weekends’ when the boarders return home for an extended weekend visit. All boarders leave the College at these times. As all other weekends tend to be busy with sporting commitments and organised activities, it is expected that leave from the boarding school on other occasions would only be for exceptional family circumstances.

The Headmaster delegates to the Boarding House Coordinators the responsibility of knowing the whereabouts of each of their charges. As a result, boarders leave the College grounds only when permission has been granted by their House Coordinator or the Director of Boarding.

Requests for overnight, weekend or extended leave from the boarding school must be made in writing to the Director of Boarding, well in advance of the proposed dates. Leave that involves missing school days will be assessed in consultation with the day-school. The Board of Studies indicates mandatory hours of class time required to fulfil the course demands for each subject; hence requests for leave must also consider this factor.
Year 11 and 12 students are granted the privilege of unsupervised leave on Sundays to venues made known to their House Coordinator. This leave is granted at the discretion of the House Coordinator and the Director of Boarding for those boys willing and able to exercise responsibility and abide by strict conditions.
Travel to and from home is arranged automatically by the College Travel Coordinator, our Registrar, Kate Bryan, for Free Weekends and School Holiday travel only.

This travel is provided by CountryLink and is a free rail or coach service when travelling between the College and home in NSW. Free travel applies only at the times indicated above. Therefore, travel outside of Free Weekends and school holidays needs to be organised by parents. All bookings are made at the beginning of the year and confirmed approximately one month before the travel. Hence changes to travel can only be made as follows:

- Changes to destinations or adding another traveller (for example inviting a day-boy home) – the College Travel Coordinator must be contacted no later than 2 weeks prior to departure.
- Cancellations to travel – the College Travel Coordinator must be contacted no later than 1 week prior to departure.
- Late changes and cancellations will incur a fine.
- Any travel to a destination other than the home address which is stated on the travel pass will incur a cost from CountryLink which will be charged to the school and then allocated to school fees at the end of the Year.

Non-CountryLink travel (for example travel by plane) is arranged by parents. Parents also need to arrange transfers to and from travel departure and disembarkation points. A train service runs directly between Campbelltown Station and Sydney Airport for those students travelling by plane. Alternately, parents may wish to book a transfer service; ‘Ace Shuttle Service” is a local company offering direct trips between St Gregory’s and the Airport. They can be contacted on (02) 4653 1150.

NOTE: EFTPOS FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR BOARDERS. THIS CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE COLLEGE FINANCE OFFICE ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS ONLY.
CLOTHING AND LINEN

All clothing and linen is washed in the Boarders’ Laundry on a set day of the week. It is therefore essential that your son’s name and laundry number is marked obviously on every item he owns.

**ESSENTIAL: NAME TAGS ON EVERYTHING!** Tags can be ordered through the College Shop but it will take approximately 4 weeks for your order to be supplied – get in early!

Additionally, each house has its own washing machine, dryer and clothes line that the boys may access when desired.
WHAT TO BRING TO BOARDING

The College provides bed sheets, but each student must provide their own: All items must be labelled with NAME AND LAUNDRY NUMBER.

- Pillow/s and Pillow slips – two each to allow turn around washing time
- Blankets, quilt and quilt covers – to be taken home or sent to the laundry for regular washing
- Mattress-Protector
- Coathangers
- Shoe Cleaning Kit
- Towells – at least 4 for full time boarders as well as beach towels for the swimming pool/beach outings
- Water bottle.
- Small sports bag to carry sports gear

*Please note that due to OH & S regulations boarders are not allowed to use double adaptors within the college for any electrical equipment. Only power boards are permitted within the college and boarding houses. *

Boarders require the normal school uniform items as well as clothing for:
- Saturday sport
- Mass/ Formal occasions – collared shirt, pants, closed in tidy shoes
- Evening and Weekend Wear
- Clothing for recreation and work

- Boys like to bring a skate board or scooter and this is allowed however the boys can only ride the equipment if a safety helmet is worn.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• How do I apply for leave for my son?
  *The Parental/Guardian Permission for Leave Form* PDF can be downloaded from the Boarding tab on the College website and then scanned and emailed to kate.bryan@stgregs.nsw.edu.au or faxed to 02 46 281594.

• If my son has a medical/dental appointment who do I notify?
  Please email all information to your Boarding House Coordinator – email addresses at the front of this booklet.

• Where do I find the Year Coordinator’s contact details?
  All Coordinator details can be found on the College website and on the College Calendar

• Where are the details about weekend sport?
  All details regarding the venues for Weekend Sport are on the College calendar.

• How does my son access additional money if needed?
  The College has its own ATM machine in the finance department and the students are able to access the machine during lunch time.

• When is the best time to contact my son?
  You will see the Routine page within this booklet. The boys can be contacted after school and at any time out of the allocated study times and before lights out.

• Where can I stay when I come to visit my son other than at Badgally House? (Always mention you are a St Gregs Parent!!)
  The Colonial Motor Inn - 46252345
  The Hermitage – 46281144 Rydges Campbelltown - 46450500
  Maclin Lodge – 46283788 The Quest Apartments – 46224900
PARENT ACCOMMODATION

Badgally House

Limited accommodation at the College is available to boarding parents and can be booked for a short stay. The rooms are comfortable. The toilet and shower facilities are shared, and there is a common lounge room with TV. You are invited to share a meal with your son at ‘The Ref’ during your stay.

A donation for this accommodation would be greatly appreciated – this would cover our expenses. An envelope for this purpose will be left in your room. Reservations need to be made with:

Br Andrew Moraghan 0427 829 957
moraghan@yahoo.com

WEEKEND DAY TRIPS.

The House Coordinators take the boys on “Day Trips” throughout each year. There have been trips to Jamberoo Action Park, visits to Darling Harbour and fun times at Luna Park as well as Go Carting and Bowling experiences.