

25 January 2019

Dear St Gregory's College Parents and Carers for 2019,

A very Happy New Year to all! I hope this email finds you well. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all families (new families and returning families) at the commencement of the 2019 school year. I hope the Christmas and New Year holiday periods have provided you with an opportunity to relax and spend some time with loved ones. I also hope that the Christmas season was filled with joy and peace and the new year will bring you good health, happiness and fulfilment in all your endeavours. To our new families, I extend a special welcome to St Gregory's. I hope you enjoy being part of the wonderful St Gregory's community. I look forward to welcoming all families – students and parents / carers to the College for 2019.

I am sure many parents / carers are keen for their sons / daughters (all students except Kindergarten) to return to the College this coming week to commence their 2019 academic year. We look forward to the return of the students next week.

A reminder that **new Year 7 Boarding students** arrive on **Monday 28 January at 1.30pm**.

New Boarding students in Years 8 – 11 arrive on **Tuesday 29 January at 12 noon**

Returning Boarding Students arrive on **Tuesday 29 January between 2pm and 6pm**

All Day Students in Years 1 – 12 return on Wednesday 30 January (see details below). Our new Kindergarten students for 2019 commence at the College on Monday 4 February.

I would like to especially welcome all our new families to St Gregory's College and thank you for choosing this great College for your child. It is our privilege to educate all children and we wish them every success and happiness in their time at St Gregory's. Similarly I wish all our families every happiness in their association with the College. You are always welcome at the College and I am very happy for you to contact me at any time if you wish to raise or discuss any matters (or to let us know things are going well!).

For our new families commencing next week, some helpful tips and directions for you. Please plan your arrival time at the College as Wednesday morning will be an extremely busy morning with the arrival of all our students and many parents / carers accompanying their child for the start of the year.

Arrival at the College on Day One - Wednesday 30th January for Year 7 – 11 - NEW DAY STUDENTS

Please arrive at the College no later than 8.10am. This should allow you to beat most of the morning rush.

Access to the College can be via two entrances on the first day only.

1. The **Western Entrance Gate** which is off Gregory Hills Drive by turning into Donovan Drive. The parking area is located down the access road at this entrance and you will be directed where to park. You will then be able to walk up to the designated **meeting points**.
2. The **Front Entrance Gate** which is located off Badgally Road. When you drive into this gate you will be directed down to the farm area to park and then walk up to the designated **meeting points**.

Designated Meeting Points for Year 7 – 11 - NEW DAY STUDENTS only on DAY ONE (Wednesday 30 January).

All Year 7 students – Meet near the flagpoles in front of the Uniform Shop.

Years 8 - 11 Day Students - Meet the College Registrar in the College Reception Area.

Please do not park in the top car park above the pool area as this is the designated **Staff Parking Area**.

Special Pick up and Departure from the College on Day One only - 30th of January for Year 7 Students.

All new Year 7 Day students can be collected early on Day One to beat the rush at the end of the day. Parents / carers can collect students by arriving before 2.15pm and walking up to the Br Luke Hall to collect their son.

All other Year 7 students who will be catching the bus home on their own or with brothers / sisters will be able to leave at the usual time of 3pm with all other students catching buses or being collected at the Western Entrance Gate.

All other students in Years 8 – 12 will finish school at the normal time of 3pm on Day One.

PLEASE NOTE: ON ALL FUTURE DAYS, THE WESTERN ENTRANCE IS THE ENTRANCE TO BE UTILISED FOR PICK UP AND DROP OFF PURPOSES. THE FRONT ENTRANCE OFF BADGALLY ROAD CAN ONLY BE USED BEFORE 8AM AND AFTER 3.30PM. NO PARENTS OR CARERS ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER OR PARK IN THE TOP STAFF CAR PARK. This ruling is made purely for road safety reasons.

For our returning Junior School students to St Gregory's and our new Junior School students, we welcome you back to the College on Wednesday 30 January. Mr Joel Weekes, Head of the Junior School has provided a letter to all parents / carers detailing the return to school details. A College Assembly in the Brother Luke Hall will take place from 9am for all students in Years 1 – 6 on Wednesday 30 January. Please commence the term on time and maintain a high level of punctuality throughout the year.

For our returning Senior School students to St Gregory's, we welcome you back to the College on Wednesday 30 January and remind you that our first assembly point will be in the top quadrangle commencing at 8.25am. A College Assembly in the Brother Luke Hall will take place from 9am. Please commence the term on time and maintain a high level of punctuality throughout the year.

This year I commence my first year as Principal of St Gregory's Catholic College. I have an absolute commitment to make St Gregory's the best possible school for all. We have an outstanding College community and I thank you all for the contributions you make so generously and the support you provide for your child / children and for the College. Every day will be a privilege to lead this fine College and to work with great people. I commit myself this year to continue building the reputation of our College and help in developing a community where strong educational and wellbeing outcomes and a love of Jesus Christ are our main goals.

With your support, I will this year try to further strengthen the College in a range of areas – spirituality, teaching & learning, pedagogy, respect, attendance, manners, uniform, environment, community and communication. With your assistance I want to continue to strive to make St Gregory's the very best school it can be – a school where students and staff are proud to attend and where our parents / carers support us and have a strong belief in what we are doing to educate their child. I want to ensure that

it is in our deeds, not just our words which make us a school of excellence, a school of 'choice' in the coming years. I look forward to your support and encouragement in this endeavour.

It is important always to remember that we work in partnership in relation to the education of each child. You and I cannot do it alone. The support you provide assists me greatly. St Gregory's is a very special community!

Congratulations to the teaching staff on the strong academic results attained by St Gregory's College students in 2018. Our strong academic results are the result of long-term commitment and hard work by both students and teachers throughout the journey from Kindergarten to Year 12. Many thanks to all staff members for their dedication and desire to get the best from each student. A summary of our Year 12 - 2018 results will be published in an upcoming College Newsletter.

I am very keen to see St Gregory's develop over the coming years as a College where as the Principal I promote a clear and strong vision, where I encourage staff to get involved in problem solving and decision making, and where our students develop a passion for learning. In addition, we need to ensure our teachers are committed to making a difference in students' lives and seeing their College succeed. We need to consistently have high expectations for all students, both in terms of student behaviour and academic success. We also need to ensure our students feel valued, loved and challenged. We need our students to reciprocate so that a quality partnership, teacher – student is at the heart of all we do at St Gregory's. As parents and carers, please support us in setting high standards and for maintaining these standards across the year.

In 2019 we welcome the following new members of staff to the College. It certainly is an exciting time for these new staff as they begin their journey in the St Gregory's community. I know you will be supportive of the new staff as they face the early challenges of working in a new school. This year we welcome the following new staff members: -

- *Paul Brooks – Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School*
- *Brendan McMurdo – Technological & Applied Studies (Industrial Arts) Teacher*
- *Jamie Cook – Sports Coordinator and Health & Physical Education Teacher*
- *Michael Bullock - Health & Physical Education Teacher*
- *Julianne Ball – Junior School Teacher (Year 1)*
- *Dorian Benedetti – HSIE Teacher*
- *Amanda Robertson – English Teacher (Term 1 Contract for Peter Hogan)*
- *Shane Jarvis – English & Drama Teacher (Terms 1 & 2 Contract)*
- *James Gersbach – Human Society and Its Environment Coordinator*
- *Emily James – Agriculture Teacher*
- *Renee Orecchio - Counsellor*
- *Matthew Birkbeck – Junior School Teacher (Year 4)*
- *Amanda Morgan – Junior School Teacher (Year 1)*
- *Lee Ursino – English Teacher*
- *Tammy Dooner – Teacher Aide – Foundation Skills (1 Year Contract)*
- *Joanne Birkenhead - Teacher Aide – Foundation Skills (1 Year Contract)*
- *Anthony Fanous – Boarding Supervisor*
- *Nicholas Kmet - Boarding Supervisor*

We also warmly welcome back to the College this year the following staff members after periods of leave: -

- *John Dixon*
- *Rachel Dell*

- *Alison Buckley*
- *Glenn Nelson*
- *Deb Monte*

I thank and congratulate the following staff members who are taking on positions of leadership in 2019: -

- *Michael McGuiggan – KLA Coordinator – Agriculture*
- *Sally Wall – WHS / Careers and Foundation Skills Coordinator (12-month Contract)*
- *Luke Morrissey – VET – TVET / TAFE Coordinator*
- *Luke McGinnity – Year 9 Coordinator (Term 1 Contract for Peter Hogan)*
- *Luke Albery – Assistant Science Coordinator (12-month Contract)*
- *Lydia Khoury – LOTE / Computing Coordinator (12-month Contract)*

Many staff at the College have been busy this week preparing for the return of the students. I thank them for their professionalism and their desire to ensure a smooth start to the year for our students. There has been a great deal of energy amongst staff present this last week and I truly believe we are in for a wonderful year at the College.

It has been great to see a large number of parents and children at the College Uniform Shop over the last two weeks to purchase new uniforms. It is always wonderful to see the enthusiasm on the student's faces as they select their uniform components and for many race home and try them on! My thanks go to our Uniform Shop staff who have helped families with their uniform needs.

I take this opportunity to remind parents and students about the need to purchase the correct uniform components – no 'mix and match from shops other than the College Uniform Shop. Correct school shoes need to be worn from Day 1.

I also remind parents and students about appropriate haircuts, colours, lengths etc. for the commencement of 2019. The College requirements are clear on this matter – no 'radical' haircuts, no lines or steps, and no colours or styles which draw 'attention'. Each student should have their hair combed / brushed each day. I seek your support in this matter also.

I have attached the **2019 Calendar** for you as part of this email. Please use the attached Calendar for your planning of College events, holiday periods, etc. A reminder about student leave during term time - we are constantly working on improving school attendance as this greatly influences academic results and student engagement. Please assist us by minimising time away from the College during term time and at the conclusion / beginning of each term. Every day absent is a day lost to learning! All requests for extended student leave must be addressed to the Principal. See the College website for details.

I provide advance notice to all families about the Boarders' Weekend in Term 1 on Friday 1 March to Friday 4 March. Please note on your calendars that Friday 1 March and Monday 4 March are Student-Free Days as staff utilise these days for their professional learning.

Please make every effort always to read the range of correspondence provided by the College – newsletters, emails, etc. The College website has many links to take you to the important pieces of communication - <http://www.stgregs.nsw.edu.au> The first fortnightly College Newsletter will be sent via email on Friday 8 February (Week 2, Term 1). Please keep the College abreast of any email changes so we can ensure our communications reach you.

If you would like to meet with me at any stage during the year, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at the College or by making an appointment through my PA, Mrs Kate Stott – Phone: (02) 4629 4130 Email: kate.stott@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Our College Opening Mass (for Years 1 – 12) takes place at 9am on Friday 8 February. This is a great occasion for the College and a wonderful way to launch into the new school year. You are most welcome to attend this occasion.

Finally, I look forward to your support, encouragement, friendship and wise counsel. The support you will hopefully provide will assist me greatly. I know that St Gregory's is a very special community!

Once again, many thanks for choosing St Gregory's as the school for the education of your children in 2019.

May God bless you and your family always.

Kind regards



Lee MacMaster
Principal

A Guiding Light for the Year Ahead

*As you go through the days of the year ahead,
busy with all the responsibilities the world has placed upon you,
remember to keep the truly special things in mind.*

Keep things in perspective: Work, play, learning, living and especially our faith in Our Lord.

*Have happiness as a part of your priorities!
Be creative and aware and wonderfully alive in His Truth
and always remember where to find your smile.*

New journeys await you in the coming year.

*Decisions lie ahead, wondering what you will do, where you will go, how you will choose when the
choices are yours.*

*But remember, God is with you always. Work for the ability to choose wisely, to prosper, to succeed.
Let the roads that you travel take you to beautiful places and have the faith it takes to achieve and
aspire.*

*In this year, I pray that our hopes for our tomorrows take us to the summit of our goals,
and our joys bring us peace, love and happiness. Amen.*

Happy New Year, and may God bless you throughout 2019!