Dear Members of the St Gregory’s Family,

At one of the recent Sunday Masses, the theme of the Gospel was about responsibility and accountability. It made me reflect on some things that have happened with some of our students in recent times but also of an ongoing nature.

I think it would be taken for granted that when students come to the College they know what their expectations are as a St Gregory’s student, as the expectations are set out in the College Diary. This is a guide for all students in order for them to ensure they understand what the College expectations are if they want to be a part of the College Community.

At times, some of the students don’t live up to these expectations and that is understandable; we all make mistakes and we have to learn from them. I think it is fair to realise though that when a student does not live up to the College expectations, he has to accept the consequences of his actions in order for him to move forward once again with the support of the College community.

The Gospel made the point that it is much easier to deny our responsibility, shift the blame onto others and find excuses. But there comes a time when we must stop blaming others and accept responsibility for our actions. It is refreshing when someone meaningfully says, ‘I did it. I’m responsible and I have to live with the consequences.’

I am not sure how many times we have stressed to the young men of the College to think before they act. Unfortunately, they do not always think before they act as they get caught up in the heat of the moment. The Gospel stresses the need for personal responsibility and that it is never too late to take responsibility for our lives and face up to the consequences of our actions.

Graduation Day
At the end of last term, we farewelled our Year 12 2014 cohort. It was a marvellous celebration with around 2,000 people in attendance. It was challenging day with that number of people on site but a real credit to the gentlemen of Year 12 and the number of people who wanted to be part of their day. The idea of the tent/marquee I am sure was met with many questions but it was very successful. The dinner in the evening was a pleasant way to finish what was a wonderful celebration.

Staff Changes for Term 4
We returned this term with a number of staff taking leave. We welcome back to the College Mr O’Brien who will be taking Mr Bingham’s classes and Mrs Sheehan who will be replacing Mrs Quirk. Thank you to these people for taking on these positions at this time of year and hopefully their experience at the College will be a professional and personally beneficial experience. Thanks to Mr Wilson for taking on the role of PDHPE Coordinator in the absence on Mr Bingham.

Year 12 2015 Information Evening
There will be a Year 12 2015 Information Evening held at the College on Monday 20 October. There will be two sessions one at 6pm and another at 7.30pm. All parents of Year 12 2015 should have received a letter by now outlining the details for this evening. It is an important evening for parents and students as it gives the College the opportunity to set the agenda for 2015.

Year 7 2015 Information Evening
The Year 7 2015 Information evening will be held on Wednesday 22 October at the Campbelltown Catholic Club commencing at 7.30pm. I would ask you to remind any families that you know who have enrolled for 2015 of the meeting and the venue.

Quae Seminaveris Metes.

Damien Millar
Headmaster
Mission

At our line-up on Monday, our new Marist Solidarity Student Leader, Luke Grosvenor, launched this year’s Christmas Appeal for St Vincent de Paul. This organisation describes itself as a lay Catholic organisation working towards a more just and compassionate society. As Christians this is something to which we should all want to contribute and the St Gregory’s community has always done so with incredible generosity.

This Christmas appeal is another chance for all of us to become involved in serving our community. Each class will be matched with a family from our local area which will need support to celebrate Christmas. Each class is asked to collect gifts, foods and Christmas decorations to contribute towards this family.

The St Vincent de Paul Society also runs the Matt Talbot Hostel, emergency accommodation for many men who, for various reasons, might otherwise be sleeping on the street. Our Year 11s are asked to contribute socks, jocks, razors and any other personal hygiene products which would make the lives of these men more comfortable.

In the lead up to Christmas, let us remember Jesus who reached out to the poor, the vulnerable and the outcast and do our bit to make their Christmas a little brighter.

It has been pleasing to see the number of Community Service cards which have been handed in by our Year 10 and 11 students. This is a voluntary project where the boys participate by working as volunteers in their homes, the College and the local community. Many boys have contributed well beyond our expectations and they will be acknowledged at an assembly in the near future.

Cathie Clarke,
Director of Mission/RE Coordinator

Teaching and Learning

HSC Exams
Our Year 12 students started their final exams on Monday. The exams will run until 5 November. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Senior Study Monday and Tuesday Afternoons
Year 10 and 11 students are encouraged to take the opportunity for supervised study from 3.00 - 5.00 pm on Monday and Tuesday afternoons in Room 226.

Year 12 2015
A reminder that the Information night for the 2015 HSC will be held in two sessions next Monday 20 October. Year 11 parents have been emailed the details.

I am currently working with Year 11 to finalise their patterns of study for the HSC.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR OCTOBER – How To Stay Positive As Exams Approach can be viewed at Study Skills.

Catherine Keegan,
Director of Teaching and Learning

Uniform and Grooming
Please ensure that your sons attend school dressed in the appropriate summer uniform. Boys are welcome to wear the College tailored shorts but must have the long socks. Summer shirts are also to be worn and the College jumper on milder days. Long pants are also acceptable. The College tracksuit should only ever be worn with the sports uniform.

Please also ensure your son’s hair is of College expectations. All students are reminded that hair is to be kept neat, tidy and above the collar, be of natural colour, out of the eyes, of even grade and no shorter than a hairdresser’s number two comb. Extremes in hairstyle are to be avoided. Hair should also not be tied or pinned up.

The Pastoral Care Coordinator or the student’s Year Coordinator will determine what is an acceptable College hairstyle if there is doubt about the suitability of a hairstyle. Hair should be well brushed and combed and it is assumed that hair will not be in such a condition as to invite comment.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Matthew Brennan, Deputy Headmaster

From the Deputy

Unshaven and not of even grade

Not of even grade
Congratulations to Josiah Moehau, Jack Shiner, Jack Everett, David Moli and Blake Pace on their successes as shown below:

Josiah Moehau, Year 10
Singing at Celebrity Sports Dinner

Jack Shiner, Year 11
Singing at Celebrity Sports Dinner

Jack Everett, Year 11
Singing at Celebrity Sports Dinner

David Moli, Year 11
Singing at Celebrity Sports Dinner

Blake Pace, Year 7
BMX NSW U13 State Champion

Will Limbreay, Year 7
U12 Boys Irish Dancing National Champion

Year 12 News

At the time of writing this, we are on the second day of the 2014 HSC Exams. Each Year group will tell you that their final year goes past in a heartbeat and this year was no exception. However, one of the big differences this year was a Graduation Day never experienced before. The renovations to the College Hall meant a rethink of how this Graduation would be staged for the Class of 2014. Very early on it was decided it was important to keep it within the College and so, with an army of people working behind the scenes to ensure a successful event, the large marquee was erected on the sacred turf of Number 1 oval. Decorated in College colours, and with a stage adorned with the College Crest, the marquee provided a wonderful place to celebrate the last six years.

The Graduation Mass is always the highlight of the day and once again it was a chance for the community to farewell Year 12. The singing, the readings, the participation, all provided an atmosphere that was both sacred and joyful, and especially memorable to all who were present.

This special day continued with the Graduation Ceremony and then the Year 12 Formal that night at The Cube at Campbelltown Catholic Club.

Sue Dein, Year 12 Coordinator

A full report of this special day and evening for Year 12, along with Year 12 2014 Major Awards can be found at Year 12. Photos can be viewed in Galleries at Year 12 Graduation.
SPORTING CONCLUSION TO TERM 3
The conclusion of Term 3 saw many sporting successes. Our First Grade Rugby League team finished as Runner Up in the NSW CCC Rugby League Cup with Captain Ashleigh Nisbet winning the individual award as “Player of the Competition”. Our Senior Rugby 7s team won the NSW Championship for the second time in the last 3 years with James Perlowski being named “Player of the Tournament”. The MCS AFL and Touch competitions concluded with our First Grade AFL team being undefeated Premiers and our 14 years team as Semi Finalists.

NSW ALL SCHOOLS RESI CUP CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP
As the winners of the Combined Catholic Colleges Downie Trophy Cricket Championship, St Gregory’s qualified for the Resi Cup and played and defeated Westfield’s Sports High School. The team will play Hills Sports High School after the HSC Exams in the Semi Finals of the Cup.

MCS BASKETBALL AND CRICKET
Our five Basketball teams played Fairfield in all games, with our Second Grade team winning.

The eight Cricket teams have started the season with seven wins and a 1 run loss.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS
St Gregory’s staff, Mr Joseph Lantz, Mr Adrian Harrison, Mr Gregory Serone, Mr John Dixon, Mr Patrick Newell and Mr Andrew Jamieson have been selected to 2015 MCS Staff Officials positions. Congratulations to these members of staff.

Joseph Lantz, Sports Coordinator

The full Sports report can be found in the News section of the College website.