Dear Parents and Friends,

I’m fairly confident that we have put some tired but satisfied boys on buses this morning. It has certainly been a productive term. It has also been a period of significant adjustment for all in our community. With new staff and 40 new students, everyone has had to get used to new personalities and approaches to boarding life. On top of that we have had an exhaustive agenda of activities and functions to complement the demands of every day school life. Boarders have been at the forefront of many school events, pitching in regularly to help and always with a minimum of fuss. These are some of the fringe benefits of an education in a boarding school. Opportunities to be of service to the community, to grow in confidence through engagement in conversation with adults, to experience what goes on ‘behind the scenes’ and learn about organisation and attention to detail.

At the heart of a St Greg’s education is the end goal to send fine young men out into the world. I recently spoke to the boys about manhood. Central to my message was the concept of owning their behaviour and taking responsibility for their actions. Many of you would be familiar with and no doubt use the phrase ‘boys will be boys’ and indeed, this is true. The challenge for us as parents and educators is to guide ‘the boy’ towards choosing to become a man. This is obviously not one single choice but a series of choices over time. A difficult task given the noise and distraction so prevalent in modern living.

Fortunately, here at St Greg’s and within your families are the role models your sons need as they navigate these perilous waters from boyhood to manhood. Hopefully as the year progresses you will see your boys owning their behaviour more, making better choices and taking the responsibility that comes with being an engaged and positive contributor to the community. So many of your sons already do these things and our boarding community is all the richer for it.

When the boys return next term we will have moved into our new dining hall. It is an excellent space for the boys and the change will bring a few benefits for them. We are revising the morning routine for the seniors and we will trial a later wake-up and breakfast time for them. All boys will have the opportunity to now eat their lunch inside for the first half of lunch. We will also test the space out with our Year 10 – 12 Boarders Dance in May. The country theme of the night will surely play to the boy’s strengths in impressing the young ladies with their boot scootin line dancing.

Hopefully you all have plans in place for the Family Weekend (13th – 15th May) early next term. The parent-teacher interview booking process will be explained in a letter during the first week back.
The weekend also involves a very classy Ladies High Tea, Boarder’s Mass and Parent’s Cocktail Party. During the day on Saturday you will have the opportunity to watch your son play sport with a full round of ISA Rugby against St Stanislaus from Bathurst and an ISA Footgall game against St Patrick’s College, Strathfield. The weekend is always enjoyable and it means a great deal to the boys so we hope to see you all here.

As always, please circulate this to anyone who may be interested and also give them the email address where they can subscribe: daniela.romeo@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Yours in Marist,

Max Spencer
From the Junior Boarding Coordinator...

It never ceases to amaze me how much can be jam packed into one term of boarding. The school year started way back 11 weeks ago with 9 brave young year 7 men taking their first leap into life as a boarder here at St Greg’s, and since then there has been an abundance of activity, study, sport, new friendships, assignments and routine.

While this was the first days of boarding for no less than 34 new boarders starting their journey, it was also my first introduction into St Gregory’s College. One thing that struck me right from the start was the respectful nature of the boys and the way in which they welcomed new comers into the boarding community. This was a large factor in helping both my wife and I feel so comfortable in living as part of such a vibrant and active boarding school.

As with the philosophy from most on the subject of teenage boys, it is important to keep them occupied, entertained and busy. This term we have had a variety of activities for boarders to attend and be involved in. This included football games, trips to Macquarie Square, dances with other schools, movie nights as well as onsite activities. One of our major excursions this term was our trip to Wet ‘n’ Wild. Boys in Years 7, 8 and 9 gained some well-earned relief from the stifling heat to go to the water park and had a great time with many not taking a break from the rides all day. A big thank you to Mrs Jenny Fox for her help in organising the day.

With over half the population of student being a new boarder in years 7 to 10 it was important to fall into routine quickly with a focus on educational progression. It has been pleasing to see that most boys have taken this very seriously and their dedication to their studies is to be commended thus far. Over the holidays you will receive a progress report on how your son is travelling.
I would encourage you to find time to sit with him over the break to review this report. This may give you an opportunity to discuss how he thinks he is going, are there any improvements he could make and what goals will he set himself for term 2. I will be also holding these interviews with each boy early next term so it would be a good ‘rehearsal’ for that meeting.

With a long and eventful term behind us there are a couple of things that have popped up that are worth communicating and addressing. Therefore, please note:

**Cash on Campus**
While there are times when students require some cash while on campus this is rarely more than $20 or so. In this day and age most places accept card as a form of payment so large sums of money are certainly not required here in the Boarding House. Please refrain from sending students back to boarding with sums of money.

**Belongings in Rooms**
It is so often the case that the boys with the most ‘stuff’ find it harder to control the cleanliness and organisation of their rooms. Please remember this when sending your son back and keep an eye on what belongings they are returning with. In terms of managing their personal area and study space “less is certainly more”.

Overall this term has been an exciting, energetic and eventful one that has had many wonderful moments. Now as we draw a close on the first quarter of 2016 I would like to wish each and every student and family a happy and safe break and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Logan Hawkins
**Junior Boarding Coordinator**
**Year 7 to 10**
From the Senior Boarding Coordinator…

What a start to 2016! It has been an extremely busy start to the year for our senior boys in all aspects of college life. As boarding life dictates, the boys have been asked to go above and beyond in representing the school and they have done this with aplomb. New Parent Cocktail evenings, Old Boy Oz Tag Days, Stakeholder Morning Teas, School Tours, Car Parking for School Events and the Year 8 Boys and Blokes Day have successfully run due in large part to the hard work of the senior boarding students.

If we throw in events such as Opening Mass, Ash Wednesday Service, Easter Liturgy, the finals of MCS and ISA cricket and basketball, trials for Rugby League and Rugby Union, school swimming carnival, school cross country and the Agriculture Show season where a large number of our boarders had huge success across all of the regional shows – the boys could not have had a much busier start to the year.

Year 12 are currently in the middle of half-yearly exams and I have been impressed with their diligence and effort towards their studies. Year 11 are dealing with adjusting to senior schooling and the demands it places on them and overall have adjusted to this well so far. Our change to weekly study routine out of dorm rooms and into the study hall for 8 out of 10 studies per week has definitely improved our approach to study and with continued persistence I am hopeful results will improve also.

Although the boys have had a frantic start to the year, there has been plenty of opportunity for them to relax with our annual boarding community beach visit, Year 12 dinner, Year 11 Ultimate Karting outing, NRL games, St Scholastica’s Dance and numerous visits to the Square and City on Sundays.

I would like to thank both students and parents for the warm welcome Kate, the kids and I have received since starting at Greg’s. I look forward to helping the boys through the challenges they will face in the coming terms.

Luke Morrissey
Senior Boarding Coordinator
Year 11 and 12
UPCOMING EVENTS

Boarder’s Family Gala Weekend
13 to 15 May 2016
Boarding Marist Mum’s High Tea – Saturday 14 May
Boarding Parents Cocktail Evening – Saturday 14 May
Family Mass – 14 May 2016
Bookings are now open for this event and event information is attached to this newsletter

Parent/Teacher Interviews
A letter will be sent to parents in Week 1 of Term 2 for bookings
Friday 13 and Sunday 15 May 2016

BOARDER TRAVEL INFORMATION

DEADLINES FOR JUNE LONG WEEKEND BREAK

Submit bookings by – Monday 10th May

MESSAGE FROM SSTS

IMPORTANT NOTICES REGARDING LATE BOOKING REQUESTS

Late bookings may be accepted for Boarding Students travelling to their home address up until the nominated amendment date. Late bookings will be assessed on a case-by-case basis based on train / coach occupancy and the ability for SSTS to safely complete the additional bookings. Late bookings cannot be guaranteed patronage on the SSTS coach services and preference will remain with the boarding students travelling home that made their booking requests by the nominated booking deadline.

To ensure the best chance of securing a seat on SSTS services, students should make their bookings by the submission date. For late bookings please advise our department at the earliest convenience and not wait until the final amendment date. Parents / Students requesting late bookings should also be advised to make a reservation on regular NSW TrainLink services (phone 132232) i.e train should we be unable to accommodate their request. Late bookings must be submitted on a separate booking request form submitted via email (preferred) or fax from the school.

SSTS will only accept late booking requests via email (preferred) or fax directly from the school. Please do not advise contact SSTS direct as it impacts on their ability to complete bookings for the students that made their requests on time and meet our own deadlines delivering safe and efficient transport.
KEY BOARDING CONTACTS

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