Dear Parents and Guardians,

The boys are well settled and have become familiar with the routines in each of their houses. Collectively, they have established sound routines during both the afternoon and evening study sessions. We have an increasing number of teaching staff and ex-students who are becoming involved in tutoring the boys and this support is being felt across all houses.

On the first Sunday back the whole boarding community enjoyed a fun day at North Wollongong beach. The weather was perfect and the surf conditions were fine all day. The lifesavers briefed the group as we arrived and before leaving approached me to congratulate the boys on their behaviour.

Over the past three weeks I have been getting to know the boys and familiarise myself with the existing routines and structures in boarding. What impresses me about these young men is their overall confidence, polite manner and willingness to engage in conversation.

Last Saturday the cricket was cancelled due to wet weather. I ventured out to the Northern beaches with our basketball teams to watch them play against Redlands. A number of observations really impressed me during the day. The rain had forced us all to remain indoors. However, the boys’ behaviour was outstanding. They rallied together and offered full support and cheer from the sidelines. The Opens had all the seniors standing on their feet chanting war cries throughout the match. The Under 17 match was a nail bitter! The game was won in the final minute 25-22. The Under 14 age group are also very deserving of a special mention despite their defeat. Having played up a division, they faced very strong opposition right through the season. This match was no different. The boys were beaten convincingly. However, the boys tried their very best and at no stage did they ever give in. At the end of the match one boy said to me “we still have next week!” This reflected an attitude of a real winner and the overall attitude of the team who still enjoyed the day.

I look forward to meeting those of you that can join the boarding parents and new parent’s cocktail party this coming weekend.

Best wishes,

Brett Donohoe
Semester Two 2013 Academic Effort Awards

Congratulations go to the following boys who achieved academic award for consistent application to studies in Semester Two, 2013 across 56 criteria in all subject areas.

Students that receive this award have achieved all grades 1 and 2 in their personal profiles and at most 1 grade 3.

Year 7
Leighton Brown, Sam Canty, Rhys Jeffrey, Mitchell Kelly, Tyrek Naylon, Jacob Sykes, Robert Tighe, Michael Watkin and Jack Wallace

Year 8
Louis Amato, William Cadden, Hamish Capewell, Adam Fitzpatrick, Harrison Fowler, John Gooden, Jack Kelly, William Mannix, Kyle Marshall, Lachlan McLean, Samuel Prince, Shane Rose, Marcellino Vaoeha and Justin Wall

Year 9

Year 10
Thomas Condon, Harrison Cummins, Aidan Earl, Cameron Faddy, Daniel Jacinto, Jack Lane, Bradley Maher, Hayden Peak, Brandon Prince, Zayden Pullen, Vincent Ryan, Mychael Ridgeway, Antonio Sergi, Justin Stewart, David Thompson and Harrison Wighton

The following boys are congratulated for receiving a distinguished academic effort award. These students received all grade 1’s and at most two grade 2’s in their personal profile:

Mitchell Kelly from year 7, William Mannix from year 8, Antonio Sergi, Vincent Ryan and Jack Lane from Year 10.

In 2011 24 students received an academic effort award, in 2012 33 awards were delivered and in 2013 a staggering 47 awards were issued. This reflects the excellent study climate which exists within the boarding community.
Boarding Captain and Vice-Captain

On Wednesday 5 February the College celebrated the opening Mass and Senior Leader Investiture. Our Boarding Captain for 2014 is Hamish Brill and Vice-Captain Thomas Stewart. Congratulations to these young men, together with the other boarding leaders; Joshua Hogan, Jack Hudson, Visiano Vaohea, Joseph Fisher, Luke Johnson and Luke Platts.

This year our boarding leaders have been allocated to either Valens, Fingal or Edgar House. Part of their accepted responsibility is to develop positive relationships with the boys in their house and support any planned house activities.

This year’s boarding leaders are excited by the challenge to build community through various activities.

Leadership

Every boy has the ability to lead through action. Simple acts of kindness are good examples. Every boy is encouraged to exercise such leadership. We also recognise that there are natural leaders who others identify as being true examples for all to follow. In Valens, Fingal and Edgar House we will trial the introduction of House Leaders. Two boarders will be elected by their peers as house leaders for semester One. The boys will be given specific roles which include leading prayer once a week, developing prayer rosters, welfare liaison, community building initiatives, mentoring new boarders and facilitating a caption for newsletters.

Reflections from new boarders

We now have 52 new boarders who have joined the St Greg’s boarding community this year. For all of these boys the past few weeks have been a significant period of adjustment. Not only have they needed to adjust to a new school, but also their new living environment. The boys have adjusted extremely well. All the new boys have recently submitted a reflection on their initial few weeks at the school. Here are a few:

*My first week of boarding has been a very new and exciting time. We have done activities from study to going to the beach. It has been a fun experience and I have made lots of friends. Learning the routine has been a challenge but I have slowly learnt it. All the boarders have been helping and supporting each other especially the Year 8’s. St Gregory’s seems like a good and friendly school and I hope to spend the next six years here.*
On the first day of St Greg’s I felt very welcome. Students actually came up to me and said ‘welcome to St Greg’s’. I also feel that that when I am in class the teachers will actually help me to the best of their ability.

My experience at St Greg’s has been welcoming. As soon as I got here boys were introducing themselves to me. When I was settling into the house it felt like a new home and the boys and the house masters felt like a new family. When I went to school on the first day I wasn’t quite sure where to go but the boys were there to show me the way.

The first week was an awesome experience. We got to meet new people, learn more things and have an easy week on homework. The weekend was cool because we got to experience the basketball. It was wild crazy! On Sunday we went to Mass and it was pretty cool because everyone was really singing.

On my first day I was nervous and excited when we went on the bus. We drove around for half an hour and went to McDonald's and got an ice cream. That’s when we all got to know each other. After that we came back to school and had a BBQ at the pool and got to know a lot of the Year 12’s.

I was really nervous and excited as I came. The boys were the main reason for me being nervous because I didn’t know if I would fit in. I was amazingly surprised by how welcoming all the boys and teachers are. I have already made close friends. My favourite part about the College would be the singing, welcoming boys and sports.

Both teachers and students have been extremely welcoming. I think there is always something to do here which is a help to those who are homesick. I have already been doing more work here than I ever was at my old school. I am loving it here and keen to hook in and have fun. Will Bottom

The first week has been a big learning curve for me. It has been a week of massive change and new experiences. I have enjoyed all the new features offered by St Greg’s. I think that I will really enjoy my time here and learn many new things. I will gain heaps of new skills and have heaps of opportunities I wouldn’t have encountered otherwise.
Boarder Travel 2014

Kate Stott, the College registrar organises all boarder travel for the mid-term breaks and also for the end of term travel for terms 1-3.

The dates for the first term’s travel are:

Forward Travel to home 28 February 2014 - Return to the College 4 March 2014

Forward Travel to home 11 April 2014 – Return to the College 27 April 2014.

Kate will send emails regarding travel and any changes you request well in advance of the travel dates.

Applying for Leave.

If you would like to apply for overnight leave of any kind for your son you must follow the proper process.

Leave is to be applied via the College Website.

Step 1. Go to the College Website – www.stregs.nsw.edu.au

Step 2. Click on BOARDING

Step 3. Click on Boarders’ Travel and Leave Form

Step 4. Complete the Boarders Permission for Leave Request.

Step 5. Click on SUBMIT

This will ensure that the form goes directly to Kate Stott

Step 6. Advise your son that you have sent the form to Mrs Stott – your son will then attend Student Services to obtain the form and have it signed by his house coordinator and Mr Donohoe.

All applications for leave must be received by Mrs Stott before 8am on the Thursday prior to the weekend leave.
CONTACTS LISTING

Director of Boarding:
Mr Brett Donohoe (02) 46 29 4314 Email brett.donohoe@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

SENAN HOUSE AND ALFRED HOUSE

Mr Max Spencer (Coordinator) telephone (02) 46294274 – Out of hours (02) 46294294
Mobile 0437 763 988
Email max.spencer@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone - Senan (02) 46294280
Student Phone - Alfred (02) 46294105

EDGAR HOUSE

Mrs Rebecca Graham (Coordinator) telephone (02) 46294106 – Out of hours (02) 46294113
Mobile 0427 236 721
Email rebecca.graham@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone 46294107

FINGAL HOUSE

Mr Paul Fox (Coordinator) telephone (02) 46294108 – Out of hours (02) 46294114
Mobile 0418 716 698
Email paul.fox@stgregs.nsw.edu.au
Student Phone 46294109
VALENS HOUSE

Mrs Rachel Newell (Coordinator) telephone (02) 46294297 – Out of hours (02) 46294115

Mobile 0448 410 910

Email rachel.newell@stgregs.nsw.edu.au

Student Phone 46294111