



Wednesday 20 January 2016

Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers,

Information for Year 9, 2016

I hope that the Christmas and New Year holidays have provided an opportunity for plenty of relaxation and time spent with your families.

Welcome to Year 9 and in particular welcome to the 17 new families whose sons are commencing at Joeys for the first time. This year we will number 164 students in total. While I already know some of you and your sons I am very much looking forward to working with you and all the boys in Year 9 this year.

I am writing with some information for you to read together with your son before he begins the new school year. I realise that much of this will be familiar to many of you but would appreciate if you could review it as each year group and Boarding Coordinator can be slightly different.

1. Returning to school on the first day

All weekly and full boarders return to the College by 8:00pm on Wednesday 27 January. Many parents find it easier to arrive earlier and unpack so the dorms will be opened from 2:00 pm for this reason.

Day students return to the College by 8:00am on Thursday 28 January and **must sign in** with me in the **Year 9 dining room or dorms**.

2. Compulsory Events

There are a number of events at Joeys which are compulsory for boys to attend. To assist in planning your year I have attached a list of the dates of compulsory events. I would appreciate your support in ensuring that the boys attend each of these events.

There are two compulsory events next week. The first is on Friday 29 January when the boys must remain at the College after classes for the **Academic Prize Giving**. The boys need their "Blues" for this event. The Prize Giving commences at 7:00pm and day students should be ready to be picked up by about 8:30pm.

Sunday 31 January is the **Family Mass** which is also compulsory. Boys are to be seated in the hall dressed in their "Blues" by 9:45am. The Mass normally concludes around 11:30am.

3. Dress

Uniform

Boys travelling to school (regardless of their mode of transport) are to wear their grey trousers with their blazer, polished school shoes, black belt, tie done up and hair neat and tidy. This also applies to weekly boarders who return on Monday morning. I would appreciate your support on this.

Travelling home, boys are to wear their full College tracksuit or full sports uniform with Blazer, or their full school uniform with Blazer.

For certain events throughout the year the boys will wear their “Blues” consisting of navy trousers, black school shoes, black belt, blue shirt, college tie and blazer.

Good Casuals

All students must have “Good Casual” clothes available to wear on various occasions. “Good Casuals” include a *collared* shirt, dress pants or dress shorts and closed dress shoes. Tracksuits, sports gear, dirty shoes and thongs are not “Good Casual”.

Play Clothes

“Play clothes” are common dress for boys around the school in their free time after school and on weekends, to meals and in night study. These would normally include shorts, T-shirts, tracksuits and joggers.

4. Name Tags

Please ensure that **ALL** of your son’s property is labelled with his name including all clothing (socks, underwear, everything!), school equipment, bags and especially valuables such as mobile phones. This should be the case for both boarders and day students as they share the same areas and are equally able to lose things. This is crucial for us to be able to return lost property and to reduce the cost to you of replacing lost items.

5. Cash and Valuables

No boy is to leave cash in their press or locker. Boys should bring any cash or valuables to me to lock in the office safe and I can dispense it to him when he needs it back.

6. Haircuts

Please ensure that your son returns to school with a haircut which is neat and tidy and of a style which meets College guidelines.

7. Leave from the College and day student departure times

To ensure the safety and adequate supervision of your son it is essential that the College is aware if your son is absent for any reason. I will be in touch with you next week with information on procedures for notifying us of leave and day student departure times.

I would appreciate as much notice as possible for leave and changes to day student departure times. I understand sometimes late requests are unavoidable, however early notice allows me to spend more time amongst the boys which is more important work, rather than sitting behind a computer processing leave requests.

8. Academic Coordinator

The Year 9 Academic Coordinator is Mr David Hill (dhill@joeys.org). David and I work closely every day and he will be in touch with you regarding academic matters for your son.

9. Contacting me

Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the year for any matters regarding your son. If your son has any issues at home that you feel I should know about please also let me know.

Email (mblair@joeys.org) is the best form of communication or otherwise please leave a voicemail message (9816 0840) and I will call you back. I try to maximise my time working face to face with the boys so I won't always be in the office. If you need to contact me urgently you can call the College reception (9816 0900) or Health Centre (9816 0808) and they can track me down quickly.

10. Goals for your son

Finally, and most importantly, please take the time to sit down with your son to discuss what he wants to achieve this year so he arrives back at school ready to get the most out of the year. A new year is an opportunity for a fresh start for each boy, regardless of what did or didn't happen last year. I will be speaking to the boys about goals their goals early in the term and look forward to helping the boys achieve those goals.

Year 9 is a challenging year as the boys commence their transition to senior studies. It is also a time of physical and mental change which can create its own challenges. By all accounts this is a great year group and I aim to maintain a very positive environment for the boys throughout the year. I hope your son is looking forward to all the year offers. I am certainly looking forward to working with him, and you, towards a productive and enjoyable year.

Kind regards,



Mr Michael Blair

Year 9 Boarding Coordinator

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