



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

Monday, 20 June 2016

Dear Fathers and Carers,

This is an invitation for fathers or “fatherly figures” to attend the Year 9 Father/Son weekend at Colo on the 17 and 18 September. This is an **optional** opportunity, which usually sees at least half of the Year 9 boys and their father (or father figure) attending.

For many Year 9 boys, this age is a time when they are entering a transition to manhood. It can be a time of exciting change and growth that is coupled with times of challenge and struggle for your son (as well as for those close to him). The intent of the weekend is to allow the opportunity for you to spend some special time with your son and strengthen your dialogue with him as he embarks on this transition. Those fathers who have joined us in the past have spoken very highly of their positive and rewarding experiences.

As part of the weekend you are asked to write a letter to your son. Reading this with him on the Saturday night is often a powerful and moving experience for fathers and their sons. It is important that you write this letter before coming to Colo and bring it with you at the time. Don't let your son know about this beforehand. To assist you in your letter writing process, Paul Gibson, a former Joeys parent, has prepared some notes and sample letters which are attached. Also, at the start of mass on Saturday night, you will have the opportunity to place a private prayer for your son into a cauldron, so you may like to prepare a brief prayer on a slip of paper.

The cost for the weekend is \$165 for two. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and soft drinks are provided. You may like to bring some snacks. To confirm a booking, please complete and return the enclosed payment form.

Organised events for the weekend are from around midday on Saturday to mid-morning on Sunday. Boys are excused from attending summer sports trials on Saturday, but should let their coach know.

In the past a considerable number of dads have commented that they have loved their time at Colo with their son but wished it was longer. The opportunity is also available for you to arrive on Friday night so that you can spend some additional time with your son. This is an informal arrangement and is self-catering. The dining hall kitchen and a barbeque are available for your use. If you intend taking up this offer, please let Mick Blair know.

Further information regarding what to bring, sleeping arrangements, alternative arrangements in the event of poor weather, directions to Colo and other details are attached. Please note that all accommodation is in tents. If you don't have a tent and are unable to borrow one, please email Mark Brackenreg.

We look forward to seeing you on the weekend.

Regards,

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