



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

HUNTERS HILL

From the Headmaster

13 June 2018

Dear Parents,

Re: Year 9 Father/Son Camp at Colo

In particular I send my very best wishes regarding the forthcoming Year 9 camp at Colo which I trust will be a very rewarding, fulfilling and enjoyable experience for you and your son. Most dads these days have busy work and family schedules, and it is significant and admirable that you have been able to find time to attend the camp and so give your son more of that one-on-one individual attention and companionship that all young people seem to crave and to benefit from so greatly.

It is because I am so convinced of the power of good that these camps can bring about that I am writing to you requesting your support and appealing for your co-operation and compliance on a potentially problematic matter. I refer to the problem of alcoholic drink.

Simply put, it's the policy of St Joseph's College that the whole function must be "dry", that is, that there should be no alcoholic drink for staff, for parents or for students at the Colo campsite.

The reasons for such a policy are largely to do with the welfare of the students. None of the activities of the weekend is inherently dangerous, yet some are challenging and adventurous and they therefore demand that adults involved in their running and supervision are not in any sense impaired from full alertness and competence. There are serious implications here for the duty-of-care that must be exercised by the College and for our legal liability, given that the camp is a College activity and takes place on College property. Besides, there is also question here of the value of good example. I believe that one of the best examples you can give to your own son, and indeed to boys from other families attending the camp, is that you are not dependent on alcohol for a good time, and that it is perfectly possible to enjoy oneself and socialise in the absence of alcohol.

I should be very grateful, therefore, if you would ensure that neither you nor your son brings any alcohol into the campsite. And I look forward to hearing great reports about how successful and uplifting the whole experience turns out to have been, perhaps especially the positive feedback you have been able to give your boy in the letter you write to him.

Thank you in advance for what I am confident will be your understanding and acceptance of this letter, and your willingness to join me in ensuring the highest level of safety, security and exemplary standards at Colo.

I look forward to joining you for the Saturday night dinner.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chris Hayes
Headmaster