



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

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Information for Year 7, 2019

Important Dates

There are a number of events at Joeys each year which are compulsory for boys at the College to attend. We believe that attendance by all the boys at a variety of different school events throughout the year is one of the things that helps maintain the community spirit and sense of support that the boys enjoy here at Joeys.

To assist in planning your year I have attached a list of the dates of compulsory events for the boys. I would appreciate your support in ensuring that the boys attend each of these events.

There are two compulsory events in the first week. The first is on **Friday 1 February** when the boys remain at the College after classes for the **Academic Prize Giving**. The Prize Giving commences at 7:00pm and day students should be ready to be picked up by about 8:30-9:00pm.

Sunday 3 February is the **Family Mass** which is also compulsory. Parents and families are invited to attend this Mass. Boys are to be seated in the hall by 9:45am. The Mass normally concludes around 11:30am at which time the boys are free to depart.

Year 7 Parent Dinner

The Year 7 Dinner is a fantastic event every year which the boys must attend and we strongly encourage parents to join them. It is a chance to meet your son's friends and their parents and enjoy their company and some entertainment provided by the boys.

Please save the date: **Friday 31st May**. It is a special night for the parents as well as the boys and if parents living outside of Sydney were planning weekends to come to Sydney during Term 2, this would be the perfect choice where possible. It is a compulsory event for the boys and they would certainly love for you to be there with them.

Communication

- Email (mblair@joeys.org) is the best form of communication with me as I try to maximise my time working face to face with the boys, so I'm not always in the office to answer the phone.
- The phone in the Year 7 dorm office and also my office in the classrooms during the school day is **9816 0842**. If I don't answer, please leave a voicemail message and I will call you back.
- If you need to contact me (or your son) in an emergency call the College reception (**9816 0900**) during business hours or the Health Centre (**9816 0808**) after hours and overnight. Staff in either of those places can track me down any time of the day or night in an emergency.
- The **Year 7 Blog** is <http://blogs.joeys.org/2019year7>. It is a website that can be viewed from a phone or any other device with internet access. Please 'bookmark' this address on your phone or computer as you will probably refer to it all year. You can use the search menu to find useful information (such as this document), now and throughout the year. Much more importantly, this is where photos and videos of what the boys are up to will be posted once the boys are here at school.
- I will email you a copy of the weekend sport fixtures once they are published each week. Sport fixtures are also published on <http://www.joeys.org> and the boys can also check the noticeboards at the College.
- You will also receive a "Year 7 News" newsletter-type email which summarises anything that has been recently added to the blog and other news.

Stationery

A list of Stationery Requirements for the boys this year has been sent to you previously. In case you misplaced this or it never arrived, it is available on the [Year 7 Blog](#) (search "stationery")

Please note the Uniform Shop does hold some stationery supplies, however, you will find that you can pick up the items at a better price if you get the equipment from stores such as "Officeworks" before your son starts. This will also ensure that he has a smooth start.

If he does need an item urgently throughout the term, the Uniform Shop will be available each day where he can use cash or credit accounts can be set up by parents. Country boarding students should speak to me first if there is something they need.

A reminder that the boys do not need to purchase a diary, they will all receive a College diary.

Textbooks

As for stationery, you should have already received a list of what is required. If not, it is available on the [Year 7 Blog](#).

The textbook list is in the format of an order form for Champion Books, however you can source the books from anywhere. One benefit of using Champion is that they will deliver to the College for boarding students and we will distribute the books to the boys.

Padlocks

Please do not purchase any locks for your son – we will provide him with two padlocks, one for his dorm press, and the other for his classroom locker. This way I am able to remind him of his padlock code if he forgets it.

Dress

The boys have several types of dress that they will need to wear at school at various times and these will be referred to throughout the year:

Blues Uniform is the College's best dress. It is their blue shirt, tie, navy blue pants, black shoes, black socks, black belt and the College blazer.

Greys Uniform is the everyday uniform worn by the boys to class. It is their blue shirt, tie, grey pants, and black shoes, black socks and black belt. Day students wear their College blazer with this uniform when travelling to and from school.

PE Uniform is the uniform boys get changed into for PE classes. It is also used at other times that are appropriate. It consists of a white PE shirt or blue training shirt, blue PE shorts, runners and white socks. If a hat is needed it is the blue SJC cap. Day students can wear their PE Uniform home at 5pm with their blazer over the top.

Good Casuals are smart attire. It includes a collared shirt (either polo style or button up), dress pants or dress shorts and closed dress shoes. The shoes may be sneakers so long as they are not the dirty sneakers they play sport in. Good casuals are worn to Sunday evening masses and on some excursions. Boarding students need to have a set at school and day students need to have a set available to them at home. Good casuals are what the boarding students will wear on their first night.

Play Clothes are common dress for the boys around the school outside school time. Normally shorts, shirt and sneakers or track pants in the winter. When boys study at night and have free time, they do so in play clothes. Thongs and singlets are not worn during evening study or to meals.

Sport choice and uniform

You may recall having been asked to nominate a summer sport for Term 1. The choices are Tennis, Cricket, Basketball, Water Polo and Swimming. This was simply a means to get an idea of numbers and the coaches required. Your son will be asked to officially choose a summer sport on the first day of school so there is scope for some boys to change from what you have already nominated.

As there are limitations to the numbers of boys in some sports, please **do not purchase** any new equipment or uniform until your son has been confirmed in a sport (most likely in Week 2 of the term).

Name Tags

Please ensure that **ALL** of your son's property is labelled with his name including all clothing, towels, school equipment, bags and especially valuables such as mobile phones. This should be the case for both boarding 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.

Hair and jewellery

If I could ask for your assistance with ensuring that when your son starts school this coming term that he is groomed appropriately (in regards to his hair's natural colour, its length and its style). I say this more to avoid your son feeling awkward when he arrives and then realises that he needs a hair-cut. Also, just a reminder that piercings of any sort are not permitted at the College.

Cash and Valuables

We do not have a canteen at Joeys and all meals (including recess) are provided for both the boarding and day students when they are here. Further to this, the boys in Year 7 are not permitted to leave the property to go to the shops during the school week. Therefore, there should be little reason for boys to be carrying cash around with them while here at school.

If boys do have any cash or valuables they should bring them to me to lock in the office safe and I can dispense it to them when required. Boys should always keep their dorm press and their classroom locker locked with a College-supplied padlock .

Boarding students may wish to keep some cash for weekends. Simply hand me the money on the first night of term in an envelope with your son's name on it and he can "withdraw" it when needed.

Mobile Phones

There is a time and place for mobile phones but they can have negative impacts on learning. Parents can support us in this area by only calling or messaging their sons during times when the boys are free to use their phones. If they are in touch with you on their phone, they are most likely also messaging/Snapchatting/Instagramming with friends as well! I will provide more information on our mobile phone policy in the next few weeks (it is also in the student diary).

Student laptop computers

As part of the enrolment process you would have been asked to complete an online laptop agreement form. This form must be completed before your son is issued with his laptop, which will probably occur in the first two weeks.

It is expected that each boy has their computer with him every day. Day students are expected to charge their computer overnight and to bring their computer to school fully charged each day to avoid having to charge them in the classrooms.

Like mobile phones, the boys often need strong guidelines around computer usage. I will be in touch in coming weeks with further information about our policies and how you can assist in this area.

Leave from the College

To ensure adequate supervision of your son it is essential that we are aware if your son is absent from school for any reason. This includes both day students and boarding students. The College uses a system called Boardingware which allows you log various forms of leave and makes for easy and efficient communication between parents and staff here at the College. I will be in touch with you in the next few weeks with information on how to use Boardingware to notify us of leave.

Full Boarder weekend leave

Each weekend, Full Boarders need to be aware of what their planned movements are and to let me know. These boys have three options as to what they can do:

1. They can take an “*Overnight*”. This means that they leave after their sport (or compulsory events) on Saturday afternoon and spend the night with their parents or an adult approved by their parents such as a relative or parents of another boy. The boy then returns on Sunday evening.

ALL OVERNIGHTS (even with one’s own parents) must be logged on Boardingware by Thursday evening.

2. They can take “*Sunday Leave*”. In this case, the boy remains at the College on Saturday night and then leaves with his parents or an approved adult on Sunday, returning Sunday night. This again will need to be logged on Boardingware.

Please note that in Year 7, boys are not allowed to leave the College on the weekend without an approved adult accompanying them.

3. They can “*stay in*” all weekend. When boys stay at the College for the full weekend, they are given the opportunity to go on the Sunday Activity. These activities change each week but include things like going to the movies, going to Rugby or Rugby League matches, indoor rock-climbing, ten-pin bowling, the beach, Laser Zone and the list goes on. No correspondence is needed from you when your son stays in all weekend.

Day student departure times

One of the unique aspects of Joeys is that day students stay at school until at least 5:00pm each day. In addition, they also have the option of staying back until 8:00pm. In this case they participate in evening study where they can complete set homework and revision individually or in small groups. This is supervised by staff, many of whom are teachers, and they can also access ‘homework support’ tutors at no cost. They also eat dinner together which has some social benefits as well.

Parents of day students nominate the departure time of their son each day as either 5:00pm or 8:00pm. This is done either on a weekly basis or for the whole term. The system for entering day student departure times is in the “Parent Portal” which is a password protected website where other things such as school reports can also be accessed. Again, I don’t want to overwhelm you with everything at once so I will provide some more information on this later, including some recommendations for day student departure times in the first week.

Some frequently asked questions

Question: **Should we cover exercise books as well as text books?**

Answer: This is not essential however the boys will have them for the full year and therefore they can get tattered. Clear contact covering would be best. There is the option to buy and sell used textbooks at the end of the year which is another reason to keep them in good condition.

Question: Can I bring some bed linen or a pillow for my son?

Answer: Pillows, sheets and blankets are supplied by the College however usually almost every boy likes to bring in their own doona and doona cover. You can bring your own linen if you like but you would need to organise to wash it as the laundry only washes the College-supplied linen. Another benefit of using the linen supplied is that can I ensure that the boys strip it from their beds weekly to be washed.

Question: My son is a boarder and will be bringing his gear to school in a suitcase. Can this suitcase be stored at the school during the term?

Answer: Full Boarders who live outside of Sydney are more than welcome to store their suitcases here at school. Due to limited storage space, I would ask that parents of Weekly Boarders take their suitcase back home with them and bring it back on the final weekend of the term.

Question: My son is a Day Student and has a large cricket bag. Can he store that at Joeys rather than cart it to and from school each day?

Answer: Yes he can store it here at Joeys.

Question: Can my son bring in a fan in the summer or an electric blanket in the winter?

Answer: In order to ensure the safety of all boys, no electrical appliances can be used by boys in the dorms (with the exception of mobile phone chargers).

Question: My son is a Weekly Boarder and therefore will go home each weekend after his sporting commitments and compulsory events. Do I need to complete an "Overnight Request" in Boardingware each week?

Answer: No. As a Weekly Boarder, the school assumes that your son is going with you each weekend and therefore there is no need for a request to be submitted. Parents of Full Boarders would be the only ones needing to submit these requests.

Question: Where is the best place to drop-off and pick-up my son each day?

Answer: We do not have one set location for pick-ups at Joeys, however, I would recommend that both the drop-off and pick-up occur at the Mark Street Gates. This is close to the Year 7 dorm area (where all boys sign in and out each day). Mary Street gates is also an option although slightly further away. Both are flood lit at night and are open and visible areas, making them the safest pick-up places.

Question: I am aware that the boys must travel to away sport fixtures on the bus with their team, however, after the game, can I take him directly home?

Answer: Absolutely. If your son is a Day Student, Weekly Boarder or Full Boarder with an Overnight, you can take him yourself at the conclusion of his sporting commitment. Please simply let the coach know that you are taking him so that the coach is not looking for him on the bus trip back.

Question: As a Boarder, does my son need to bring laundry bags to school with him?

Answer: No. All boarders will be supplied with a laundry bag and a quick-wash mesh bag here at school. These will be issued to the boys when they arrive.

Question: When my son studies until 8:00pm what does he wear? When I pick him up at this time, what should he wear home?

Answer: Boys shower at 5pm. After showers, boys get into a set of 'play clothes'. Day students who are leaving at 8pm can then wear these play clothes home. They do not have to wear their uniform or blazer, however they do need to remember to take it with them so they can wear it the next morning.

Question: Obviously boarders would have toiletries at school but do day students need anything?

Answer: It is highly recommended that all day students keep basic toiletries such as soap, deodorant and a towel in their press in the dorms. This allows them to shower at 5pm if they are staying until 8pm and on various other occasions throughout the year. Please put your son's name on EVERYTHING.

Question: Are parents expected to attend compulsory events?

Answer: No. Having said this, there are several of these that many parents may like to attend. For example, I would recommend that parents at least try and attend one of the family masses and one of the home rugby/football fixtures during the year. These are excellent experiences that we find parents enjoy very much.

Question: **How is my son possibly going to fit all of his school books etc into his locker? It didn't even fit into a trolley!**

Answer: You will just have to trust me that it will!

The filing boxes/satchels that you were asked to purchase are one per subject. In that box we will have the boys put their text book for that subject and their exercise book, as well as any other materials. Therefore, in his locker, a boy will simply have these boxes/satchels, his pencil case, laptop and maybe a couple of folders. We will assist your son with this on the first day.

When packing to bring things in, it may be worthwhile putting your son's text books into the plastic box and also putting an exercise book in there as well. This will save space in the car!

Note that we only asked for 5 of the box/attaché files. This is because some text books don't fit into them and in some subjects they may not be necessary. If your son wishes to purchase more later in the term he can.

Question: **Can my son take medication with him to school?**

Answer: Yes but all medication, prescription or otherwise, must be left in the Health Centre for the safety of all students. This applies equally to both day and boarding students. Your son can visit the Health Centre to take it whenever required. Non-prescription medications such as Panadol and cough medicine is available there to any boy who might need it.

Question: **Is the whole year going to be this stressful?**

Answer: No. I totally understand that this is a new experience for not only the boys but also you as parents. Therefore, don't stress about asking me as many questions as need be. Things will be much clearer once your son starts and please be assured that we won't let him sink. The support for the boys settling in will be constant and therefore, once he is started you will be surprised how quickly everything becomes second nature.