ST JOSEPH’S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

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**Thursday, 17th of January, 2019.**

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9, 2019.

Firstly, welcome back to St Joseph’s College for 2019 and to those of you who are new to Joeys, a very warm College welcome. I hope the holiday period was enjoyable and a that you are making the most of the final few days with the boys at home.

You would have seen the recent communication from the College Headmaster Dr Hayes that explained the staffing changes for Years 9 and 7 for 2019. Mr Michael Blair, whom many of you would have met in 2018 has been appointed as the Year 7 Boarding Coordinator. Michael has done a tremendous job in Year 9 over the past four years and I wish him continued success in Year 7. As a result of this movement, I have been asked to take over Year 9 for 2019 until the position is appointed on a permanent basis. I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks and getting to know both you and your sons well.

For those who may not have met me before I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. 2019 will be my twelfth-year teaching at Joeys. My subject areas are English and History and I have taught right across each of the year groups at every level. I have also been heavily involved in Boarding and have been an Assistant Boarding Coordinator in Years 10 and 11 for eleven years. I have also held the role of Acting Boarding Coordinator several times, most recently last year in Year 10 during Term Three. I am originally from Dubbo in Central West NSW and completed University at UNE in Armidale. I have taught previously in Tamworth, the United Kingdom and before Joeys at *Holy Cross* *College* in Ryde. My wife Simone and I have three children, the eldest of which starts at Joeys this year in Year 7.

As a Boarding Coordinator, I am responsible for the care and well-being of all boys in Year 9, as well as the pastoral day to day running of the year group. Despite the job title it is important to emphasise that my role covers both boarding and day students. In all honesty, Joeys prides itself on creating no distinctions or divisions between “day-boys” and “boarders”. At Joeys, all students are “Joe-boys.” Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns regarding your son at school. Also, any outside of school issues that you feel may affect your son should also be brought to my attention so that I am more ably placed to keep an eye on him. The safety and general happiness of the boys is my primary concern.

This year I will be working closely with Mr Peter Tucker who is the Academic Coordinator along with Mr Andrew Mitchell, the Assistant Boarding Coordinator. In addition, Year 9 are blessed to have a fantastic boarding staff, many of whom have worked in Year 9 for several years. As a team, we will be doing our upmost to give your sons the genuine care, direction and guidance that Joeys has long had a tradition of providing. Your son will have many people whom he can turn to for advice, a chat, some light-hearted banter or (when needed) direction.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a brief introduction and some general information about the year ahead. I have attached some information regarding general queries, routines etc. along with some important dates to be aware of moving into Term One. More information will inevitably follow so I will not overdo it at this early stage. Many of you would be familiar with the general procedures and routines of the College but with many new families starting this year it is always good to remind ourselves.

Please read through the items below and if you have any questions please contact me.

I wish you all the best for remainder of your break with your sons and look forward to meeting you more formally in the coming weeks.

Best regards,

Mr Adam Goss

Year 9 Boarding Coordinator

Email: [agoss@joeys.org](mailto:agoss@joeys.org)

Phone: (+61) 2 98160840

**Information for Year 9, 2019**

***Returning to school at the start of the year***

All weekly and full boarders return to the College by 8:00pm on Tuesday 29th January. Many families find it easier to arrive earlier and unpack so the dorms will be open from lunch time but will be unsupervised.

Day students are due to return to the College by 8:00am on Wednesday 30th of January and need to sign in with me in the dorms.

***Compulsory Events***

There are a number of events at Joeys each year that are compulsory for the boys to attend. To assist in planning attached is a Term 1 planer for Year 9.

There are two compulsory events in the first week. The first is on **Friday the 1st** **February** when the boys 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 the 3rd of February** is the Family Mass, which is also a compulsory event. Boys are to be seated in the hall dressed in their “Blues” by 9:45am. The Mass normally concludes around 11:30am. Of course, you and your families are most welcome to attend this Mass.

I have attached other important dates and compulsory events on a separate document and this can also be found on the Year 9 Blog. <http://blogs.joeys.org/2019year9>

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# Important Notes

***Cash and valuables***

* Boys should keep their dorm press and their classroom locker **locked** with a College-supplied padlock at all times. I will issue new students to the College with 2 padlocks and have replacements for any other boys who need them. Boys also should not have excessive amounts of cash in their dorm press. If required, the boys can leave valuables in the office safe where I will look after them.

***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.

***Mobile Phones***

* There is a time and place for mobile phones but they can have negative impacts on learning. I will provide more information on our mobile phone policy in the next few weeks (it is also in the student diary). Parents can support us in this area by only calling or texting their sons during times when the boys are free to use their phones.
* Boarding students hand their phones in each evening and they pick them up after school the next day, so they won’t be able to use them for a morning alarm. If your son is likely to have early morning training then he may wish to bring a cheap alarm clock or watch back to school to use as an alarm.

# Dress

## **Uniform**

Each day, 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.

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. The boys are told well in advance when “Blues” are required.

## **Good Casuals**

All students must have “Good Casual” clothes available to wear on various occasions such as Mass for the boarders each Sunday night. “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”.

# 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 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.

# Evening Program

The evening program in Year 9 is different to Years 7 and 8 as we align to the senior evening program. The normal program is shown below although it can vary from time to time.

5:00 pm Dorms open after sport, showers  
5:30 pm Dinner  
6:15 pm Session 1 Study  
7:15 pm Study break  
7.30 pm Session 2 Study (No session 2 on Friday nights and occasionally some other nights)  
8:30 pm Study ends, free time  
9:30 pm Prepare for bed, hand in phones  
9:45 pm Quiet reading or bed  
**10:00 pm Lights out**

These timings may vary slightly, usually in line with the amount of work the boys are doing at that particular time of the term. For example, as we approach an examination period, the amount of study time will be increased.

# Leave from the College and day student departure times

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. I will be in touch with you in the next few days with information on procedures for notifying us of leave through the Boardingware system.

Parents of day students nominate the departure time of their son each day as either 5:00pm, 8:00pm, or 9:00pm. This is done weekly or for the whole term.

# Text books and stationery

You would have received an email with text book and stationery lists last year. If you need another copy please let me know and I can resend them to you or visits the Year 9 Blog where I have placed copies of the relevant documents.

# Contacting me

Email ([agoss@joeys.org](mailto: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 during business hours (9816 0900) or Health Centre after hours and overnight (9816 0808) and they can track me down quickly.

The Year 9 Academic Coordinator is Mr Peter Tucker ([ptucker@joeys.org](mailto:dhill@joeys.org)). Peter will be in touch with you regarding academic matters for your son. The Assistant Boarding Coordinator is Mr Andrew Mitchell ([amitchell@joeys.org)](mailto:amitchell@joeys.org)) and he will be in charge of the dorms on Monday, Wednesday and every second Friday nights.

**Year 9 Blog**

The **Year 9 Blog** is <http://blogs.joeys.org/2019year9>

* 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 9 News” newsletter-type email which summarises anything that has been recently added to the blog and other news.

# 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 opportunities presented to him. 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 and goal-setting early in the first few weeks. I feel that Year 9 is great transitioning year into the senior school and I will be speaking to the boys about the opportunities that they have this year for academic and character development.

I hope both you and your son are looking forward to all that the new school year offers. I am certainly looking forward to working with him, and you, towards a productive and enjoyable 2019.

**Mr Adam Goss**