



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

HUNTERS HILL

19th January 2021

Dear Year 9 Parents & Carers,

Welcome to Year 9 and particularly to the new families whose sons will commence at Joeys for the first time. We welcome Vincent Hargreaves, Noah Moxham, Merrill Thilwind, Jack Barclay, Hugo Esson, Patrick Cant, Angus Ciesiolka, Jonty Fowler, James Halbisch, Hugo Kirkwood, Oscar Kochanski, Angus McPhie, Rory Newsome, Lachlan Roach, Seamus Shephard, Lachlan Roach, Jenson Shields, Ben Sleeman, Sebastian Stratford, Harrison Ward and Macarthur Ward.

We look forward to you joining the Year 9 family and I am sure your experience at Joeys will be a most rewarding and life changing one.

This year we have **176** boys commencing Year 9; 63 boarders and 113 dayboys. I am looking forward to this year with great delight, anticipation and excitement and have heard many good things about this year group from Mick Blair in particular.

Looking through the list of boys and parents its amazing how many of your sons I have had in the past in Year 11. Plenty of familiar faces that I look forward to seeing again and certainly plenty of new ones too which I look forward to getting to know you. For some families this will be the fourth son I have been lucky to care for.

For those of you who don't know me, a little bit about myself. I started working at Joeys in 2009. For the last 7 years I have been the Boarding Coordinator in Year 11 and prior to that in Year 9. I grew up in a little town called Culburra on the South Coast of NSW and went to boarding school myself at St Patrick's in Goulburn with the beautiful cold harsh winds!

I teach PDHPE and coach the 1st XV in Winter. I am married with a beautiful 10 year old son who attends Villa Maria School across the road. I love to surf in my spare time with my son and my family loves to ski in the winter and spend time at the beach in summer – simple pleasures!!! One thing that I will talk to the boys a lot about this year is family and the importance of it.

I firmly believe in the routines and traditions that the College provides and your son's mental health and wellbeing will be my top priority. Its imperative that your son is happy, feels connected and safe and feels enthusiastic and confident to contribute and participate in all that we have to offer.



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As you would understand at present, the current situation with COVID-19 is certainly dynamic and rapidly changing. As such, please be acutely aware that any College events etc that may be discussed below are subject to possible future restrictions that we will need to work under to keep the community safe.

As I understand, the Headmaster will be emailing the College community prior to the start of the year with any changes / restrictions. Please be mindful that adjustments may need to be made to future events including sport, Wednesday night drop off, etc according to current advice.

I apologise for the length of the letter below but it's important I get across as much information as possible as many things change / vary from Year 8 through to Year 9. I will in the next week or two upload the majority of this to my blog but please take some time with your son and go through the information below.

YEAR 9 BOARDING STAFF:

We are very fortunate to have an experienced and energetic staff that will look after your sons this year, and you should feel very comfortable and confident in the care which the boys will experience.

Mr David Hill is the Academic Coordinator. David has great experience with the junior forms and all boys are fortunate to have Mr. Hill as their Academic Coordinator this year; he brings great energy and professionalism to the job. As I understand, Dave had the boys in Year 7 and as such will know the majority already which is great.

Mr. Rob Hahn is the Assistant Boarding Co-Ordinator, and he and I will be ably supported all year by Mr. George Davis, Mr. Anthony Di Mauro, Mr. Cameron Hart, Mr. Michael Kavanagh, Mr. Tom Leaver, Mr. Tom Morgan, Mr. Matthew Rollo, Mr. Josh Smyth and Mr. Tim Williams. We are indeed lucky, as are your boys, to have a wonderful blend of youth and a vast amount of experience in dealing with young men.

COMMUNICATION:

- Email (tandersen@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 9 dorm office during the school day is 9816 0840. If I do not answer, please leave a voicemail message and I will call you back.



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- 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 9 Blog is <http://blogs.joeys.org/2021year9/>

You can use the search menu to find useful information (such as this document), 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. It should be up and running in the next week or so.

YEAR 9 DORMITORIES:

Each Boarder will have his own area with bed, desk space and large individual lockers in air – conditioned dorms – very similar to the layout and configuration of Year 8. My expectations are that the boys show discipline at all times in keeping their dorms tidy and taking care of them. The respect and care for his own areas, belongings as well as the general care and respect of all property etc. is paramount and I would greatly appreciate you speaking with your son about this prior to him returning.

STUDY TIMES:

Monday to Thursday –

Session 1 – 6:15 – 7.15pm

Break – 7.15 – 7.30pm

Session 2 – 7:30pm – 8:30pm.

Friday

Session 1 – 6:30pm – 8:00pm.

As this may be slightly different to Year 8, I would encourage you to go through these times with your son so he is fully aware of this timetable of study when he returns. In preparing for your son's return all boys will require having two locks (College issued locks). Students will need one lock for their Dorm area and one for the classroom locker. New students will be issued locks upon their arrival. If existing students have lost their locks or need a new one(s) they are to see Mr. John Reading on their return.



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FIRST WEEK BACK:

The following is a few things, which will hopefully help make this busy period a little easier for you. Could I request the following departure times for all dayboys:
Thursday 28th January – 5pm, Friday 29th January: 9.00pm as all boys will be required to attend the Annual **Academic Prize Giving Evening**.

Wednesday NIGHT 27th JANUARY:

All Boarders are due back by 8.00pm on Wednesday night whether they are Full Boarders or Weekly Boarders. The dormitories will be open from lunchtime and I and other staff will be around from 4pm onwards.

Day students arrive on Thursday morning by 8.00am. All DAY BOYS will mark off arriving by 8am. The Day Boys departure times are 5pm or 8.00pm. If your son wishes to leave at the conclusion of the second study session (8.30pm) then this is ok and a valid option.

YEAR 9 PARENT DINNER:

Please save the date: Friday 7th 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.

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.

HAIRCUTS:

If I could please ask for your assistance with ensuring that when your son starts school this coming term that he does so with an appropriate haircut. All boys are very much aware of what is appropriate. Common sense needs to prevail here. Please note that any boy who returns to school with an inappropriate haircut will do a Sunday detention week 1. Please ensure that a number 2 is the lowest (shortest) level haircut.



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UNIFORMS:

Please ensure your son brings back his full uniform, both greys and blues as well as shoes. Each year I am quite amazed at the number of boys who would return each term missing their College Blazer or their shoes. The boys will need their Blues twice next week. On Friday night, we have the Academic Prize Giving in the Br Emilian Hall from 7.00pm – 9.00pm (approximately). Then on Sunday, we have our Family Mass of Dedication in the Hall again and this commences at 10.00am and will conclude at approximately 11.00am. Attendance at both events is compulsory and they are traditional events to commence the new College year. All boarders also need to have a set of Good Neat Casuals (Sunday night Mass etc.) that include a collared shirt, tailored shorts, pants and shoes. (T-shirts, thongs, tracksuit pants, footy or board shorts, do not classify as Good Neat Casuals).

COMPULSORY EVENTS IN WEEK 1:

As mentioned above, in the usual busy first week to the Term, I just remind you of two important events that all boys will attend. Firstly: - The Academic Prize Giving Night for 2019 will be held on Friday evening, 29th January, commencing at 7pm and the Family Mass of Dedication on Sunday, 31st January, commencing at 10am where the boys will need to be in their "Blues" for both events. Of course, all parents, families and friends are most welcome and warmly invited to these events.



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BOARDINGWARE

LEAVE:

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. Please use the following types of leave requests in Boardingware:

SICK AT HOME: *parents should log their son as Sick at Home preferably by 8:00am on the day that they are sick.*

MEDICAL APPOINTMENT: *should be communicated through Boardingware so that the information can then be disseminated to various staff appropriately. Medical appointments should be communicated as soon as they are known – even days or weeks ahead.*

LUNCH LEAVE: *lunch leaves are occasional and are intended for special occasions. They must be within College grounds at all times and accompanied by a parent or a parent of another boy. The boys must enter the leave into Boardingware. Importantly, the boys must be on time to their Period 5 after lunch.*

DAY STUDENT TIME CHANGE: *in the rare case that you need to change your son's departure time from what was entered in iLearn by Sunday night, please enter this as early as possible in the day.*

DINNER LEAVE: *a dinner leave can be requested occasionally and for special occasions such as a family birthday. This should be requested as soon as it is known – even days ahead. If your son is inviting friends, each of those boys must also complete a dinner leave request and have it approved by their parents and then by me before they leave.*

OVERNIGHT LEAVE: *mid-week overnights (including Friday nights) are rare and for special occasions only. It is expected that all boarders sleep at the College Monday – Friday nights inclusive. Any weeknight requests require a clear reason for request in the Comment section. Please do not expect that approval is given. Only full boarders are required to complete an overnight request for a weekend. These should be submitted by Thursday evening. They can of course be submitted as early as you like – even weeks in advance.*

All boarders must return from weekend overnight leave by 8:00pm on Sunday night in time to attend Sunday night Mass, or otherwise 8:00am Monday morning.



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INTERVIEW / MEETING / EXAMINATION / OTHER:

This leave is for anything not covered by a specific leave type. A leave where a boy is absent overnight MUST use Overnight or Sick at Home leaves.

Any leave of one or more days that requires your son to be absent from a school day (Monday to Friday) requires the approval of the Headmaster. Email headmaster@joeys.org to apply for this leave.

MEDICATION

As per College requirements, all medication must be stored in the Health center. This can be organised when you drop your son off on the first day. If there are any questions surrounding this please email or call Helen Peters in the Health Centre. No boy is to ever have medication in his press / dormitory.

Day student departure times

I encourage you to talk to your son and agree with him what nights he will stay in the following week and complete the portal accordingly. The boys benefit from a regular routine. We also try very hard to instill the attitude that evening study is more than just completing the homework set in class that day. In addition to completing homework, the boys should be started on assessments ahead of time, making study notes and revising, etc.

For the reasons above, please avoid changing times just because your son tells you that he has finished all his homework (or similar). However I do understand that sometimes there are family circumstances where the boys need to change their departure times, so if you need to change:

Boys can always stay LATER than their nominated departure time – this is not a problem, there is no need for you to do anything, the boys just stay.

Boys leaving EARLIER than their nominated departure time:

- *Before 9:00pm Sunday night of the week before (preferred): log onto <http://ilearn.joeys.org> and edit the departure times*
- *After 9:00pm Sunday night of the week before: enter a "Day student time change" leave in Boardingware before 4:30pm of the day or earlier if possible.*
- *Please avoid emailing or calling on the phone unless there is no other option.*



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MOBILE PHONES AND RESPONSIBLE USE

This is a particularly important point to consider, not only for the boys but also for parents. Can I reinforce the rules and ask that you 'remind / reinforce' your son about this?



Boys are allowed to have mobile phones at the College and use them under the following conditions.

Mobile phones are not to be carried or used on campus from 8.30am until 3.30pm

- *in dining rooms*
- *at sport*
- *during evening study*
- *after lights out*

During these times, boys are required to store mobile phones securely in their boarding lockers.

Mobile phones brought to school by boys are the responsibility of the owner. The school does not take responsibility for the loss or damage of mobile phones.

Boys are also reminded that transmission of inappropriate communication is unacceptable at any time.

Students are permitted to make and receive calls, send and receive SMS messages, on their personal mobile phones DURING THEIR FREE TIME as designated by their Boarding Coordinator.

NOTE:

Each mobile phone must be switched to the SILENT MODE at all times. Each mobile phone must be SWITCHED OFF outside the times listed above.

Please note that all boarding students hand their phones and laptops in each night prior to going to bed.



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Important Notes for Parents and Young Men of Year 9?



- Year 9 is a time where the boy's studies, sport, peer relationships etc take on a great importance. The quantity and quality of work increases and the study environment at night needs to be one that is conducive to effective study for all. It is imperative that all boys allow each other the opportunity to work in a quiet and positive environment free of distraction and any disruption. We have a great focus on this and it important that all boys 'buy in' to this and allow each other to flourish.
- The respect of personal, dormitory and school property must be of the highest order. Likewise, the respect of one's self and each other is something we as a form cannot falter on. Ultimately, this is something that we must all continually work on to ensure we stay on top of things.
- Can I please ask that as parents, you let me know of any issues that you are aware of that may make it easier for me to work more effectively with your son throughout the year? Many of our boys are constantly dealing with different stresses / challenges and I am always happy to assist where I can.
- Can I please make it clear from the outset that ALL full boarders and Sunday return Weekly boarders must be at mass each Sunday at 8.15pm



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- Any families wishing to take leave early or any extended leave from the College must seek permission from the Headmaster at headmaster@joeys.org
 - Likewise, any boy / family wishing to take leave for certain sporting / extra-curricular events must be done through Mr Miles Newman at mnewman@joeys.org

Any leave requests re: special sport trainings etc that were made last year and had permission to carry over into 2021 – please email me the permission so I can make a note of it. If the leave was just for 2020 then you will need to reapply if still applicable.
 - The vast majority of my communication will be through my blog. Please subscribe to this, as it is a great tool for quick and effective communication. I will still email important information from time to time.
 - As always, communication between myself and parents is key so as we move through the year if there are any issues that are of concern to you please let me know ASAP and I will do what I can to make things easier for all concerned.
 - Prior to the start of next week, can I please ask that you email me to simply confirm **if** your son has changed his enrolment from last year to this year? That is, if for example your son has changed from a dayboy to a weekly boarder and so on? I am positive I have all transfers accounted for but always best to double check.
 - As you would all be aware, different Boarding / Academic Coordinators have different styles and sometimes-different expectations / routines. Please allow time for your son to settle in and become familiar with such expectations.
 - As a basic expectation of myself and the College, all boys need to be prepared to put their hands up for the many opportunities presented to them this year, this is a year to really stand up and contribute.



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A FRESH START



My final point is that irrespective of what your son did, or did not do last year, this is a new year. If he had a good year last year, please sit down with him before he leaves to return and have him identify how he is going to take a further step this year. Conversely, if he did not do so well last year, that is forgotten, it is a new year and every boy deserves the right to start again. Setting goals both short term and long term is something we work hard at early on and it is important each boy returns with a clear idea of what they hope to achieve this year.

We will help each boy go after his goals, but please, sit down and talk to your son about what he wants to achieve this year and how he endeavours to do this, so he arrives ready to and extract the most out of the year ahead.

As this week concludes, everything quickly is taking shape for the return of the boys. Please, do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any concerns at all. I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year and to all families who are travelling distances to bring your son back to Joeys, please travel safely.

Thanks and Keep Well,

Tim

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St Joseph's College - excellence in boys' education since 1881