



8th February 2019

Dear Huntingfield Parents/Guardians

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new and existing families to the St Aloysius Catholic College community for 2019. This letter is to inform you about key information in regards to the 2019 school year, as well as practical information for the first day of school at Huntingfield (HC).

First Day Arrangements

Staff have been busily preparing for the first day for students, which is Tuesday, 12th February. All students are asked to go to their respective Learning Centre once they arrive on Campus:

- Year Five and Six Students - O'Loughlin Learning Centre
- Year Seven and Eight - Doyle Learning Centre (see below for additional information)
- Year Nine and Ten - Hope Learning Centre

The Community Group is hosting a morning tea at each Campus, for which you can find further details via School Stream.

Parking

Only families collecting students with a disability can use the three disabled car parks.

Parking options are:

1. On the side of the road in front of the school. The child you are picking up can walk over to you.
2. On the topside of the main car park.
3. At Clennett's Mitre 10 and having the students walk to and from school.

To assist families and free on Campus parking spaces, staff will park on the grassed area next to the Administration. **Please do not drive up the gravel road next to the Administration Block.** This area is still accessed only by staff and contractors.

Huntingfield Developments

- **VET Kitchen and Canteen Space** - We are very excited to now have a brand new Food Studies kitchen, VET space, canteen and student space. Teachers have access to these areas and classes are able to commence in the new spaces straight away. Information about the official opening of the canteen will be sent out in due course.
- **Doyle Learning Centre** – Grade Seven and Eight students will be in the Doyle Learning Centre in 2019. Unfortunately, despite every effort, the two new classrooms are not quite complete for those respective classes. All Grade Seven classes and three Grade Eight classes will commence in the Doyle Learning Centre. One remaining Grade Eight class will be temporarily housed in the library for the first two weeks of school. This will not disrupt any curriculum or social provision. All Grade Seven and Eight students are asked to go straight to the Doyle Learning Centre on the first morning in order to find their respective classroom.

New Deputy Principals – Ms Susanna Bond (HC) and Mrs Susan McGann (KC)

We are excited to have Ms Susanna Bond join the staff at the Huntingfield Campus. Ms Bond will oversee the daily operations of the Huntingfield Campus as well as chairing the Huntingfield Pastoral Care Team. Ms Bond has a wealth of experience in a variety of schools and jurisdictions, with particular skills and passion in pastoral care. We also welcome Mrs Susan McGann to the College. Mrs McGann brings a vast amount of experience across Tasmanian Catholic Primary Schools and will provide strong leadership at the Kingston Campus.

New Staff

We welcome the following staff to the College Community.

Caroline Woolley	Marketing & Events Officer
Melissa Dance	Administration
Ottmar Helm	Facilities/Compliance Coordinator
Allison Jones	Teacher
Susan McGann	Deputy Principal KC
Tara Lewis	Teacher
Jessica Lewis	Teacher
Natalie Khoury	Teacher
Gemma Evans	Teacher
Susanna Bond	Deputy Principal HC
Amber Demir	Teacher
Harrison Loveless	AFL Trainee
Leslie Hall	Teacher Assistant
Jane Baker	Finance & Administration Officer
Tim Poulos	Senior ICT Technician

A full 2019 staffing summary is also attached for your information.

Mobile Phones

Technology does have a role to play in the classroom, but this needs to be facilitated. Personal mobile phones, on the other hand, are proving to be a distraction for students in terms of their access to social media sites, as well as potentially being a source of bullying activities." (School TV)

In 2018, staff noticed that mobile phone use was becoming a real issue amongst our student cohort. This use impacted concentration, performance, sociability and anxiety levels. The Huntingfield Pastoral team has spent a considerable amount of time looking at research and debating mobile phone policy at the College.

With effect from Term 1, 2019:

- Students at the Huntingfield Campus will no longer be able to access their phones during school time (8.30am-3.10pm), including break times.
- Phones, if students choose to bring them, must remain in school bags at all times.
- Any messages from parents or guardians that students need during the day are required to go through the College Office.
- Students will be issued a reminder after their first infringement in this new approach.

- Should a second infringement occur, phones would be stored in the HC Office for students to collect at the end of the school day. The Pastoral Coordinator will notify parents/guardians.
- After a third infringement, parents or guardians will be required to collect the phone from the HC Office. The Pastoral Coordinator will notify parents/guardians.
- After this third infringement, the student concerned will be managed and supported by the Pastoral Care team and may be requested to hand their phone into the HC Office at the start of the day.
- Phones are not required as part of any learning tasks.
- For off Campus excursions or activities, there may be some instances where mobile phones are permitted in the interests of student safety.
- Exemption for medical purposes may be given, after direct negotiation between the parent/guardian and a Co-Principal or Deputy Principal.

This is a significant change for the College and will be highly beneficial for student wellbeing. We ask for strong parental support in this area, particularly in using the College Office for any communication required during the school day. We will ask for feedback in due course and are currently in the process of updating the mobile phone policy.

“The challenge is to help young people find a balance and learn to manage their school work, have a social life and get the good parts out of technology. Mobile phones are changing our young people's behaviour in ways that could not have been predicted.” (School TV)

Please read and watch the challenges in regards to mobile phone use in schools:
https://staloyus.tas.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-smartphones-schools.

Strategic Plan

Please find attached a copy of our Strategic Plan 2019 – ‘Plan on a Page’. This gives parents an overview of the main strategic initiatives of the College in 2019. The full Strategic Plan is available from the College Website.

Uniform

Please find attached a copy of the College Uniform Policy. In 2019, we are ensuring that there is compliance.

Please note:

- Homeroom teachers will regularly check student uniforms in morning homeroom.
- Upon first infringement, students will be issued a reminder.
- Upon second infringement, the appropriate Pastoral Coordinator will contact parents/guardians.
- Upon the third infringement the HC Deputy Principal will be requesting the student to be picked up until the issue is rectified.

We request support from parents in regards to this issue. Uniforms create a strong sense of community and are a worthwhile egalitarian vehicle.

- Students are required, as per the uniform policy to **wear plain socks** without logos or brands.

If there are any problems in regards to a student's uniform, please simply send a note to school with students advising the problem and the timeline in which it will be addressed.

In 2019, we will be working with the College Board, Community Group, teachers, parents and students to review the College Sports Uniform. In 2020 the focus will turn to the College formal uniform. Parents can be assured that any changes will be well considered in terms of cost implications, transition periods and other issues currently relevant in school uniform debate in Australia.

Signing in and out

If a student is leaving the College early, please ensure that the College is notified either through communication to the homeroom teacher or through the College office. The safety and wellbeing of our students is the first priority. **As of Term One, 2019, parents will be required to sign students out from the College Office.**

2019 is an extremely exciting year for the College, with many new electives and opportunities being offered to the 960 students at the College.

We wish all families every blessing in the 2019 school year and promise to work tirelessly in the interests of the students in our care.

Kind regards

Brendan Gill & Joseph Sandric
Co-Principals