



20 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

## RE: YEAR 8 2021

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting and memorable year for all Year 8 students at Sacred Heart College in 2021. No longer the youngest students on campus, we are hoping they will enjoy a challenging and rewarding year. With a year's experience of College procedures and expectations behind them, Year 8 students are encouraged to set realistic goals across all four College Pillars; Spiritual, Cultural, Academic and Sport. Their participation in 2020 College events has shown them to be a talented and generous group of students and we look forward to them continuing to develop new skills and capabilities in 2021.

### Day 1 - 2021

I hope that the students enjoy what remains of their holidays and return to the College refreshed and enthusiastic about their transition into Year 8. The first day back is **Tuesday 2 February 2021**. Please note on this day the College will operate the Monday timetable for students in all year groups. To make it easier for students the College has organised for this change to be reflected in SEQTA so all that students have to do is follow the 2 February timetable. The timetable will then operate as normal from Wednesday, 3 February onwards.

### New students for Year 8, 2021

New students are required to attend the College on Monday 1 February 2021 for a half day orientation starting at 9am. More information regarding times, requirements and dress will be emailed out to you separately.

All students are expected to be attired correctly in their College summer uniform on their return, and to be well groomed in keeping with College standards and expectations. Students need to bring their padlock to secure their belongings in the locker that will be assigned to them on this day.

### Support on Campus

This year we will continue to prioritise the pastoral needs of our Year 8 students, with a particular focus on their health and wellbeing, an integral aspect in their ability to flourish at school and succeed academically. As such, we would like to remind you of the support network available for students and parents/guardians on campus including our Educational Psychologists, Pastoral Care Group teachers and Assistant Deputy Principal. Subject teachers and Heads of Learning Areas are also available to support and challenge students in their academic pursuits.

An integral part of a Year 8 student's year is the opportunity to continue the positive relationships and connections with their Pastoral Care Group teacher and classmates. It is our hope that every PCG teacher will come to know each student and family well and be the first port of call for support should any issues arise at school or at home during the year.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's teachers and communicate openly regarding any concerns they may have.

### Academic Demands in Year 8

The Academic program that the students experienced in Year 7 to transition into our College and to tackle the rigours of secondary school will be further built upon in Year 8. Students will naturally find an increase in the demands of each subject and they are reminded to seek assistance and support when needed. Throughout the year students will be given opportunities to reflect on their academic achievement, assess their current challenges and create goals to help them continue their improvement. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to help their children set positive school-based goals and to establish an effective study space and routine at home to assist in their academic progress.

The Year 8 Pastoral Care Group Teachers for 2021

House	Pastoral Care Group Teacher	Email Address
Barlow	Samantha Clews	<a href="mailto:sclews@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">sclews@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
Carden	Aaron Richards	<a href="mailto:arichards@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">arichards@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
Hannan	David Meulman	<a href="mailto:dmeulman@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">dmeulman@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
Kimberley	Susan Daniel	<a href="mailto:sdaniel@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">sdaniel@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
Normandy	Halina Alter	<a href="mailto:halter@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">halter@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
O'Reilly	Sheila Hannigan	<a href="mailto:shannigan@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">shannigan@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
Thu Duc	Rachel Jones	<a href="mailto:rjones@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">rjones@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>
Trinity	David Clarke	<a href="mailto:dclarke@sacredheart.wa.edu.au">dclarke@sacredheart.wa.edu.au</a>

### College Focus: Courage

Our College Vision Statement, along with our Core Values, provides a basis for the Catholic culture in which we hope to support the development of our students. This year we will be focussing on the Core Value of Courage. We will work with students to develop not only their understanding of courage, but how we can live this value in our daily lives.

### Parental Support

With our College motto, 'Always Striving Upwards', Year 8 students are encouraged to become involved in the wide range of co-curricular activities on offer at the College. This is a great way to meet different people with similar interests and to develop their skills and talents towards becoming well-rounded individuals who belong to a thriving school community. As such, it is an expectation that all students will be involved in a minimum of one co-curricular activity that is recorded on their report during the course of the year. The student notices which are on Teams, College website and Newsletters provide regular information on how to get involved. With the dynamic nature of life on campus, we would ask that parents/guardians support Year 8 students by keeping them focused on their studies and College commitments.

### Online Support

In 2021, students will access **SEQTA Learn** to view their timetable and assessment results. Parents/guardians will have access to **SEQTA Engage** to view assessment results and teacher feedback. In an effort to develop important time management and organisational skills Year 8 students will be provided with a College diary. Students will be expected to use the diary in order to record homework and upcoming assessments, as well as up-coming events such as Morning Mass.

### **Important Dates and Events**

Please note that the 2021 College calendar outlining important dates and events can be accessed via the College website or on the following link [College Calendar](#)

There will be an information evening for parents/guardians of Years 8-11 students on Wednesday 24 February. This format will allow you to select and book what sessions you would like to attend, as well as affording you the opportunity to meet with myself and your child's Pastoral Care Group Teacher. Further details will be sent out in due course.

Our opening Mass will be celebrated in the Koort Centre at 9:00am on Friday 5 February. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we do not have the capacity to extend an invitation to our parents/guardians.

### **Uniform and Grooming**

As communicated regularly, the College regards the wearing the College uniform with pride as vital to the overall tone of the College. These expectations are made very clear on the College website: [Policies](#) Girls should ensure that their skirts are at the knee and boys should ensure they have a belt.

**Students who present in inappropriate uniform or with inappropriate hair styles at the beginning of the year will be asked to correct the problem before being able to attend classes.**

### **Contact**

Please feel free to contact me on campus if you have any queries or concerns throughout the year, or if you would like to discuss an aspect of your child's schooling. I can be contacted directly on 9246 8236 or email [rallsop@sacredheart.wa.edu.au](mailto:rallsop@sacredheart.wa.edu.au). Please also inform the College if your contact details have changed and require updating. I will endeavour to return emails as soon as is possible within the constraints of my daily teaching load and can make arrangements for phone calls and meetings on campus during pre-arranged times convenient to parents/guardians. Pastoral Care Group teachers can be contacted in a similar way, though please be aware that they do teach the majority of the day and as such there may be delays in their reply to your emails. As a team, we look forward to working with you and your Year 8 child to make 2021 a positive school experience at Sacred Heart College and a year for them to truly flourish.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Allsop  
Assistant Deputy Principal – Year 8  
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