



College Newsletter



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WESTERN SYDNEY P-TECH PARTNERSHIP

MCCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and friends of the McCarthy community

The first term has flown by so quickly at McCarthy where the learning is at the heart of all we say and do. What a great start to the year it has been in 2019! I started the year by sending our 'Welcome back' letter which you all would have received in Week 1 of this term through the Skoolbag App. We have made some important decisions based on your continued and highly valued feedback on how we communicate all information regarding our learning community. The following changes have been implemented during 2019:

- Our McCarthy **Newsletter** will come out each term with a Welcome back letter at the start of each year to each year group. This will cover the major events around student learning and faith formation.
- Other events that occur during the term will be promoted at the time of the event for parents and the wider community through the use of social media such as **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Our news can be seen close to the time of the event and at the point of need.
- **Skoolbag** will be used to communicate urgent and important critical information such as Parent Teacher interviews, medical alerts, etc. All parents should have this app and ensure it is set to receive notifications.

Opening Mass

We welcome Fr Paul Roberts to McCarthy Catholic College as the new Parish Priest for Our Lady of the Way Emu Plains. Fr Paul celebrated our Opening School Mass which was indeed very special emphasising that we are all neighbours and need to be continuously looking out and caring for each other in our community, and even reaching beyond. We are very grateful that Fr Paul has made time in his very busy schedule as he is also the Director of the Institute for Mission and will continue in this role whilst he is at our parish. Thank you sincerely for the gifts that you bring to us warming the hearts of our community with your friendly smile and generous words.



School Goals

At McCarthy we have the following goals for 2019:

Formation, RE and Mission Goal: To model Mary MacKillop's value of reaching out to one's neighbour witnessed in the learning and lived out as Faith in Action.

Literacy Goal: For Year 7-10 students to improve their reading and writing through the implementation of school wide practices in reading and writing.

Numeracy Goal: For Year 7-10 students to improve their numeracy achievement (NAPLAN) through the implementation of Maths specific and school wide instructional practices for decoding questions.

Our focus throughout the year in all subjects will be to improve students ability to write with purpose and precision. Teachers have worked closely with students during Term 1 to focus on pen to paper writing and not simply relying upon the use of technology to respond in written form. We have already seen an increase in the amount students are writing as they build their writing skills and the quality of student writing is now the next stage of focus in Term 2. Teachers are providing feedback and will now be working in partnership with students to learn how to appraise peers and provide critical feedback to further improve the standard. Congratulations to all students who have commenced the year with workbooks that are well presented and organised.

PARENT HINT AND SUPPORT

Parents: Please encourage your child to read for 15-30 minutes each night if they are in Years 7-10. Research shows a strong link between the improvement in reading leading to benefits and gains in a student's writing ability. Reading prior to going to sleep can also help establish a healthy bedtime routine by detoxing from technology. We have recently bought many new books that come with high recommendations to engage adolescents in reading. There are a range of books and genres from crime, to romance, to drama and many new non-fiction books of interest. Thank you to our **Year 7 Library Monitors** and helpers who are doing a wonderful job assisting in their break time:

Tahlia Bowers, Matilda Gavin, Elizabeth Wilson, Ava Nuttall, Montana La Rosa, Breanna Pulummo, Kane Hope, Georgia Finianos and Talisha North.

Student Learning Performance Grade (SLP)

Students receive their SLP every 5 weeks and these are then communicated to parents. Please use this framework to discuss your child's learning with them and help them understand what they need to work on to improve their standard next term. **Scores between 22-25 indicate outstanding learning progress** and deserve high commendation.

Junior and Senior Inquiry Hubs

Our new learning Hubs are now officially open and are the centre of great collaboration for all classes who have the opportunity to learn in this outstanding agile learning space. I have been particularly impressed with English and HSIE classes in Year 7 and 8 who have been engaging in Inquiry Based and Project Based Learning and effectively learning with teachers and peers.



Uniform Shop

There have been some issues with our supplier and some challenges receiving orders. School Locker is directly responsible for these issues and has sent a Skoolbag apology stating that there will be an improvement in their commitment to meet orders and stock demands. **Blazers are required for full winter uniform** from Monday 29 April (first day back Term 2).

Uniform Opening Hours

During school terms:

Tuesdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm (Term 1)

Tuesdays 12:00pm - 4:00pm (Term 2)

Thursdays 8:00am - 12:00pm

During April school holidays:

Friday 26th April 8:00am - 2:00pm



JUNIOR SCHOOL (Years 7-9) LEARNING

Year 7 student learning

It has been a strong and positive start to our school year with all students embracing the new high standards and expectations for learning at McCarthy. Our new Year 7 students have embraced their start to high school by presenting beautifully in their uniforms and committing to their learning by collaborating with peers in the new Junior Inquiry Hub and the Mackillop Learning Centre. It has been wonderful to see Year 7 joining into new learning experiences such as Project Based Learning and Inquiry Learning. Year 7 went to the Aussie Bush Camp in Week 7 and did us proud with their amazing activities such as high ropes, abseiling and archery to name a few. Well done Mrs Petrovski, Mr Waldon, Year 7 teaching staff and all students who participated. A number of students also enjoyed adventures at Treetops with Mrs Keogh and they also deserve high commendation for their courageous efforts.



Year 8 and 9 Student Learning

Our Year 8 and 9 students have been engaging in a wide range of amazing learning experiences in class through PBL and Inquiry learning. Our P-TECH partners have also had the opportunity to work with our students on site and have provided incredibly engaging learning excursions at PwC and Telstra. I have been very pleased with the strong way in which both Year 8 and 9 have commenced the year and have stepped up taking greater responsibility for their learning.

SENIOR SCHOOL (Years 10 -12)LEARNING

Year 10 Learning as Senior Students

It has been a pleasure to see our Year 10 students commence their first year as senior students at the college. Wearing the senior uniform is a very small part of developing the learning behaviours and commitment to study of a senior student and our Year 10 students are certainly making a positive change to their engagement in learning and their overall organisation of assessment work which has been very impressive indeed.

This year we expect to see a progression towards taking full responsibility for their learning with the guidance and support of their teachers who are expecting much more from them now as Year 10 seniors who are meeting the award of the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). Year 10 students have their Assessment Schedules and are aware of the times throughout the year where assessment in each course will contribute towards their RoSA grade at the end of Year 10. This will certainly be great preparation for the HSC pathway study next year. Year 10 will be a stepping stone to Year 11 with many of the key skills in learning management and organisation instilled in Year 10 to ensure that they are ready for HSC expectations.

Year 10 will also have the benefit of a **Study and Learning Skills Day** in Term 2 to empower them to learn effectively and achieve to their potential. Keep up the great work Year 10, you are an incredible group of young people who will achieve outstanding results if you continue to focus and work in partnership with your teachers throughout the year. Your final grade issued by NESAs as your RoSA grade reflects your standard of work based on the assessment and class work you have produced as the evidence of your learning progress. Please work hard and you will be very satisfied with the RoSA grade you will achieve and earn!

Year 11 and 12 Student Learning

Our Stage 6 Senior students have made a wonderful start to the year. Year 11 TTC students have students have completed their first industry placement receiving very pleasing and encouraging feedback from their employers! Congratulations to all students who engaged wholeheartedly with their employer and received pleasing feedback as part of this valuable extension of their TTC learning package.

Year 11 Main school have commenced with a very positive mindset and working with peers well on class tasks. The key to success in Year 11 and 12 is very much dependent on consistency of effort and being goal focused. Mr Stein our Head of Student Wellbeing will work closely with our students to ensure that they are well supported and can achieve to their absolute best.

Year 12 participated in their Retreat day at the Franciscan Shrine Of the Holy Innocents, Kellyville and this has allowed them to continue to find God in all things around them and feel his presence in their everyday life knowing they are always loved by God. Thank you to **Mr Rob Feeney (REC)** and **Mr Daniel Neki (Assistant REC)** for their outstanding work preparing the Retreat Experience for our Senior students. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive also.

Upcoming events for parents and friends of McCarthy

On Monday 13 May we will have our Mother's Day Liturgy in the Mackillop Learning Centre (MLC) at 9.00am. I would like to see as many Mums, Grandmas, Nannas and all people who care and nurture our young people of McCarthy present. Last year it was an extremely special time to recognise the 'Mums' and those who represent a Mum and say a special thank you to you all. I would like to see even more Mums and Grandmas at this years liturgy so we can truly celebrate the love you bring to our lives. A morning tea will follow in the library and Mary Courtyard. Please know that everyone is welcome including pre-schoolers and babies. Hope to see you there!

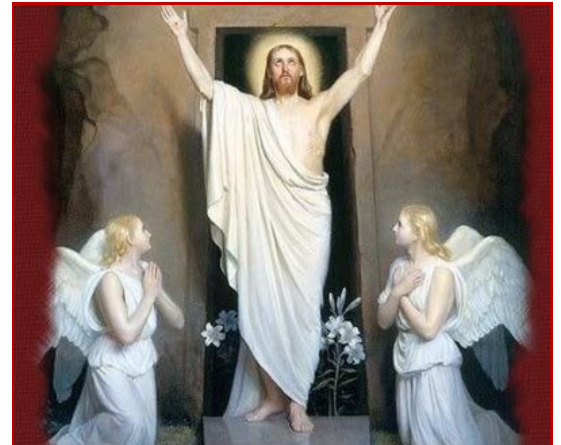


Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our wonderful college. May the Easter joy fill your heart and the Spirit of our risen Lord awaken your heart.

I look forward to seeing you all as part of our learning and faith community in Term 2! Have a wonderful holiday break with your family and friends.

God Bless

Mrs Tania Cairns
Principal Leader





FROM THE COLLEGE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear members of the McCarthy community

Whilst reflecting on this great term I am proud to think of all the ways, this term, that we are building connections with our students, families and community. Later in this newsletter entry, I will link all of our activities and events this term to our College Religious Education Action goal and today's parable about the Prodigal Son about how we each belong.

At the start of the year, we welcomed our new Year 7 students, new teachers and students with orientation programs and all the College settled well with their first days and weeks back at school. We went through lessons in homeroom and our new classrooms, to help us be the best we can be by organising ourselves and looking at the new McCarthy learning points to guide our merit system.

Teachers in our Parramatta Diocese have moved to a new online file system and with this, we can give merit points for great learning and service to our community when entering data for our students. Alternatively, when things get off track and lessons are being learnt about negative behaviours, points can be deducted. Every 5 weeks students who achieve an overall average of $\geq 22/25$ on their **Student Learning Performance report** (that is sent home and stuck in every students diary during homeroom after being signed by their parent/s) gain 7 McCarthy points. I am very happy to see so many of our students increasing their points and moving from the starting level of 4 up to Level 5 and further. At the Semester 1 and 2 award ceremony we plan to give certificates and rewards to students whose learning and service is meritorious. You may remember that Semester 2 2018, students who achieved higher levels were invited by our Principal Leader to a movie afternoon. Everyone is capable of doing their best in their learning and it is not too late to refocus.

At our opening liturgy Mr Feeney, our RE teachers, our College Captains and Vice Captains and talented musicians and sound crew led us beautifully as we welcomed our new Parish Priest, Fr Paul Roberts and were filled with hope to connect more deeply to one another and be kind to one another. We introduced our College action goal for religious education and mission: **To model, Mary MacKillop's value of reaching out to one's neighbour evidenced across the learning and lived out as Faith in Action.**

We have joined together as students, families and teachers in Year 10 and Year 11 to learn more about assessment rules and procedures, as well as meeting all our new families during the Year 7 Meet and Greet night. Mrs Cairns and I had the honour of taking amazing Year 11 Student representatives to meet Stage 3 students at our local Catholic Primary schools and then we had the most fabulous Open Night, during Catholic Schools week, where our school and learning were showcased. We had more than 600 people visit. Everyone loved looking at our new contemporary learning spaces in the TAS area, Senior Learning Hub and Junior Learning Hub. **Enrolments for Year 7 2020 are due on Friday 5th April** to our College Reception. Please encourage your friends and family to contact our Principal's Secretary if there are any questions. I hope no one misses out on a place at our College, so it's best to submit your enrolment form ASAP.

Our **Swimming Carnival** was so colourful and the whole school enjoyed competing, cheering for one another and celebrating friendships. Mr Luchetti, our PDHPE team and our Sports Captains guided us all to try our best and enjoy the day. I especially loved comments from our parents on the day about how proud and happy they were that their children belong to the McCarthy learning community.

Year 7 went on a very special camp to Kincumber and Year 11 and 12 also grew in their connections to one another and their faith relationship with God during their respective Reflection Days. We welcomed, made friends and farewelled our Japanese students who visited and Mr Sullivan worked extremely hard with our partnering exchange schools teachers to provide excellent opportunities for all students and teachers.

We learnt more about one another and how learning is progressing during our Year 11 and 12 Parent/Teacher interviews last week and reports for Year 12 will be coming home before the end of Term 1.



Sitting at my Parish Church recently, I listened to the story of the Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32 and I heard something new in the Priests homily. In the parable, we hear about a father who divides what he owns and gives money to a younger son who decides to leave the family. This younger son travels far away, lives beyond his means and runs out of money for food and struggles to survive.

He returns home. His father rejoices. In this parable, Jesus is telling us that when we are sinners and are doing things with our money and friends that God doesn't like it's like we have left Him, like the son that left home.

Sometimes, we feel lost, and need help to know where we belong. Turning back to those who care about us, we can do things that are good, changing parts of our lives and turning back to our God in heaven. During this period of Lent, we all can ask for help, greater connection to one another and forgiveness.

God is always happy when we come back to Him!

At our College, we are proud to be learners. Learners are successful, especially when they are reflective, make mistakes and improve with new insights and learnings. We encourage everyone to do their best, be good and kind to one another so we each feel we belong. How lucky we are to belong in our families and this school community, with the knowledge that each one of us, has the capacity to forgive and be forgiven?

Have a Blessed Easter and enjoy the Term 1 break.

Mrs Peta Sparkes
Assistant Principal

Note: Check out our **McCarthy Catholic College Facebook page** for lots of photos of all the events, celebrations and focus on learning during Term 1 2019.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TRADE TRAINING CENTRE

I would like to extend a welcome to all the new families that have joined us in the McCarthy Catholic Trade Training Centre (CTTC) this year. The teaching staff and I have been extremely impressed with the way our Year 11's have approached their learning and embraced all aspects of this unique pathway. It was wonderful for our mentor teachers to receive such great feedback from the first Industry Placement block and pleasing to hear a large portion of students have secured School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT) as a result.

I am excited to announce that from next year we will be able to expand our CTTC SBAT offerings to the 2020 Year 11 Cohort and will be anticipating courses being run across the Loyola and McCarthy centres including, Aged Care Nursing, Business/Financial Services, Civil Construction and Landscaping. To find out more please attend our Information Evening at 6pm **Tuesday 28 May**.

As always if you are an employer or know any employers that may benefit from being involved in our SBAT program, please ensure that you contact the CTTC on 4728 8129 to discuss the possibilities.

Mr John Wills
Assistant Principal
Trade Training Centre



Fast track your trade career
while you finish your HSC

Information Evenings
28 May @ McCarthy &
29 May @ Loyola
6pm - 8pm
Presentation at 6pm

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2020
www.cttc.com.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND MISSION

Ash Wednesday

The Class Captains travelled to Our Lady of the Way Parish at Emu Plains for the distribution of the Ashes and Commissioning for our Lenten observance and Project Compassion. The Class Captains, after training and formation, went to each class and led a ritual in each class. Fr Paul spoke to the students about Lent as a time to practice living life to the full, therefore if you give up something for Lent, replace it with something that brings joy and hope to our neighbour. He also asked the students when they return to school as Class Captains, leaders of the school, that their leadership needs to lead others to being awesome.

Project Compassion

This year's Project Compassion theme is based around Hope and giving Lent **100%**. We are inspired by the many people we walk in solidarity with around the world who take on life's challenges with 100% commitment. The children, women and men in the six stories featured during Project Compassion show incredible positivity and determination around improving their futures. Project Compassion this year demonstrates how the power of hope has transformed the lives of some of the most vulnerable.

By putting community, love, compassion and faith into action, together we can help shape a better future for all because lives change when we all give **100%**.

The Year 12 Catholic Studies Class in collaboration with the Student Leaders and the College Leadership Team will be announcing on Skoolbag very soon how in 2019 you can donate to Project Compassion through a "Go Fund Me" program that will reward your gift with a entry into winning either a signed Panthers Jersey or a signed GWS guernsey for as little as \$5. Through our fundraising efforts and your commitment to Project Compassion 2019, you are empowering those in great need to achieve a future full of hope for themselves, their families and their communities. The communities we support are sustained by this hope; embodying the change we expect of the world in spite of the very real challenges to human dignity that surround us. Please donate at: <https://www.gofundme.com/5asb7-project-compassion>



Pancake Day

Pancake day launched McCarthy's Lenten appeal selling more than 200 pancakes. A great start to Lent and Caritas' Project Compassion.

Opening School Mass

Fr Paul Roberts introduced himself through the stillness of the Eucharist at the Opening College Mass. The Grima family, Brock in Year 7, played a vital role of bringing up the gifts and lighting the 2024 Graduation Candle with Mrs Petrovski. Our student leaders were prominent in the organisation and vocalising who we are as McCarthy. The theme of being a good neighbour challenged the parents, students and teachers to look beyond themselves into a world that requires an authentic way to live out our mission of **Integrity, Justice and Peace**.

Mr Robert Feeney

Leader of Religious Education and Mission



HEAD OF STUDENT WELLBEING AND LEARNING

Term One has come and is going at a very fast rate! The students have commenced the year in a very strong fashion with the learning well and truly the focus of what we are doing. It is important to also draw attention to the strong undercurrent of wellbeing that is another important focus of the school.

“Are you ok?” and “How can we help?” are questions that are being asked by our teachers and our leaders. The student point system is up and running but the students do not yet see their live scores, as this component of the computer program is still being finalised. They have received an update in Week 10 of the term. We would like the students to focus on the positives to become the most productive learner they can. There continues to be a real buzz around the school as we continue evolving to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

God Bless

Mr Martin Stein

Head of Student Wellbeing and Learning

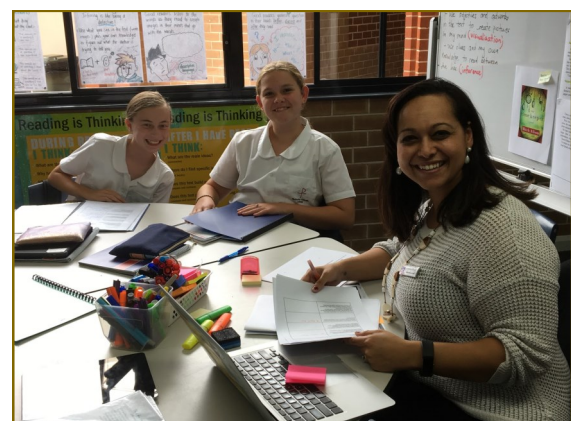
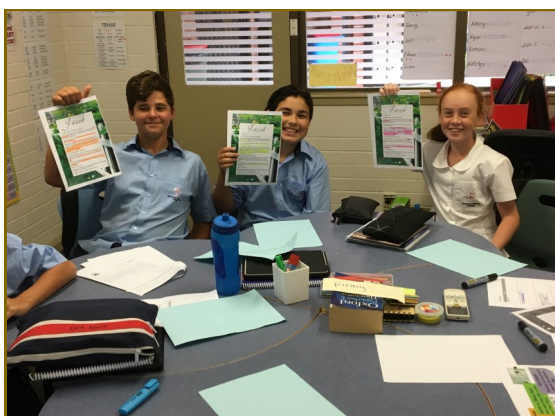
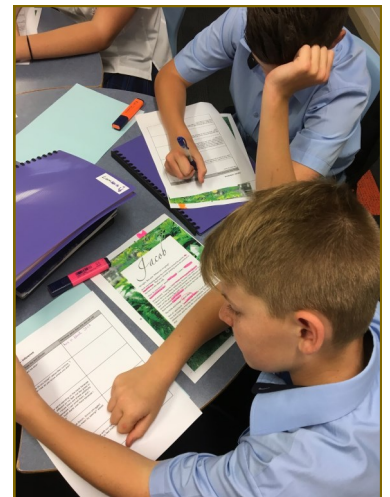
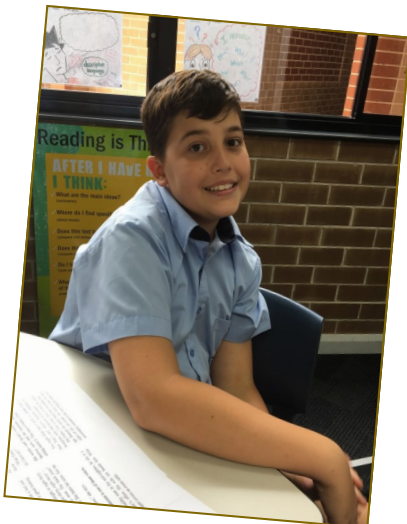
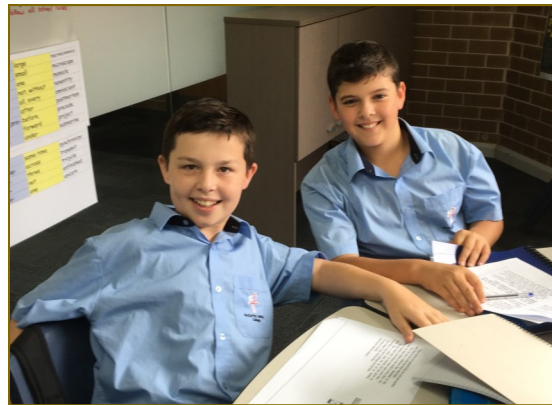
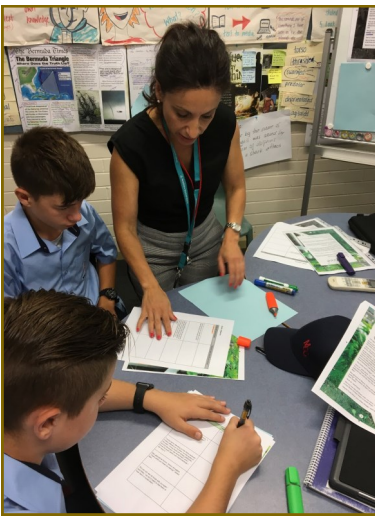


HEAD OF INNOVATION AND DIVERSITY

At McCarthy we value learning that is authentic, individualised, interconnected, diverse and responsive to student needs. Last year a key focus of Teacher Professional Learning was student literacy, with a real focus on implementing whole school strategies to improve student comprehension. Following significant improvement in reading comprehension across Stage 4 to 5, this year Teacher Professional Learning has been extended to a focus on writing as an essential literacy skill for life. We know that when students have multiple exposure to different text types, receive explicit teaching, have repeated access to writing samples of high, middle and low achievement and are given multiple opportunities to write, receive feedback and re-write, then writing success follows.

Complimenting our whole school approach to literacy is our targeted intervention in literacy and numeracy in stage 4. These programs support learners through intensive and highly individualised programs known as R3 and EMU. These lessons occur daily and rely upon targeted and very rigorous tasks that challenge students to learn and apply new skills and strategies. It has been wonderful to see students engage with these course and each other. These rich opportunities provide solid foundations for our students as they transition to high school and learning to transfer their learning across all subjects.

Mrs Anna Keogh
Head of Innovation and Diversity



School Fees

The first instalment payment for **2019 school fees** is now due. Anyone experiencing financial difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Julie Jones on 4728 8100 to discuss a suitable payment arrangement.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

APRIL

Wednesday 10th

College Cross Country

Friday 12th

Last Day of Term 1 for students

Monday 15th - Friday 26th

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Monday 29th

First Day of Term 2 for students

MAY

Monday 6th

College Photo Day

Friday 10th

College Athletics Carnival

Monday 13th

Mother's Day Liturgy - 9:00am

Monday 13th - Friday 24th

Year 12 TTC Industry Placement Block

Monday 27th

Year 10 Vaccinations and Year 7 Catch-Up Vaccinations

Tuesday 28th

Trade Training Centre OPEN Night - 6:00pm (Year 11, 2020 enrolments)

JUNE

Monday 10th

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday - PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday 17th

Year 8 Reflection Day

Monday 17th - Friday 28th

Year 11 TTC Industry Placement Block

Tuesday 25th

Year 7 -10 Parent Teacher Interviews

JULY

Friday 5th

Last Day of Term 2 for students