4 February 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2016 academic year. Please find below information from each of your child’s teachers regarding curriculum and contact details. A positive relationship between parents and teachers is an essential component to a successful education for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teachers throughout the year.

MATHEMATICS
Mrs Jodie Biggar
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the subjects I will be teaching in the Year 7, 8 and 9 cohorts this year. I will be instructing 7B in Mathematics. I will also teach the Information Communication Technologies (ICT) elective which students will undertake for one term during the year. I have a composite class of Year 9 and 10 students for Computing Studies as well. This is my fifth full-time year at the College and the majority of my teaching has been in the Middle Years. I am excited about learning and sharing my passion for Mathematics and Computing. I enjoy the challenges of coding and problem solving and hope to share this in an engaging way. I look forward to the academic year ahead in partnership with you and your child. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child’s needs and requirements this year, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College or via my email Jodie.Biggar@twb.catholic.edu.au.

HISTORY/CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP
Miss Tamara Niemeyer
This is my eighth year teaching at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, however my first year teaching Year 7 which I am very excited about. This year students will study Ancient History, starting with Ancient Australia in Term 1. This will involve solving a history mystery on Narrabeen Man as a class before students research a history mystery of their own. Civics and Citizenship will be taught in Term 4. If you have any questions or queries regarding History or your student, please contact me on via email: Tamara.Niemeyer@twb.catholic.edu.au
ENGLISH
Miss Laura Johnson
This year is my sixth year teaching at the College and I am very excited to get the opportunity to teach Year 7. I am the English Teacher of 7B and last week I provided the students with a letter introducing myself to them. In turn, the students also wrote a letter back to me. Please feel free to ask your child for the letter to learn more about me. An important final point is that after the Easter holidays my name will change to Mrs Leahy, as I am getting married on the 2nd April. However, for the meantime you can contact me at Laura.Johnson@twb.catholic.edu.au.

SCIENCE
Mrs Kylie Collinson
This year, I have the pleasure of teaching Year 7B for Science. This is my fourth year teaching at the College and I have returned from maternity leave on a part-time basis this year. I am very excited to be teaching Science in the Middle Years and hope to continue developing our students’ skills in scientific inquiry by actively engaging them in their learning. Year 7 students will be studying all strands of Science throughout the year: Biological Science, Chemical Science, Physical Science and Earth Science. In Term 1, students will study a unit that explores the chemistry concept of separating mixtures and biology concepts such as classification and interactions between organisms. Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the year. I can be contacted via the College on 4672 4111 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or via email at Kylie.Collinson@twb.catholic.edu.au.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RELIGION, GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS & BUSINESS
Mr Tim Lincoln
I am privileged to have been a staff member at our College for long enough to see majority of these students progress from the Junior College to the Senior College. I am delighted to teach Geography, Economics and Business, Religion and Health and Physical Education (HPE) in Year 7. This term in HPE students will be swimming and learning about the Dimensions of Health. Within Religion, they will develop a deeper understanding of the history of the Church as well as its beliefs, scriptures and prayers. During Economics and Business students will explore what it means to be a consumer, a worker and a producer in the market and the relationships between these groups. The study of Geography will replace Economics and Business in Term 2. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me. My email address is Tim.Lincoln@twb.catholic.edu.au.
YEAR LEVEL CONNECT
Mr Malcolm Langerak
This year I am excited to become a full-time staff member at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. I will continue my role as an Instrumental Music Tutor and also have the pleasure to teach 7B for Year Level Connect. Throughout Term 1 and 2, students will be participating in the Peer Support Program. This will be an opportunity for students to develop relationships with Year 11 students. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me. My email address is Malcolm.Langerak@tb.catholic.edu.au.

LANGUAGES
German – Mrs Karla Knight, Japanese – Mrs Jacqueline Taylor
There are several benefits of learning a second language. Learning a foreign language has even been proven to assist students in the study of English. Due to the requirements of the Australian Curriculum: Languages, the study of a Language subject is compulsory for all students in years 5-8. All Year 7 students have elected to study either Japanese or German. This is a 2-year selection, so students will study their selected language until the end of Year 8.

こんにちは わたしは TAYLOR JACQUELINE です。Please ask your child to translate the Japanese. It is a pleasure to be teaching Year 7 Japanese this year. We will begin our studies with a Ghibli theme, concentrating on the animated characters from some of these films. Please feel free to contact me at any time or if you wish, please visit the class for a Japanese lesson.

Deutsch – German
In German this semester, students will consolidate their learning from Year 6 as well as learn to talk about their hobbies and interests. They will also study daily routine and tell the time in German.

Should you require further information about either of these subjects, please contact the relevant teacher.
Karla.Knight@twb.catholic.edu.au       Jacqueline.Taylor@twb.catholic.edu.au
ELECTIVES
Throughout the year, students will study elective classes. These include Arts and Technology subjects.
ARTS: Music, Visual Art, Drama and Media.
TECHNOLOGY: Food and Textiles (Home Economics), Manufacturing and Design, Graphics and Information Communication Technology (ICT).
Further information about these subjects will be distributed next week.

COMMON EXPECTATIONS
At the beginning of the year, all students in Years 7-9 were explicitly taught common expectations for classroom practice. Please find a copy of these expectations attached to this letter.

Yours in Education,

Kate Carroll
Director of Students Middle Years

Karla Knight
Director of Teaching and Learning Middle Years