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.

RELIGION
Miss Elizabeth Readford
This year I have the pleasure of teaching Year 8 Religion. This is my second year teaching at the College after moving to Dalby following my graduation from university. This term in Religion students will be focusing on the Old Testament Prophets. At any time throughout the year, please feel free to contact me via the College Office on 4672 4111 or via email Elizabeth.Readford@twb.catholic.edu.au.

SCIENCE
Mrs Ingrid Gow
This year I am excited about teaching Science to 8A and Agricultural Science in the Senior College. Prior to teaching at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, I was fortunate to work in many research organisations with a focus on agriculture. I hope to share these experiences, where appropriate, with the class making Science relevant and rewarding. I will be encouraging your children to observe the natural world around them to arouse their curiosity and to ask insightful questions. This term students will be learning about the cell and multicellular organisms. I look forward to getting to know your child and hopefully inspire them to enjoy their Science classes. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns: Ingrid.Gow@twb.catholic.edu.au
ENGLISH, HISTORY
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 8. Last week I provided the students with a letter introducing myself. In turn, the students also wrote a letter back to me. Please feel free to ask your student 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 April 2. However, for the meantime you can contact me via email Laura.Johnson@twb.catholic.edu.au.

GEOGRAPHY & ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS
Mr Tim Lincoln
I am privileged to have been a staff member at our College for long enough to see the majority of these students progress from the Junior to Senior College. I am delighted to teach Geography and Economics and Business in Year 8. In Geography students will explore landscapes, landforms and the human impacts on landscapes. 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 Colin Portbury
Welcome to the 2016 Academic year. I look forward to sharing in the journey of education with you and your child. My name is Colin Portbury and I have been educating students for over 20 years, specialising in Senior Graphics and Senior Industrial, Design and Technology (Manual Arts). The majority of my career has been in Dalby where I am settled with my family and enjoy life on our farm in my spare time. Throughout Term 1 and 2, students will be participating in the Peer Support Program during Year Level Connect lessons. They will be working with Year 11 students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email: Colin.Portbury@twb.catholic.edu.au

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Miss Tamara Niemeyer
This is my eighth year teaching Health and Physical Education (HPE) at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. Students will learn essential skills in personal development, health, well-being and physical activity. This term, students have commenced a theory study detailing the physical and psychological benefits of maintaining an active lifestyle. They will also learn important lessons in water safety and biomechanically sound stroke techniques during our practical Aquatics unit. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you require further information or have any questions or concerns regarding your student's journey in HPE this year. Tamara.Niemeyer@twb.catholic.edu.au
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. All Year 8 students will continue their studies in the Language that they selected in 2015.

こんにちは
はじめまして
わたしは TAYLOR JACQUELINE です。
どうぞよろしくお願いします。

Please ask your child to translate the Japanese. It is a pleasure to be teaching Year 8 Japanese this year. This semester we shall be investigating the lives of samurai, sumo wrestlers and superstars of Japan. Please feel free to contact me at any time or visit the class for a Japanese lesson if you wish.

Deutsch – German
This semester in German students will build on the knowledge gained in Year 7 German to explore vocabulary and language associated with travel, transport and directions.

Cultural Studies this year will introduce the students to 4 new cultures. Term 1 will focus on the culture and language of China (please note the script will not be taught). Italy will be the country studied in Term 2. The students have selected the countries of India and America to study in Semester 2. I look forward to a very colourful and fulfilling year in Cultural Studies.

Should you require further information about these subjects, please contact the relevant teacher.
Karla.Knight@twb.catholic.edu.au     Jacqueline.Taylor@twb.catholic.edu.au
Laura.Johnson@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