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**  
Mr Adam Burton  
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I will be instructing your child in the area of Mathematics. I have 5 years of experience teaching in Secondary and Senior Secondary at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. I have a great passion for my subject and look forward to ensuring that I can build on the student’s prior knowledge and link it to their future learning. I look forward to the academic year with your child and also meeting and corresponding with you during the year. 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 Adam.Burton@twb.catholic.edu.au.

**HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
Mr Chris Coman  
I am into my second decade of teaching in Dalby. In 2016 I will be teaching 9A for Health and Physical Education (HPE). The HPE program develops students’ knowledge and understanding of many aspects of personal and community health. It also provides opportunities for students to participate in multiple categories of sports including striking games, team sports, aquatics and individual performance activities. I look forward to working with your child in 2016. Please feel free to contact me via email: Chris.Coman@twb.catholic.edu.au.

**ENGLISH and HISTORY**  
Miss Kate Carroll  
This year I have the pleasure of teaching Year 9A for English and History. I have been teaching at the College for over ten years and have taught within both the
Junior and Senior Colleges. Throughout the year, students will be developing their English writing skills, undertaking a novel study and developing oral communication skills. Within History, students will be studying the time period from 1750-1918. Some of the main topics of study include the Industrial Revolution and World War 1. At any time throughout the year, please feel free to contact me via the College Office on 4672 4111 or via email Kate.Carroll@twb.catholic.edu.au.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and CONNECT
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 9. Religion this year will focus on four key areas Prayer (Term 1), Church History (Term 2), Morality (Term 3) and Scripture (Term 4). I am already enjoying the way in which students are positively engaging in lessons. 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 at Laura.Johnson@twb.catholic.edu.au.

SCIENCE
Mrs Kylie Collinson
This year, I have the pleasure of teaching Year 9 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 and hope to continue developing our students’ skills in scientific inquiry by actively engaging them in their learning. Year 9 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 dynamic nature of the Earth’s crust and the various components of ecosystems. 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.

CAREERS
Mrs Libby Baxter
I have been a member of the College staff for a number of years and I teach Senior Music and Ancient History. This year I will have the privilege of working with your student in the area of Careers Education. The College is very proud of the fact that we offer this opportunity to students from Year 9 through to Year 12. We will spend the year discovering the world of work and what this means for your student. We will also have a look at their individual learning styles and later in the year students will have the opportunity to engage with local employers in a question / answer format. The questions will be based on the soft skills of work
and my hope is that all Year 9 students will have the opportunity to discover what they truly love. I welcome parents to careers classes and I would also encourage you to take the opportunity to come to a one on one meeting with your student as well. 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 Libby.Baxter@twb.catholic.edu.au

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:

COMPUTER STUDIES
Mrs Jodie Biggar
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the subjects I will be engaging with the Year 7, 8 and 9 cohorts this year. I will be instructing 7B in Mathematics for 2016 and Information and Communication and Technologies for a one term elective for all Year 7 and 8 students. I also have a composite class of Year 9 and 10 students for Computing Studies. 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.

GEOGRAPHY
Mr Dean Garside
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Geography teacher for 9A this year. I have nine years of experience working with Year 7 students and three years of experience working with Secondary students at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. I have a deep passion for learning and extensive knowledge and experience teaching subjects including History, Geography, Science and Mathematics. I look forward to the academic year with your child, and also meeting and corresponding with you during the year. 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 Dean.Garside@twb.catholic.edu.au.
FOOD AND TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY
Mrs Simone Forbes
This year is my second year teaching at the College, after returning from a considerable period of maternity leave. I am very excited to have the opportunity to teach Year 9 Food and Textile Technology. In Term 1, students will participate in a food and nutrition unit focusing on the six nutrients and their food sources. Students will be involved in weekly practical cookery tasks. Students have received their practical cooking booklets and student guides for the term and I am excited to see them achieve their potential in the kitchen and classroom. Students will also complete further study in textiles and food science as the year progresses. If you have any questions or queries throughout the term, please contact me via email Simone.Forbes@twb.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. Year 9 students who have elected to study German or Japanese for Year 9 and 10, will build on their foundation knowledge and skills in the language.

Deutsch – German
This semester in German students will build on the knowledge gained in Year 8 German to explore vocabulary and language associated with travel, transport and directions.

Should you require more detailed information about these subjects and the content of the curriculum, please contact the relevant teacher.
Karla.Knight@twb.catholic.edu.au   Jacqueline.Taylor@twb.catholic.edu.au

LAW AND JUSTICE STUDIES
Miss Tamara Niemeyer
This is my eighth year involved in the Legal Studies program at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College and I am always very excited to teach students in Year 9 starting their journey with the law. I am deeply passionate about the law and our legal system and love the opportunity to share that passion with students. Law and Justice Studies aims to educate students on their legal rights and responsibilities to help them become informed citizens. Should you require any further information regarding the Law and Justice Studies program, please contact me via the College office or email. I look forward to the year ahead.
Tamara.Niemeyer@twb.catholic.edu.au
DRAMA
Miss Elizabeth Readford
This year I have the pleasure of teaching Year 9 Drama. This is my second year teaching at the College after moving to Dalby following my graduation from university. In Drama students will be exploring various performance techniques. This term students will be learning how to effectively write a script for a Theatre in Education performance. 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.

BUSINESS and ECONOMICS
Ms Wendy Rea
My name is Wendy Rea and this year I have the pleasure of teaching Year 9 Business and Economics. I have 7 years of teaching under my belt, coming from a background of management accountancy both in the public and private sector. This is a new ACARA subject and this term students will blend with Year 10 students to investigate how Australia competes in a Globalised Business Environment. We will develop our scenario business (a wearable technology business) to compete in the international market. In conjunction with ACARA units, throughout the year, students will also complete units on Business Source Documents, completing petty cash, and recording financial transactions to general journal. I look forward to meeting you and discussing your student’s progress. I am contactable at any time on wendy.rea@twb.catholic.edu.au

GRAPHICS
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. Graphics in Year 9 extends upon previously learned concepts and begins to develop an effective understanding of the design process via the generation of a visual diary. The gathering, assembly and proficient presentation of technical information is also a focus. Students are asked to self-analyse and judge graphical and design information regarding the solutions to 3D Modelling challenges. I enjoy my profession and being part of the discovery and direction of young students growing into mature adults embarking on a whole new world. If you have any concerns or questions at any time please do not hesitate to contact me: colin.portbury@twb.catholic.edu.au and together we will work to ensure your student fulfils their potential to the very best of their ability.
VISUAL ART
Mrs Bronwyn McArthur
This is my twelfth year teaching at the College. I love Art and always tell students there is ‘Art’ in my name for a reason. You will find me at the Visual Art Studio every day, even lunch times so students are most welcome to come in and work on their artistic pieces. I provide lots of opportunities for students in art competitions and exhibitions so keep an eye out in the newsletter and listen up at assembly, as I strongly believe, “Art is made be shown”. Please feel free to contact me via email: bronwyn.mcarthur@twb.catholic.edu.au

MEDIA
Miss Kylie Purbrick
Media is our primary source for education and cultural exchange. It enables us to understand and express ourselves as Australian and global citizens. The "information" and "creative" industries are already among the largest employers and drivers of the economy in many countries. It is my pleasure then to have the opportunity to be the guide for Year 7, 8 and 9 students as they begin their journeys on this exciting and rewarding interactive adventure. I also teach Film, Television and New Media in years 11 and 12, and have been since the subject’s introduction to the College in 2012. Please feel free to contact me via email: Kylie.Purbrick@twb.catholic.edu.au

MANUFACTURING & DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
Mr Shane Nott
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the subjects I will be teaching in this year. I will be instructing your child in the areas of Manufacturing and Design. Throughout the year, students will be undertaking a number of practical projects and developing a range of hand skills. You are very welcome to visit the College workshop and experience the student activities. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child’s or children’s needs and requirements this year, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College or via my email Shane.Nott@twb.catholic.edu.au

MUSIC
Mr Luke Holmes
This is my second year teaching music at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College after transferring from work in India. I am extremely passionate about music and education and I advocate for the important role that music education plays in the development of children. I serve as the schools choral director and I am also the guitar teacher at the College. I strive to provide a plethora of opportunities for students to demonstrate their musical skills and knowledge, so please keep an eye out in the newsletter for upcoming eisteddfods and festivals.
which showcase our students amazing talents. Please feel free to contact me via email: Luke.Holmes@twb.catholic.edu.au

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