Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the Magdalene Community,

Welcome back to 2015 I hope that all students have come back to school refreshed and enthusiastic ready to meet the challenges of the year ahead. I thank parents for ensuring that all students have returned to school with the right attitude, in the correct uniform and with the appropriate equipment. Students beginning the year with a good attitude and well resourced are able to make a positive start to the year which can only lead to success in their studies.

The beginning of the year is an opportune time to reflect on the learnings of the previous year and to set goals for the future. Throughout this week I have been encouraging all students to consider the year ahead and to set achievable goals for their learning. At this point I encourage parents and carers to talk to your child about the goals he or she will set for themselves in their learning this year. Our aim throughout this year is to encourage every member of our community to strive for personal excellence in all that they do. In doing this each will experience increased success.

As a school we recognise the importance of our partnership and do not expect people to achieve the above alone, with the support and guidance of parents and teachers, students can certainly achieve success in all of their endeavours. Our aim at Magdalene is to continue to offer that support throughout the year. I encourage all students to take advantages of what is on offer at the school and to make the most of every opportunity in 2015.

At the end of last year the school received the impressive HSC results of Year 12 2014. Taylah Davidson achieved the title of Dux of 2014 with an ATAR of 97.95. In addition 10 students achieved an ATAR result of over 90. The school was also most pleased to see that the students achieved 74 band 6 results and 226 band 5 results. This is an excellent achievement from a dedicated group of students. These students are now enrolling into universities with the offer of places across the state. The school will acknowledge the students at the Opening School Mass on February 5.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
During Week 3, February 10, the first meeting of the Parents and Friends and the Parent Consultation Committee will be conducted for the year. This will take place in the Learning Resource Centre and will begin at 7pm. I encourage all parents both existing and new to the school to come along to the meeting and take the opportunity to have a say in your child’s education. Involvement in these committees will advantage parents, students and the community in general.

At the beginning of each year new staff are welcomed to the school to replace those who are on leave or have left the previous year. This year 9 people will join the staff at Magdalene. Welcome to Ms Haines (Mathematics Coordinator), Mrs Hornas (Science Coordinator), Mr O’Donnell (Music teacher), Mr Manns (Religious Education/PDHPE), Mrs Keith (Religious Education/TAS), Mrs Dowdell (Science .6FTE), Mrs Robinson-Dawe (English), Mrs Berkley (Support Staff), Mrs Allan (Support Staff). I am sure everyone will join with me in welcoming them and wishing them all the best for their time at Magdalene.

New Staff 2015

Each year the school sets a number of priority areas for improvement in order to improve all aspects of school life. The Priority areas are drawn from; the Magdalene Catholic High School Strategic Management Plan 2013 – 2017, strategic directions developed in response to school needs, the “School Review and Improvement Framework” and the Wollongong Catholic Education Office Strategic Management Plan Beyond 2011. These priority areas will be a focus of improvement throughout the year. The priority areas for 2015 are as follows:

Over arching priority areas:
- Vision and Mission
- Assessment for Learning
- Literacy and Numeracy

2015 – priority areas:
- Catholic Life and Culture
- Reporting Student Achievement
- Professional Learning
- Catering to the Diverse needs of students.

The priority areas will be explored at the first meeting of the Parent Consultation Committee on February 10. I once again encourage all parents to join the meeting and to gain a greater understanding of the improvement directions for 2015.
Over the holidays the Magdalene Catholic High School community was blessed with two births and a marriage among the staff. Congratulations to Mrs Parkes and her husband Mitchell on the birth of Emmerson Rae on January 14 and to Ms Walker and her husband Anthony on the birth of their third child Millicent Isabel on January 26. In both cases mums and babies are progressing well. On January 10 Miss Simonetta was married to her fiancé Rick Mamonne. On behalf of the community I offer our congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Mamonne.

As we begin the year I offer the school prayer, as a statement of hope for the year ahead. The school prayer is prayed each day at Magdalene and is a commitment, not only to our selves but to the broader community as means of providing hope to all through our actions. It is a wonderful commitment to make at the start of the year.

Jesus you chose Mary Magdalene
To be the first witness to your resurrection.
Help us to be filled with the power of your Spirit.

May we become witnesses to your love and healing,
Both within and beyond this community.
Mary Magdalene Pray for us.

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

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OPENING SCHOOL MASS AND HIGH ACHIEVERS’ CEREMONY
Thursday 5 February 2015

Date: Thursday 5 February 2015
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Magdalene Catholic High School
Refreshments will be served after Mass.
ALL WELCOME

As we begin the new school year it is important for parents to be aware of the people who are coordinating certain areas of school life.

Below are the Pastoral Care Year Coordinators for 2015.

Mrs Forner  
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Mr Dowdell  
Year 7

Miss Foti  
Year 8

Mr Johnson  
Year 9

Mr Sinclair-Kydd  
Year 10

Mr Lipscombe  
Year 11

Mr Zakris  
Year 12
YEAR 7 DAY 1
## NOTICEBOARD

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on the following dates and times:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 February</td>
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<td>Friday 6 February</td>
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<td>Monday 9 February</td>
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<td>Monday 16 February</td>
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<td>Friday 20 February</td>
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<td>Monday 23 February</td>
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<td>Friday 27 February</td>
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If you require second hand uniforms outside of these hours please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553812

### PARENTS & FRIENDS MEETING
**TUESDAY 10 February 2015**

The first Parents and Friends and the Parents Consultation Committee meeting for 2015 will be held in the Patrician Learning Resource Centre on Tuesday 10 February at 7.00pm. All new families to the school are encouraged to attend and share in the community at Magdalene Catholic High school. This is a great way to meet new members of our school community.

All Welcome to attend.

### CANTEEN

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<th>Term 1</th>
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<th>2 Feb - 6 Feb</th>
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<th>Week 2B</th>
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