



MAGDALENE NEWS

Vol 19 Term: 1 Week 1
2 February 2017

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

Welcome to new families and students who join us at Magdalene Catholic High School for the first time and a big welcome back to families and students who are returning to Magdalene in 2017.

It is a real honour and privilege to be working with Magdalene students, families and staff and, although new to the School, I can't help but be impressed by the comradery, community spirit and concern which I have witnessed in my first days.

The Year 12 Higher School Certificate results were released in the last week of 2016. The school Dux Elyse Beauchamp achieved an ATAR of 97.4. Four other students received an ATAR above 90. Sophie Vannan also had her Music 1 Viva Voce identified as exemplary. The review of the Higher School Certificate will take place over the coming few weeks. This will allow us to learn from successes while developing strategies for areas of improvement.

The high achievers will be acknowledged at the Opening School Mass and High Achievers Ceremony on Thursday 9 February beginning at 9.30am. I take this opportunity to invite any parents who are able to attend and be part of both celebrations. Congratulations to the following students who achieved an ATAR over 90.



Elyse Beauchamp
97.4 ATAR



Sophie Cornett
97.15 ATAR



Warwick Suters
96.25 ATAR



Teegan White
94.15 ATAR



Damon Koulouris
93.8 ATAR

I also welcome new staff members to the community:

Miss Tammy Boulatsakos	TAS
Miss Tahlia Cupillari	RE/PDHPE
Miss Thuy Dinh	Science
Mrs Robyn Doepel	Laboratory Assistant - Science
Ms Rachel Gavin	Science
Mrs Sue Hampton	Administration
Mr Simon Quinn	HSIE/RE
Mrs Bharti Sharma	Maths
Mrs Alison Shortridge	Learning Support / English

“Because I have seen the Lord”



and hope they will have a meaningful time in their employment at Magdalene. I congratulate the following staff on their new appointments for 2017:

Mrs Caroline Said – HSIE Faculty Coordinator
Mr Danny Avalos – TAS Faculty Coordinator (we wish Ian Gorrie well overseas)
Mr Danny Avalos and Mr Peter Collins – Learning Technologies Coordinators
Mr Peter Collins (assisted by Ms Michelle Flocco) – Youth Ministry
Mr Tim Manns – Year 7 Coordinator
Mrs Ashleigh Durrant – Assistant Stage 4 Coordinator
Mr Matthew Bubb – Assistant Stage 5 Coordinator
Mr Marco Cimino – Assistant Stage 6 Coordinator

and I also thank Ms Sheila Antal who has temporarily stepped in as Acting English Coordinator for the beginning of the term.

2017 is set to be a great year at Magdalene. It was wonderful to witness the joy, occasional nerves but general excitement which students exhibited on their first days of the school year. Our newest Year 12 cohort has returned with much energy and enthusiasm – ready to set themselves up for quality outcomes across 2017. Similarly, there was much energy which students from all other year groups brought to the commencement of the academic year.

For parents and carers of our newest Year 7s, one can imagine there would have been mixed emotions, as while their children are moving on to another milestone in their lives, they are also getting older and they are no longer school children of primary age.

As I mentioned to Year 7 and their parents/guardians on Tuesday morning we thank parents and carers (from all year groups) for their ongoing support of their children. Without such support we can't possibly hope to achieve the kinds of things that we wish for students of Magdalene. Indeed, the notion of partnership is a critical one. Through partnership, in which is embedded quality communication, we can have our young people aspire to greatness and become the best people that they can be.

This year 'high expectations' will be addressed as a constant reminder and in a number of domains. High expectations in terms of behaviour, uniform, appearance and academic best. High expectations on the sporting field and cultural pursuits, and also in terms of how we treat one another and support those less fortunate than us when it comes to service opportunities.

I am very excited to be here this year and I look forward to seeing a great number of you at the first Parents and Friends meeting on Tuesday 14 February. Our students have many God-given gifts and I know staff and our Leadership Team will be providing numerous opportunities for growth and learning across 2017.

BABY NEWS

The following two staff members have had new additions to their families during the holidays.

Congratulations to Mrs Amanda Violi and her husband David on the birth of their son Rocco
and also to

Mr Duncan Beh and his wife Karen on the birth of their daughter Olivia Charlotte.

I am sure everyone will join with me in wishing Rocco and Olivia Charlotte a blessed and long life.

YEAR 7, 2018 Open Afternoon/Evening Wednesday 8 March 2017

Formal information session
(Including talks by the school Leadership Team)
6pm - 6.45pm in the CAPA block.

Tour 1: 4.45pm - 5.45pm
Information Session 6pm - 6.45pm
Tour 2: 7pm - 8pm

Enrolment packages will be available at this event and from the School Administration Office from March 9.



Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,
we praise you for the wonder of our being
For mind, body and spirit.
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and their teachers and staff.
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;
Wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding;
And peace and zeal to their hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen

(<http://thecatholiccatalogue.com/prayers-to-begin-a-school-year/>)

God Bless

Mr Matthew McMahon
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

An exciting part of the beginning of each new school year is the opportunity to welcome back staff and students on the first day. I have also enjoyed welcoming our new students and families to Magdalene along with our new staff and Mr Matthew McMahon our new Principal. I have been very pleased with the way the students have returned to school and settled into the routine of this first week particularly during the very hot weather in the first few days. I look forward in excited anticipation to the year ahead including the many opportunities to meet with parents and families.

Ms Jennifer Foldes
Assistant Principal

Some safety reminders

As we start a new school year it is timely to remind students and families of important safety procedures with pedestrian and car traffic in and around the school of a morning and afternoon. The main car park is restricted to staff parking and is not to be used for student drop off or pick up. The turning circle at the front of the Administration building is used for mornings and afternoons and drivers are asked to follow the signs to assist with this. If possible, delaying after school pick up is encouraged as the traffic does ease quite quickly. The student car park adjacent to the school driveway is for senior students only and not to be used by parents for student drop off or pick up. Visitors to the school are not to access this car park. The safety of our students is paramount.

The pathways located at the front of the school assist students in safely entering and departing the school grounds. I remind anyone picking students up that there are parking restrictions along Smeaton Grange Road and students should not be crossing this road during peak traffic times nor in front of or in between the afternoon buses. At no time should any student attempt to cross Narellan Road except at the traffic lights, nor should students be dropped off on Narellan Road opposite the school entrance. Everyone has a part to play in ensuring that the relevant safety procedures are followed.

Lost Property

We have a vast amount of lost property, please have your child check the lost property boxes if they have lost items of clothing and ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on their uniform items.

Flower Delivery for Students

Students are not permitted to receive flowers at school. Please ensure flowers are not sent to your child at school, the Administration office will not accept them and they will have to be returned to the florist. Thank you for your continued support.



Parents and Friends News

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to Magdalene Catholic High School for another year. A special welcome to all our new students, parents and teachers. Our first meeting of the Parents & Friends Association is at 7pm, Tuesday 14 February in the Learning Resource Centre. All parents and teachers are invited, so if you would like to find out more about the role of the P&F and some of our key priorities for the next 12 months, please come along.

If you have thought about joining the P&F, but don't know what it's all about, this first meeting is a great introduction, and will help you decide if it is something you wish to support. For more information on the P&F, visit our page on the school website, or email the P&F at MCHS.PandF@gmail.com

*David Cornett
Parents and Friends Association*

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO FINANCE for the 2017 School Year

FINANCE NEWS

As of 2017 schools will move to annual invoicing of school fees. This will replace our usual method of invoicing over the first three terms of each year. It is anticipated that the annual invoice will be distributed mid February to early March each year. Accounts are due 30 days after the date of invoice unless a periodic payment arrangement is made with the school.

Invoices and account statements will still be distributed to all parents/carers, either by email or via Australia Post.

Full details and forms are available on our website:
http://www.mchsdow.catholic.edu.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=49&Itemid=199

SCHOOL FEES DUE DATE

School Fee Accounts are due 30 days after the date of invoice unless a periodic payment arrangement is made with the school, this also applies for families currently paying by BPay and Direct Debit. It will be necessary for families to complete a School Fee Agreement form (found on the School's website). Invoices and account statements will still be distributed to all parents/carers, either by email or sent home in hard copy via Australia Post.

The following page contains a letter which has been sent through from the Diocese of Wollongong outlining detailed changes to the school fees.



MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

SCHOOL FEE MANAGEMENT 2017

The Catholic Education Office has released a new **Diocesan School Fee Management Policy** for the management of school fees across all systemic Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wollongong. This policy will take effect from January 2017 and will be made available for you to view on our school’s website. This document provides schools and families with detailed information regarding school fee administrative processes including invoicing, payment mechanisms, sibling discounts, how to apply for fee concession and actions in the case of non-payment.

A summary of the main features of this policy that affect our school is as follows:

INVOICING AND DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

As of 2017, schools will move to **annual** invoicing of accounts. This will replace our usual method of invoicing over the first three terms of the year. It is anticipated that the annual invoice will be distributed in late February or early March each year. Accounts are due 30 days after the date of invoice unless a periodic payment arrangement is made with the school. Invoices and account statements will still be distributed to all parents/carers, either by email or sent home in hard copy via Australia Post.

SCHOOL FEE AGREEMENTS

Paying school fees periodically over the duration of the school year is still offered and families who wish to take advantage of this flexibility, rather than pay within 30 days, will need to have in place a current **School Fee Agreement** to advise their preferred method of school fee payment, amount and frequency. For your convenience, this Agreement will be emailed to you with school fee statement and will also be available on the school’s website.

The School Fee Agreement requires you to advise the amount of your periodic payment. An online ‘School Fee Calculator’ will be available on the school’s website to assist in the determination of the payment amount. School Fee Agreements may also be accessed through the school’s administration office. Please return the agreement to the school office as soon as possible with any applicable payment authorities. Families who do not return agreements will be subject to payment within 30 days.

As offered in the past, there are a range of flexible payment options open to Parents/Carers as follows:

METHODS OF PAYMENT OFFERED:			
BPay Payment	Bill Code and Payment References on statements	Direct Debit	Available on the school’s website or school office
Credit Card	Facility is printed on statements	EFTPOS	Available in the school office
Cash/Cheque	Payment at the school office	Centrepay	Available from the school office
FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT:			
Periodical Payments may be made Weekly, Fortnightly or Monthly on a date that suits the family budget.			

If you are currently paying periodically, it is necessary to review your payment using the ‘School Fee Calculator’ as the amount invoiced varies from year to year with increases in fees, and the changing profile of your family. **Please submit an amended School Fee Agreement for any new payment amount or change in method of payment.** Naturally, Direct Debit and Centrepay payments will require an amended authority.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

If your family is experiencing **genuine financial hardship**, please contact the school’s finance office to make an appointment with the Principal to confidentially discuss your situation.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school finance office if you require explanation or assistance in relation to school fee matters.



Curriculum Corner

Exam Blocks

In 2016 the subject coordinators discussed the benefits of exam blocks for both the students and the staff and looked at both the timing of these exams and the changing nature of assessment in schools.

The timing of the exam blocks for 2017 will be as follows:

Year 12: Half Yearly Exams Term 1 Weeks 8-10; Trial HSC Exams Term 3 Weeks 3-5

Year 11: End of Preliminary Course Exams Term 3 Weeks 8-10

Year 10: Exam Block Term 3 Weeks 7-8

Year 9: NAPLAN Term 2 Week 3; Exam Block Term 4 Weeks 3-4

Year 8: Exam Block Term 2 Weeks 4-5

Year 7: NAPLAN Term 2 Week 3

More information about the exams including timetable, expectations and what is being assessed will be available closer to the exam block.

Curriculum Information Evenings:

Across the first two terms a number of evenings are scheduled for parents and students of Years 9-11. Further information about these evenings are sent home with students or via email as the evening approaches. Year 10 and 11 are focused around the changes to expectations as students move into RoSA (Record of School Achievement) and Senior School. Year 9 is focused on the changes to HSC that will impact their student, specifically Minimum Literacy and Numeracy standards.

The dates for Curriculum Information Evenings 2017 are:

Year 11 Wednesday 8 February

Year 9 Monday 24 March

Please mark these in your diaries

Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

In 2017 the Parent Teacher Interview evening is scheduled earlier in the term Monday 27 February. This is to provide feedback and strategies as the students begin to prepare for the Half Yearly Examinations.

Next newsletter will include further information about the HSC Reforms that will begin with new subjects in HSC 2019 and new requirements in HSC 2020.

Mrs Haines

Curriculum Coordinator

Year 7 Day 1





Year 7 Day 1





NOTICEBOARD

February

9	Thursday	Opening School Mass & High Achievers Ceremony 9:30-11:30am
13–14	Monday–Tuesday	Year 7 Laptop training day
14	Tuesday	P & F Meeting 7–8.30pm
16	Thursday	Swimming Carnival–Bradbury All Welcome
22	Wednesday	Year 7 Parent Welcome 6–8pm
24	Friday	Year 7 Vaccinations
27	Monday	Year 12 Parent Teacher Interview 3–7pm
28	Tuesday	Shove Tuesday

March

1	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
3	Friday	Yr 7 Reflection Day
5–11	Sunday–Saturday	Catholic Schools Week
8	Wednesday	Year 7, 2018 Open Afternoon / Evening Tour 1: 4.45pm - 5.45pm Information Session 6pm - 6.45pm Tour 2: 7pm - 8pm
10	Friday	Staff Development Day Pupil Free Day

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

If you require second hand uniforms please call Kelly to organise a suitable time.

Kelly O’Keeffe
0410 553 812

UNIFORM SALES

The following uniform items are sold in the Administration office.

Bags	\$75.00
Calculators	\$21.00
Cap	\$12.00
Apron	\$7.00
Sports Socks	\$6.00
Junior boys Tie	\$17.00
Junior girls Tie	\$7.00
Senior boys Tie	\$22.00
Senior Girls Tie	\$9.00

The front office has a very limited amount of change so it would be appreciated and helpful if your student could have the correct money. Thank You.

CANTEEN	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Term 1 Week 2B 6 February - 10 February	6 February Julie Smith	7 February Annie Reynolds Jeanette Alvarado	8 February Eve Farkas	9 February Rick White	10 February Cathy Stewart Michelle Heward
Term 1 Week 3A 13 February - 17 February	13 February Linsey Hall Tiffany Smit	14 February Sharon Draper Nicole Mortimer Karen Ryan	15 February Nicole Garner	16 February Swimming Carnival	17 February Lyn Kelly Lee Street
Term 1 Week 4B 20 February - 24 February	20 February Lisa Burke Cathy Burke Angela de Pourbaix	21 February Kylie Greffenius Angela Young	22 February Fiona Secheny Karen Tekely	23 February Jenny Davies Gabriela Varela	24 February Linda McGuire Ewa Wojcik

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