



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE
CANBERRA · EST 1954

A Catholic Boys' College in the
Edmund Rice Tradition

110 Canberra Avenue
Griffith ACT 2603
(02) 6295 3598
sec.act.edu.au

30 January 2025

Welcome to 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we embark on a new school year, I extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new staff, students, and parents who have joined and are returning to the St Edmund's family. We are thrilled to have you with us – as I am to return to St Edmund's College- and look forward to sharing a year filled with growth, learning, and memorable experiences.

I am delighted to share that our college continues to grow, with approximately 940 students enrolled for 2025. This is a testament to the vibrant community and to the commitment to excellence that defines St Edmund's College.

As we celebrate the joys of a new year and reflect on the recent birthday of Jesus at Christmas, let's embrace the educational, social and emotional celebrations and opportunities that lie ahead. This year promises to be filled with excitement, and I encourage all our students to actively participate in the various activities and programs offered at the college. Engaging in these activities will not only enrich your educational journey but also foster lasting friendships and valuable memories.

To our new parents, welcome! Your involvement is crucial to our community, and we look forward to your support and participation in school events throughout the year.

This year we welcome many new staff to the College to accommodate for our growing numbers.

Allison Wildman – Business Manager
Malietoa Hingano – Diverse Learning
Louis Joseph – PE/Science
Guy Lowe – English
Camilla Shanahan – English
Glenn Wykes – English/HASS
Jono Windsor – Mathematics
Meenal Reshmi – Mathematics
Alice Riley – RE
Kesavan Srirangan – HASS
Kosta Yiannaros - TAS

The time for our young men to begin a new year of learning and engagement at school is only a few days away and I am sure that there are feelings of anxiousness, excitement and trepidation about returning or starting anew. This letter serves as a reminder of some of the expectations of the College as well as provide some additional information about wellbeing and pastoral processes at the College for 2025.

Monday 3rd February: – ALL Year 7 students begin their school year. Students must be in full school summer uniform and must bring their laptop device. The school start time is 8:45 am and the finish time is 3:25 pm.

– ALL new senior students in Year 11 and 12 will be expected to attend their Orientation Day from 8:45 am until 11:30 am.

Tuesday 4th February: – ALL Year 7 students Orientation Day 2. The school start time is 8:45 am and the finish time is 3:25 pm.

– ALL new students in Year 8 to 10 will be expected to attend their Orientation Day from 8:45 am until 12:00 pm.

– First day for ALL Year 11 & 12 Students. The school start time is 8:45 am and the finish time is 3:25 pm.

Wednesday 5th February: – **All Students return to normal school hours 8:45am to 3:25pm.** There will be a welcome back assembly in the Quad for all students to start the day at 8:50am.

Uniform and grooming:

We want all our students to begin the New Year on the right foot, so please communicate with your son/s the following expectations for their return to school:

- All students will be expected to return in full summer uniform.
- A reminder about haircuts – rats tails, horseys, mullets, shaved designs, burst fades, undercuts, etc. will need to be removed or amended before students return. Longer hair must be tied back. Students with incorrect hairstyles will be kept off the playground until the hair cut is rectified. If hairstyles aren't amended as soon as possible, further consequences such as Friday afternoon detention will follow.
- Regarding school shoes, students must wear black, leather, polishable school shoes. Black runners / trainers, crossovers (part dress shoe, part leisure) are not permitted without seeking approval for extenuating circumstances.

Locker Use:

This year students in Years 7 to 10 will be required to use lockers as school bags are no longer permitted in classrooms nor in the yard or on the ovals during break times. Students will be required to be organised in ensuring they have all necessary equipment at the start of the day, at the end of recess and at the end of lunch so they will not have to go back to their lockers during class time. Students will be permitted to carry a small satchel bag with their device and required books to and from class, however their large school bags will not be permitted in classrooms. Boys will be encouraged to leave their phones in their lockers as well. Year 7 students will be given a lock and two keys to use for their lockers. Students in Years 8 to 10 will be required to bring in their own lock, as were issued at the beginning of Year 7. If they no longer have their College issued lock, we encourage the use of locks with a number code, as keys often get lost. Boys can record or store their access code on their phone or in their wallet if they are concerned about forgetting their code.

Buses and transport:

We ask that all parents and guardians remind their young men about behaviour expectations on public transport, at bus stops and at the Queanbeyan Interchange. Our students travel with other members of the community, and it is anticipated that at all times our students act with the utmost respect for other people and the drivers who are doing their daily job. We ask our young men to be mindful of the language they use, the way they conduct themselves at all times they are upholding the values and expectations of our community.

Priority boarding Passes: Priority boarding passes are only allocated to students who are catching the S139 bus of an afternoon. No other students will be allocated priority boarding passes.

Residents within ACT: All students travelling within the ACT require a MyWay card which can be purchased from various outlets around Canberra (such as newsagencies). Students need to have their MyWay card registered for 24 hours before completing the application for the Student Transport Program. This application form can be found at the following link and needs to be completed by students or

parents: <https://forms.act.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=1410>

NSW residents: All students travelling between NSW and the ACT will need to apply for a Student Travel Pass. The application form can be found at the following link: <https://transportnsw.info/school-travel-apply>. Once the form has been completed, the school will verify the application and NSW Transport will process this and send all bus passes to the College, these are expected for delivery mid-term. An application will need to be completed as soon as possible.

Absences and Punctuality:

When students arrive at the College in the morning, the expectation is to move directly on to College grounds and to remain there for the duration of the school day unless otherwise exempt. Students are not to arrive at school of a morning and then leave to go to the shops or other areas once they have arrived at school (seniors are exempt).

Please be aware that yard supervision of a morning does not begin until 8:00am. There is also no supervision of the yard in the afternoon once the bell goes at 3:25pm.

We ask parents and guardians to please remind boys that school starts promptly at 8:50am. It is an expectation that students are at their classrooms at this time ready for learning. When boys are late to school and arrive late to class, this disrupts the learning environment. The same expectations apply to seniors arriving back to school after lunch.

In regard to student absences, it is a legal requirement that parents ensure the students for whom they are responsible, attend school every day that the school is open, and provide an explanation for every absence, including late attendance. An explanation can be provided to the college through the parent portal.

The College is legally required to report to the appropriate government agencies data on student attendance and non-attendance, including specific information regarding those students that have an unsatisfactory attendance record. In order for any student to make a meaningful contribution to College life and to thrive in his academic studies, he must consistently attend school and maintain an accurate attendance record.

Student Drivers:

Students who drive to school must complete the College permission forms provided by their Head of House which cover:

- car details including registration number
- passenger details
- parking arrangements

Students are not permitted to park motor vehicles on the College grounds or in the pick-up or drop-off zones. Students are requested not to park a motor vehicle during school hours in front of the College or on Canberra Avenue. No responsibility will be taken by the College for damage to student vehicles; including theft from vehicles or parking infringements fines. A reminder that the verge behind the grandstand is council land and parking is not permitted in this area. Parking inspectors patrol this area.

Students who are carrying passengers to and from school, must complete a permission form indicating which passengers they are carrying. It is an expectation of St Edmund's students that any student driver does not

carry a passenger in their vehicle without written consent provided to the College by the parent / guardian of the passenger.

Parent / Tutor Interviews – Tuesday 18 February:

Parent / Tutor Interviews will be held in Week 3 on Tuesday 18 February from 3.30pm-6.00pm. Interviews can be booked via the parent portal as of the 5th February 2025. These interviews are vital to ensure positive, productive relationships between home and school are established at the beginning of the school year. High School students should attend with their parents and the main focus for the interviews will be the finalising of SMART Goals for Semester One 2025.

Major Events for Term 1, 2025:

- Friday 7th February - **School Photo Day** (Further information will be sent to families).
- Thursday 13th February – **School Photo Catch-up Day.**
- Thursday 13th February – **New Families Welcome.**
- Tuesday 18th February – **Parent / tutor interviews.**
- Thursday 20th February – **Opening Mass.**
- Friday 21st February – **High School Swimming Carnival**
- Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th February – **Year 12 Retreat (Jindabyne).**
- Wednesday 26th February – **Year 11 Formation Day**
- Friday 28th February – **Year 7 Formation Day**
- Tuesday 4th March – **Moderation Day (Pupil Free Day).**
- Wednesday 5th March – **Ash Wednesday.**
- Thursday 6th March – **High School Athletics Carnival.**
- Thursday 13th March – **Year 10 Formation Day.**
- Wednesday 12th to Monday 24th March – **NAPLAN testing window** (dates TBC for Years 5, 7 and 9).
- Friday 21st March – **Harmony Day & Cultural Clothes Day.**
- Thursday 3rd April – **Brent Sanders Parent Information Evening.**
- Wednesday 9th April – **Easter Liturgy.**
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Year 12 Retreat:

– Year 12 Retreat is occurring during Week 4 of Term 1 at Jindabyne. Detailed information will be sent out during Week 1.

Year 7 Camp:

– Year 7 camp will take part in two sections during Week 1 of Term 2. More information regarding this camp will be sent out at the end of Week 1.

The Eddies Dashboard:

The Eddies Dashboard is a portal that allows parents to access key information and to easily access other important IT systems including Canvas and the Parent Portal. The Dashboard can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://dashboard.sec.act.edu.au/>

The Dashboard includes functionality that allows parents and carers to perform a range of tasks such as:

- Check timetables
- Explain absences
- See a list of the recent emails sent to them from the College
- See a list of their son's teachers and contact details

- Check their son's Effort Point Average (EPA) and Grade Point Average (GPA)
- See when assignments are due and check if they have been submitted
- Check the daily notices
- View past Academic Reports

Your username to log into the Dashboard and all other IT systems is:

firstname.lastname@parent.sec.act.edu.au

NB:

If you have forgotten your password or you are a new parent and have not created a password yet, please click on the **Forgotten my password** link and follow the instructions. The password reset process requires parents to have a mobile phone listed in our system. If this is problematic, please contact ITsupport@sec.act.edu.au

Mobile Phone Use at St Edmund's College:

– A reminder that the use of mobile phones during class time is strictly prohibited and students who use their phone or get their phone out during class time will have it confiscated. Confiscated phones get placed in a locked box at the reception desk for students to collect at the end of the day. Students who repeatedly have their mobile devices confiscated, may have an extended period of time where they have to hand their phone in at the beginning of each day.

Please do not hesitate to contact reception on (02) 6295 3598 should you require any further information.

We hope that all our young men return to the new school year ready for learning, ready to work hard and ready to embrace all the opportunities presented to them.

With "Christ as my light" (Christus Lux Mea) we can create a nurturing environment where every student can thrive and achieve their best.

Kind regards,



Tim Cleary
College Principal