Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

The Charter Touchstone of ‘Liberating Education’, at the heart of what we do as an Edmund Rice school here at St James, is about opening the hearts and minds of young people so that, by their educational experiences, reflection and engagement, they become ‘hope-filled and free to build a better world’.

I would like to share with you the story of a remarkable young man Ahmad Fahim Hakimi – graduate of the St James College Class of 2016, a Student Leader, who achieved an OP8 after just under two years of formal schooling in Australia, all of the time at this school; a quiet, humble and generous person who endeared himself to all.

Several days ago the College was delighted to hear that Ahmad has been awarded a full four-year scholarship to the University of Adelaide to study towards an Honours degree in Civil and Structural Engineering. It was a reward that has come as a result of sheer hard work and dedication – remarkable, even more so, in that Ahmad is an asylum-seeker from war-torn Afghanistan.

His journey to this point in his life has been nothing short of inspirational – a journey marked by life-threatening danger in his homeland at the hands of the Taliban, terror on the ocean and anxious uncertainty as life unfolded in his new country.

“I wouldn’t have thought that I would ever leave Afghanistan and end up in a boat coming to Australia. My life was in danger so I had to leave. My family helped me to escape from my home in Kabul,” Ahmad said.

His escape from Afghanistan in 2013 saw him travelling precariously through India and Malaysia until ultimately arriving in Indonesia where he was able to get on a boat, hoping for asylum in Australia.

After over a year on Christmas Island followed by further detention in Darwin and a short time in Adelaide, Ahmad arrived in Brisbane to reconnect with his cousins who lived here. The Queensland Multicultural Development Association assisted in his enrolment at St James early in 2015.

Ahmad’s determination to master English and keep up with his assignments, meant spending many hours with his teachers both during class and out of hours improving his language and skills.

Such wonderful success for Ahmad has come after a long and dangerous road to freedom and St James College has been privileged to have been a part of the journey of this extraordinary young man. His achievements are truly reflective of what ‘Liberating Education’ is all about.

In a short message to me yesterday as he embarked on the next stage of his life in Adelaide, Ahmad wrote: ‘I love St James and it’s always in my heart forever.’

St James and indeed Australia are the richer for Ahmad’s presence. We wish him every success for his future studies.

Live Jesus in our Hearts – Forever.

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Senior Jerseys are available to order from Student Services. The cost is $80 with orders placed through Canterbury. The last day for orders will be Monday 20 February, this will ensure that students receive their Jersey at start of Term 2. NO ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THIS DATE.

National Apology Day

Recently, all students have been presented with very important diary information. All assessment due dates in all subjects for semester one have been collated by Senior Coordinators, Miss Corrie Shand and Mrs Tania Munro, and the Middle School Coordinator, Mrs Karen Lindsay with the assistance of the Heads of Faculties. The students will be encouraged by Home Group teachers to transfer the relevant dates to their diaries. Students would be well advised to create a one page summary of their assessment load. Parents are encouraged to discuss strategies for managing the assessment load with your sons and daughters in an effort to spread the load, avoiding bottlenecks.

In two weeks’ time students in Years 11 and 12 will be issued with a schedule for the examination block which will occur at the end of this term. The block will commence on Thursday March 23 (Week 9) and continue to Friday March 31 (Week 10). There will be exams scheduled in OP and Non-OP subjects with both written and practical exams in many subjects. Students should transfer the relevant dates and times to their diaries and ensure that they have scheduled a revision plan into their homework plan in the weeks leading up to these exams. All students studying VET subjects will be required to attend at specified times during this week to complete competencies. Students in Year 12 will also be sitting a trial QCS exam. More details will be forwarded to parents through their sons and daughters in coming weeks.

AP Pastoral

Dear Parents and Carers

It’s been a very busy week pastorally at the College with a number of events taking place.

House Breakfats

I thank all the House Deans, Homeroom Teachers and Senior students who have worked so hard to get the House Breakfats up and running this week. They were all well attended which gave staff a great chance to meet new members of their communities and for old hands to reconnect. Whilst the weather made it a struggle in the early part of the week, I was really impressed with the spirit of each House community. The students really are lucky to have such great people looking after them here at school.

Year 7 Parent Night

About 30 or so parents attended this event on Wednesday evening and I thank all of them for attending to help us transition their young children into high school life. My thanks also to the speakers of the evening, Mrs Donna Martin Head of TLS, Mr Scott Prickett Sport Coordinator and Mrs Karen Lindsay Middle School Curriculum Coordinator. All shared fantastic information and tips for a successful start to secondary school and were well received by the parents. My thanks also to Ms Carpenter, Mrs Bess and Miss Gano for helping with the set up in the Library.

Year 7 Camp

All is ready to go for Camp next week. I will meet with the Year 7s early next week and go through gear lists and expectations for the camp. All the students will meet in the upper yard at the normal time next Wednesday (9am). Students will go to Homeroom and we will depart at about 9.30am. We are all very much looking forward to this important experience.

Public Transport

Please ensure your children are familiar with the following brief guidelines for travelling on public transport to and from school.

♦ Students are to stand for full fare paying passengers at all times
♦ No student is to travel in the Quiet Carriages on the train
♦ Music and other devices are to be played through head phones only
♦ Conversations are to be kept quiet and appropriate at all times.

Full expectations are located on page 48 of the College Diary.

Public Transport

Dear Parents and Carers

I share with you a prayer to remember this important time:

Lord, God of Love,
You are the Creator of all things.
We acknowledge the pain and shame of our peoples and we ask your forgiveness.
We thank you for the survival of the First Peoples and their cultures.
Move us to truly mean our apology by moving our hearts.
Give us the courage to accept the realities of our Nation.
Teach us to respect all cultures.
Amen

Live Jesus In Our Hearts - Forever
Senior School Co-ordinator

Mrs Tania Munro

Volunteers Needed!

As part of our Careers Education program, all of the Year 10 students will be involved in three employability skillling events this semester and we would like to ask parents and those in our school community to consider being involved.

Speed Careering - Wednesday 29 March

This event gives students the opportunity to talk one-one-one, informally to people from various industries about their role, pathway and general career. As a guest at this event, you would spend five minutes with each student before they move on to another guest - you don’t need to present or prepare anything formal and we supply a guide with suggested topics just in case! For example,

- What tasks does your job involve day to day?
- What qualification is required for your role?
- What qualities would someone need to be successful in your job?

Mock Interviews – Wednesday 31 May

This event allows all of our students to practice their interview skills with a real professional who can offer them feedback to make them more attractive candidates as they move forward into applying for casual jobs and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. For the vast majority of our students, this will be their first experience of a job interview. Students will come dressed for the interview and will be applying for an advertised position which will be presented.

- Ten minutes interview
- Five minutes to provide feedback you will be provided with
- Evaluation forms provided
- Suggested interview questions provided

Work Experience 12 – 16 June

We have always found this to be a very valuable event. All of our Year 10 students will participate in a one week work experience placement before they embark on subject selection for their senior schooling. Our students select preferred roles or industries which we then try to place with employers. It can be very difficult to place our students in worthwhile placements with employers who are not connected to the school. If you think you may be in a position to be a host employer and would like more information, please get in touch!

If you would like to be involved in any of these events, or would like to find out more please email Tania Munro (tania.munro@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au).

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jim Bartlett

Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) Education Award

If you are interested in completing a university degree as well as training to be an officer in the Defence Forces, consider applying for the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra. Applicants to ADFA are eligible to apply for the ADFA Education Award. Up to 50 awards are presented to Year 12 students each year on behalf of the Navy, Army and Air Force in recognition of the leadership potential and academic and sporting achievements these students displayed during Year 11. Applications for the award open on 1 May each year and close on 28 February in the following year. Current Year 12s have until 28 February 2017 to submit their applications and current Year 11 students can start their application on 1 May 2017.

A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WHO WANT TO SECURE A TRADE CAREER AFTER SCHOOL.

The MIGAS Head Start Program is specifically designed to prepare Year 12 students to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship after graduation.

As part of the program, students will enrol in a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (MEM20413) delivered by TAFE Queensland SkillsTech (Acacia Ridge campus) and complete a series of MIGAS hosted workshops to develop employability skills for workplace readiness. The Presentation is on next Wednesday 22 February. See Mr Bartlett or Mrs Munro.

Middle School Coordinator

Mrs Karen Lindsey

Assessment

As we reach the middle of the term, students will begin to receive assignment tasks and sit exams for the first time this year. Students are reminded to ensure their TAP (Term Assesment Planner) is filled in on page 54 of the College Diary to assist in ensuring good time management in getting assessment in on time. Additionally, the Time Planner on page 53 of the Diary is a great resource that students should be utilising as it provides space to organise daily routines of study and other commitments. Time management is key to the success of all students and staff are happy to assist students to fill these documents out if needed.

Academic Awards Year 10

This week on Year 10 Assembly, 28 students were recognised for their academic achievements in 2016. The following students are to be congratulated on their consistency of results across all subjects studied throughout last year: Achol Ajang, Beni Bana, Mia Bowman, Rosemary Byrne, Pauline Braddick Parth, Frazer Campbell, Sean Conner, Parker Craig-Hunt, Dominic Brown, Nicholas Fielding, Pirashanth Gopalakrishnan, Michael Harris, Latio Jibi, Lachlan Jones, Daniel Kerridge, Kurt Mackay-Tini, Chynelle Marama, Thomas Markwell, Kynan O’Malley-Jones, Zoey Pieter, Conrad Retschlag, Tadhg Ridley, Angus Roberts, Mackenzie Robson, Ethan Sullivan, Jana Taufua, Ataria Walker-Teapania and Dominika Wilberforce. Well done!

If you would like to be involved in any of these events, or would like to find out more please email Tania Munro (tania.munro@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au).

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jan Finch

Science

On Tuesday the Chemistry and Physics students in conjunction with Beacon visited Origin Energy to talk to the graduates in the Graduate Program. The students who went thoroughly enjoyed the event. They were told how there are many pathways into a career and the graduates gave pointers on how to enhance online applications to seem better than other candidates. They also told students about university life and scholarships. The graduates were very open in answering the students questions about careers.

Next Tuesday 21 February, Physics students will be travelling to Dreamworld to study the Physics of Theme Park Rides. They will be studying the forces and acceleration of the rides.
Library

Library News
This week has been ‘Library Lovers Week’ here in the Ba-ra Barimi Library and students have been encouraged to borrow a book to read for pleasure. Reading improves language fluency, spelling and vocabulary and also enhances language use and imagination. Mrs Bess, Ms Walker and Ms Carpenter are always ‘on hand’ to help students select a book that is suitable to both their interest level and reading ability, which will ensure that reading is an enjoyable pastime for students, rather than an onerous activity.

Out and About with Jimmie
It is very safe to say that Jimmie ALWAYS loves spending time with his good friend Joshua Cottrill in the Library. Josh certainly has a way with animals!

Sport News

Wednesday Sport – The first round of fixtures are completed with some of our teams enjoying great success. It is imperative that all students bring the correct equipment for their chosen sport. Students are to be reminded that they need to be at the hall by 12:30pm each Wednesday to enable prompt departure to the respective sporting venues.

Boot Camp – The inaugural boot camp was highly successful. The schedule for upcoming boot camps and what the respective groups will focus on is listed below:

- Monday 6:30am – 7:15am Girls Boot Camp
- Wednesday 7:00am – 7:30am Junior Boys Boot Camp
- Wednesday 7:30am – 8:15am Senior Boys Weights
- Friday 3:15pm – 4:15pm Senior Boys Boot Camp

Sun Safety – Please ensure that your child has a hat to wear when undertaking any sporting activity. The College has both the navy blue sports cap and also the maroon bucket hat. The Uniform Shop has an abundant supply of both however the maroon bucket hat, at $17.50, is ideal for providing more sun protection to the face and ears and can be very easily laundered in the washing machine.

Climbing Club Coordinator

Jimmie’s Climbing Club is getting super pumped for the 2017 QLD Lead Titles. This is one of the largest climbing competitions on the Australian calendar. With categories available for all ages, including Para-athletes, there is every reason to be part of the fun. If you belong to the Jimmies Climbing Club, I will see you at training on Wednesday afternoons at Rocksports. If you didn’t know that St James has a Climbing Club, it’s not too late to join! See Climbing Coaches - Jacob Forker-Freeman, Ben Arnold and Bridget Alitchson for more details.

Family Therapy Sessions

Once again St James is offering students and their family/carers support with challenges relating to: poor school attendance, conflict about homework, challenging behaviour, substance or screen addiction, and general matters of mental well being.

The sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday morning from 7:45am to 8:30am

The service is free of charge, and the usual limits of confidentiality are explained in the first session (or on the phone prior if requested).

Family therapy responds to an understanding that the challenges presented by the child/adolescent usually impact upon those closest to them and yet it is usually family and carers who are best placed to promote change, if provided with the tools and support to do so.

Please feel free to contact Shannon via the main office or via email at Shannon.ogorman@stjames.qld.edu.au)

P&F BBQ Fundraiser - Bunnings Albion

Volunteers are needed for the forthcoming P&F BBQ at Bunnings Albion on Saturday 25 February. Staff and families within our College Community are most welcome to assist. Please email me at dmoloney72@gmail.com or phone me on 0429 338 040 if you are able to assist anytime between 7am and 4pm. The BBQ dates are listed below and can also be found in the 2017 College Calendar:

- Saturday 25 February
- Sunday 26 March
- Saturday 22 April
- Saturday 27 May
- Sunday 25 June
- Saturday 29 July
- Sunday 27 August
- Saturday 23 September
- Sunday 29 October
- Saturday 25 November
- Sunday 17 December

Dawn Moloney
P&F BBQ Coordinator
Making a smooth start to secondary school

Getting used to new subjects and new teachers, as well as forming new friendships are just some of the requirements of this period.

Starting secondary school is a time of change and uncertainty, which places new demands on young people. Being at the bottom of the pecking order where they are unsure of the playground hierarchies is just one adjustment that they need to make.

Some kids take these new experiences in their stride but it is natural to experience some difficulty, particularly when it’s accompanied by the potentially unsettling transition from childhood to adolescence. It’s no coincidence that many research projects indicate that children’s learning levels out in the transition year, presumably because the social tasks of adjustment take precedence over academic performance.

It helps to remember the Four P’s to help your young person settle in:

1. Promote friendships: The quicker kids form new friendships the sooner they’ll feel comfortable in their secondary school surroundings. Encourage your young person to be open to forming friendships with all sorts of kids; to be accepting of others who may be different to them; to take social risks by joining in activities even though they may feel uncomfortable; and to be friendly, approachable and positive!

2. Practice patience: Patience and understanding in the early weeks is essential. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it is normal to feel unsure or nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many difficulties they face will be temporary.

3. Pursue a positive attitude: Confidence is catching so make sure you see this transition time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than an event to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss settling in issues with the appropriate person such as a year level coordinator, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

4. Process their day: Some young people may come home with fairly exaggerated accounts of secondary school and may not always paint a fair picture. They may become sensitive to things that they might have shrugged off in primary school. Listen without judgment and show a real interest in their new school, while providing them with the space they need to get away for a while. Expect some behaviour blowouts as many kids let off steam in the relatively safe and stable environment of a loving family.

If your eldest is starting, then secondary school will be a relatively new experience for you too. It will take some time for you to adjust to the school’s culture and communication methods.

Although secondary schools may seem a little foreign for those used to the relative intimacy of primary schools, one aspect is the same – outcomes for students are maximised when schools and parents work together in the best interests of the student.

One way to support your young person’s school is by actively promoting the school’s values. For instance, if respect is a prominent school value then you can discuss this in relation to the way your young person behaves around friends, relatives and family.

Most importantly, talk up your young person’s new school, rather than talk it down, as kids of all ages take their cues from the most significant adults in their lives – their parents!

Chill is a peer mentor assisted social skills coaching program for young adults 16-24 years old with ASD and other social behavioural challenges. Chill is a ten-week program, one three-hour workshop per week for ten weeks.

**Program Focus**

- Conversations
  1. The rules
  2. Trading information
  3. Finding common interests
  4. Good questions to ask
  5. Are you listening?
  6. How to join & leave a conversation
  7. Body boundaries
  8. Voice volume & eye contact
- Organizing a Get Together
- Handling Rejection
- Dating
- Social Media

**The Team**

Allie Wilde and Nick Cliengo bring more than 30 years of combined experience to Chill as workshop leaders. Recognized for their work in community youth projects, Allie and Nick are experts in using the creative process to develop and improve communication skills. Their performance expertise results in fun and highly engaging workshops.

Supporting each participant in the workshop is a trained peer mentor whose role is to provide tailored support through social modelling.

The program is administered and managed by Code Blue’s co-ordinator Helen Whelan. On enrolment each participant's individual goals and needs are identified. Each participant will be monitored throughout the program with a feedback and evaluation process in place.

**Benefits**

- Establishing and developing new friendships with fellow participants and peer mentors through shared interests uncovered in the program
- Feeling less socially isolated
- Increased self-confidence
- Improved self-esteem
- Improved sense of identity
- Lots of fun!

Supported by peer mentors (one mentor for every three participants), our interactive workshops use video illustration, peer demonstrations, role-play and social situation rehearsals. The program uses popular mediums of drama, music, film and social media to engage participants in a fun and creative experience.

**Course Details**

- **DATE**: Monday 24th April - 26th June 2017 (10 weeks)
- **DAY**: Every Monday (10 weeks)
- **TIME**: 2.00 - 5.00 pm
- **VENUE**: Uniting Care Church Hall
  11 Sussex St West End Q 4101
  (Corner of Vulture and Sussex Streets) Click here for map.
- **COST**: $985.00 per term
  (Includes 13 dedicated peer mentorship and course resources)
- **TRANSPORT**: West End bus routes, a short ride from the Brisbane CBD.

There is a limit of 14 participants per term so get in early!

Individuals develop and acquire skills at their own pace so participants are invited to re-enrol in the Chill program to consolidate and extend their emerging social skills.

Following participation in one term of the Chill program, participants are also invited to enrol in the Chill Out program, a social networking program using peer mentoring to support participants in accessing and engaging in social events of their choice.

For information about Chill Out please read on.

**For More Details & To Enrol**

- **PHONE**: Helen Whelan on 0475 309 068
- **EMAIL**: helen.whelan@codeblueconsulting.com.au
- **FACEBOOK**: /codeblueforautism

**CODE BLUE**

**FOR AUTISM**
Chill Out is a social networking program designed specifically for young adults with ASD. Chill Out uses a peer mentoring approach to provide participants with the support and guidance to access and engage in social events of their choice. Generalizing all of the skills learnt and practised in the Chill program, participants can choose from a suite of social events. The program coordinator will match similar interests with peer mentors and participants. Chill Out will provide one mentor to four participants support at all events.

**CHILL OUT EVENTS**

- Chill Out Dinners
- Chill Out Music Concerts
- Chill Out Theatre / Shows
- Chill Out BBQs
- Chill Out Beach
- Chill Out Movies
- Chill Out Sporting Events
- Chill Out Games Nights
- Chill Out Event e.g. Brisbane Ekka, Splendour in the Grass, Big Day Out
- Chill Out Weekend Escapes

**BENEFITS**

- Feeling less socially isolated
- Increased self-confidence
- Improved self-esteem
- Improved sense of identity
- Having fun
- Owning a network of friends, not relying on others (family) to “get out”
- Feeling of social independence
- Family are no longer the sole source of participants’ entertainment and socialisation
- Improved social ability crosses into all life domains – ability to work with others, ability to study with others, ability to live with others, ability to be independent socially

**CHILL OUT WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 2017.**

A fortnightly schedule of Chill Out events will be posted on the Code Blue Facebook page as well as details on cost per event and how to sign up.

**FOR MORE DETAILS & TO ENROL**

PHONE  Helen Whelan on 0475 309 068
EMAIL   helen.whelan@codeblueconsulting.com.au
FACEBOOK /codeblueforautism