Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

In his book *The Church of Mercy*, Pope Francis highlights several principles that must characterize a community that is serious about being ‘mercy’ for others. A school like St James whose focus is on providing for its students a liberating education within a community of inclusion, these qualities of mercy are non-negotiable:

- **Freedom**: being able to think about what we do, being able to assess what is good and opting for good even if it means going against the tide.
- **Service**: working for a more just world; not remaining insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world.
- **Human dignity**: if all people created by God are equal and have God-given dignity, then this dignity demands an active participation in life and a contribution to the common good.
- **Solidarity**: seeing others not as rivals or statistics, but brothers and sisters; the measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need.
- **Commitment to peace**: peace is the responsibility of everyone; peace requires a persistent, patient, strong, intelligent dialogue by which nothing is lost.
- **Magnanimity**: having a great heart, greatness of mind, great ideals and the wish to do great things; doing the little everyday things with a heart open to God and to others.

**YEAR 12 FORMAL**

Congratulations to all Year 12s who acquitted themselves in an outstanding manner at last Friday’s College Formal at the Hilton Hotel. Hotel staff and also College staff who attended were high in their praise of the students throughout the evening. My particular thanks go to Ms Yolanda Cano who did the lion’s share of the organization and to Mr Wiseman who managed the overall evening.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS TO COME**

Over the next three weeks, commencing tonight, the College celebrates some major events.

This evening the annual Awards Night will recognize the wonderful achievements of students throughout the year in both academic and co-curricular activities. We are honoured that the Archbishop of Brisbane, Very Rev Mark Coleridge, will be joining us together with representatives from Edmund Rice Education Australia, the Christian Brothers and the College Board, as well as other distinguished guests.

The College Leadership Assembly on Thursday, 3 November, presents to the College community the new Student Leaders for 2017. After two very successful Leadership Training Days this week, Year 11 students and staff participated in a voting process followed by an extensive range of interviews by House Deans and College Leadership Team. The announcement of the 2017 College Leaders will be made to the school community in the next Newsletter.

Final Examinations for Year 12 commence on Monday, 7 November, followed on 17 November with a day of celebration of the Graduating Class of 2016. This day is a highlight in the life of the school and one to be remembered and reflected upon by the students themselves. The official Graduation Ceremony will be held at St Brigid’s Church, Red Hill, on the evening of 17 November. More details will follow for parents about this event.

Students in Years 7 – 11 conclude their year on Thursday, 24 November. The following day – Orientation Day – the College welcomes all new students who will be joining us at the commencement of 2017.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
**Family Therapy Sessions**

Shannon O’Gorman, one of the College Counsellors, is offering to all St James families a Family Therapy Clinic at the College.

Common reasons for support include: behavioural concerns at school or home, conflict over school work, complexities arising as a result of pre-existing medical or mental health diagnosis.

The sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 7.45am and are free of charge.

If you are interested please contact Shannon by email Shannon.ogorman@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au or via the school number and ask for Extension 663.

**Jimmies Brekkie Van**

All students in Years 11 and 12 are warmly invited to participate in the Jimmies Brekkie Van during Term 4.

The Brekkie Van goes out each Wednesday and Friday morning, departing St James at 6.00am, to provide a BBQ breakfast and be a presence to those who are marginalised in our inner-city community.

Please speak with your respective House Deans to register for this very worthwhile ministry initiative.

**World Children’s Mission Day**

This week saw the official launch of World Children’s Mission Day which commenced with Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen. The Presider of the Mass was Archbishop Mark Coleridge and it was wonderful that St James was represented so well by our students and staff who attended. The theme from the Gospel of Matthew, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these….you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40) was highlighted as a key theme of the Mass.

As stated by David McGovern, the Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission:

“During the month of October, more than one billion Catholics from around the world celebrate and gain awareness of missions and missionaries around the world. We are a global community and are part of a global economy; how we live affects others. On this children’s World Mission Day, our Pope, Francis, invites all Catholics to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples and to stand in solidarity with them as part of the Universal Church.

This year, Catholic Mission is focusing on the children of Cambodia. There are many children who cannot attend school because of poverty or disability. Many cannot go to school as they must stay at home and mind younger siblings while their mother tries to sell shells in the streets.”

At St James we are supporting Catholic Mission in their Socktober Appeal which is where the school fundraises in order to engage in advocacy and formation. The ‘sock it to something’ concept is an Australian expression that means to fight, punch or strike out at. For example, each year Socktober will “sock it” to social issues such as poverty, child labour, child trafficking and homelessness. Money raised at our recent free dress day will go to this worthy cause.

A special thanks to Ms Hales, Miss Murphy, and Mr Church who attended the Mass with the Year 11 students. Their support in the spiritual formation of our young people is most appreciated. Please find a short report from Pritesh Kumar who attended the Mass.

**Deputy Principal**

Examinations

The formal examination block for Year 12 commences on Monday week. The Year 11 examination block commences on Wednesday November 16. Students need to arrive on time for examinations, well prepared and organized. Examination sessions will not be delayed or extended for students arriving late.

With increasing traffic problems especially from the Western suburbs, students need to be proactive and strategic to ensure that they arrive in plenty of time for these important, and for Year 12, final examinations. It is only in very extraordinary circumstances that alterations to schedules will be arranged for individual students. Requiring an early flight overseas is not sufficient reason.

Subject selection

There are a small number of students who are yet to submit subject selection forms for 2017. In many cases their remaining choices are limited by class size and prior enrolments. This situation will only continue to worsen. Students are advised to make submission of remaining forms a high priority.

Looking forward

Following an announcement by the Minister for Education last week, the change to the new system of Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entry procedures will be delayed a further year to commence in 2019. This means that the first cohort to use the new system will be the current Year 8 students. Years 9 to 11 students will use the current internal assessment and OP entry systems with students in Years 7 and 8 using the new system with an external assessment component and the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). All sectors have welcomed the delay as every aspect is not yet clear as we await further ministerial decisions.

The Commonwealth Government is also proceeding to a transition to NAPLAN testing online. The platform used to allow online testing was trialed in a number of schools last month. One hundred Queensland schools will transition in 2017. Fifty percent of schools will be online in 2018 with the remaining schools transitioning in 2019. While the online system will present significant efficiencies and savings to Government, there is a significant impoast on schools in preparing both staff and students in the functions of the system. QCAA has committed to training one person in each school with that person then training the trainers in each school.

**AP Pastoral**

College Formal

I would like to say thank you to all staff and students who attended the Formal last Friday evening. It is an event that I look forward to each year as we get to see the students at their very best and certainly this year’s seniors did not disappoint. Their behaviour, appearance, manners and the way they treated each other was absolutely outstanding and it was a pleasure spending the evening with them. I extend a big thank you to Ms Yolanda Cano who worked with the students in organising the event and Mr Whelan (father of staff member Miss Jessica Whelan) who volunteered his time to drive students to the venue in his lovely Mustang. That gave the students a real kick!

Year 11 Leadership Inservice Days

This year’s cohort are really impressing with their engagement in this process. On Monday they were presented to by Luke and Hogan from Unleashing Personal Potential, who took them through a series of leadership challenges and conversations. The students relished the challenges that were served up and learnt much about themselves as a result. On the second day, we discussed the nuts and bolts of leadership at St James, heard the pitches from all the candidates and conducted the indicative vote from staff and students. The process continues this week with House interviews and from those the candidates for College Captain will emerge. They will be interviewed next week and all student leaders will be announced at next Thursday’s College Assembly. I wish the candidates all the very best through this formation process.

Uniform

A reminder that we will be upholding the uniform standards right until the end of the year. I understand that students may grow out of items during this time of the year but it is an opportunity to purchase new things for the future. Consequently, we will be ensuring that students are wearing the uniform fully and consequences will apply to those students who do not.

**AP Identity**

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Chocolate Crackle Competition

This year, the Catholic Mission is focusing on the children of Cambodia. There are many children who cannot attend school because of poverty or disability. Many children in Cambodia have been injured by landmines left after a long war. They are physically unable to attend school and are ostracised by others. Many children in Cambodia are in desperate need of education and spiritual formation. Many children live on the streets right now.

In The Mass the Archbishop asked about 'what is obedience'? He told us that we need to be listening - We need to learn to be obedient to the children of Cambodia.

Prithesh Kumar

To conclude this week we pray together:

“Loving God,
You sent your son Jesus to be the Prince of Peace bringing hope, love and justice to the world.
Teach us how to reach out to others and be peacemakers and people of justice and fairness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.”

Live Jesus In Our Hearts – Forever.
Every blessing for a peaceful week.

Chocolate Crackle Competition

Last Thursday, 150 students and staff competed in the annual St James Chocolate Crackle Competition. This is a house competition and was held throughout the day. The winners were announced on assembly that afternoon. This year the theme was "My Hero". There were many creative, thoughtful and skilful entries.

After the final judging took place the winners were siblings Goushiga Gopalakrishnan, Soumiga Gopalakrishnan, and Pirashanth Gopalakrishnan from Hogan House, who created a wonderful portrait of Mother Teresa. 2nd place was Futras Syed and Gotoof Idress and Ms Shand from Long House with an image of the David Bowie song We Can Be Heros and 3rd place was Mr Hill, Patrick and Ane also from Long House, who created a model of Batman.

The House results from the day were 4th Carey, 3rd Hogan 2nd Mary Rice and 1st Long.

Thanks must go to our two judges Scott and Jon and also to Mrs McDonald who organised all the ingredients for the day.

Library News

Come along to the Library to see our Halloween display! We are lucky that past College Student and Library Employee, the late Tom Beaumont, was such a creative and talented artist; we have some wonderful display items, thanks to him.

Jimmie’s Pick of the Week:

In keeping with the Halloween display this week, Jimmie suggests students borrow from the Spooky or Horror genres to get your spine tingling! We have books suitable for readers of all levels in each genre, so ask Mrs Bess or Ms Carpenter for a spooky suggestion.

ATTENTION: Year 12 Parents and Students

As our Year 12 students’ studies draw to a close, it is timely to remind them that all college resources – books, laptop, laptop bag and charger – must be returned prior to graduation.

As attendance is variable from the commencement of exam block, we would like to request that all Year 12 students return their Dell computers and both the AC adapter and carry case, to the Library on Friday, 4 November 2016. As some students may require some flexibility with the return of items due to exam study, alternate return arrangements must be arranged prior to this date with Library staff.

We expect the computers will be returned in a serviceable condition showing due care and responsible usage of such fragile resources. If there is physical damage to the computer, we would encourage your child to contact the ICT Department as soon as possible, as this may be covered by accidental damage insurance.

It is essential that students back-up any content they wish to keep, using a USB flash drive or external hard drive (recommended).

All Year 12 students will be given a list of their resources along with a Finalisation Form. If, for any reason, all resources listed cannot be found, there is an expectation that you will pay for replacements. Once library staff are satisfied that all college resources are returned or paid for, your completed Finalisation Form will be signed.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Mrs Lee Bess, Librarian, or Ms Nikki Carpenter, Head of Library and eLearning.

Sports News

Athletics News – St James had the honour of three male students represent Met East and our College at the Regional Athletics Carnival. All three competed well and showed their skills and abilities. Caleb Haworth-Brown and Tama Tupaea were successful in their events. They have qualified for the State Athletics Carnival in Canberra later this year and have automatically qualified for the National Junior Championship in Sydney next March. Tyrese Tufuga did not place at his event but his achievement on making it to this stage of competition is incredible. All students threw new personal best records for their respective events.

Tama Tupaea (U13 Boys), Discus 45.45m (Second Place), Shot Put 15.01m (Second Place), Javelin 39.98m (Third Place)) ; Tyrese Tufuga (U15 boys), Shot Put 13.80m (Twelfth Place); Caleb Haworth-Brown (Open Boys) Discus 48.18 (Second Place), Shot put 16.33m (Third Place).

Sports Quote of the Week

"Champions aren't made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have the skill, and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill.” - Muhammad Ali

Sports Quote of the Week

"On Wednesday, my Year 11 English class went to St Stephen’s Cathedral. The Mass’ theme was about World Children’s Mission.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.”

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY TRAVEL REBATE - SEMESTER 2, 2016

- Does your child have a verified disability that requires transport assistance to and from school?
- Has your school’s learning support teacher assessed your child’s travel capability rating as ‘semi-independent’ or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and
- Late applications cannot be accepted.
Dear Parents,

This Christmas, St James College has an opportunity to make a real difference for families in Rural East Timor. Our GOAL is to provide 50 days of work, by purchasing packs of Timorese hand crafted gift cards.

This is part of the “2016 2-days of work Challenge” of the TTN KOLEGKA CARDS program which supports the employment of 65 Timorese women in remote, rural Timor-Leste. The ladies hand craft the cards, which are high quality works of art.

Every pack of cards we buy, provides 2 days of work for a woman in rural East Timor. The price for each pack is $25.00. By purchasing KOLEGKA CARDS, we each become part of the story, providing a sustainable market for this fair trade product, while changing lives. The wages provide a steady, reliable income for families, which breaks the poverty cycle. Income gives dignity, and leads to better nutrition, education and health care. It is the foundation for economic growth.

A pack of cards is a perfect Christmas or anytime gift for your family, neighbours, friends, or employees. They are truly the gift that gives.

Let’s get started!

Please visit www.justiceproducts.org to purchase your cards. At check-out, use our code SJC50, which gives us free shipping and tracks our progress to our 50 days of work goal. Pay securely online by credit card or paypal. Please order by Thursday November 10 at 5pm, our cards will be available at school on Monday November 14.

KOLEGKA means ‘friendship’ in Tetun, the language of the Timorese. Purchasing KOLEGKA CARDS extends the hand of friendship to our northern neighbours, and creates meaningful, direct and enduring change for the people of Timor-Leste. Thank you!

Servisu Hamutuk - Working Together
Are you finishing Year 12 in 2016? Will you obtain a Queensland Senior Certificate? You may eligible to study a VET qualification or traineeship in 2017 – free of charge!

Year 12 school leavers can access high priority qualifications within 12 months of completing year 12, under a Fee Free arrangement through the Department of Education and Training.

The 2016-17 VET Investment Plan has a number of programs which support individuals wishing to pursue a career in health and/or community services. Information about the VET Investment Plan can be found at www.training.qld.gov.au.

Community services is a rapidly expanding industry with many and varied new opportunities being created. If you are looking for a flexible working environment and have a natural interest in supporting and helping others, a career in community services may be for you!

Information on Year 12 Fee Free including which community services qualifications are funded is available at www.training.qld.gov.au under “incentives”. Eligibility criteria may apply.

For more information please contact Kelly at the Workforce Council on (07) 3008 3644.

PHONE: 1800 112 585
www.workforce.org.au