Dear Parents and All in the St James Community

It is with great excitement that I welcome all in the St James community to our new school year of 2016.

In particular I acknowledge the many new students who have commenced at the school this year in all year levels, but in particular the Year 7 students who are embarking on the first year of their high school career. Know that you are joining a school rich in tradition dating back to 1868, a school that has always embraced students from many different backgrounds and cultures, and a school where the remarkable is indeed possible.

Each school year brings with it challenges but immense rewards. 2015 was one such year but the results of our Year 12 students were immensely satisfying and give cause for celebration.

100 Year 12 students graduated from St James in 2015. Of these, 32 were eligible to receive an OP. I am proud and pleased to report that of the 32 OP students, 2 students received an OP1, 2 students an OP2, 1 student an OP4, 1 student an OP7: this equates to 19% of our group of Year 12 OP students in this top bracket. Proportionally, our OP1s and OP2s ranked higher than the State average. In addition, of the 100 students who completed Year 12, 92 students received at least one Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate, 60 achieved a Certificate II and 11 gained a Certificate III. In respect tertiary study offers, 11 of our OP students received their first preference equating to 29% of the OP cohort and 24% received their second preference.

These are remarkable results that any school would be proud of. At St James, they are testament to the commitment of all our staff – teachers and support staff alike, their patient yet determined work with and support of their students, and the dedication of the students themselves.

We welcome to the staff of St James this year Ms Anne Ryan (Head of Faculty Teaching and Learning Support) who replaces Mrs Dianne McRoberts who retired at the end of last year after many years of dedicated service in inclusive education practice here at St James. Ms Anne Cracknell joins the teaching staff as a teacher of French replacing Ms Karen Herrick who is taking 12 months leave in Sydney. And we are delighted that Dr Shannon O’Gorman has rejoined our Counselling staff, replacing Mr Brian Thompson who is on 12 months leave in the USA, and we welcome also Miss Caitlyn Boyd-Ford from the University of Queensland who will also be working in the Counselling department.

At our first Assembly this week, I reminded all our students not only of the St James traditions and story of which they themselves are so much a part, but also the importance of embracing in every way our College motto “Faithful Forever”. I challenged each of them to be faithful forever to their studies; to be faithful forever in the way they form and sustain their friendships, and their embracing of the extraordinary inclusiveness which characterizes the way we do things here; and, thirdly, to be faithful forever to their school, displaying proudly their sense of loyalty, engaging in the traditional touching of the crest ritual each morning as they enter the school, wearing their uniform with pride and displaying that pride with integrity at every possible opportunity out in the community.

Together we look forward in hope to another exciting year in the life of this great little school.

God Bless

Gerry Crooks
Principal
Pope Benedict XVI, as part of his 2009 New Year’s Peace Message, invited the world “to have a more lively sense of belonging to the one human family, and to strive to make human coexistence increasingly reflect this conviction, essential for the establishment of true and lasting peace”. St James College is well-placed to encourage students to take the widest possible view of what constitutes community. St Paul entreats us through his letter to the Romans: “extend hospitality to strangers” (12:8). The St James community welcomes all our students returning from overseas and especially those who have come from afar: from Korea, China, Japan, Philippines, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Colombia, United States, Canada, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Liberia, Uganda, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Somalia, Liberia, Malawi, Kenya, Iraq, Iran, France, Switzerland, Russia, and England.

The College is focused on the opportunities presented by such a diverse community to encourage cross-cultural engagement through celebrating our diversity, highlighting connections and building capacity to appreciate and negotiate differences. Learning programs and community celebrations promote tolerance, empathy and the importance of social capital by building cross-cultural competencies and cultural literacies, leading to a sense of global citizenship. Themes in study programs explore issues of global forces, critiques of cultural clashes and sensitivities of differing value systems. Community activities promote participation and engagement and encourage an active, personal commitment to building peaceful and prosperous futures for all. St James is an inclusive and welcoming community providing students with the skills to negotiate and manage the complexities of globalisation.

Queensland Core Skills Tests
Year 12 students have been introduced to the requirements of the Queensland Core Skills Test. All Year 12 students are eligible to sit the test and we have prepared an intensive preparation program to ensure that all students perform to the best of their abilities in each aspect of the test. Students wishing to be exempted from the test need to return the permission slip with parent or guardian signature. Students who do not return the exemption slip will be expected to attend all preparation sessions.

Organisation
All students have been provided with College Diaries. These documents remain the property of the College and should be appropriately cared for by students. They are a prime method of communication between College staff and families. They are also a record of student work and homework and assessment requirements. A consistent feature of students achieving at the highest levels is thorough organisation. All homework requirements need to be recorded in the diary on a daily basis. Assessment tasks and in particular, due dates for draft tasks and final due dates should be recorded in the daily section. They should also be recorded in the Term Planning section on page 53 and 54 which provide a helpful overview of requirements for the whole Term. Students experiencing difficulties meeting expectations need to seek assistance early from the College Counsellors, the Senior Co-Ordinator Ms Markey, Middle School Co-Ordinator Ms Robin and College Leadership Team members who can all provide advice. Similarly, if parents or guardians are concerned, immediate contact should be made with the College. An easy point of initial contact is the diary or through an email to school@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au.

AP Pastoral
Welcome back
After an extended break, which for me included Term 4, I was thrilled to see all the students again and particularly to meet our newest members. The Seniors have done a terrific job in orientating them to the Jimmies Way and this budding will extend for the entire year. Having been away, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the huge efforts Mr Kubunameca put in keeping my chair warm. He did a marvellous job in what is always an extremely hectic time. I also would like to appreciate Mr Aaron Hill’s work, who in turn, stood in as Long House Dean. The entire College community thanks them very heartily for the work they have done. I welcome Dr Shannon O’Gorman to the Counselling staff as well this year, this time in a more permanent arrangement. Dr O’Gorman is no stranger to the school and is a very welcome stand-in for the irreplaceable Mr Thompson. Our school is very lucky to have the calibre of all these staff members working with our students.

Senior Leaders’ in-service
One of the highlights for the Pastoral Team is the first of these gatherings where we get to share the enthusiasm and energy of this group. I am very much looking forward to helping them put their plans into action this year and I thank them also for the way they have represented themselves, their families and the school in this first week.

Uniform
It was great to see all the students return to school looking resplendent in the College uniform. The challenge of course is to maintain this standard throughout the year. The House Deans will be redoubling their efforts to ensure the students maintain their uniforms and presentation to the expectations outlined in the College Diary. Senior students are encouraged to wear their ties in Term 1 but it is not necessary until Term 2.

Senior Jerseys
We have decided to get these organised as soon as possible this year and have sent the information home this week. The school has decided on the design so we can streamline the process. If you have any queries, please contact me or Ms Cano in Student Services.
Year Seven Camp
All Year 7 students would have received the information letter regarding Camp in Week 5 from the 24 – 26 of February. If parents have any queries regarding the Camp please contact your House Dean.

Lockers
We have reorganised the lockers this year so they are House based and relatively near students’ Homerooms. I thank Ms Blann and Mrs Whye for all their work in cleaning and reallocation. The lockers are supplied to assist students in securing their property and that of the school, namely the College laptops. We will be demanding they use them effectively for this purpose. We ask that all personal items be secured in them but also remind students that mobile phones may be stored at the front office.

Transportation To and From School
As people would know, St James is placed rather precariously in a busy part of Brisbane. Whilst the central location is convenient for public transport and cars, we discourage students from riding bicycles to school because of the thickness of traffic. Certain skateboards, scooters and student driven cars are not permitted to be used as transportation.

Welcome back to 2016
At St James College we pride ourselves on offering a broad range of positive learning pathways for our students. We recognise that people have different career goals, and that for many of those pathways you can get started while still in secondary school. Two of the most common pathways we engage students in are TAFE@School or School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

TAFE@School:
If you are a Year 11 or 12 student, you’re eligible to participate in the TAFE at School program. You can choose from a number of exciting and varied certificate II and certificate III courses. Best of all, a TAFE at School course can be achieved in conjunction with your senior studies and can count towards your Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Completing a TAFE at School course is also a great way to open up new pathways to university. The close date for applications will be Thursday 4 February, so if you think this might be something you’re interested in see one of the counsellors as soon as possible.

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships
School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships can also give you the opportunity to achieve a Certificate II or III while completing Year 11 and 12, gaining real experience and earning money. Usually, this means that students will go to work one day each week and attend school the other four days. In the past, we have had students working in various industries including child care, automotive, hospitality, retail, business, hair dressing and plumbing just to name a few! Vacancies for these positions are advertised online as well as at school and in the newsletter.

To find out more about what you can study, visit tafebrisbane.edu.au or to find out more about School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships speak to Mrs Munro, Mr Bartlett or Dr O’Gorman.

Year 10 Work Skills
This year the Year 10 students will be involved in a careers program each Wednesday afternoon. Students will receive careers education as well as opportunities for career development such as building resumes and applying for jobs, participating in mock interviews, careers expos and work experience. Students will have the opportunity to take part in various activities which are

SENIOR JERSEY
Year 12’s have the opportunity to purchase a Senior Jersey in their final year of school. This year the seniors will receive their Jersey in Term 2. The total cost of the Jersey is $75.

Students need to place their order and full payment by Friday March 11, end of Week 7.

No orders will be taken after this date. This is the only time of the year that the Jersey will be available.
Welcome to a new school year and especially to parents to come along to our meetings. The Parents & Friends Association is a friendly group of parents who contribute to the life of our great little school! Your attendance and support would be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there.

Guidance Counsellor

Mr Jim Bartlett

Automotive Course

Year 11—12 students who would like to complete Certificate II in Automotive on a Wednesday please come and see me as soon as possible to enrol.

Taste of Navy Trades

The Specialist Recruiting Team – Women in the Navy – is offering an exclusive tour for females interested in a technical trade career in the Navy to see first-hand some of the systems that are used to operate a Navy ship. Learn about the unique traditions of the Australian Navy as well as having the opportunity to try your hand at some of the trade skills that are used to keep a Navy ship at sea. This activity will give young females the opportunity to meet and talk with sailors from the Royal Australian Navy about their time in the Navy and the great opportunities available in technical trades. To be eligible to apply, students must be 16 years or older and obtained a pass in Year 10 English, Math and Science. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Sports News

Mr Scott Prickett

Welcome back to an exciting year of St James Sport. Term 1 is full of exciting opportunities for students to represent St James.

Wednesday Sport – This is for Years 7-9 and is played on Wednesday afternoon during school hours. Semester 1 sees the following sports up for selection (Futsal, Touch, Basketball and Volleyball). All sports have male and female teams and competitions. If your child is not a big team sport person we have programs running at school also. Students are encouraged to give something a go, to experience something new and different. The students will select these sports in Week 2.

AFA Futsal Championships – St James is a regular competitor in the AFA Futsal Championships which is held at the end of February. St James sends several teams to these Championships. If your child is a futsal player or a soccer player and wants to give futsal a go please see Mr Prickett about getting into a team.

District Swimming – The district swimming championships are held on Tuesday 16 February at The Sleeman Centre, Chandler. St James swimming carnival is hosted after this date. If your child is trained in swimming and would like to represent St James at the district carnival, they need to see Mr Prickett to nominate and receive the necessary paperwork.

St James Swimming Carnival – St James Inter-house swimming carnival will be held Friday March 3 at Centenary Aquatic Centre Spring Hill. This will be an all-day event. There will be more information about this closer to the day.

District Sport Trials – Any students, who would like to trial for districts in a respected sport, must see Mr Prickett for the correct paperwork to attend these trials. District trials are held after school hours, students are required to get their own way to the trials. Upcoming trials will always be placed in the notices and newsletter with the trial dates highlighted. The age group for district representation is: Mt Gravatt District U12 (Born 2004), South District U15 (Born 2003, 2002, 2001), South District U19 Age Group (Born 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997).

St James Basketball Program – St James Basketball program is looking for students who would like to play in a weekly basketball competition. These students would be required to play once a week in the Auchenflower BBI competition. The following age brackets are available (U14, U16, U18 Boys and Girls). If you would like to register your child’s interest please contact Mr Scott Prickett on scott.prickett@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au. Registration should include the following: Full Name, Date of Birth, Selected Team, Parent/s Names, Parent/s Contact and Email.

2016 Queensland School Immunisation Program

Since 2007, Queensland’s School Immunisation Program has been offered to students in the first year of secondary school. This year with the introduction of Year 7 into Queensland secondary schools, the School Immunisation Program was delivered in the second year of secondary school.

I am writing to inform you that in 2016, Queensland is transitioning the School Immunisation Program from Year 8 to Year 7. In 2016, all Year 7 and Year 8 students are being offered free vaccinations as recommended on the National Immunisation Program against Human Papillomavirus, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (WHOoping cough) and varicella (chickenpox). From 2017 onwards, only Year 7 students will be offered vaccination under the program.

Transitioning the program to Year 7 in 2016 will ensure adolescents continue to receive their vaccinations within the recommended age range (11-13 years) and align Queensland’s School Immunisation Program with other Australian adolescent programs which are delivered in the first year of secondary school.