

FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL LEADER

Dear Parents/Whanau/Caregivers

Ngā mihi nui

My thanks to the staff, parents and volunteers who have generously committed their time to support sports teams, school activities, trips and special character events during Term 1. It has been much appreciated. These experiences provide our students with richer learning opportunities as part of learning in and beyond the classroom.



Managing Assessments and Aiming for Merit and Excellence

There has been numerous reports released over the last year and discussions in educational professional forums across the secondary school sector, detailing the issues of over assessing students. Through 2017 the staff had discussions that echoed the heavy and unnecessary level of over assessment placed on most students overall. Linked directly to this, has been an increasing concern about the raised levels of student anxiety and stress among a growing number of students towards the completion of assessments and it has been impacting on their overall wellbeing. Our records indicated that students have an excess of credits that are well above what is required as a pre-requisite entry to their identified university pathway with most students gaining in excess double the amount of credits they require to achieve NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Towards the end of 2017, this issue was discussed with the Board of Trustees who viewed relevant data gathered by the college. Following robust discussion, the BOT is supporting the college in its move to reduce the number of credits offered in some subjects. Students who are entering the restricted programme courses at the University of Auckland are identified early in Term 1 to make sure they have the correct subjects and the amount of credits required for their chosen course.

Be assured, that teaching and learning programmes will not be changing and students will still be given opportunities to learn a full and robust programme of learning. The focus is on teaching subject content for a deeper level of understanding and not surface level understanding that aims for quality learning and not quantity of credits. Knowledge content should be more relevant and meaningful so that it takes students beyond the fundamentals and that they can apply skills and new knowledge to critically analyse information, negotiate and solve solutions, make ethical decisions and act on them, be better thinkers, transfer skills across contexts and much more.

Students are being encouraged to aim for merits and excellence which is the bar for successful entry into and completion of tertiary study programmes. What is essential for student success at this level is having acquired a deeper understanding of content knowledge at school and not spent time on the accumulation of an unnecessary excessive number of credit gathering. School practices are in place to carefully monitor students with the mapping out of their course to ensure the required credits for each subject are met as well as entry to tertiary courses.

The nature of assessment across New Zealand is also changing that includes students having greater autonomy and will work more collaboratively in class. At the same time, the PPTA, NZQA, Education Review Office, NZSTA and the Ministry of Education are supporting the teaching profession to better manage their workload as a result of overassessment.

Upcoming Significant Events

May

- 3rd** - Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 9-13, 4pm – 8pm in the Auditorium
- 8th** - Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 9-13, 4pm – 7pm in the Auditorium
- 10th** - Cross Country – Whole School
- 11th** - Sports Photos
- 12th** - School Ball for Year 12 & 13 students
- 18th** - 2019 Enrolments Close
- 28th** - BOT Meeting at 6 pm in the staffroom
- 31st** - Feast Day Mass at 10.30 am in the Auditorium

June

- 4th** - Queen's Birthday
- 5th** - Teacher Only Day
- 6th – 9th** - School Production at the Vodafone Events Centre
- 25th** - BOT Meeting at 6pm in the staffroom

July

- 6th** - End of Term 2

To keep up with our latest News items, visit our Latest News here:
<http://www.sanctamaria.school.nz/index.php/latest-news2>

Managing NCEA workload professionally

Why? Overassessment has adverse effects on student wellbeing and on teacher workload. It's also poor professional practice.

How?

Encourage learning, not 'credit-farming'

Teach more, assess less

Aim for fewer than 20 credits in each course

Focus assessment on Years 12 and 13

Consider how much assessment your learners need in Year 11

Minimise your marking

One unit of work can provide evidence for more than one standard (within the subject or cross-curricular)

Quality is more important than quantity

Provide guidance about how much is enough, don't let your students go overboard with evidence

Adapt your programme to your students

Establish at the start of the year a suite of standards that may be assessed, then adjust as the year progresses

Reduce the need for further assessment opportunities

Assess your students when they're ready or by gathering evidence over time

Capture conversations with colleagues

Conversations on student work at grade boundaries can be evidence of internal moderation

Next steps:

- Use a scheduled staff meeting to ensure everyone knows the real expectations
- Use the 'NCEA Myths' on the nzqa.govt.nz website as the starting point for your discussion
- Ensure there is consistency across all departments/faculties in your school, and if in doubt, contact NZQA



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

With the review of assessment practices, it has been necessary to review the process for Academic Honours and align it more to the NCEA qualification system. Information on this, has been emailed to you separately. Senior students also has an assembly on Tuesday 10th to introduce the new Academic Honours system. Your children were also given a Sancta Maria College NCEA Student handbook that explains this new system and all other NCEA information. Students are required to sign that they have received the information booklets about this.

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS

In Term 1 at the start of every academic year. We celebrate our student's academic achievements with a prestigious Academic Honours badge ceremony. This is where each child that has achieved the following in their NCEA results will be awarded a badge to match their outstanding NCEA achievement.

LEVEL 1 SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS

NCEA Level 1 Academic Honours - GOLD	= 50 credits at Excellence
NCEA Level 1 Academic Honours - SILVER	= 50 credits at Merit and/or Excellence

LEVEL 2 SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS

NCEA Level 2 Academic Honours - GOLD	= 50 credits at Excellence
NCEA Level 2 Academic Honours - SILVER	= 50 credits at Merit and/or Excellence

LEVEL 3 SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS

NCEA Level 3 Academic Honours - GOLD	= 50 credits at Excellence
NCEA Level 3 Academic Honours - SILVER	= 50 credits at Merit and/or Excellence

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS – SCHOLARS BADGE

LEVEL 1 SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS – SCHOLARS BADGE

NCEA Level 1 Academic Honours <u>SCHOLARS BADGE</u>	= Minimum FOUR SUBJECTS with Excellence Endorsement Students will gain an endorsement for a course if, in a single school year, they achieve: 14 or more credits at Excellence, and at least 3 of these credits from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards.
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LEVEL 2 SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS – SCHOLARS BADGE

NCEA Level 2 Academic Honours <u>SCHOLARS BADGE</u>	= Minimum FOUR SUBJECTS with Excellence Endorsement Students will gain an endorsement for a course if, in a single school year, they achieve: 14 or more credits at Excellence, and at least 3 of these credits from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards.
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LEVEL 3 SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE ACADEMIC HONOURS – SCHOLARS BADGE

NCEA Level 3 Academic Honours <u>SCHOLARS BADGE</u>	= Minimum FOUR SUBJECTS with Excellence Endorsement Students will gain an endorsement for a course if, in a single school year, they achieve: 14 or more credits at Excellence, and at least 3 of these credits from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards.
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SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

PARENT/CAREGIVER/WHANAU CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITY

The college has been reviewing its Values, Vision and Mission that have been in place since the establishment years. At the parent/student/teacher interviews early next term, these will be displayed and we invite your feedback.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS YEARS 9 TO 13

These will be held at the college on **Thursday 3rd May, 4 pm to 8 pm** and **Tuesday 8th May, 4 pm to 6 pm** in the **Auditorium**. These interviews are for Years 9 to 13.

Students are required to accompany their parents/caregivers to the interview.

The interviews are about their academic progress, it is important that they are part of the discussion and have a clear understanding of their progress to date and future priorities.

How to make a booking:

Parents need to make bookings via www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Bookings open on Friday 13th April at 1pm, and will close on Wednesday 2nd May at 4pm.

Use the event code: **m52h4** for student bookings.

NCEA PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING

We would like to invite you and your child to our upcoming NCEA evening. This invitation is extended to parents and students in Year 10 and 11 or any parent who would like further information about NCEA. This information evening will be run in-conjunction with our parent/student and teacher evening.

When:

Thursday 3rd May **6:00pm-7:00pm**

Tuesday 8th May **6:00pm-7:00pm**

Where: AM1, (Anne Block) **Sancta Maria College**

This evening is an opportunity for you to hear from the Principal's Nominee, Deputy Principal responsible for curriculum, They will speak about the key areas of NZQA and NCEA assessments.

Outline of the evening

- NCEA and NZQA and Academic Planner
- What does my child need to pass. How will I know, how can I monitor their progress?
- More internal assessments and less external assessments.
- Literacy and Numeracy requirements? Course Endorsement?
- What is GPA?
- Sancta Maria College Academic Honours

FUTURE-FOCUSSED LEARNING IN MATHEMATICS AT SMC

We invite parents of Years 7 & 8 to find out more about how the teaching of mathematics is approached at SMC. Come to the half-hour session at 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm in AM4 on Tuesday 8th May (after the senior parent's evening)



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

GREASE IS THE WORD

The cast and musicians have been hard at work rehearsing before and after school and holidays this term. Last weekend I visited our students and staff at the production camp held at Willow Park, Eastern Beach, where they have been rehearsing. I was fortunate enough to see such wonderful talent (song, dance, acting and music) and what wonderful progress has been made. I couldn't help tapping my feet and singing along to those well familiar songs sung by Sandy, Danny and the Pink Ladies.

I look forward to seeing you at the performances 6th June to 9th June (Term 2) in the evenings with Matinees held on the Wednesday and Friday at the Vodafone Events Centre, 770 Great South Road, Manukau.

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE COMMUNICATION

I especially wish to thank and acknowledge our news reporters who with the support of Mr Kevin Saunders, provide us with up-to-the-minute photos and write-ups on every news worthy event going on in our school community. I hope everyone visits our school website and Facebook page

Parent Portal <https://www.portal.sanctamaria.school.nz/index.php/>

- Notices
- Calendar
- Reports
- Financial
- Attendance
- Groups
- NCEA Summary
- Current Year Results
- All Results

Website <https://www.sanctamaria.school.nz/>

- Emergency Information
- New Student starting at SMC information
- Term Dates
- Parent Portal
- Career Central Portal
- Uniform Shop
- Campus Virtual Tour
- Enrolment
- Enrolments Forms
- Contact Us
- Newsletter
- Latest News
- Schoology
- Office 365
- Curriculum Handbook

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sanctamariacollege/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE NOUGHT AVAILETH.."

A boy watched a butterfly struggle to break out of its cocoon. Finally the boy could bear to watch no more and, feeling sorry for the butterfly, he opened the cocoon and set the butterfly free. But, after spreading its wings and flying for only a few metres, the butterfly fell to the ground and died. The boy had wanted to help the butterfly by making life easier but in fact the butterfly needed to struggle to gain the strength that would enable it to fly free and live.

Life can sometimes seem like a long struggle, especially when we are young. It is frightening to think of all the mistakes we could make as we strive to grow up into confident people able to live our own lives. But without the struggle, without trying hard and making the effort, we can never grow. Nor can we succeed, because success in everything is based on long hours of hard work.

As the boy and the butterfly found out, there are no shortcuts. But in the struggles of life we can find challenge, enjoyment and wisdom. And, in the end, we shall value the prize more deeply if we have made the effort, fought the fight and achieved our goals.

Blessings
Fr Kevin Murphy SM
Chaplain





SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

At the last board meeting we signed off the 2018 charter. A number of board members attended the open day enrolments for 2019, and some board members also attended the recent careers evening, that I personally attended. I found it a very good display of the opportunities open to our children from a number of providers, and there was a very positive buzz throughout the evening. There is certainly a vast range of careers and opportunities that technology alone has created and continues to create compared to years ago. The future looks so exciting, and full of creative and innovative careers.

Traffic Management

We are working with the Diocese and a traffic management consultancy company to assist with our traffic management concerns. We met onsite with the Diocese and the traffic management company last month. The traffic management company has also conducted an in depth traffic survey recently this month. We will get the results and recommendations next term and will keep you informed.

School Fees

As we come to the end of term one please ensure that you have paid your school fees for this period, as a board we rely heavily on your contributions to provide the high level of education to our children.

On Behalf of the Board we wish you all the best for a well deserve break, and we are look forward to term 2.

Warren Brabant
Chairperson
Sancta Maria College BOT

PARENT INFORMATION

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DUES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to assist families who may need financial support with the payment of attendance dues for preference students attending Catholic schools in Auckland Diocese, both primary and secondary.

Families facing financial difficulties can contact their school office, their Parish Priest or the Revenue Manager at the Catholic Diocese of Auckland for further information.

Application forms for the Hardship Scheme are available from school and parish offices, or can be down-loaded from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland Website:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/catholic-schools/

(go to Catholic Schools in Auckland / Attendance Dues and Special Character Contributions)

SCHOOL PRODUCTION – 6th – 9th JUNE 2018



Grease is a story about how Sandy Dumbrowski, the new girl in town, and Danny Zuko, the school's coolest greaser, have a secret summertime romance - but when they get back to school, everything is different. Sandy attempts to navigate the tricky Rydell High School social waters and catch Danny's attention again, but Danny is chiefly concerned with maintaining his tough-guy reputation. In the end, the Pink Ladies help Sandy figure out how to win back the leader of the Burger Palace Boys.

Our school production this year will be on at the Genesis Theatre in the Vodafone Events Centre, Manukau from the 6th June until the 9th with shows every evening and matinees on Wednesday and Friday. Tickets will be on sale soon \$18 for a student, \$28 for an adult and \$75 for a Family tickets (2 adults, 2 kids) through the school cashier as well as online so keep your eyes out for this amazing show.



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Careers Centre - Off-site Tertiary and Industry Events 2018

The aim is to provide first-hand experience and up to date information to students, parents and whanau. There is an opportunity to look around campuses and companies, find out about the support services, talk to staff and to find out what it is like to study the different courses offered or to work in a particular industry.

Mrs King and Mrs Munday in the Careers Centre have registration forms and information for any events that have *** next to them. Some of these events will require permission slips from parents and teachers for students to attend as they are during school hours.

Unitec – Book a Tour	<p>Book a tour and see what it's like to be a Unitec student.</p> <p>You don't need to be a student at Unitec to see first-hand why our campuses are special and why we all love it here. Our tours allow you to see our facilities and meet people doing what they do best. It's your chance to check out Unitec and ask as many questions as you like. Click on the link to book:</p> <p>http://www.unitec.ac.nz/why-choose-unitec/experience-unitec/tours</p> <p>Our free, 90 minute tours are conducted by our student recruitment team at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am on the 27th of April • 3pm on 29th of June • 10am on 12th of October
Dunedin Tertiary Open Day (Otago University)	<p>Monday 7th May 2018</p> <p>http://www.otago.ac.nz/about/open_days.html</p> <p>For any Year 13 student that is considering studying at Otago in 2019, this day is a must. Please click on the above link as you will need to get in early to book flights and plan your day.</p>
NZ College of Chiropractic	<p>Open Day - Saturday 12th May 2018 1.00pm-3.30pm</p> <p>What you can look forward to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about chiropractic and how it works • Find out all you need to know to apply • Take a tour of the campus • Attend a technique class to see chiropractic in action • Meet our faculty and students, and get the inside scoop on what it's like to study at the College • Find out about student clubs and associations • Hear from College graduates about what they're doing now <p><i>Register your interest to attend RSVP online or phone 09 393 9873</i></p> <p>http://www.chiropractic.ac.nz/index.php/events/event-rsvp</p>

University of Canterbury	<p>UC Info Evening 15 May, Viaduct Events Centre Auckland 6.30-8.30pm</p> <p>The UC information evenings are an opportunity for parents to hear about information regarding each of the degrees, support, uniqueness and important dates and processes of the University of Canterbury</p> <p>http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/events/tours-and-events/campus-tours/</p>
Waikato Uni Open Day ***	<p>Friday May 18th Hamilton</p> <p>Registrations for Open Day 2018 will open in March</p> <p>Open Day is the perfect chance to spend a day on campus, explore study options, chat to our staff and students, win lots of cool prizes, and get a taste of Waikato student life.</p> <p>https://www.waikato.ac.nz/events/openday/</p> <p>We'll have plenty of things for you to see and do, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sessions about how uni is different to school, how to choose the right degree, accommodation options, scholarships, student support and more • Mini lectures and workshops with our world-leading teaching staff to show you what being in a lecture is like, and how some of our subjects are taught at Waikato • Tours of campus and the Halls of Residence so you can familiarise yourself with the place, and see our on-campus accommodation first-hand • Opportunities to meet some of our current students and chat to them about their experiences • Live entertainment and food stalls, plus lots of competitions and giveaways • Information sessions for parents, caregivers and careers advisers throughout the day to answer any questions you have <p>Registrations for Open Day 2018 will open in March. Be sure to check back here to register so you don't miss out on any important event info. If you have any questions about studying at Waikato before Open Day, get in touch with our Future Student Advisers.</p> <p>Email recruitment@waikato.ac.nz or call 0800 WAIKATO</p>
NZ Careers Expo	<p>Thursday 24 May to Saturday 26 May 2018 at ASB Showgrounds, Auckland</p> <p>Careers Expo has experts that can advise on career and transition aspirations; employers, Industry bodies, tertiary and training providers, service and support groups.</p> <p>https://www.careersexpo.org.nz/expos/auckland-2018</p> <p>http://www.careersexpo.org.nz/</p>



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

The Term 1 Summer Sports season wraps up this week where we've seen 220 students from 24 teams represent the college in archery, athletics, cricket, equestrian, orienteering, sailing, softball, swimming, tag, tennis, touch rugby, ultimate frisbee and volleyball. Thank you to all our volunteers who have given up valuable time and shared their tremendous knowledge and expertise with our students. It's your contributions that allow us to continue offering sporting opportunities to our kids.

Congratulations to all our students, especially to those who have achieved their goals, set new personal bests and won medals and championships over the last few months. We look forward to seeing you progress into North Island and National Tournaments later this year as well as your winter sports programmes.

The Auckland U17 Boys Premier basketball team were crowned "Easter Slam" Division 1 Champions by defeating Harbour A 49-43 in an intensely contested final at the North Shore Events Centre over the Easter break. This team was coached by our Director of Sport, Mr Jason Crummer; with the support of Charles Tawera (Assistant Coach), Steven Kempton (Manager) and a long list of dedicated parents, friends and family.

A few of our own students were in action over that weekend, each playing significant roles within their respective teams:

- Isaac Wood 9DNN & Noah King 9BRN: Eastern Dragons U15 Boys (3rd place Division 2)
- Thomas Wood 12DNN: Counties Manukau U17 Premier Boys (7th place Division 1)
- Angelo Matanguihan 11CLE: Auckland U17 Premier Boys (Champions Division 1)

This tournament was the first on the 2018 representative calendar and was superbly hosted by North Harbour Basketball Association with teams being represented from the Greater Auckland Region, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury and Australia. The Auckland Super City competition is currently underway where the top 8 teams will progress to a qualifying tournament in May where the top 6 teams will take part in the National Championships during the July school holidays. Visit the ABSL website and head to the Representative TAB for more information.



Zumba

Fundraiser for
Sancta Maria College Production

SATURDAY 5TH MAY

1:30pm - 3:30pm School Auditorium

PAY AT THE CASHIER

\$10 pre purchased \$15 at the door

Drinks to be purchased at event

EMAIL [K.BRADLEY@SANCTAMARIA.SCHOOL.NZ](mailto:k.bradley@sanctamaria.school.nz)

FOR MORE INFORMATION



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ALONE AGAIN? Widowed, Separated or Divorced? The Beginning Experience's is a non-profit organization with the motto a "Weekend Away for a Lifetime of Change". The retreat will help you work through your painful loss. The participants find new hope, increased emotional health and renewed energy. Date Friday evening 18-20 May 2018. Cost \$295 or early bird price of \$245 if paid by 14 April. Includes accommodation, meals and materials. Contact Carol 022-089-0458 or leave message on (09)360-3054. Visit

www.beginningexperience.org.nz

