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**ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
 COLLEGE**

PO Box 500  
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 Tynong, Victoria 3813

**COLLEGE CHRONICLE**

Tuesday 28th March 2023

**Word from the Principal**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term draws to a close, our commitment to our College uniform and classroom behaviour remains the same.

Our uniform acts as a visible sign of the unity of our student body striving to achieve a common goal. Bearing this in mind, the standard remains uniformity, not individuality or fashion. While the College strives to develop strong individuals, the well formed student will possess a true depth of character, and a personality strong from within, not defined from without.

A uniform facilitates all of this by minimising the possibility of disordered, vain, or immodest self-expression that seeks primarily to draw attention to self. Beyond this, uniform dress reinforces a sense of solidarity and belonging, and eliminates the significant social pressures associated with style consciousness and competition. Uniforms do not suppress individual expression; willingness to adhere to the uniform policy indicates humility and maturity.

It is the expectation that students attend the College dressed correctly in the full College uniform and groomed accordingly. These expectations are outlined on pages 8 - 13 of the College Student Diary of which each student will be provided with. This will be used as the guideline to which students will be held accountable against.

A student arriving with any missing requirement(s) of uniform or not adhering to the expectations in the College Student Diary must be accompanied by an explanatory note from a parent or guardian. Upon arriving the first time without the required documentation, students are provided with an explanation of the misconduct and asked to have this rectified by the next day. If their persistent omissions remain, after consultation with the Sub-School Dean the appropriate consequence will be enforced.

Please note that students will be permitted to wear their College Blazer to and from the College, during recess, lunchtime (if not participating in physical activity) and for official College events during terms 2 and 3.

This week the staff and students have explored the virtue of Responsibility, which refers to fulfilling one's just duties; accepting the consequences of one's words and actions, intentional and unintentional. We can instil in ourselves and our students the understanding: Whatever our task, work wholeheartedly, as we are serving Our Lord, knowing that from Our Lord we will receive His grace as our reward.

It was wonderful to see our Grade 2/3 and 6 students participate in the Mad About Science incursion last week. Students were fully engaged and enhanced their critical and

creative thinking skills by asking questions, making predictions and drawing conclusions using scientific methods. Thank you to Miss Whitlock and Mr Fontyn for organising such a wonderful incursion.

Congratulations to all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students who successfully completed NAPLAN Online last week. We will communicate with all families when your child's NAPLAN results can be accessed.

We wish the Year 3 - 6 Athletics Team and the Year 7 and 8 Boys and Girls Volleyball and Tennis teams the best of luck as they compete in this week's sporting fixtures.

Next Tuesday afternoon we will hold our end of term College Assembly in the Multi Purpose Hall. The assembly will commence at 2.25pm. Therefore, please note that we will not hold our Monday morning assembly. Mass will still be celebrated at the College and commence at 9.00am.

Our Annual Action plan includes a commitment to undertaking meaningful stakeholder engagement, and to consider your views when making decisions. You will have now received a soft and hard copy of the feedback form and a reminder that your participation may be through a conversation with a member of the College leadership, filling out the feedback form and returning it to the College by next Wednesday. Thank you to those that have already returned the forms. If you require another copy, please contact the office.

Research highlights the benefits of students receiving feedback and reflecting upon their own progress. I encourage all parents to discuss with their child the feedback offered on their Interim Report which will be published next week. I also encourage families to ensure they make bookings for parent teacher interviews once they open. These meetings offer such a great opportunity to acknowledge achievements, set goals and clarify strategies for growth.

God Bless,

*Kieran*

Kieran O'Dywer

*(Acting Principal)*



**VIRTUE THIS WEEK**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Fulfilling one's just duties; accepting the consequences of one's words and actions, intentional or not.

**COLLECT - PASSION SUNDAY**

Look down with mercy, we beseech Thee, O Lord, upon Thy family; by Thy governance may we be outwardly protected in body; by Thy favour may we be inwardly strengthened in heart and mind. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.



Instaurare omnia  
 in Christo  
 To restore all  
 things in Christ

## From the Deputy Principal



### Positive Behaviour Support (Positive Relationships) - Part 7

Dear Parents and Families,

Research has demonstrated that positive behaviour support is significantly effective in minimising and managing challenging behaviours in the classroom. It reduces stress, frees up much-needed time for teaching, improves overall student behaviours and creates better classroom cultures.



**Positive relationships** is the sixth Universal of Positive Behaviour Support that we will be exploring. All people need to feel valued and cared for by the significant people in their lives. Students achieve better outcomes when they feel respected, valued, accepted and included. Students value teachers who set clear and consistent expectations and are firm in the class management, demonstrate a friendly, fair and respectful manner, see the good in all (regardless of behaviour) and take a genuine interest in them.

When teachers take the time to notice, acknowledge and listen to students it is a positive way to build relationships and show that the students matter. This assists in building trust, connections and a sense of belonging. Teachers who let down their defences, share their interests and show some of their humanity overwhelmingly have fewer issues with behaviour and motivation. When they are vulnerable and acknowledge their own mistakes and imperfections, teachers actually connect much better with their students.

Positive relationships involve:

- Understanding each student's background and context (social, emotional, cultural, societal, academic)
- Conveying to all students that they are worthwhile and are accepted fully as individuals, despite any difficulties they may have
- Knowing the interests and strengths of each student
- The belief that every student is capable of learning and progressing
- Creating an environment where challenge is expected, normal and safe
- Respecting all students
- Fostering relationships across the entire College community
- Using interpersonal skills to establish and maintain respectful relationships
- Modelling respectful relationships through appropriate language, teaching practice and decision making.

God bless,

*David*

David Williams  
*Acting Deputy Principal*

## SCHOOL TUITION FEES

Dear Parents and Carers

Time is running out! Remember, you have until 31 March this year to take advantage of the 5% discount on the payment of your school fees. Please contact the College if you are having any issues.

Thank you.

Primary	Secondary Girls	Secondary Boys
<p><b>OBEDIENCE</b></p> <p>Raphael Sprowell Dempsey Collins Fletcher Collins Luis Obrador Faith Mascarenhas</p>	<p><b>OBEDIENCE</b></p> <p>Paula Obrador Liola Hau Kautai Monique de Castella Genevieve McLean Annette MacDonald Josephine Soefting Philomena Sprowell</p>	<p><b>OBEDIENCE</b></p> <p>David Ockerse Kerols Abraham Isaac Hayward Daniel Nivet Harrison Smit Mark Obrador Oliver Pravidur</p>
<p><b>DILIGENCE</b></p> <p>Mary Mascarenhas, Verity Gallagher Cristina Mandarano, Bethany Garner Verena Botrous, Luke Garner Dominik Palcic, Monica Sorial Patrick Hardiman, Maria Falts Maverick Friehe, Gemma Higgins Christopher Freriks, Lola Collins</p>	<p>Isabelle Taylor Bethany Verleg Judy Abraham Emily Houston Emily Morgan Lucy Armstrong Aleisha Higgins Marie-Estelle Hanney Marina Maltz Brianna Robinson Lauren Elliott Madeleine Hovens Josephine Nivet Isabelle Higgins Joanna Verleg</p>	<p>Santino Tommasi Sebastian Hayward Andrew Higgins Ignatius Attard William Stevenage Daniel de Castella Joseph Hardiman Maarten Braaksma Myles Youngman Joseph Zaccari Luca Attard Joseph Hovens Jacob Smit Orlando de Castella William Fahey Anthony Tadros Xavier Taveira Daniel Freriks Julian Hovens</p>
<p><b>PERSEVERANCE</b></p> <p>Benedict Davis, Michaela Garner Abigail Higgins, Nikolina Palcic Eli Taveira, Timothy McLean Lexi Sharkey, Israel Autheman Patrick Davis</p>	<p><b>RESPECT</b></p> <p>Genevieve McLean, Isabelle Taylor Judy Abraham, Emily Houston Aleisha Higgins, Marina Maltz Brianna Robinson, Lauren Elliott Isabelle Higgins, Christiane Ryan</p>	<p><b>RESPECT</b></p> <p>Mark Obrador, Oliver Pravidur Santino Tommasi, Daniel de Castella Joseph Hardiman, Jacob Smit Xavier Taveira, Cameron Armstrong</p>
<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>Raphael Smit, Holly Wesa</p>	<p><b>PERSEVERANCE</b></p> <p>Isabelle Taylor, Lucy Phillips Judy Abraham, Emily Houston Emily Morgan, Aleisha Higgins</p>	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>Santino Tommasi Myles Youngman Matthew Sprowell</p>
<p><b>LEADERSHIP</b></p> <p>Mark Falts</p>	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>Katie Higgins, Emanuela Palcic Judy Abraham, Emily Morgan Marie-Estelle Hanney Lauren Elliott, Isabelle Higgins</p>	<p><b>INITIATIVE</b></p> <p>Santino Tommasi</p>
<p><b>INITIATIVE</b></p> <p>Edward Gomez, Rebecca Higgins Israel Autheman, Noah Cleary</p>	<p><b>INITIATIVE</b></p> <p>Judy Abraham, Emily Morgan</p>	



Obedience will open doors that experience never will.



## HELP REQUIRED

Fr Stephens is looking for anyone willing to remove wax,

sew on new black buttons and in general, clean the College's cassocks and surplices.

If any of the parents are interested in helping the boys look more worthy of the altar for College Masses, they are asked to please contact Father on 0488 211 664.

Many thanks.



### Lost Property

Parents are asked to please call at the office and check lost property before the end of term.

### Office Hours

Parents are reminded that the College office opens at 8:15am and is closed at 3:30pm each day.

## STAC NETBALL CLUB



The team will be training on Friday afternoon after school around 3.15/3.20 until 4pm.

Location: School Multi Purpose Building.

Team members and any students interested in learning how to play netball are encouraged to attend.

For further details please speak to either Michelle Attard mob: 0432-713-230. or Nicolette Zaccari mob: 0435-635-577.

## Easter Egg Guessing Competition

YEAR 12 FUNDRAISER



Lunch Times outside the Library Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

50c per guess.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS P&F

## Easter Chocolate Raffle

\$5 a ticket  
3 for \$12  
5 for \$20

1st prize



2nd prize



3rd prize



4th prize

# The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(31st March)

The Church twice commemorates the sorrows of its heavenly Mother. The Friday of Passion week, since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and also Sept. 15 have been dedicated by the universal Church to Her *Compassion*. Why is this so? To understand this double liturgy, we must know that Mary is also the Mother of the Mystical Body. The present feast was instituted by Pius VII after his return from his captivity and exile, which lasted from 1809 to 1814. Christ no longer suffers, and for Our Lady also, all suffering as we understand it has ceased. Nonetheless, the prophet Jeremiah in his Lamentations, asks: "To whom shall You be compared, O Virgin? Your affliction is like the ocean." A mother who is happy in her home weeps just the same over the sorrows of her children. The statues and pictures of Mary all over Europe wept before the Revolution in France, and Her statues weep again today, in many places. The Passion of Christ continues in His elect, in particular in His Vicar on earth, from whom He does not separate Himself, and against whom the force of hell is deployed unceasingly. The mysterious *compassion* of the Mother is forever acquired for the Mystical Body of Her Son, which must reproduce the divine death in its human nature, elevated above its natural condition by the superhuman power of grace.



was obliged to flee with the newborn Infant, already object of a fatal search. She lost Him in the temple for three inexpressibly painful days; She met Him on the road to Calvary, and the sight indeed pierced Her heart. She saw Him die, heard His final cry, and witnessed the opening of His side with the effusion of His last drops of blood, mingled with water; She received in Her arms the inert body of the most beautiful of the sons of men. Finally, She was obliged to depose Him in a tomb, leave Him there and return with Her adopted son, John, to a deicidal Jerusalem.

Mary's great sorrows began at the prediction of Simeon that a sword would transpierce Her heart. Soon afterwards, She

The Queen of Martyrs has never ceased to encourage Her children on earth to bear their own crosses, which complement the Passion of Christ. He suffered first the ordinary contradictions of life; for three years He was taunted and regarded as a menace by those who should have recognized Him and His mission. He knew hunger, cold and fatigue; He slept so heavily in a boat amid a tempest, that we can only suppose He was exhausted. He knew what it was to be abandoned in need and to lose, to the empire of various passions, followers He had called His. Christ is our forerunner in all human sorrows and difficulties. Mary, as His Mother, offered to God with Him all the afflictions of His earthly life, and She continues to offer those of the Church, for its sanctification, for the souls in Purgatory and the salvation of souls.

## 2023 CALENDAR

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
27 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar GRIP Leadership Conference	30 Mar	31 Mar SSV Yr 7-8 Volleyball / Tennis
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
3 Apr	4 Apr SSV Yr 9-12 B&G Volleyball / Tennis	5 Apr SECONDARY RECOLLECTION DAY Last Day of Term	6 Apr HOLY THURSDAY	7 Apr GOOD FRIDAY
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				
<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>				
24 Apr Curriculum Day - no school	25 Apr <b>ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY</b>	26 Apr Term 2 commences	27 Apr	28 Apr 8:30am Cross Country 12 noon Parent/Teacher Interviews
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL
1 May	2 May	3 May SECONDARY HOUSE CAMPS	4 May SECONDARY HOUSE CAMPS	5 May SECONDARY HOUSE CAMPS
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hal				NO STUDY HALL
8 May	9 May	10 May SCHOOL PHOTOS	11 May	12 May 7/8 B&G - Fencing
3:30 - 4:30pm Study Hall				NO STUDY HALL

### OFFICE HOURS

8:15am - 3:30pm  
MONDAY - FRIDAY

### TERM DATES 2023

1st Term:	30th January - 5th April	3rd Term:	18th July - 15th September
2nd Term:	26th April - 23rd June	4th Term:	2nd October - 7th December