



# St Brigid's College Horsham

St Brigid's College Horsham | 97 Robinson Street, Horsham VIC 3400  
(03) 5382 3545 | [www.stbc.vic.edu.au](http://www.stbc.vic.edu.au)

# NEWSLETTER

11th Dec 2019

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents/Guardians,

And here we are at the final newsletter for 2019. No doubt in each and every St Brigid's household there is the appropriate sense of joy that comes with completion. I congratulate all students on completing another year of education and I thank families and staff for your commitment to our College.

The season of Advent also recognises with a sense of joy the coming of Jesus in a special way. During Advent we are challenged to be open to the unexpected and ready for a few surprises! That is not always easy. The familiar is always more comfortable than the unfamiliar. God will not be boxed or labelled or "assumed". God will be God and come amongst us in ways that we least expect.

### STAFF NEWS

Staff members: Jill McGennissen, Naomi Gash and Gareth Hose have notified me that they will not be returning to St Brigid's in 2020. On behalf of all within our community, I thank Jill, Naomi and Gareth for their commitment to our students and wish them well in their future lives.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM 2020

In recent times the wearing of the school uniform by some of our students has not been to the levels expected. Uniform has been, and always will be, a burning issue in schools. Students will always push the boundaries as a sign of their growth through adolescence. Parents and staff need to work in partnership to offer clear choices to our students and present the consequences of not conforming to the designated procedures and protocols. A school uniform is part of our expectations for a number of reasons:

- It ensures that, cosmetically, we all have the same starting point so that students can excel in other ways – academically, musically, in the visual or performing arts, as leaders or in the sporting arena. Attention can be drawn to students' achievements rather than their appearance.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 11th Dec

End of year Mass Yr 7-11 1.30pm  
Students dismissed 3.23pm

Thu 12th Dec

Staff Inservice

Fri 13th Dec

Staff conclude

Tue 17th Dec

Office closes

Tue 28th January 2020

Office reopens

Fri 31st Jan

Students return

- It is a sign of belonging. If we are proud of being a St Brigid's College student, then we should wear the uniform as a badge of identifying with our values and our motto "In strength and kindness".
- On a practical level, it takes the choice out of what we should wear to school.
- It diminishes the competition between students of wearing contemporary fashion items, which can place unnecessary financial burdens on parents and students.
- We would hope that acceptable behaviour in the community while in the uniform is a sign to the wider community of the values we uphold and act upon.

Having highlighted the reasons why we have a school uniform, I do wish to thank the very many students and families who do acknowledge the importance of wearing the correct school uniform and the pride that it engenders within the school. If you would like to discuss this matter further, I would encourage you to either commit your thoughts to writing a submission or contact me on 5382 3545.

## MOBILE PHONES 2020

Staff at St Brigid's have developed protocols for mobile phones in 2020. I have included these protocols in this newsletter for parents to discuss with their children over the holiday break. The implementation of these new protocols will be difficult for some students as their dependence on their mobile phone is almost defining them as a person.

## ORIENTATION DAY

Yesterday we welcomed our new Year 7 students for their orientation day. It was most pleasing to see these nervous young people settle as their day progressed and now appear more comfortable in their new surrounds. Many thanks to Cathy van Dyk and Bettina Bird who have coordinated this day and to all staff who assisted with classes and the organisation of the day.

## YEAR 12 RESULTS

Best wishes to our Year 12 students who will receive their VCE results tomorrow.

AND FINALLY.....

I wish to thank all of our students for their conduct and attitude towards their studies over the course of the year.

I also thank the hard working and dedicated staff of St Brigid's. You will have noted the many extra opportunities that are provided to our students by our staff who, time and time again, keep giving of themselves to support the students of our College. To all of our staff and students, you deserve a well-earned holiday.

At St Brigid's, we are very blessed to have students who value their education, teachers and staff who care for and support their students and their families, parents and friends who are actively interested in our school.

Thank you for being part of the St Brigid's College community in 2019, if this is your last association with our College – thank you for your contribution – if you are returning next year, enjoy family and holiday time together.

On behalf of the staff of 2019, I would like to wish each and every family associated with St Brigid's a happy and holy Christmas and a restful holiday over the summer break. I look forward to catching up with you all in 2020.

**Yours in the community of St Brigid's College,**

**Peter Gutteridge  
Principal**

## ORIENTATION DAY



**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** - A massive congratulations to Daisy Sudholz, who over the weekend competed in Perth in the Under 14 Girls 1500m National Track and Field Championships!

Not only is it an incredible achievement to qualify and compete in this event, but Daisy ran extremely well smashing her Personal Best by 13sec and running in 3rd place!! Congratulations Daisy on your bronze medallion! We are so proud of you and all you have achieved.



## Mobile Phones at St Brigid's College

St Brigid's College will be adopting the mobile phone reform mandated by the State Government for all Victorian Government Primary and Secondary schools. Students will be required to switch off their phones and store them securely in lockers from the start of the school day until the final bell. When emergencies occur, parents or guardians can reach their child by calling the school.

It is therefore essential that all students have a functional electronic device for 2020 that is not their mobile phone but a device which satisfies the St Brigid's College 2020 Electronic Device User Agreement.

The only exceptions to the ban will be where students use phones to monitor health conditions, or where teachers instruct students to bring their phone for a particular classroom activity. At all other times phones must be in lockers.

### Protocols

1. Should a teacher require their class to use their mobile phones for a curriculum related activity then:
  - i) the staff member is to give 24 hours' notice (minimum) to all staff and to their students via a GoogleDoc
  - ii) at the commencement of class, the staff member is to escort their class to the locker area and supervise the students as they gather their mobile phones. Near the conclusion of the class the same procedure is to be adhered to.
2. Should a student be seen accessing their mobile phone at the lockers or be seen with their mobile phone on their person, then the following procedure is to be adhered to.

### First Offence:

The staff member will ask for and receive the mobile phone from the student without question or comment from the student. The mobile phone is then taken to the Front Office where the event is recorded. The mobile phone can be collected by the student from the Front Office at the end of the school day.

### Second Offence:

The staff member will ask for and receive the mobile phone from the student without question or comment from the student. The mobile phone is taken to the Front Office where the event is recorded. Parents are contacted by the Front Office to collect the mobile phone as it will not be released to the student at the end of the day.

### Third Offence:

The staff member will ask for and receive the mobile phone from the student without question or comment from the student. The mobile phone is taken to the Front Office where the event is recorded. Parents are contacted by the Front Office and a meeting is set up where options are discussed and implemented. These could include:

- i) Parents keep the mobile phone at home for an agreed period of time.
- ii) The student hands in their mobile phone to the Front Office upon arrival at school and collects the mobile phone at the end of the day for an agreed period of time.

### Student Refusal:

Should a student refuse to hand over their mobile phone to a staff member, the staff member will ask a Leadership Team member to collect the mobile phone. The consequence of the student's choice not to hand over the mobile phone will be a phone call to the student's parents, an afterschool detention issued and the mobile phone taken to the Front Office where the parents will collect it.



Maybe Christmas doesn't come  
from a store

Maybe Christmas means a  
little bit more.....

How the Grinch stole Christmas.....

Dr. Suess



From the staff and students of St Brigid's College, we wish you a  
safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



**Do you want to learn new skills such as leadership, self-reliance and initiative while making new friends along the way?**

**Do you have an interest in aviation and would like to learn more?**

**Are you interested in a career in the aviation industry, Airforce, Army or Navy?**

**If you answered “Yes “to any of these and are between 12 (in high school 2020) and have not turned 16 yet, then The Australian Airforce Cadets might be for you!**

The Australian Airforce Cadets (AAFC) is a Youth Development Organisation that is administered and actively supported by the Royal Australian Air Force

The AAFC will teach you valuable life skills and will help you develop qualities, including leadership, self-discipline, confidence, teamwork & communication

Some of the activities conducted by the AAFC include flying (both Powered & Gliding), field craft, firearms safety training, drill & ceremonial, service knowledge, navigation & aeromodelling

Our fundamental aim is to foster qualities that will enable cadets to become responsible young adults, who will make a valuable contribution to the community. No matter what career you chose in life, the AAFC provides a foundation of knowledge and skills that will assist you towards your future

422 Squadron Parades every Monday evening during school terms from 6:30pm till 9:30pm

Enrolments are now being accepted for our intake 1 of 2020. To register an expression of interest

And have our friendly staff contact you for more information, please visit [www.aafc.org.au](http://www.aafc.org.au) and click join the AAFC today

Or email [co.422sgn@airforcecadets.gov.au](mailto:co.422sgn@airforcecadets.gov.au)

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