



Dear Parents and Carers

With a revised Boarding re-structure in 2023 that saw the introduction of Junior and Senior Residences in both boys and girls Boarding, the year has been a successful one with our Boarding numbers increasing and growing further in 2024. These are very promising signs for our dynamic Boarding environment, and we are very fortunate to be able to offer an inclusive, co-educational Boarding environment that caters for the needs of our boarders and their schooling. Our strong Boarding numbers I believe can be attributed to certain factors which include:

- > exceptional pastoral care provided by our Boarding staff;
- > improved academic outcomes for boarders as a direct result of the structured study program and tutor support system; and the
- > regulation of electronic devices.

We are rightly proud of our Boarding community and I hope that your association with Boarding in 2024 will be a most enriching and satisfying one for you and your family. We especially welcome all of our new families to the Saints community and sincerely hope that you will find the years ahead very rewarding and positive.

To ensure a seamless and smooth year, please take careful note of the 2024 Term Dates listed in this newsletter. Your support in adhering to these times will ensure a settled and productive environment for your son or daughter.

2024 BOARDING HANDBOOK

Included in the end of year mailout, all Boarding families will receive the 2024 Boarding Handbook. I encourage families and Boarding students to carefully read the contents of the Handbook. Included in this Handbook are our well detailed policies and procedures that make Boarding a safe and caring place with many opportunities across a wide range of areas.

I ask that families read and understand our revised policy on extracurricular activities that are available in Boarding. In 2024, Boarders will have the opportunity to participate in one external/community activity per term and a school-based activity. This will enable all Boarders to combine their academic priorities with their sport and recreational activities. This information can be found in the Boarding Handbook.

The College aims to be very consistent with expectations and standards surrounding the arrival and departure of boarders. To assist with this, the 2024 Boarding calendar fridge magnet will be distributed to all Boarding families. Please display this somewhere it can be easily referred to throughout the year.



The Boarding staff and I look forward to working with your family throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to make contact if you have any questions.

Best wishes for 2024.

MR BRETT TOOMBS
Director of Boarding

SOCIAL MEDIA

A reminder that photos and Boarding news can be accessed through our Boarding Facebook page:

St Augustine's College Cairns Boarding Community

For new families who use Facebook, follow the link below to join our page:

[@staugustinescollegecairnsboardingcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/staugustinescollegecairnsboardingcommunity)

REACH BOARDING SYSTEM

The Boarding community uses REACH software for the daily running and organisation of Boarding. REACH provides students and families the ability to request and approve leave, which is a very important function and process of Boarding life. When a student requires to leave the College, a leave request must be submitted through REACH, and parents and the Head of Residence/ Director of Boarding must approve before the student leaves the campus. **A REACH Information Session will be held at the College on Sunday 21 January at 5:00pm and another session will be held on Monday 22 January at 3:30pm.** Early in January, families will receive an email on how to access the REACH system including passwords and login details. To access the REACH system go to **staugustines.reachboarding.com.au**

BOARDING STAFF UPDATE

2024 consolidates our Junior and Senior model of Boarding and we look forward to this evolving further over the next twelve months. Our four residences will be led by our very capable Heads of Residences, and we are excited to welcome Mr Patrick Connell, who will coordinate the Senior Boys program from 2024. Mr Connell is no stranger to Saints as he has worked in the Boarding program for several years and has also had previous experience as a Director of Boarding.

After making the decision to retire during Term 1, 2024, Mr David Lawrence will step down from his Head of Senior Boys Residence position and will work as a supervisor with Mr Connell in the Senior Boys residence for Term 1. Mr Lawrence has fulfilled the role of Head of Residence admirably for the past 14 years, and he will leave the College after over 30 years association with Saints as a student, Marist Brother, and Head of Residence. The College looks forward to farewelling Mr Lawrence in a fitting way during Term One.

An integral part of the Boarding program is the extremely committed and dedicated staff that assist in the supervision of our students. We are very fortunate that we have a very low turnover rate in staff, something that greatly benefits our students. We are also committed to reaching our Strategic Plan goal of increased academic assistance within the homework program, and we will once again rely on teaching and non-teaching staff in tutoring roles.



From left: Mr Stephen King, Head of Junior Boys Residence
Mr Patrick Connell, Head of Senior Boys Residence
Mrs Desiree Price, Head of Junior Girls Residence
Ms Renee Luff, Head of Senior Girls Residence

2024 REFURBISHMENT PROGRAM

We are excited this year to start our refurbishment program in Boarding, and the College has been fortunate to secure significant funding over the past six months to begin work on the residences. We are hopeful of securing extra funding during 2024 to continue the building program in Boarding.

As a result, there will be some short-term changes to where our boarders will call home in Semester One. On the return to school in January, our Junior Girls will occupy Lower Ambrose Residence, whilst our Year 10 boys will relocate to Geaney Residence, whilst Upper Ambrose is refurbished. The College is hopeful that Lower Ambrose will also receive the funding for its own makeover.

BOARDING ARRIVALS - TERM 1

Listed below are the prominent Boarding dates for the first week of Term 1.

To ensure a smooth transition into Boarding from the school holidays, could I please ask families to email flight itineraries for returning boarders to sac.boarding@cns.catholic.edu.au so transport from the airport can be coordinated efficiently.

All boarders are expected back in residence on the day before their first school day commences. If there are exceptions to this, contact must be made with the relevant College Principal.

SUNDAY 21 JANUARY

- > SAC & SMC Year 7 Boarders
- > REACH Parent Information Session 5pm
- > Year 7 Boarders' Parent Meeting 5:45pm

MONDAY 22 JANUARY

- > SAC & SMC Year 7 Boarders' Orientation Day
- > SAC Years 8-12 New Boarders in Residence 1pm-3pm
- > SAC Years 8-12 Returning Boarders in Residence 4pm-8pm
- > SMC Years 8-11 New Boarders in Residence 1pm-3pm
- > SMC Years 9 & 11 Returning Boarders in Residence 4pm-8pm
- > REACH Parent Information Session 3:30pm
- > SAC & SMC New Year 8-12 Boarders' Parent Meeting 4:30pm

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY

- > SAC Classes Commence
- > SMC Years 7, 9, 11 Commence
- > SMC New Students Years 8-10 Orientation, 12:30-3:20pm
- > SMC Years 8, 10, 12 Returning Boarders in Residence 4pm-8pm

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY

- > SMC Years 8, 10, 12 Commence

COUNTRY DINNERS 2024

Boarding families are encouraged to come along to the Saints Country Dinner in their area during the year to meet staff and other parents. Proposed visits/dinners for 2024 are as follows:

Term 1	PNG Visit & Country Dinner Thursday 14 March-Saturday 16 March
Term 2	Tablelands Visit & Country Dinner Friday 19 April Weipa Visit & Country Dinner Thursday 23 May & Friday 24 May
Term 3	Thursday Island Visit & Country Dinner Thursday 25 July & Friday 26 July

ABSENCES FROM DAY SCHOOL

Requests for leave that require a student to be away from the College or Boarding for a full day or greater must be made in writing to the Principal prior to leave arrangements being made. **Request for Student Absence** forms are available from the Parent Portal or the College Office. The Director of Boarding or the Heads of Residence cannot approve leave from the day school, and Boarding leave will only be considered once a **Request for Student Absence** form is submitted to the College Principal at the relevant school.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE

Parents are asked to adhere to the College Term Dates and wherever possible restrict holidays or other periods of leave to the gazetted holiday periods.

Boarding students are granted a 'travel day' on the final day of term that will allow boarders from remote locations to travel home and arrive for the start of the school holidays. Weekly boarders will not be granted early departures for Exeat weekends or the start of school holidays. Please refer to the Parent Information Handbook for detailed information regarding this process.

BOARDING TRANSPORT

The benefits of involvement in extra-curricular activities are well documented and for this reason, boarders' involvement is both encouraged and supported. However, while a driver is available each day to drive boarders to and from activities, transport will only be provided to venues within 15 minutes of the College.

If parents wish to arrange alternative transport with a coach, relative, family friend or team member, this will only be approved (via an **Extra-Curricular Activity Application**) on the provision that the increased travel time does not impact on a boarder's academic commitments (ie. study).

WEEKEND RETURN TIME

On Free and Exeat weekends, students may return by 8:00pm or on the morning of school on the understanding students are on time and ready for normal commencement. If students elect to return on the morning of school, the Head of Residence must be advised and details reflected in the REACH leave request. Late arrivals will see students forfeit this late return privilege. On all other weekends, students must be in residence for community dinner at 6pm.

Our Boarders' Mass at 7pm on non-Free or Exeat weekends is a condition of enrolment and is non-negotiable. It is compulsory for all students to be in attendance for this celebration.

STUDENT MEDICATION

The College has a very consistent policy that ensures that boarders who are on medication, will be administered this through the Health and Wellbeing Centre (HWBC).

The College Nurse is responsible for the administration of medication in the morning, and the HWBC opens from 8:15pm to 8:30pm at night for student medication.

The **Permission to Administer Medication** form can be found on the Parent Portal or by contacting the College Office. For your convenience, a copy will be sent to all Boarding families. Parents need to ensure that the form is completed and returned along with current medication when students return to Boarding in 2024.

Boarders are not permitted to keep medication in their residences and/or personally administer medication.

STUDENT MEDICAL HISTORY

At the start of the new school year, a parent slip will be forwarded to all Boarding families requesting updated medical history for all Boarding students. We ask families to use this platform to disclose medical information that will be collated by our College Nurse, Sr Suzana Borlovan. Any queries about providing this information can be directed to Sr Suzana on 4052 9111 or sac.nurse@cns.catholic.edu.au

IMMUNISATION PAPERWORK

The College participates in Queensland Health's School Based Vaccination Program for all students in Years 7 and 10. The vaccination team will be visiting the College to give free vaccinations against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine (dTpa) to Year 7 students. Year 10 students will receive the Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination.

Vaccination dates are listed below:

Year 10 - Tuesday 20 February

Meningococcal ACWY

Year 7 - Wednesday 5 June

HPV Dose 1 & dTpa vaccine

Year 7 & Year 10 - Tuesday 8 October

HPV Dose 2 & Year 10 Catchup

An information sheet and Vaccination Consent Card will be sent home to Boarding families over the holidays. Year 7 and 10 parents/carers must complete, sign and return to the College Office so that their son can be immunised.

Information regarding vaccination program for girls is available from St Monica's College.

COLLEGE PHOTO DAY

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2024

NQ School Photography will be taking the Student ID and Homeroom photos at St Augustine's College on **Thursday 25 January 2024**. Group photos of all Boarding students are taken prior to the girls departing for school on photo day. Orders can be made online at www.nqsp.com.au using the shoot key **8FQ46ZTC**. Sibling photos can also be ordered online. **The St Monica's College Photo Day** will be held on **Monday 29 January 2024**.

BOARDING STAFF CONTACTS

The first port of call for issues in Boarding is your son or daughter's Head of Residence. Their mobile numbers and email addresses are listed below:

SENIOR BOYS RESIDENCE (*Years 10, 11, 12 Boys*)

Mr Patrick Connell

T: 0401 323 998

E: sac.seniorboys@cns.catholic.edu.au

JUNIOR BOYS RESIDENCE (*Years 7, 8, 9 Boys*)

Mr Stephen King

T: 0419 652 916

E: sac.juniorboys@cns.catholic.edu.au

SENIOR GIRLS RESIDENCE (*Years 10, 11, 12 Girls*)

Ms Renee Luff

T: 0419 652 278

E: sac.seniorgirls@cns.catholic.edu.au

JUNIOR GIRLS RESIDENCE (*Years 7, 8, 9 Girls*)

Mrs Desiree Price

T: 0419 652 108

E: sac.juniorgirls@cns.catholic.edu.au

DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

Mr Brett Toombs

T: 0417 430 280

E: sac.boarding@cns.catholic.edu.au

2024 BOARDING

FREE/EXEAT WEEKENDS

TERM 1

Saturday 10 February & Sunday 11 February (Free)

Friday 23 February - Sunday 25 February (SAC Exeat)

Saturday 24 February & Sunday 25 February (SMC Exeat)

Saturday 16 March & Sunday 17 March (Free)

TERM 2

Saturday 4 May - Monday 6 May (Free)

Saturday 18 May - Monday 20 May (SAC Exeat)

Saturday 18 May & Sunday 19 May (SMC Exeat)

Saturday 8 June & Sunday 9 June (Free)

TERM 3

Friday 19 July - Sunday 21 July (Free)

Saturday 10 August - Monday 12 August (SAC Exeat)

Saturday 10 August & Sunday 11 August (SMC Exeat)

Friday 30 August (SAC & SMC Student Free Day)

Saturday 31 August & Sunday 1 September (Free)

TERM 4

Saturday 19 October & Sunday 20 October (Free)

Saturday 2 November & Sunday 3 November (Exeat)

Saturday 16 November & Sunday 17 November (Free)

MARIST

SPIRITUALITY

The personal faith of Marists, their manner of sharing in the mission of the Gospel, and their association with one another are all shaped by the spiritual way introduced into the life of the Church by St Marcellin Champagnat (1789-1841) and developed by successive generations of Marists.

They model their lives on Mary, our Good Mother, imitating her faith response to God and sharing in her work of bringing Christ-life to birth and nurturing its growth in young people.

Their spirituality is marked by a profound experience of God's abiding presence and love, by trust in God, by a deep personal love of Jesus and his Gospel, by community living in a family spirit, and by a humility expressed through simplicity.

Marists take Mary's Magnificat as their manifesto, setting out into the hill country of young people's lives, filled with hope and joy, bringing them news of the justice and mercy and faithfulness of God. Like Mary, the first disciple, their lives are centred on Christ, and their hearts are moved by the young.

EDUCATION

St Marcellin wanted teachers in Marist schools to experience the same faithful and compelling love of Jesus that he knew deep in his own heart, and to look to share this love with young people, especially those most in need of it. Marist schools define themselves from this hope.

Marist educators strive to mould their school communities as families, where people relate to each other as members of a loving family would intuitively do. They offer a spirituality that is simple and accessible, grounded in practical love and transparent relationships. From this basis, they offer an education that is both integrated and rigorous, aimed at growing men and women who will be compassionate and critical, articulate and aware, faith-filled and hopeful.

The principal purpose of Marist schools is to lead young people to know and love Jesus, in the way of Mary, in the belief that they all can become good Christians and good citizens. Marists have developed a distinctive way of undertaking this evangelising mission through the education of the young. Inspired by St Marcellin Champagnat, Marist educators, before all else, love their students.

Their approach is marked by simplicity, family spirit, love of their work, in the way of Mary and presence in the midst of those they are called to serve. To the extent that their resources, facilities and programs allow, Marist schools are open to all families that may be attracted to their distinctive way of drawing faith, culture and life into harmony through Christian education.

Marist
ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT