



## ST BEDE'S COLLEGE

2 Mentone Parade

Mentone Vic 3194

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[www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au)

ABN 59 127 195 135

7 February 2017

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s)

### RE: UMPIRING ACADEMY

Over the last eleven years St Bede's College has been one of two founding schools in metropolitan Melbourne, where AFL Victoria set up an Umpiring Academy for novice and developing umpires in Australian Rules football. The College currently has a number of students who regularly umpire each week in the South Metro Junior Football League, the Frankston Junior Football League, the Victorian Amateur Football Association, or the Southern Football League.

St Bede's College has had many fine umpires emerge from its ranks in the past, including current AFL Umpires: Robert O'Gorman, Simon Meredith and Chris Donlon as well as Stephen McBurney who retired recently after umpiring 400 AFL games. In 2007 another former student, Rob O'Gorman, received the "Young Umpire of the Year" Award for the VFL.

These young men took up umpiring while still playing themselves. Fortunately, they discovered that they had a real talent for umpiring and this then became the focus for their football involvement. They get to see AFL players close up every week and know all of them by name. A bonus is they are well remunerated and are able to combine umpiring with their chosen careers.

Students in Year 8 or above at the College are eligible to express an interest, even if they currently play football. I am sure that the knowledge gained will also benefit their playing of the game. As well, umpiring appointments are scheduled around the other commitments that students have, so it is very "user friendly".

Both Boundary and Goal Umpiring are also taught as part of the Academy and many students find that they prefer this aspect of the game. An example of this is former student Dan Wilson, who goal umpires each week in the AFL. As well, when finals come around and there are less field umpiring appointments, students are able to goal or boundary umpire in these important games.

Training sessions will take place at the College on Tuesdays after school from 3:30pm to approximately 4:45pm. The first session will be on Tuesday, 28 February and they will continue throughout the football season. Umpiring uniforms will be supplied by the South Metro JFL at no cost.

Any student who has an interest in the game, whether they currently umpire or not, is cordially invited to attend an Information and Sign-up Meeting along with one or both of their parents. Neville Nash from AFL Victoria will run the evening. At this meeting the aims, objectives and running of the Academy will be explained. This meeting will be held in the **Function Room of the Sports Centre at 7:00pm on Monday, 20 February 2017.**

I would ask that you fill out the reply slip below or email [mjn@stbedes.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mjn@stbedes.catholic.edu.au) indicating your availability to attend the information evening.

If your son has an interest in Australian Rules Football, please encourage him to consider joining the Academy and learning new skills and making friends along the way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the College on the phone number below.

Kind Regards

Michael Naughton  
Director of Sport  
9582 5945



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## REPLY SLIP

AFL Umpire Academy Information Evening – Monday, 20 February at 7:00pm

RSVP: Please return this Permission Slip to **Michael Naughton**, Director of Sport by: **ASAP**

I/we will be attending the AFL Umpire Academy Information evening on Monday, 20 February at 7:00pm in the Function Room of the Sports Centre at St Bede's College.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ No: Attending: \_\_\_\_\_