

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

❖ How has the start of the school year been for your son?

Strengths:

- Year 5 program – excellent (2)
- Years 9 & 10 good continuity, particularly DT
- Good technology ban
- CIP: Parents to be given more information – boys sometimes not giving information to parents
- School camps for Years 10-12
- Directing the boys to their strengths.
- Diaries – order – year started out strong
- Strong in sport
- Camps for the younger years
- Holistic approach in developing social skills
- Balance of academic and extracurricular
- Sporting groups encourage other teams throughout the school
- Year 10 communication from Mark Pawlak have been great
- Year 8 well organised and well supported and communication great

Challenges:

- Community involvement program – parents to be more informed
- Portal access information for Year 5 Boys/Parents
- Homework blocks excessive – needs to be more evenly spread
- Transitioning in Year 7 - number of subjects
- Year 7 can be hard to navigate – how to help those struggling
- Year 10 – more homework earlier
- Some parents can't find portal H/W
- Uniforms – getting used to them
- Year 8 Buddy didn't see for rest of day
- Year 10 – no sport at Oxford Falls – this is needed

❖ Share some ways you think parents can help their son's learning.

- Good habits – study skills course for Years 7-9
- Controlling technology
- Asking kids what they are learning
- Meal time to ask questions
- Encourage self management
- Encourage collaboration in study across year groups
- Parents need to be familiar with their son's portal
- Talking to your boy – showing interest in each subject
- Group studying across ALL year groups
- Parents need to be familiar with their son's portal
- Parents requesting past exam/test papers to assist
- Staff very helpful especially if your son is a different learner
- Directing your child through technology to assist with learning

❖ Do you have any suggestions on the best use of technology at school and at home?

- Workspace door is always open
- Family Zone
- Curbi – mobile phone time limit
- Docking station in kitchen
- Switch off Family Zone
- Family Zone a good IT assistance if needed
- Curbi App for phone limits time on phones
- Teaching the boys how to navigate through sites.
- There is a lot of unnecessary information
- Learning how to distinguish what is pertinent information for the task at hand
- If possible, get your son to research at the library first, to get background information and know your purpose
- The added programs for Maths, Language etc are most useful

❖ Suggestions on how the school could assist more with:

Orientation:

- Year 7 transition (2)
- Buddy system for families and students
- Past parents buddy new parents
- Local parent groups by neighbourhood
- Year 9 – mix it up Term 1 vs end of Term 4

When the boys arrive for their first weeks at St Pius X College:

- Family buddy system

Information to Parents:

- The cost of books is expensive – can't school buy books for students to use and return?