Welcome back to another year. You will notice at the foot of this page the statement that will continue to drive the College to excel: We strive to do our best; be safe; and welcome diversity.

We welcome new staff to the College: Mr John Doubleday (Automotive and MDT), Mrs Cheryl Gamble (Year 7 Core), Mr Ben Milbourne (Maths and Science), Mr Nick Sallese (Learning Support Teacher Assistant), and Brad Tolson (Sport Trainee). We welcome back Tanya Rataj from leave. We congratulate Josie Beyerle on her marriage late last year, and we wish Caitlin Connolly all the best on her marriage next month.

Today we were fortunate to have Br Clem Barrett visit us. Br Clem is based at the Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania, a school that he was also the Principal in recent years. He has spent the day visiting some classes, and shared lunch with the Prefects who take responsibility for fundraising. St Brendan-Shaw College has been a supporter of the East African school since 1999. It was good for me to hear, first-hand, something of the flavour of the school, and the system of education that it provides.

Yesterday’s Dux ceremony gave us the opportunity to acknowledge our academic achievers for 2012. The College had four students who achieved a Tertiary entrance score in excess of 100, with Dux, Benjamin Dodds, achieving a score of 108.5, which put him in the top 1.3% of students in the state, Proxime Accessit, Andrea Hendry, was placed in the top 3.2%. A total of nine students were placed in the top 10%. 13 perfect scores were recorded. Jordan Quaile achieved the top Year 11 results, based upon the best two TE scores, with a total of 44.1. There were a number of other year 11 students with very high TE scores, and several represented in the 13 perfect scores. The conduct of the student body during the ceremony was exemplary, drawing positive comments from many of our guests. This augurs well for another fine year for the College.

The Caritas office will be closed for
Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, 13th February
from 9:00 am—10:00 am.
Diaries for 2013

After consultation last year it became obvious that students were using different technologies to record homework and manage their assignments other than the school diary. Because of this it was decided that St Brendan-Shaw College would work with our students to look at new ways of teaching the students to be responsible for their homework and assignments.

The school will trial a range of options this year to see what works well and what doesn't.

Our Year 7s are in the "box seat" as their iPad can be used in place of their diary to help them to organize their work.

Teachers may offer other year levels a range of options, including asking students to come up with a way that best suits them to organize their work. This may include the use of mobile phones or other electronic devices, or writing work in their exercise books, or some students may still prefer to buy themselves an inexpensive diary or wall planner if they feel that suits them best. We encourage parents to also discuss with their children what might be best for them.

Another option teachers may trial is using the student's email address to inform them of homework, send worksheets home, etc. Every student is given an email address based on their last name and first two letters of their first name (e.g. John Smith would have smithjo@sbsc.tas.edu.au) and this can be accessed through Gmail. Students are also supplied with the password at the beginning of the year. Our Senior Students are sent quite a lot of information about TQA etc through their school email address.

On top of this, there may be a possibility that teachers would invite parents to submit their own email address so a copy of the homework email can also be sent to them.

This would enable parents to keep up to date with their children's homework and confirm once and for all whether or not the children do have homework!

What can you do as a parent?

1. Talk to your children in the first couple of weeks about homework and how they are going to keep track of it. Ask them if their teacher has come up with a suggestion as to how their class should keep track of their homework.

2. If a teacher decides to use the school email address to send homework, discuss with your children about sharing that address so you can have access to the information as well.

3. If a teacher requests your email address to add to the mailing list, think about whether that would be a helpful thing for your children. (Please note that not all teachers will choose to use email as a way of communicating homework).

4. If, as the year progresses, you have concerns about whether your child is keeping up with assignments and homework in a certain subject, you are encouraged to attend a Parent-Teacher Evening throughout the year. Alternatively, you may wish to ring the teacher concerned. Leave a message if they are unavailable but please remember that our teachers work hard! Sometimes they may not have any time off during the day so may not get back to you for a couple of days due to class commitments, so you may need to be patient for a response.

If you have any questions or concerns about the diaries, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Helen Williams or Mr Richard Chapman here at the College.

Mr Richard Chapman
Deputy Principal—Pastoral Care

DRIVING TO SCHOOL

The College has certain obligations to the safety and well-being of students. We understand that many Senior Students will be driving themselves and potentially other students to and from school.

If you have a child at the College who will drive to school this year, or be a passenger in another student’s car, we ask you to please note the following:

- Students are to use the provided parking and asked to avoid parking on Percy St or James St during the day. In saying that, the College takes no responsibility for any damage done to vehicles in our car park through accidents, etc.

- Students are not permitted to leave College grounds in their car during the school day unless they have signed out with parental permission.

- The College does not condone students transporting other students to or from school. If this does occur it must be done with the parental permission of the other student/s. The College will intervene if it becomes aware that no parental permission has been given.

- Travelling with teenage passengers constitutes one of the greatest risks for young students, with the fatal crash risk increasing 5 times when two or more passengers are carried.

- Students should not be travelling to or from school events, or using their car for school business, without parental permission. Even if the students do have parental permission the school will not accept any liability in the event of an accident.

If you have any concerns about your child driving to or from school, or have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Chapman here at the College.

Mr Richard Chapman
Deputy Principal—Pastoral Care
School Based Immunisation Program 2013

Information for Parents & Friends, newsletters etc

There will be changes to the free School based Immunisation program in 2013. These changes will better protect young people from preventable diseases, and will make the program simpler and the same throughout Tasmania.

The two big changes will be starting Gardasil vaccination for boys in 2013, and shifting all routine school-based adolescent vaccinations into Year 7 over the next two years.

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, Gardasil, will now be offered free to all boys and girls in Year 7. Boys in Year 9 will also be offered HPV vaccine at school during a catch-up program in 2013 and 2014.

In the second important change, all school-based adolescent vaccinations will be shifted to Year 7 by 2015. This process will take two years.

Students will be offered their diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough booster vaccination in Years 7, 9 and 10 in 2013; and in Years 7 and 9 in 2014.

The chicken-pox vaccine will also be provided in Year 7 only from 2013. The few students who have not already had hepatitis B vaccine will be offered this in 2013.

All these changes aim to improve our adolescent vaccination rates, and to protect young Tasmanians from serious vaccine-preventable diseases and their complications.

The decision to vaccinate your child can be life-saving. Please carefully read the information that will be sent home with your child in early 2013.

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<th>2013 SCHOOL BASED IMMUNISATION PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)</td>
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<td>(BOYS ONLY)</td>
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<td>DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND PERTUSSIUS (WHOOPING COUGH)</td>
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<td>(CATCH-UP)</td>
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<td>CHICKENPOX (VARICELLA)</td>
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<td>HEPATITIS B</td>
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Asthma Helpline & Product Recall Information

Free helpline for students and parents who have asthma and need help to breathe easier. Would you like to be less breathless with sport and lifestyle in general? Please call 1800 asthma Mon – Fri. 9 to 5

PLEASE NOTE: PRODUCT RECALL ON ASTHMA PUFFERS

There has been a voluntary recall of some batches of asthma inhalers. This is due to a fault in some inhalers’ mechanisms. When pressed, they may not deliver a full dose of medication.

Which puffers are affected?
Only Ventolin and Asmol are the subject of the recall and only the following batches:
Ventolin: KN7170, KN7173, KN7178, and KN7179 Asmol: KL6790, KL6795, KL6796, KL6797, KL6798, and KL6799

How to find the batch number: Remove the canister from its grey tube and you will reveal the batch number (along with its use-by date) on the canister label.

What do we do if we have one of the affected puffers? Simply go to any pharmacy (it might be a good idea to take this letter along) and new medication will be supplied on the spot, free of charge.

Also, just in case ...
The Asthma Foundation suggests, regardless of brand name or batch number, that you ensure all asthma puffers owned by the school are within their expiry date. To find the expiry date read “How to find the batch number”, above.

More information:
Or call the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462).
**MERSEY LEVEN CATHOLIC PARISH**
The Catholic Communities of Devonport, Latrobe, Penguin, Port Sorell, Sheffield & Ulverstone

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**
Families with children in Grade 3 or above are invited to participate in our family-centred, parish-based and school-supported Sacramental Program to prepare to celebrate the sacraments of **RECONCILIATION, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST** in April and June this year.

Information Sessions to explain the preparation program will be held on:
- **Monday 4th March**
  - 7.00pm
  - **at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Stewart Street, Devonport**
  - or
- **Tuesday 5th March**
  - 7.00pm
  - **at Sacred Heart Church, Alexandra Road, Ulverstone**

Catholic families will be sent a registration form soon. If you don’t receive one please contact the parish office or collect one at one of the above information sessions.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office (6424 2783) or nicathparish-dsf@keypoint.com.au or find information at Mersey Leven Catholic Parish on [Facebook](#)

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**SBSC MUSIC TUITION 2013**
The college will be offering students the opportunity to receive private tuition during school time. It is our belief that instrumental proficiency can be greatly developed by supplementary individual music lessons and that these enhance learning in the music classroom.

Specialists music teachers will be available to offer private lessons to students on a weekly basis. These lessons will be conducted during school hours and remuneration will be arranged between the teacher and the parent/student. The recommended rate for a registered itinerant teacher is approximately $25 to $30 per half hour. Students usually come out of the class for a 30 minute lesson once a week. Any students may participate, whether they are studying music as a subject or not, although if there is an overwhelming response, students who have chosen music as a subject, will be given first preference.

The Instruments we are hoping to offer are:

<table>
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<th>Guitar</th>
<th>Drums</th>
<th>Piano</th>
<th>Flute</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saxophone</td>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td>Euphonium/Tuba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violin</td>
<td>Cello</td>
<td>Trombone</td>
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If you are interested in your child receiving specialist music tuition at the school, please complete the attached form and return to the Music Department, via the College office. It would be appreciated if forms could be returned by **Friday the 15th February**, so that the programme can get underway promptly.

Mr Peters  
(Music Department)

Mrs Austin  
(Music Department)

(Please return this form to Mr Peters via the Caritas office.)

I am interested in my child receiving specialist participating in the Music Programme.

Name: ___________________________  
Instrument: ______________________

Year Level: __________  
Homeroom: ________  
Telephone Number: ______________________

Email: ___________________________  
Parent/Guardian’s Signature: ______________________

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**TERM ONE TO-DO LIST:**
- buy Amy’s textbooks
- get new uniform for James
- find out more about Saver Plus!

Match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500.

You may be eligible if you have:
- a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school or starting next year
- some regular income from work (you or your partner).

Contact Verity Tunevitsch, your local Saver Plus Worker:
03 6326 7716 / 0457 715 248 or verity.tunevitsch@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Northern Tasmania by The Smith Family.

Saver Plus is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
Host families needed!

We are having four Japanese students visit us from Sunday 24th March - Thursday 28th March from the Devonport Sister City, Minamata, Japan. We require three SBSC families to kindly host these students. They will be attending classes at SBSC and going on local excursions during their stay.

If you wish to host, please email Miss Sherriff.

ksherriff@sbsc.tas.edu.au

Canteen Information

The School Canteen has the same menu as last year and a list of what is on the menu is in each homeroom.

If you would like to order your lunch you can in morning homeroom, there are order forms in the back of the attendance folder.

There is now a coffee machine in the canteen. Coffee is available to purchase for Staff and Senior Students.

Hot Chocolates are available for Years 7-10 to purchase.

Concerns About Student Backpacks

The Chiropractors Association of Australia (CAA) has raised concerns about backpacks and the long-term damage that could be caused to students by over-laden and ill-fitting bags. According to CAA research, 90 per cent of school children have poor posture when carrying their bags while 75 per cent are not using the features of their bags, which could help prevent spinal damage. For school children the CAA recommends that:

- Backpacks should be no heavier than 10 per cent of the student’s weight when packed.
- Backpacks are sturdy and no wider than the student’s chest.
- Students choose a backpack with broad, padded shoulder straps.
- Both shoulder straps are used at all times.
- Waist straps are used at all times.
- Backpacks are not worn too low. They should not be lower than the hollow of the student’s lower back.
- Backpacks are not overloaded.
- Heavy items should be placed at the base of the pack, close to the spine, for better distribution of the weight.


JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Host families needed!

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If you wish to host, please email Miss Sherriff.

ksherriff@sbsc.tas.edu.au
Prefects dressed up in their house theme on the first day to encourage house spirit. The themes for this year are ancient civilizations. MacKillop - Egypt, Lyons – Rome, Dillon - Vikings and Griffin - Greece.