

7th April 2017

Diary Dates:

Monday 24Apr17:

- Professional Learning Day, Staff only return

Tuesday, 25Apr17:

- ANZAC Day, Public Holiday

Wednesday, 26Apr17:

- Students commence Term 2. *Students wear full winter uniform*
- ANZAC Day Ceremony, Period 1
- Uniform Shop open, 8.00am-4.00pm
- Parent Council Meeting, 7.00pm

Thursday, 27Apr17:

- Uniform Shop open, 8.00am-4.00pm

Monday 1May17:

- Student leaders lunch meeting with Principal

Tuesday, 2May17:

- Bradman House Reflection Day (Yrs 7-9)
- PDSSSC Cross Country, Eastern Creek (selected students)

Friday, 5May17:

- Mothers' Day Mass, 12.10pm, followed by BBQ lunch

Tuesday, 9May17:

- Year 12 Information Night, 6.00-7.00pm

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From the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Xavier College,

At the beginning of this Holy Week, the question we must ask ourselves is, "Do we have a living friendship with Jesus Christ?" Are we like the people of Jerusalem who welcomed Him with shouts of joy, throwing open the gates of the city to Him and throwing palm branches down to celebrate His glorious entry? Do we throw open our arms and embrace Him as our Lord and Saviour?

We welcome Jesus by making Him the centre of our lives. If He is who He says He is - God made man and Saviour of the World - then it makes no sense not to live for Him alone. What cause could be greater for us to give ourselves over to than that of the One who came to save the world? What way of life could be superior than the one given to us through the scriptures and the teaching of the Church? If we believe that Jesus is the Messiah, how could we ever believe that doing our own will is more important than submitting to His?

On this Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we are also reminded that to embrace Jesus is to embrace the cross. It is easy to welcome Jesus when it is popular to do so. It is easy to cry out "*Hosanna in the highest!*" when we join our voices to the rest of the crowd. It is not so easy, however, when the crowd changes its tune from "*Hosanna*" to "*Crucify Him!*". At those times, we can be tempted to run and hide just as so many of Jesus' disciples did.

There is much about the Christian way of life which remains uncontroversial. However, there are many of Jesus' teachings which are becoming increasingly unpopular and which even cause offence. It is very controversial in today's world to defend the right to life for all human beings including the unborn and the sick. Many people take offence to Jesus' teaching on marriage. If we are to be faithful to Jesus as His mother Mary, St John and Mary Magdalene were, we will have to embrace and promote not only the teachings that the world applauds but those that will get us into trouble or even challenge our thinking!

On this Palm Sunday, faced with the image of the crowd that sang "Hosanna!" on Sunday and yelled "Crucify Him!" on Friday, we hear Jesus say to us: "...[W]hoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt 10:33). At the same time, we are comforted by Jesus' words on the cross: "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). We can count on God's forgiveness because that is why Jesus came to die for us. However, if we want a share in His resurrection victory, we must endure difficulties and persecution as He did. If we want to sing "Alleluia" on Easter, we must sing "Hosanna" during Holy Week even when the crowd cries out "Crucify Him!"

That is the story of Holy Week. To be a Christian means to follow the person of Jesus both when it is easy and when it is difficult. We do so in the hope of one day sharing the eternal life He promised to those who believe, the new life which comes from His death on the cross.

Below is a list of 'alleluia' moments from Term 1

Award Ceremony—over 350 awards (Mr Malone and Mr McCorie)
Swimming Carnival, - new Xavier records – students selected for PDSSSC (Mr Whiley and the PDHPE Team)
Legally Blonde Musical (Mr Hazell)
Year 12 Music Concert – (Mr Kempis)
Information Nights –Years 8,10 and11 (Deans of House)
Open Night (Our Leaders of Learning & all of our teachers)
Year 7 Meet and Greet (Your Dean of House)
Year 7 Peer Support (Mr Gardiner and Ms Cole – Year 10 Students)
SRC BBQ/ SRC Meetings (Mr McCrorie/Ms Lee)
Ash Wednesday/ Project Compassion (Mrs Robinson)
Year 10 Catechist (Mrs Robinson)
Vinnies Van (Mr Buhagiar)
Senior Study every Tuesday night 3.00 – 8.00 (Miss Doman)
NAPLAN skills (Mrs Bainbridge)
Year 7 Camp (Mr Whiley)
Art Club (Mrs Mattucci)
Cross Country (Mr Whiley)
Year 9 Mentor Program (Mrs Hawkins)

Let us continue to follow the words of St Francis and always work for the greater good.

May the joy of Easter fill your hearts,
Michael Pate
Principal Leader

From the Assistant Principal

This week marks the end of Term 1 and there is so much to celebrate at Xavier. All that we celebrate at Xavier extends from a three-way partnership between staff-parents and students. Our new Year 7 students have settled in very well and they have been ably supported by their Year 10 peers and teachers. Today, many students received certificates for attendance, 428 students have excellent attendance and a further 150 students have perfect attendance. Mr Hazel and the CAPA team led the College musical, Legally Blonde Jnr. This production has taken 12 months to rehearse and perfect and at each performance we witnessed amazing singing and acting talent, teamwork, enthusiasm and a genuine love for performance. The swimming and cross country carnivals were also highlights, along with the many PDSSSC selections and games. There have been many more opportunities for students to experience success at our great school and students who have been involved in these will be recognised in their semester report.

During the holiday break I hope that you get time to discuss with your child their achievements and discuss their goals for the next term. It is timely to check that your child has the full winter uniform, stationery and workbooks ready for the start of Term 2. Year 11 and 12 students attended parent-teacher-student conferences this week and were provided with critical feedback on their progress and achievement in each course of study. We expect that all students and a parent or carer attend these conferences, if you weren't able to attend, please call your child's teachers early Term 2 for feedback.

In this time of Lent we are constantly reminded of the need to reach out to others in need. We have a very polite and well-mannered community at Xavier and I would like to praise the efforts of the family members who are responsible for this. Having good manners doesn't cost a cent, yet manners are extremely valuable and will carry people a long way. Students can reach out to others in need by helping without having to be asked, visiting a sick family member, offering an elderly person a seat on the train or bus, cooking a meal. There are so many ways we can enrich the lives of those around us with very simple, selfless gestures.

Term 2 will commence for staff with a staff development day on Monday, April 24th. All **students will begin Term 2 on Wednesday, April 26th** and are to return wearing their full winter uniforms.

Winter Uniform Requirements

To assist parents with uniform preparations, the following information is provided.

Winter Uniform

- The **College blazer** is to be **worn to and from school by all students during Terms 2 and 3**, and into Period 1. For extra warmth, the appropriate Xavier jumper can be worn under the blazer
- Shoes must be black, polished, hard leather, closed school shoes. Heels are to be no more than 2.5cm. Students are not permitted to wear soft leather casual, sports or skater shoes.

Girls	Boys
Red Xavier jumper	Black Xavier jumper
College kilt, below the knee (not rolled at the waist, maintained at a sensible and appropriate length)	College grey trousers, with plain black belt (no fashion buckles)
Black stockings	Grey school socks, visible above the shoes

- Students may wear the College scarf or a plain black scarf, however scarves will not be permitted in practical or workshop situations.

Sports Uniform

- Sports uniform is only to be worn during PDHPE practical lessons, on allocated sports days, or at sports carnivals.
- All Year 7 to 10 students are required to wear the Xavier College tracksuit during winter.
- The official College sports uniform consists of the Xavier College sport shorts, Xavier College tracksuit, red Xavier polo shirt and black Xavier cap.
Note: This is the only sporting attire permitted and should not be mixed with the school uniform or any other sport attire.

Detailed information about the College's uniform-related expectations and dress codes can be found in your child's Learning Planner, pages 23-26, or on display in the College Uniform Shop. This information includes pictures of appropriate kilt hem length and permitted/not permitted black shoes. Please take the time to read these expectations carefully before purchasing uniform items.

College Uniform Shop Hours

Extra trading hours for Term 2: **Wednesday, April 26, 8.00am – 4.00pm**

Normal trading hours: **Each Thursday during school terms, 8.00am – 4.00pm**

Your assistance in ensuring that our students wear their uniform correctly is greatly appreciated. Our uniform is an important symbol of the College and a public declaration of its values, standards and beliefs.

From all of us here at Xavier College, we wish you and your family a blessed Easter.

Mr Greg Malone

Assistant Principal

From the Director of Mission and Formation

All week, we remember how He loved us. Whatever we do, no matter how busy or “distracted” we might be, we can let the power of this week be in the background of our daily reflections.

Jesus entered into our life—with its profound joys and its punishing evils—that we might never experience those struggles alone.

So, no matter what we experience this week, we can let it become a “holy” week, by letting our daily lives be touched by the graces of this week.

From the humble, yet triumphant, entry into Jerusalem, to our standing together at the foot of his cross, this can be a week which helps us bring all of the elements of our lives, all our experiences of sin and death, into the font of his redeeming, liberating death and resurrection.

We enter into a week made “holy” forever by the self-surrendering love of Jesus—for us all.

Social Justice Initiative at Xavier

As part of the Religion faculty’s Social Justice initiatives, our students have been busy creating a wonderful back drop of stars as a demonstration of solidarity with the current social issues of antibullying and against violence.

Mrs Kellie Robinson

Director of Mission and Formation

From the Director of Student Growth and Administration

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the Nepean Blue Mountains District of NSW Health regarding the Meningococcal ACWY Vaccination Program which is being offered to all Year 11 and Year 12 students.

Meningococcal vaccinations will be administered to Year 11 and 12 students at Xavier College on Tuesday, June 20 2017.

You will be sent the Parent Information Kits early next term and are required to



return consent forms to the College as soon as possible. Please take the time to read this attached letter carefully.

Mr Lee McCrorie

Director of Student Growth and Administration

School Attendance

The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) have produced a short video regarding school attendance. It can be viewed by following the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BybXoybEJYq0eTd1bFJKT3RjX2s/view>

Mr Glenn Trefoni

Student Family Liaison

From the Director of Learning and Pedagogy

Busting some of the HSC literacy and numeracy myths (*David de Carvalho*)

David de Carvalho is the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

One of our greatest responsibilities in the education system is to produce young men and women with the basic skills they need for life after school. No matter their path, our students should leave school able to follow instructions in equipment manuals, write a job application or prepare a simple invoice.

From 2020 students will need to demonstrate that they have a minimum level of literacy and numeracy to be eligible to receive the Higher School Certificate.

The minimum standard is being set at a nationally agreed benchmark of literacy and numeracy that will give employers, universities, colleges and the community confidence that students have the skills they need for success when they leave school. But, more than this, it will help ensure that as students move through high school – and even before – achieving these skills is a priority for their time at school.

The same reform was introduced in Western Australia in 2013 for students sitting the HSC equivalent in 2016, and has resulted in a significant increase in literacy and numeracy attainment.

But, while there is general agreement that as many students as possible should have these skills when they leave school, some have seized on the new requirements to peddle misinformation – particularly because of the opportunity provided by NAPLAN testing for Year 9 students to demonstrate their proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

This is causing unnecessary anxiety among parents and students in the lead-up to this year's NAPLAN tests when Year 9 students are the first cohort who will need to meet the minimum standard to receive their HSC in 2020.

So, we need to bust some myths.

Myth 1: Students need to get Band 8 or above in year 9 NAPLAN tests to qualify to sit

for the HSC.

False. No student will be excluded from sitting for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results.

Achieving a Band 8 or higher in the Year 9 reading, writing and numeracy is a great result, and means they already have reached the minimum standard. But Year 9 NAPLAN is just the first of many opportunities students have to pre-qualify to the HSC minimum standard.

Students will be able to sit the online literacy and numeracy tests at least twice in each of Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12, if they need to, and they will only need to take online tests in those areas in which they haven't achieved the minimum standard.

Any student will be able to sit their HSC exams and receive their HSC results regardless of whether they have met the minimum standard or not. Those who have not met the standard when their HSC results are issued have five years from when they started the HSC to meet the standard and receive their HSC credential.

For the few who don't meet the minimum standard within this timeframe, a Record of School Achievement will be awarded – the credential already available to students who leave school before the HSC.

Myth 2: Band 8 raises the bar too high for Year 9 students.

The bar is not being raised. NAPLAN Band 6 is the Year 9 student benchmark. This has not changed. It is not an expectation that all students in Year 9 should attain Band 8s, but if they do, they have pre-qualified for the HSC minimum standard.

Myth 3: Linking the HSC and year 9 NAPLAN is unnecessarily stressful for students.

To the contrary, linking Year 9 NAPLAN results to the HSC minimum standard will ensure students who may need support to achieve this important functional level of literacy and numeracy are identified earlier – and helped to acquire the skills.

Myth 4: This should not go ahead, because some students will be disadvantaged.

As is the case with NAPLAN tests and the HSC exams, students with a learning, sensory or physical disability will be able to access disability provisions to provide them with a fair opportunity to respond to the online literacy and numeracy tests.

Students with an intellectual disability undertaking Life Skills English or Mathematics courses will be exempt from the HSC minimum standard requirement.

Education policy should express our aspirations for society. To students – and their parents – we should say let's embrace this challenge because settling for anything less than a functional level of literacy and numeracy for the HSC would be a disservice to us all.

I trust the above information clarifies this matter for you.

Mrs Alexei Hawkins

Director of Learning and Pedagogy

Sports Report — Term 1

Term 1 proved to be a difficult term for sport at the College due to the horrible weather and closing of sporting fields. However, we have had some success both in the pool and on the sporting field.

Xavier College Swimming Carnival

With the change of venue to Penrith Pools, it was pleasing to see so many students either supporting their house by wearing their house colours, or wearing their house themed costumes. The day went extremely well with great weather, except for the brief showers, a high participation rate in the novelty events, and some great swimming races resulting in records being broken.

Age Champions

	Girls	Boys
Under 12	<i>India Wilcockson</i>	<i>Brayden Tomkins</i>
Under 13	<i>Hannah Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Caleb Parkes</i>
Under 14	<i>Brylee Henry</i>	<i>Nathan Borg</i>
Under 15	<i>Mikayla Bull</i>	<i>Lachlan Becroft</i>
Under 16	<i>Holly Sparks</i> <i>Chloe Spears</i>	<i>Jayden Borg</i>
Under 17	<i>Sarah Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Kasper Diagnault</i>
Champion of Champions		Champion House—2017
Females:	<i>Holly Sparks</i>	<i>Bradman</i>
Males:	<i>Kyle Stanford</i>	



PDSSSC Swimming Carnival 2017

We had over 30 students represent Xavier College at the PDSSSC Swimming Carnival. Our team performed admirably on the day, with several students achieving a placing in the finals:

Huntley Jones, Nathan Borg, Ben Dardaneliotis and Caleb Parkes

(Junior Boys Relay Team)

3rd in the Freestyle Relay final

Jayden Borg

2nd U/16 100m freestyle

Nathan Borg

1st Place U/14-100 m freestyle

2nd Place U/14-50 m freestyle

2nd Place U/14-50m butterfly

3rd place U/14-50m backstroke

Cross Country 2017

The annual Xavier Cross Country event was held at Jamison Park on the 23rd March 2017. It was a competitors-only event with over 60 people attempting to complete the course around Jamison Park. The following students have been selected to represent the College at the PDSSSC carnival on the 2nd May 2017:

<i>Abbey Zabelo</i>	<i>Geordie McColl</i>	<i>Luke Berg</i>	<i>Piper Spackman</i>
<i>Ahmed Hammoud</i>	<i>Huntley Jones</i>	<i>Luke Buhagiar</i>	<i>Sophie Wilson</i>
<i>Alicia Curtain</i>	<i>Jordan Goles</i>	<i>Mackenzie Pelle</i>	<i>Stephanie Luyt</i>
<i>Ben Pace</i>	<i>Joshua West</i>	<i>Mary- Jayne Adams</i>	<i>Sundance Fuller</i>
<i>Bianca Chapple</i>	<i>Kaitlin Hansen</i>	<i>Matthew Pace</i>	<i>Taylah Copland</i>
<i>Blake Foufas</i>	<i>Katie Rose</i>	<i>Michael Sherry</i>	<i>Ty Hickson</i>
<i>Bryleeh Henry</i>	<i>Kayla Bruckard</i>	<i>Moses Ezekiel</i>	<i>Zachary Cowling</i>
<i>Cairon Gleeson</i>	<i>Lachlan Becroft</i>	<i>Nicolaine Velasquez</i>	
<i>Christian Mallia</i>	<i>Laura Carpenter</i>	<i>Patrick Rose</i>	

Sporting Blues Awards

This is the premier award for students who represent the College through selection into a NSW All Schools or National team (e.g. the NSW All Schools Open Soccer). This Award is also presented to students who represent a sport at a state and/or national level outside of school, and example being the (e.g. *National BMX team*). This award acknowledges exceptional talent and commitment to sport. A student who receives a Xavier Sporting Blues Award will receive the following:

- Framed Certificate
- Sporting Blues Crest and Badge
- Name on the Xavier Sporting Blues Board (located in the library)

A Xavier Sporting Blues Award was presented to ***Bryleeh Henry*** from Year 9. During the summer holidays, Bryleeh trialed for the Australian U/14's Girls Fustal Team. She is now a member of the Australian team and will be travelling to England in October to represent our country in a series of tournaments.

Bryleeh has also achieved six College Sport Red Awards for her efforts in a variety of sports at the College and, last year, was the Junior Sportswoman of the College.

Another Xavier Sporting Blues Award was presented to ***Christian Hliounakis*** from Year 9. Christian competed, during the last summer holidays, in the Oceania Championships for Freestyle Kayaking and achieved 1st Place in the Junior Men K1 class. This 1st place means he will represent Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands at an International Level in freestyle Kayaking.

XAVIER COLLEGE

Uniform Shop

Including pre-loved uniforms

Thursdays

8am-4pm

Ph: 4777 4068

Another Xavier Sporting Blues Award was presented to **Brooke Nicholson** from Year 10. Brooke successfully trialled for the Women's Youth State Baseball team in January. She is now a member of the NSW Youth Women's Baseball team and will be competing at the National Youth Women's Championships in April at Canberra.



Brook Nicholson, Bryleeh Henry and Christian Hliounakis with their Sporting Blues Certificates

Thursday Representative Sport

This term, the wild weather has caused many problems for Rep Sport, with fields being closed for a large portion of the season. The following teams represented the College on a Thursday afternoon:

- Junior and Intermediate Boys Basketball
- Junior and Intermediate Boys Touch
- Junior and Intermediate Girls Touch

Our touch teams only played 2 games at the beginning of the season with both our girls teams recording 2 wins and our boys team a win and a loss. The basketball teams played the entire season and our junior basketballers were placed 4th in the competition. They are playing their semi final in Week 10 against St Andrews.

For season 2, the following rep sports will be available:

Girls Soccer	Boys Soccer
Girls Netball	Boys Rugby League
Girls Ultimate Frisbee	Boys Ultimate Frisbee
Girls AFL	Boys AFL

Trials for these sports will start Week 2 Term 2, with the competition starting in Week 5.

Mr Daniel Whiley
Director of Sport

"Exceed your expectations"



Xavier College

Llandilo