



Monday 22 January 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians

2018 has arrived! It is, for all of us involved in SKC this Centenary Year, a privilege. In *Omnia*, I identified the challenge we faced to celebrate our Centenary with gratitude, zest, formality and fun at the range of 100th birthday events, while getting on with the core business of educating our boys.

On 8 February, 1918, 100 students enrolled for a St Kevin's education, in Albert Street, East Melbourne. Their purpose-built red brick classrooms, constructed in the corner of Parade College, were incomplete. T.W. Brennan, notable student of that first intake, remembered, *'housed at the opening in the Parade classrooms, Brothers' studies and library upstairs, we could not enter our own building on the Albert Street corner till midway through the year. Attending the various classes, trying to keep pace with the meanderings of the timetable, greatly resembled a relay race, or changing of the guard. But Brothers and boys co-operated and out of apparent confusion, order and method evolved.'*

On Thursday 1 February 2018, 2,100 Kevinians will begin, or continue, their St Kevin's education at St Peter's ELC, Glendalough, Waterford and Heyington. Our physical footprint is dramatically larger, our numbers, 2,000 to the good, yet I believe some of the hopes of the boys, their families and those entrusted with their education, probably remain remarkably similar. St Kevin's did, and continues to provide, a Catholic education for boys in the tradition of Edmund Rice. A Kevinian did and does recognise that his gifts must be used to the full to challenge himself and for the benefit of others.

What an optimistic decision it was, to start our school during the uncertainty and carnage of World War One. Archbishop Mannix, speaking at the dedication of our buildings in Albert Street, in September 1918, claimed St Kevin's would *'give Catholics a chance to make great strides in education, in careers and in public influence'*. He stated the new school would shine because of a *'stimulus of healthy rivalry and earnest work'*.

On day one this year, each boy will receive a Centenary Badge to be worn on blazer or shirt and a Centenary Tie. Our older boys will face the choice as to which tie they wear; indeed, some in the Year 12 cohort will, in 2018, be able to be in a different SKC tie each day of the week!

The commencement of every year comes with excitement and our academic climate and tone has as its foundations, the VCE results of the year preceding. We begin 2018 with bluestone-solid structures, courtesy of the Class of 2017. Mr Jones and I wrote to our community in December, full of pride and subdued excitement, announcing the results. Time, the press and more details allow me to extend further plaudits to boys, staff and homes, in this letter, prior to my fuller presentation as part of the Parent Information Evenings.

Our detailed analysis places 2017 as our second most successful year academically in HSC and VCE years. The Studies podium is now structured, 2009, 2017, 2005, Three perfect ATAR scores, a median study score of 37, a median ATAR of 89 and 31.4% of Study scores greater than 40, are statistics worthy of ongoing acknowledgement. The choices available to our boys are broad and I saw many smiles at results time, and university first round offers. The press noted our performance as the top Catholic School and top boys' school in the State.

Chris McConville, author of the history celebrating the first 75 years of our school, commented on the success of Archbishop Mannix's original hopes for our school, saying, 'St Kevin's did much to ensure the social advances of Melbourne Catholics, so much so that the school itself has followed the course

once chartered for its pupils: it has climbed to where it now shares public recognition as one of the leading schools of the city’.

Many would argue that the last 25 years has seen our school continue to advance so that we are now a Catholic school in Edmund’s tradition, which can claim a national significance. Throughout the celebration of our 100 years, I ask the current students to have an understanding of their heritage and perhaps, more importantly, to consider what legacy they will leave for the Kevinians who follow them.

Our year begins with Ms Janet Canny assuming the Deputy Headship and Mr Francis McGuigan joining the College Leadership Team as Director of Students. Mr Joseph McKeddie commences as Dean of Student Wellbeing. I look forward to introducing these senior colleagues and other new staff at the relevant Parent Information Evenings.

May I highlight the **Welcome to New Parents** evening set down for 7.45pm Friday 9 February in K C Smith Hall, Heyington Campus. All parents new to the College in 2018 are warmly invited. Be it Preparatory, Year 5, Years 7, 9, 10 or indeed at any level, do make the effort to come along. The evening will greatly assist you and your son/s settle into St Kevin’s in 2018.

I am delighted to announce the senior student leadership group for 2018:

College Captain	Samuel Cato
College Deputy Captain	Simon Cosgrave
College Deputy Captain	Patrick Tellefson
College Deputy Captain	Joseph Yugumbari

Prefects	William Barron	Captain of McCarthy	Officers	Akira Abe	Captain of Rahill
	Joshua Cosgriff			Lucas Allori	
	Samuel Crowe			Patrick Allsop	
	Luis Fennessy	Deputy Captain of Kenny		Benjamin Beagley	Deputy Captain of Rahill
	William Lewis	Deputy Captain of Kearney		Thomas Bufardeci	
	Francis Nguyen			Zachary Close	
	Michael Reid	Captain of Kenny		Jack Di Stefano	Deputy Captain of McCarthy
	Xavier Reimers			Ethan Duane	
	James Rowbottom	Deputy Captain of Cusack		Benjamin Foster	
	Anthony Seaton	Captain of Kearney		Luke Jaensch	
	Luke Shannan			Harrison Lee	
	Nathan Shannan	Captain of Cusack		Jack Leeds	
	Campbell Smart	Captain of Purton		Sam Lindeman	Deputy Captain of Purton
	Jack Wright			Lester Lo	
				James Long	
				Jack Mumford	
				William Nolan	
				Patrick O'Donoghue	
				Benedict O'Leary	
				Alexander Oswald	
				Joshua Park	
				Nicholas Reynolds	
				Alastair Richards	
				Zachariah Sheridan	
				Oscar Sinni	
				Vincentius Susilo	
				Adam Taylor	
				Christian Zubcic	
				Luca Zudich	

There are some messages I feel it is important to emphasise at the start of each year. To those families who have been part of our SKC journey for some time, please accept what follows as gentle but important reminders. For those who join us in 2018, please consider the following points carefully, and actively discuss them with your son.

We ask a great deal of our boys: academic effort; social justice immersion; sporting participation; cultural involvement. We ask that they show elements of self-discipline in small ways and with substantial commitment. One of the small ways is their dress and hair. Please be certain that your son returns to school dressed and presented to SKC expectations.

All boys in Prep to Year 9 are required to be in summer uniform, including the Akubra-style hat. Years 10, 11 and 12 may choose to wear long trousers but if wearing shorts, they must be in the SKC shorts and SKC socks. All boys are required to be dressed and presented to our very high St Kevin's standards from Day 1 of the new year. As traditional as it may seem, all must meet our haircut requirements. Not finding time to do so may result in missed class time or absence from photographs.

A reminder to all families to ensure your sons and you take the time to read the College Newsletter, which is posted on the website each Thursday afternoon, with an overview and link to the Newsletter emailed to you. Our hope is that articles and College viewpoints can be the basis of family dinner table discussion. Even if the Headmaster's piece is a little dry some weeks, I can guarantee Mr McGirr's and Mr Daly's pieces will be informative, thought-provoking and entertaining. The Newsletter is also posted on all Year Level and House noticeboards and screens across the College. You will soon receive an email with a link, asking you to check your contact details and your son's medical information. We do view the Newsletter as the most crucial means by which the College informs parents and students of policies, procedures and practices, as well as news and sports results.

Year 7 students are required to attend school on Wednesday 31 January at 8.30am. Boys are to be in SKC Sports Uniform – SKC polo top, SKC shorts, SKC socks and runners. The College tracksuit pants, spray jacket, sleeveless fleece or rugby top may be worn for warmth – wouldn't that be a wonderful necessity! The gathering point is outside the Chapel (where boys met for Orientation Day).

Also on Wednesday 31 January:

- new boys to Year 9 are to meet the Dean of Waterford, Mr Klupacs, at Waterford at 2.00pm
- new Years 10 and 11 students are to meet Mr McGuigan, Director of Students, at 2.00pm in the foyer of the Kearney Building (Heyington) in formal school uniform.

Classes commence for all other students on Thursday 1 February. APS Sport for secondary students will commence on Saturday 3 February with either fixtures or internal trials. ***Following this letter is a page highlighting important meetings, functions and events in the first weeks of term.*** Boys will receive a full College calendar for home and the full calendar is also available on the website; however, I hope this advanced notice will ensure maximum parent attendance at College functions. Your son's enjoyment and development this year will be enhanced by your participation in school events. This role-modelling of involvement is crucial in your son's maturation.

Our Parent Associations will be springing into life soon and will invite you to participate in their events. If, for any reason, you do not wish your telephone number, email and postal address to be provided to these Associations (this information will be distributed to the parent group in your son's Year Level and House), you are asked to email newsletter@stkevins.vic.edu.au by Friday 2 February to inform the College of your decision.

The College uses photography of our boys in our internal publications (Newsletter, Omnia, and Annual), on our SKC website and also the APS website. If you are not willing for your son's photograph to be used, please advise the College via email to newsletter@stkevins.vic.edu.au by Friday 2 February.

The College has been advised that PTV School Student ID and Student Pass Application Forms will only be available online and not at the College or at stations.

I reissue my annual request that from our 5 year olds to 18 year olds that a good number of restful days and nights precede their return to school.

Yours sincerely



Stephen F Russell

Important dates Term I 2018

Wed	31 Jan	Year 7 Orientation Day	Heyington
Thu	1 Feb	Classes commence Years 1 – 12	All Campuses
Thu/Fri	1/2 Feb	Year 12 Retreat (overnight)	Newman College
Fri	2 Feb	Student Photos	Waterford
Sat	3 Feb	APS Sport	
Mon 7.45pm	5 Feb	Waterford Parent Information Evening	Waterford
Tue	6 Feb	Student Photos	Heyington Glendalough
Tue 7.45pm	6 Feb	Cusack, Kearney, Kenny Years 10-12 Parent Information Evening	Smith Hall Heyington
Thu 7.45pm	8 Feb	McCarthy, Purton, Rahill Years 10-12 Parent Information Evening	Smith Hall Heyington
Fri 7.45pm	9 Feb	Welcome to New Parents	Smith Hall Heyington
Mon	12 Feb	Officer Investiture Assembly	Smith Hall Heyington
Mon 7.45pm	12 Feb	Year 7 Parent Information Evening	Smith Hall Heyington
Tue 7.00pm	13 Feb	Glendalough Parent Information Evening	Glendalough
Wed	14 Feb	Year 8 Parent Information Evening	Smith Hall Heyington