Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to 2017 and another exciting year ahead for all our students. Rather than simply use the newsletter for this information, I decided this year to write a general letter to all families to summarise a few key matters at the start of the year.

Our Year 12 results continue to be excellent. The 2016 cohort achieved very highly, right from our DUX Lucy Havelberg and the other high ATAR scores, through to the students who got a significantly better result than first anticipated at the start of Year 12. These results vindicate the decision by some universities to not award some bonus points to Samaritan because our results are already too high. Whether it be University, TAFE and other VET options or straight into the workplace, the 2016 Year 12s have done exceptionally well. I am also especially impressed by the wide variety and scope of the VET options available to our senior students. Never before have our senior students had so many options in the area of vocational training.

Many works and improvements occurred during the summer break. New bitumen and line marking in several campuses are most noticeable but also a range of new air conditioners, interactive whiteboards, play areas and internal improvements across all three campuses. Just five years ago we would have approximately 20 evaporative air-conditioners still in use: now we have less than a handful still to replace. Work on drains and gutters plus asbestos removal were also major works in the break. The overall look of all our grounds and ovals is outstanding. Much work has gone into beautifying many parts of the college. Some areas at the primary campuses have been left alone as we are waiting for final approval for a building grant for both STC and OLHCC. It was reported in the media that our OLHCC Campus had some significant damage to windows. The college is very well serviced by a range of cameras and other security measures that assist police in their work in reducing the damage to our college and other local schools.

You may have seen some advertisements from us seeking a replacement language teacher for Ms Mills. Regrettably, yet not surprisingly, a suitably qualified nor able teacher was forthcoming to teach Japanese from Year 3-9. For 2017 these year levels will not study a language as we continue to seek a language teacher for 2018. Studies of Asia continues in class as per our Australian Curriculum requirements and Italian at Saint John’s also remains unaffected. As a matter of interest, the number of students who study a language in Year 11/12 across SA is very low with French and German still two of the main languages taught at Year 12. Many schools do not offer a language on-site at Year 12 at all.
Twenty-five students and three staff recently returned from Europe after a busy tour schedule of cultural landmarks from London to Paris to Rome and much in between. Special thanks to Lisa Howard for her coordination of this major event.

Our website, app and Facebook page continue to be the keepers of a range of information and announcements. For many of the questions I get asked during the break from when does the Uniform Shop open to what device does my child need, are all answered on our website. If there is something you need to know that you can’t find online, please let us know.

Finally, I make a personal welcome to our new staff for 2017. Tessa Castle, Alan Fulton, Dustyn Brauwers, Kathryn Pech, Luke Covino and Michael O’Connor are all working at our secondary campus this year and Emma Wake is joining us at the primary campuses.

2017 is the tenth year of Samaritan College! Please join us at one of Parent Nights next week or at Opening College Mass on Friday February 10 at the Saint John’s Campus.

Kind Regards,

Damien Judd
Principal
2/2/2017