Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

At this time of the year there is extensive talk about transition. At St Francis Xavier’s College there are conversations about transitioning beyond Year 12 and also about transitioning into Year 11. These are critical times in the lives of the students and they also impact on the lives of their parents and teachers.

Transition means change. Change can be both exciting and daunting. It can enliven people as they look forward to different opportunities and experiences, but it can also challenge people as they face future uncertainty and the unknown. Probably, for most people, they will experience a mixture of emotions as they progress through the various phases of transition in their lives.

However, times of change also offer an opportunity for growth. People are no longer bound by the norms of a familiar environment. They also have the chance to break free from the stereotyping of others. To a degree, they can forge a new uniqueness based on the lessons that have been learnt from life and their aspirations for the future. For this reason, transitions can be welcome moments when the shackles of the past can be released.

Change does take courage. Firstly there is the need to be honest and realise that things can, and should, be better. Secondly, we have to listen to the feedback from other people about how things can be improved. And thirdly, we have to actually make the change and trust that it will all work out for the best.

So, it is not hard to realise why change can be so difficult for many people and why people prefer things to stay the same. But, unfortunately, we live in a world that is full of constant change. Whether we like it or not, the ability to be adaptable is becoming more and more an asset in the modern world. Of course there is also the problem of having too much change which can lead to significant instability and disillusionment. It is a matter of balance.

It is inspiring to see the way that our youth is able to adapt to the changing circumstances in their lives. These can be worthwhile live experiences in preparation for future times when change will also be demanded.

Br Robert Sutton
Principal
YEAR 12

Friday, 25 November
Year 11, 2016 Major Awards Ceremony
10:15 am
College Hall

Friday, 2 December
St Francis Xavier’s Feast Day
College Mass and Celebrations
Students dress in Christmas Theme Clothing

Tuesday, 13 December
Last Day of Classes

Wednesday, 14 December – Tuesday, 20 December
St Francis Xavier’s College
Staff Professional Days

Spring Food Appeal

Once again, the SVDP group is blown away by the generosity and goodwill shown by St Francis Xavier’s College Students who donated cans and non-perishable items to the Spring Food Appeal organised by Brother David and the SVDP team. These items will be feeding some struggling families after being delivered to the St Vincent De Paul Society food banks at Merewether Beach and Waratah, and to the House of Hospitality in Broadmeadow. We would like to thank all the individuals who donated food, the Tutor Groups who put their money together to make hampers to donate, the Vinnies members who collected the food each morning, and especially to Brother David for organising the wonderful events and food appeals that the SVDP team is involved in.

The SFX Vinnies team would also like to invite any students to come along to the meetings in B116 during Thursday lunch times, to bring a friend, and to keep up the good work!

Thanks again to all those who contributed, your work is highly appreciated!

Rose Cousins and Harry Burgess

Congratulations to Joel Okumu (Year 12, 2016 Drama Student) who has been shortlisted for the prestigious Bell Shakespeare Scholarship. His piece “Hamlet and The Ghost” will now be viewed by a panel, headed by John Bell, who is seeking three winning students from the seventeen who are shortlisted.

Over 170 students from Regional Australia auditioned. The lucky Scholarship recipient will be offered accommodation in Sydney to attend intensive Acting, Vocal and Combat workshops, view Bell Shakespeare rehearsals and live theatre, as well as mentorship from John Bell.

This follows on from Joel’s HSC Board of Studies nomination for On Stage in September.

Good luck, Joel!

2016 College Magazine

This year’s College Magazine is available for sale to current students while stocks are available. Students may purchase it for $25 at the Finance Office.

Rose Cousins and Harry Burgess
Year 11 Business Plan Challenge
Newcastle University

Phoebe’s Plan, ‘The Little Runner’ took out 1st PLACE. For this she was rewarded with a $2000 prize along with $500 for the College. Well done Phoebe!

Twenty students submitted entries into the University of Newcastle Year 11 Business Plan Challenge. Congratulations to the following award winners.

High Distinction

Brittany Evans  Eli McCulloch  Peta O’Connor

These three students were placed in the “Top 30” of over 200 submissions.

High Achievement

Alex Burai, Holly Doohan, Leela Harland, Jayden Hughes, Sam Russell, Lachlan Tolomeo, Beau Valentish, Isaac Weston, Beau Vale\n\nish, Isaac Weston, Boyd Williams-Styles, Madeleine Wilson

Congratulations to all of these students. A high degree of financial skills and a creative flair for problem solving have been demonstrated.

Windale Christmas Appeal

Every week students from SFX go to St Pius, Windale to work with the staff in the classrooms assisting with anything from Maths to Sport and we have developed a wonderful bond with this school.

As a community we also help them celebrate Christmas by donating toys and gifts every year. Last year the generosity of the SFX community was overwhelming and I would like to think we can repeat that this year.

The Windale kids are fantastic and full of life, often come from disadvantaged homes where Christmas is either non-existent or limited. Windale is only 11 kms from our school, so let’s start giving to families at our “back door”.

I will accept used toys that are clean and work!! All wonderful donations can be dropped off to Mrs McLoughlin’s Office.
The Year 12 Sports Coaching class has been undertaking an eight week block of practicals with the Year 4-6 students from St Joseph’s Primary School, The Junction. Each week this involves our coaches planning sessions for a group of between 10-15 Primary School students.

Each coach takes these students through drills and minor games designed to develop skills required in netball and touch football. These sessions are conducted at National Park, The Junction every Friday. Our SFX students are required to be assessed in the delivery of their lessons in terms of their organisational, management and coaching skills. They are also required to submit detailed written coaching session write ups including constructive self-evaluations. Each student is videoed on a number of occasions during their practicals to assist them in developing their coaching skills.

The students and teachers from St Joseph’s have been most enthusiastic in their participation in this valuable program.

I would like to thank the Principal from St Joseph’s Primary School, Peter Treloar, as well as Renata Powell, Larissa Gidley and Cassie Mowbray for their support of this invaluable experience for our novice sports coaches.

Mr Mark Wright
Sports Coaching Teacher

Our Cricketers have been victorious in rounds one and two of the NSWCCC Downie Shield Cricket Tournament. Their first match against St Paul's, Kempsey was played at Laurieton. It was an early start for the boys, but this didn’t stifle their excitement to get out on the pitch. Daniel Standing received player of the match returning bowling figures of 4/10 and opening the batting admirably. Keith Moody also played well skippering the team, wicket keeping and scoring a quick fire 22 runs. We chased down a modest total of 89 runs in 27 overs.

The second match was hosted by SFX at Empire Park. The boys took full advantage of the home ground advantage against MacKillop College, Port Macquarie. They posted 4/298 in our 40 overs and MacKillop replied with 141 runs. The team will now progress through to round three keen to keep their cricket campaign alive.

We at the College are very proud of the boys who have represented the College splendidly and have been commended on the manner in which they presented themselves and spirit they competed with. A huge thanks to our staff, Mr Dan Mitchell and Mr Andrew Burke, for their time and effort in mentoring and coaching the boys.

One of the College’s very own, Joe Hart, has been carving it up on the Cricket pitch this season. Joe has recently signed with the Randwick Petersham Cricket Club and has been balancing training for second grade cricket and matches in Sydney alongside completing Year 12 and sitting his HSC Examinations.

Joe is a very accomplished cricketer, having competed as part of the NSWCCC Cricket Team both years whilst at the College, and being selected to play in the All Schools Nationals Team. Joe was previously playing first grade Cricket for the Local Newcastle Cricket competition before being signed to play with Randwick Petersham Club. Joe hopes to be accepted into a Sydney University so he can continue playing cricket at an esteemed level whilst studying.

The College congratulates Joe on his achievements and wish him the very best for his bright future.
The Hunter Design School has secured government funding for a limited number of 2017 course placements. Courses on offer in 2017 including Animation, VR and user experience, Graphic Design and our Interior Design courses which will be one of the first in Australia to offer augmented reality in the architecture and interior design platform.

Information Night
67 Parry St Design Studio in Newcastle.

Interior Design and Event Styling
Monday, 28 November 6 – 7:30pm

Graphic Design and Animation
Tuesday, 29 November 6 – 7:30pm

Phone 0421 052 323 OR hello@hds.nsw.edu.au

Students interested in getting paid to study teacher education can sign up and be reminded when the 2018 round of NSW Department of Education future teacher scholarships, cadetships and internships open in 2017. Find out more about our wide range of scholarships, cadetships and internships at

https://teach.nsw.edu.au/getpaidtostudy and remember to sign up for an 'Alert me'!

Students interested in pursuing study in the USA should sit the SAT or ACT standardised test in the coming months, prior to returning to school in January 2017. Internationally Educated works with students and their families through the complex identification and application process to US universities.

Contact: www.internationallyeducated.com.au

Au Pairs are immersed in a new culture as they become part of a family whilst providing in-home childcare. The program gives Au Pairs the opportunity to develop language skills and meet other Au Pairs from all over the world. Includes 3-12-month placement, accommodation, food, and pocket money.

For further information and to apply visit

Summer Camp directors from across the USA are heading to Australia with one thing in mind, to hire staff for their camps. Participants are hired on the spot to work for 9-12 weeks as camp counsellors in America. This cultural exchange is perfect for a gap year. For details head to the website

School Portal

This week you will find under the careers file:

- The latest part time and full time employment opportunities are placed on here every week.
- Some Christmas part time work advertised.

I have sent the ‘new’ Year 12’s a number of emails. It’s wise to check these on a regular basis.
FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS AND JOB SEEKERS

The new portals developed as a required service under the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network have great information and can match job seekers to apprenticeships and traineeships. Job seekers should register their information on each Apprenticeship Network Provider’s (ANP) portal for the best outcome! All job seekers and employers are eligible for these free services, which includes mentoring programs with each.

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<tr>
<th>Apprenticeship Support Australia</th>
<th>MEGT 136963</th>
<th>Sarina Russo 1300 178776</th>
<th>VERTO Peter Styles 1300 483786</th>
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<td>Jeff Cooke 1300 363831</td>
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<td>We have a range of online tools to help you plan your career on our free advice portal. You can complete a career quiz, research careers, watch videos, take the ‘Job Fit Test’ to see if you are fit for careers of interest.</td>
<td>Our Gateway Services work to match the right person to the right apprenticeship. It also helps those who may not suit an apprenticeship by giving them information about other alternative career paths they could follow.</td>
<td>Gateway Services delivers tailored advice and support to eligible Australians interested in apprenticeships and traineeships.</td>
<td>CareerGate is an online, individualised testing and recruitment service, designed to help you select the apprenticeship, occupation or training pathway that is best suited to you.</td>
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www.skillsroad.com.au

https://megt.jobreadygateway.com.au

Gateway for Schools
http://sarinarusso.com/apprentices/targeted-support/gateway-for-schools/

Gateway Services
http://sarinarusso.com/apprentices/targeted-support/gateway-services

https://verto.jobreadygateway.com.au

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