Dear Year 7 and 8 Parents,

Welcome to an exciting term. The start of the year is often busy for students and families, so we hope it is has been a smooth transition for you all.

**Key Dates**

Please take note of the following important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 February</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly 10am</td>
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<td>Coffee &amp; Tea available in the staffroom from 9am. All welcome!</td>
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<td>Tuesday 28 February</td>
<td>Years 7-10 Interschool Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7 – Friday 10 March</td>
<td>Year 8 Man Camp /Inspiring Girls Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Clifford Park Camp</td>
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<td>Monday 13 March</td>
<td>Labour Day - No School</td>
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<td>Wednesday 15 March</td>
<td>Year 8 Basketball Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Immunisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Basketball Day</td>
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<td>Friday 31 March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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**Cultural Studies Units:**

**Cycle A: Ancient Rome and China**

Our focus in Cycle A Cultural Studies this term is Ancient History. We will be looking at Ancient Rome and China and thinking about what ideas and influences have shaped their world. We compare this with what shapes us in our modern world.

**Cycle B Cultural Studies Unit: Our Awesome Earth**

Our focus in Cycle B Cultural Studies for Term 1 is Geography. We will be investigating key geographical terms, concepts and tools to help explore and understand our interaction with the world. In particular we will be focusing on different landforms and landscapes and hope to instill in students a sense of awe and wonder of God’s handiwork, and also to consider our responsibility as stewards of His creation.

**Art Smock/ Special Request – Small Glass Jar**

This year our Year 7 & 8 Art teacher, Olivia Dyer, is providing all students with an apron or smock for their Art classes. Please do not bring a smock or apron from home unless you are happy for it to be used communally. Smocks will protect clothing from small splatters of paint, however we strongly urge students to wear older clothing (including shoes!) to school on their Art days as occasionally paint or dirty water can soak through smocks! Please do not wear new or favourite clothes to school on Art days!

**Special Request:** Could all students please bring a small glass jar in the first 2 weeks of school for art.
**Camp Week**

Students will be attending either a three day Clifford Park Camp (Y7) or a 4 day gender specific camp (Y8). In Week 6, the Year 8 students will attend camp from Tuesday to Friday with the boys going on Man Camp and the girls going on Inspiring Girls Camp; and the Year 7s will go to Clifford Park from Wednesday to Friday. Students will receive information relating to camp, including a medical information form and permission for abseiling within the next week. Please be aware that if the medical form is not returned to school your child will not be able to attend camp.

**Diary Use**

Diaries are extremely important in Middle School and are a valuable means of organisation and communication. As this is new for some students, they will be guided through this process by their teachers. **We are requiring both Year 7 & 8s to get their diaries signed every night for the first month.** This is so you can see what homework they have, as well as helping to develop the habit of taking their diary home and looking at it each night. We really appreciate your support in this.

**Homework - Especially important for Year 7 Parents**

We are very aware that for Year 7s especially, the first few weeks of school are a huge change. Students should not have a large amount of homework during this time, however please contact us if your child is struggling in this area so we can help them plan their time well. Homework set by teachers should support the learning happening at school, not be new information or cause undue stress.

It is important for students to have a homework space that works well for them. We encourage students to develop positive habits, such as taking their diary out of their bag straight away when coming home from school, and looking at what homework they have so they can plan when they will complete it.

If students have no homework on a particular night, please encourage them to read their English novel, revise notes from class or start early on assignments that are coming up. If your child is unable to complete the set work in reasonable time, please simply write a brief note of explanation in your child’s diary. We understand that sometimes circumstances are unavoidable.

**Community Service Representative (CSR)**

For a number of years, Year 7 & 8 students have been rostered on to spend some time assisting in the main office. It’s valuable and important for students to understand what it takes to run a school, and to be part of providing assistance to the school community. Tasks undertaken by the CSR include such things as distribution of notices to classes, assisting with mail outs and other administrative tasks. Each Year 7 student will help out once this year, while Year 8 students will have 2-3 times per year from 1.30pm (after lunch) to the end of the day.

We are looking forward to a great term! Please contact your class teacher if you have any issues or concerns.

Yours in Christ,

Tim Payze, Sharon Rodrigo-Wilson & Natalie Middlemast

Cycle A Teachers

Natalie Peeler, Duc Tran & Adam Radke

Cycle B Teachers