



## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

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Friday 19 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9,

Welcome back to Joeys for 2023. I hope you've had a restful break, spending quality time with your family and friends. I would also like to welcome 16 new boys and their families who are joining the Class of 2026 and our College community.

The purpose of this letter is to provide some useful information about the compulsory events for 2023 and specific details regarding your son's return to school for Term 1. Of course, there will be plenty of information throughout the term, however, I don't want to flood you with too much straight away.

Year 9 are very fortunate to be well supported throughout the year by Ms Jessica Bryan as the Academic Coordinator and Mr Max Wilson as the Assistant Boarding Coordinator. In addition to this, their teachers and coaches, we also have a wonderful group of Boarding Staff who will be looking after the boys this year.

In our early Division meetings, I will be discussing with Year 9 the importance of reflecting on specific aspects of 2022 including academic performance, interactions with teachers and peers and overall contribution to the College. This will be followed by setting goals to further build on previous success and/or develop strategies to foster improvements.

Please contact me at any time during the year if you have any concerns about your son. In addition to this, please let me know if there are any concerning issues outside of school which may affect his time here at the College. The identification of minor issues in the early stages can help alleviate/avoid more problematic issues occurring later on.

On a final note, may you enjoy the remainder of the holidays. I look forward to working with you and your son this year.

Kind regards,

**Adrian Crow** | Year 9 Boarding Coordinator

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# Information for Year 9, 2023

## Important dates

- All Boarding Students (**Full and Weekly**) return to school for Term 1 by 8:00pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Day students will return by 8:00am on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- Boarding students **NEW to the school** in 2023 (full and weekly) will arrive on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of January to attend the New Parents and Students Day. For those parents/students involved in this event, more specific information will be provided in a separate email.
- There are a number of compulsory events. I would appreciate your support in ensuring the boys attend each of these events. Their presence at these events provides a sense of support for their peers and upholds an important characteristic of community spirit which I believe sets Joeys apart. I have attached a list of the compulsory events to this email. Please take the time to enter these dates into your diaries/calendar.

## Year 9 Parent Dinner

The Year 9 Dinner is a great opportunity for both students and parents to come together and celebrate as a community. This is a compulsory event for the boys and we strongly encourage parents to join them.

The date for this event is **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

## Communication

- Email: [acrow@joeys.org](mailto:acrow@joeys.org)

This is the best form of communication as I may not always be in my office to answer the phone. Any communication of a general nature can go to [year9@joeys.org](mailto:year9@joeys.org) which is monitored by the Administrative Assistant to the Boarding Coordinators, as well as myself.

- Phone: 9816 0840

This number will connect you directly to the Year 9 Dorms and my office. Please note, I still teach several classes each day and may not be present to answer your call. In such cases, please leave a voicemail message and I will return your call.

## - The Year 9 Blog

This is a webpage which is continuously updated with useful information throughout the year. In addition to this, photos and videos of what the boys are up to will be posted on a daily/weekly basis. A link to this blog will be sent out to parents and carers at the beginning of Term 1.

### Emergency contact

If there's an emergency and you need to contact me (or your son), please call the College reception on **9816 0900** during business hours or the Health Centre on 9816 0808 after hours. In such cases, staff in either of these locations can contact me directly at any time of the day or night.

### Mobile phones

Students are not to have their mobile phones on them during the school day (8:30am-3:30pm). They are required to lock their phone in their dormitory press each morning before school. In addition to this, phones are not to be used in the dining rooms, at sport or during nightly study (6:15-8:00pm).

Each night, all Boarders will hand their phones into the Year 9 dormitory office prior to lights out.

Parents can support us in this area by contacting (calling or messaging) their sons during times when they have access to their phones. If there's an emergency, please see "Emergency contact" above.

### Valuables

Any students who have valuables (cash or other items) should bring them to me to lock in the office safe. Boarders may wish to have cash available for the weekends. In these instances, students can hand me an envelope at the start of each term with their name on it.

It is imperative students keep their dorm press and classroom locker secure with a **College issued padlock**. New students will be issued with two of these on the first night. For those returning, if your son does not have two padlocks, they can see Mr Sidgreaves at the beginning of Term 1 to obtain one (or two), which will then be charged to their account.

### Name tags

Please ensure that all property of your son is labelled clearly with his name. This includes all clothing, towels, school equipment, bags and mobile phones. This is imperative to ensure any lost property can be returned, hence reducing the cost of replacing lost items.

## Haircuts

Your assistance with ensuring your son returns to school with an appropriate haircut would be much appreciated. All current students have a clear understanding of what haircuts are deemed appropriate. This includes nothing shorter than a blade 2, no fades, no mullets, no undercutting or colour variations.

## Medication

All medication and prescriptions must be stored in the Health Centre to ensure the safety of all students. This applies to both Day and Boarding Students. Your son can visit the Health Centre to take the medication when required. Non-prescription medication including Panadol and cough medicine are available in the Health Centre.

## Day Student Departure Times

In Year 9, parents can choose for their son to leave at 5:00pm, 8:00pm or 9:00pm. Parents must nominate the weekly departure times for their son by **9:00pm** each Sunday night. It is possible to complete a whole term at once, which can be updated throughout the term.

Boys can stay later than their nominated departure times. However, for students leaving earlier than their nominated departure time it is requested parents enter a 'Day student time change' leave in Orah before 4:30pm on the day or earlier if possible. Please avoid email or calling unless there is no other option available.

## Evening program

I encourage Day Students to take advantage of the evening study program. Evening study allows students to complete homework activities, make study notes, revising the concepts covered in class and work on assessments. A typical weeknight would follow the schedule below:

5:00-5:30pm: Students change from sport attire into neat casual clothes, shower and to move to dinner.

5:30-6:00pm: Dinner in the ref.

6:00-6:15pm: Students move to their classroom lockers and organise themselves for nightly study.

6:15-7:10pm: First session of study

7:10-7:20pm: Break

7:20-8:00pm: Second session of study

At 8:00pm, Day Students (who elect to stay until 8:00pm) will sign out and Boarding Students will have free time. This would be a good opportunity for parents of Boarding students to phone their sons.

## Communicating various forms of Leave

To ensure adequate supervision of your son, it is essential we are aware if your son is absent from school for any reason. Please use Orah (<http://app.orah.com>) to notify us of any leave. This includes both Day Students and Boarding Students. Instances when leave needs to be communicated:

- Sick at home: parents should log their son as Sick at Home preferably by 8:00am on the day that they are sick. Set return time as 8:00 am on the day you expect them to be back.
- Medical appointments (including the Physio): should communicated through Orah so that the information can then be disseminated to various staff appropriately. Medical appointments should be communicated as soon as they are known – even days or weeks ahead.
- Dinner Leave: a dinner leave can be requested occasionally and for special occasions such as a family birthday. If your son is inviting friends, each of those boys must also complete a dinner leave request and have it approved by their parents and then by me before they leave.
- Overnight: mid-week overnights (including Friday nights) are rare and for special occasions only. It is expected that all boarders sleep at the College Monday – Friday nights inclusive. Any weeknight requests require a clear reason for request in the Comment section.

Please note, only full boarders are required to complete an overnight request for a weekend. These should be submitted by Thursday evening. Boarders must also return from weekend overnight leave by 8:00pm on Sunday night in time to attend Sunday night Mass, or otherwise 8:00am Monday morning.

On a final note, please feel free to contact me if you have any queries or concerns. I wish you and your family the best for the remainder of the holidays and look forward to working with you and your son in 2023.