

Comment from the Principal - 2nd December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent greetings as we enter, incredibly it seems, the month of December and the final week of the term.

Reminders

Monday 5th December is a **student-free day** to allow my colleagues and me to complete child-safe training.

Tuesday 6th December will see the Year 9s receiving a briefing on the *Big Picture* programme that they will follow next year; it is also the **Graduation Dinner** that evening at the Yacht Club.

Wednesday 7th December involves a practice for the **Awards Night** ceremony which takes place at 1830 in the Civic Centre.

Thursday 8th December is the **final day of School** for students. Several male staff will lose much of their bodily hair in *Waxecution* that morning in a fund-raising initiative for the Cystic Fibrosis charity before we all make our way to the Bowling Club for the inter-House Beach Volleyball Competition.

Friday 9th December is a **staff training day**.

A newsletter will be produced at the end of term with details of next term and other relevant information.

Snake-bite Lecture

Very relevant at this time of the year was the lecture on appropriate first-aid for dealing with snake bites, given by Nola George from St. John's. Please ask your child to tell you about the procedures as they may be useful some day...but hopefully not.

Year 10 ATAR Preview Courses

Several of my colleagues and I enjoyed the opportunity of giving our Year 10 ATAR-bound students the opportunity of an insight into the programmes for Year 11 next year. I hope that the students involved found the classes of interest although, as this was a new innovation, any feedback would be appreciated.

Landscaping

The courtyard area of McVay House has been undergoing extensive landscaping over the last couple of weeks with completion due by the end of the week. Paths have been laid, reticulation installed and garden-beds created; trees and lawn will soon be planted. The design evolved from discussions with students and will provide a pleasant place for relaxation, barbecues and, I hope, horticultural opportunities for green-fingered boarders.

The area between McVay and Dempster is also scheduled for landscaping to create a space for students to relax at Recess and Lunch. It will be planted with shade trees and have paths around it; further development in the shape of more planting, seating and outside performance areas will follow as funding becomes available.

Chapel

It was good to have Jackman House lead us in our final Chapel service of the year with a poignant photo montage to remind us of the year gone by. Good, too, that School and Parish will work formally together next year: details of the appointment of a new Parish Priest will be announced soon - the new incumbent will have a formal role as School Chaplain on a part-time basis. Eventually, as resources permit, we will have our own full-time Chaplain but I am pleased that this new appointment will benefit both EACS and the Church.

Awards Night

We will also have cause for celebration at Awards Night where we will recognise the various achievements of the year gone by and look to the future. As with last year the PFA will be arranging for refreshments to be served in the ante room at the end of proceedings; a photographer will also be on-hand there to take photos of prize winners. Parents of graduating students will, as with last year, have reserved seating, as will invited guests but otherwise free-seating will be the order of the day. I look forward to welcoming many of you to what I hope will be an enjoyable occasion.

Until then my warmest wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kerr

**P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal**