Dear Parents

Last week most of NSW were “hopeful” that we would win the rugby league State of Origin and we looked pretty good with eight minutes to go. The following reflection on “Hope” is also very relevant to our Year 12 students who, over the last few weeks, have received the results of their half-yearly exams and their reports.

*Hope is like a magnet that draws us towards our goals.*

*Hope expands our life and brings a message of possibility and change.*

*Hope leads to positive self talk such as, “I will succeed” or “I have much to offer others”.*  
*Hope is crucial for personal initiative.*

Most of our students have goals for the HSC and their first set of exam results do not always measure up to their expectations. It would be very easy for them to give up, thinking that the soft option of “coasting” for the rest of the year would be less painful. Hope, as suggested above, defeats that line of thinking and can be the motivator to press on and reach one’s potential. I encourage our Year 12 students to live in hope so that, with the help of their teachers and their own commitment, over the next term and a half they can achieve their academic goals. In a similar vein, we can always hope for a victory in the next State of Origin game.

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Well done to the group of Year 10 students who attended the Southern Region Evangelisation Retreat a couple of weeks ago. Students were required to interpret their school charisma through a role play, and from all accounts the Good Samaritan students’ rap rendition of the Parable of the Good Samaritan was brilliant. Congratulations to Sean Bermingham, Melissa Young, Laura Dixon, Konrad Ryzak, Kathlyn DeGuzman, Daniel Kamalaneson, Yannick L’Eveille, Bonnie Zivcic and Angelica Madani.

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Our heartiest congratulations to George El Boustani, and his family, on George’s receipt of the Liverpool Catholic Club Scholarship. George, who was Dux of Good Samaritan in 2010 with an ATAR of 98.5, was presented with his scholarship at the annual Liverpool Catholic Club Mass and Dinner last Sunday. George is commencing his Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Commerce at University of NSW, and the scholarship covers all of George’s fees for his first year of university. We sincerely thank the Liverpool Catholic Club for making this scholarship available to a Good Samaritan student each year.

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I congratulate another group of Good Samaritan “stars”:

- Our Open Boys and Girls Futsal teams were both runners-up in the regional finals and will now progress to the state championships.
- Justin Jarrett (Year 11) won the regional finals of the Sydney Morning Herald Plain Speaking Competition and will now progress to the semi-finals at the Newtown School of Performing Arts.
- Alyssa Cook (Year 12) has been selected for both the NSWCCC and Australian Indoor Netball teams – an outstanding effort. Alyssa was recently featured in the Liverpool Leader.

Our Mock Trial Team who defeated Freeman Catholic College in the first round of the Mock Trial Competition.
Head Lice
In recent days we have had a number of students across the College report that they have had head lice. Can I ask all parents to take the time to check their son’s/daughter’s heads for lice or nits. The NSW Department of Health Website http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/index.asp provides very useful information on managing this problem. If you find that your son or daughter has nits or lice please keep them at home until they have been treated.

Examinations
When you receive this newsletter all students in Years 7-11 will have completed their mid year examinations. Some will already have received some of these back and as the next week unfolds they will continue to receive their results and associated feedback. Examinations are wonderful learning tools if they are used properly. The worst thing that we can do is simply look at a mark or grade and nothing else. To make an exam useful when your son or daughter receives their marked paper they should look at the mark/grade and the accompanying feedback. They should also take the time to look at the examination and determine the areas where they performed well and those areas where they did not perform as well as they might have hoped. The information gathered from this process is the first step to take in preparing for the yearly examinations and any other assessment tasks. This process is a great opportunity for parents and students to work together and discuss their progress at school.

Mr P Scollard
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Study Skills Tip for June : Improving Typing and Handwriting Skills
So you don’t have much homework tonight? Assignments and study notes up to date? Have you ever thought about spending a bit of time each night learning touch typing? Touch Typing is when you can type without looking at the keys while you type. This means you can type much faster than if you had to look and see where each key is, and it means you can keep looking at whatever it is you are typing instead of the keys. This is an incredibly useful skill to develop – it will help you at school and later in life as well, improving your efficiency and speeding up work on assignments and essays. Once you learn touch typing, you will know where the keys are located on the keyboard through your sense of touch and you will be able to look at the screen or whatever you are typing rather than the keyboard.

One of the new additions this month on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au is a section to get you started in your journey of learning touch typing. Click on the For Students tab and then select the unit Technology Tools. On the Learning Touch Typing page you will find links to lots of free software to help you develop your touch typing skills as well as some great tips to get you started.

But don’t neglect your handwriting skills either. As long as you have to submit handwritten work or use handwriting for tests and exams, it is also important to improve the legibility and speed of your handwriting. Go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and visit the Writing Skills unit and click on the Improving Handwriting section. You’ll find some excellent strategies for improving your handwriting as well as some special pens that can assist you with this, such as the Ring Pen. To see a picture, you can access it at: http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au/images/photographs/pen1.JPG

Remember that to access the study skills handbook website, use the following username and password:
Username: forgscconly
Password: 48results

Mr P Brooks
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

College Fees Reminder
College Fees payment for Term 2 are now past due and fee reminders have been recently posted to parents.

If you have paid these fees during this past week, thank you, we truly appreciate your support. As always, if you are experiencing financial difficulty or would like to arrange periodic payments of fees, please do not hesitate to contact the Business Manager, John Archer, to arrange an interview time.

Mr J Archer
Business Manager

COORDINATOR’S AWARD

Year 7 Krishna Chetty
Year 8 Neil Famador
Year 9 Brian Kane
Year 10 Melanie Thomas
Year 11 Joseph Raso
Year 12 Amanda Bodagh
Religious Education Coordinator

Ascension and Pentecost
Over the next two Sundays we celebrate two great feasts within the Church, the Ascension and Pentecost. Christ’s Ascension sees His return to heaven where He united His heavenly nature with that of the Trinity. It is in the Ascension that we see our final destination, unity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit after our bodily resurrection. Pentecost sees the birth of the Church through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples gathered in fear in the locked room and the courage that they drew from this to go out and proclaim the Good News to all of the nations, hence the speaking in tongues. The significance for us is that it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we received at our baptism that we are able to enter into the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Paschal Mystery, but we also receive the strength to be faithful witnesses to the Good News of salvation in Christ. The Holy Spirit draws us into the life of the Trinity and the promise of the resurrection and ascension.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
Come Holy Spirit we need you,
Come Holy Spirit we pray.
Come with Your strength and Your power.
Come in Your own special way.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth
Elizabeth, the mother of St John the Baptist, has become a symbol for the Church in the Western World in the Twenty First Century. Elizabeth was a woman of great age and considered to be well beyond any possibility of bringing forth the fruit of new life into this world. While a woman of great dignity and family lineage, she was seen to be irrelevant in her society due to the stigma of infertility. The Church too is considered irrelevant to many people, a relic of the past unable to bring forth any real life to the community in which it works. Yet like with Elizabeth strange things happen. Within the seemingly impossible God really works and brings forth life from the most barren branches of the tree. Elizabeth never lost faith in God’s ability to provide and answer her prayers and she felt these prayers answered deep within her womb as only a woman can. The Church today stands proud of its faith and walks forward proclaiming the good news to all the ends of the earth knowing that God brings forth life and fruit from its dry branches of tradition and experience we look to Elizabeth as a model of faith in the providence of God and the rewards of patient fidelity.

Congratulations
I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those students in Year 12 who are currently sitting on a Band 6 mark after their Half Yearly Examinations.

Studies of Religion I
Erika Brocklehurst
Lauren Smith
Michael Zaia
Mark Bawalan
Gabrielle Estrada
Stephanie Ghassibe
Alyssa Cook
Pierre Goorkiz

Studies of Religion II
Caroline Said
Elisa Pjanic

Parenting Corner

The Right Balance
Recently I have been speaking with our Year 12 students about how they are managing the HSC. One of the talking points that a number of students raise is the question of balance. They speak about having the right balance in their life – in other words, giving the right amount of time to study, work, recreation and their family. They realize that in balancing their lives they optimize their chances to obtain the best exam results possible.

The issue of helping students to achieve the right balance and order in their lives so that they achieve their academic goals is a delicate one. Older teenagers often get away in their rooms at home and it is difficult to know how effectively they are using their time. So, how do parents help their children to achieve balance?

Rocky Biasi, a counsellor, educator and a former high school teacher, suggests that a good clue for parents is to recognize when their children’s lives are not in balance. Is there too much time for sport, work, socializing, TV and other social media at the expense of study? The emphasis here is on “too much” time. It is about your sons and daughters having the right balance.

How to Help
Your children want you to push them, to get them moving in their studies and then to back off once they start. One student reflected, “If my parents can see I know where I want to be and how to get there they let me do my own work. If I’m failing I do it their way.”

This is where the parents also need the right balance! As parents we need to work at getting the right balance in dealing with our children. All of us walk the delicate line between:

- discipline and tolerance
- with applying rules and with being flexible
- with authority and friendship

Inevitably, you won’t get it right all the time just as your teenagers won’t always get it right when balancing their lives. In the end the quality of communication between you and your children is what counts most. The research is clear. Teenagers look to their parents for guidance. They need and want parental approval. They appreciate parents who listen and understand their point of view. Teenagers also realize that their parents will have different opinions and expectations about what is best for them. They can’t and won’t get their way all the time.

Best wishes

Mr M Kingsman
RE Coordinator

Mr M Bell
Student Welfare Coordinator
World Youth Day Corner

74 DAYS TO GO TILL WORLD YOUTH DAY MADRID

Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith.

'The Journey of a Lifetime' - A WYD Art Competition and Exhibition

DUE 22nd June 2011
see Miss Welsh for more details.

WYD information day at Australian Catholic University

Friday was a pretty cool day. When we arrived at ACU all of the schools gathered in one of the lecture rooms where we listened to Sophie McGill, who told us about her past experiences of WYD and how she literally had the best time. They showed us a presentation of what WYD is about and the difference between a tourist and a pilgrim. On google earth we also saw where we will be travelling whilst in Italy and it looks so awesome!!

After lunch we all met back together in St Pats Gym where we had a "Firm in the Faith" Catechesis with Gary Pinto and the band called 'The Revelations.' They played a few songs with 4 songs written by Gary Pinto specifically for the group travelling to Madrid. The songs were called 'Help me to walk in your Peace', 'Walking in the steps of Jesus', 'To Madrid' and 'Firm in the Faith' which was really catchy and cool.

Overall it was a pretty awesome day. So excited!

Michaela Hodge WYD Pilgrim
Gifted Education

The Sydney CEO Gifted Education K-12 Position Paper defines giftedness as the potential to perform at a level significantly beyond what might be expected from one’s age peers in any area of ability. Obviously, we have many students who may fit this criteria across one or a variety of areas here at Good Samaritan.

There are a number of ways we will continue to focus on this area at the College this year, both in and out of the classroom.

I would like to direct you to a resource on My Classes on the school website which can be accessed by your child called Good Samaritan Gifted Education. It contains access to a wiki that contains resources and websites for you and your son/daughter to explore. It is a site under construction and will be added to constantly. The direct address for the wiki for your benefit is http://giftededucationgscck12.wikispaces.com/

I will endeavour to introduce to a new resource every fortnight. Have a look at URL link for the NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children, http://nswagtc.org.au/

It has links to books and policies, recommended reading for you and your children and a creative image-animation challenge for anyone under 18 who is interested in computing and design.

Catherine Ong
Special Education

Italian Proverb of the Week

Non destare il cane che dorme – Let sleeping dogs lie
Debating Update: Rounds 2 and 3

The debating season is now well under way having completed three rounds of the competition. Our teams debated the themes of sport and technology over rounds 2 and 3. These rounds have been particularly successful for our students in Year 10. In the Year 10 division, Bonnie Zivcic, Konrad Ryzak and Sinead Cummins defeated All Saints Girls Liverpool and Mary Mackillop Wakeley in consecutive weeks and are now aiming for a finals berth later in the term. In the senior division our Senior B team, made up of Year 10 students, recorded the upset of the season beating last year’s Grand Finalists Clancy College.

Well done to the team of Melanie Thomas, Sarah Santangelo and Rochelle Abbate on a terrific achievement. It was also a great reward for Mrs Castillo who has coached our year 10 students since they started at the college. Our Senior A team posted a win against rivals Freeman before going down against last season’s senior champions All Saints Senior B. Maddison McPherson, Joseph Ragusa, Justin Jarrett and coach Mrs Fegatilli will be hoping to return to the winners circle with a rematch of the 2010 grand final when they travel to Clancy College in round 4. Round 4 is a bye round for our junior teams which will give our Year 7, 8 and 9 teams a chance to prepare to make a final run for the finals in Round 5. Thank you to all the staff, students and parents who have helped the smooth running of the competition so far in 2011.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

Justin Jarrett participates in Quota International and reaches State Semi Final of SMH Plain English Speaking Award

Justin Jarrett of Year 11 has been considerably busy the last few weeks participating in various Public Speaking and Debating competitions. On the evening of Wednesday 18th May, Justin was the college’s representative in the annual Quota International Student of the Year Quest at the Casula Powerhouse. This competition involves students across the Liverpool region who display exemplary leadership, academic, cultural and sporting qualities. Each student submits a resume and completes an interview in the afternoon where they are quizzed on their knowledge of current affairs. In the evening the students present a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. Justin delivered two fantastic speeches with many people in the audience believing Justin was a definite chance to win the night. Unfortunately, Justin missed out on winning the competition but was an outstanding representative of the college in front of several important guests including the Mayor of Liverpool.

It was a more successful time at the Regional Final of the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Award on Wednesday 25th May at the Lewisham Arts Unit. This public speaking competition was once again of an incredibly high standard featuring some of the best speakers in South West Sydney across public, selective, independent and Catholic schools. Justin presented a great prepared speech but it was his impromptu speech on the topic ‘under fire’ which had the adjudicators singing his praise. For this topic Justin discussed the assassination of Osama Bin Laden and questioned whether society had sacrificed its own morality by making a decision in the heat of the moment. The adjudicators loved his take on the topic and commended his ability to speak about issues of justice and morality in such a sophisticated manner. As a result, Justin was one of only three students from the South-West Sydney who were selected to compete in the State Semi Final at Newtown School of Performing Arts in a few weeks. This is the college’s best result in this competition and places Justin amongst the top 20 students in NSW. We wish him all the very best as he continues to represent the college in this prestigious competition.

Mr M Bradbury
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator

Mock Trial Update

Congratulations to the College Mock Trial Team who defeated Freeman Catholic College last week. As the Prosecution, we had to prove that the defendant was guilty of negligent driving. We made very strong arguments and won the decision and points.

Special congratulations to Claudia Stacey-Murray who stepped into the role of Barrister at the last minute and did a great job. Good luck to the team in the next round.

Mr D Costin
SPORT REPORT

2011 Futsal NSW Regional School Championships
Tuesday 17th May 2011

Expectations were high! There were random requests: “Miss, when’s Futsal?”, research: “Miss, I checked on the Football NSW website...”, and finally reward for their patience: “Girls, Futsal is ON Week 4 Term 2”. And so we set off to Minto Indoor Sports Stadium to participate in this year’s NSW Regional School Futsal Championships.

After an eventful minibus ride of inspirational tunes, the girls were pumped and started strongly with wins over Prairiewood High and Sarah Redfern High. Our third game was tight with a narrow loss to Melba Copland, who travelled all the way from the ACT. However, we finished confidently with big wins against Ambervale High and John Therry.

This led us on a crash course with our Achilles’ heel: the “Canberra chicks” (aka. Melba Copland) in the final. With high hopes and the beginnings of a school song perhaps, the girls fought hard but were again outplayed by a quality opponent, losing 3-2.

It has to be said that the girls were outstanding ambassadors for the College and displayed great skill, spirit and sportswomanship. In particular:

Montana Bolzan: the quintessential captain, leading by example with plenty of goals
Bianca Adattini: the feisty lieutenant, strong willed and stubborn on the ball
Nika Morozoff: a first time indoor keeper who made some truly spectacular stops
Alyssa Pacchiarotta: Louie the fly up front, another rookie whose skill and confidence improved with every game
Jacqueline Da Silva: Jacqui Long Legs let nothing past her in defence, and great goal celebrator
Anna Santaguida: an exceptional youngster in Year 8 who more than mixed it up with the older and bigger girls. A talent to watch for the future!

We now wait with bated breath as we prepare for some sweet revenge against our victors in the State Championships in Term 3. Stay tuned for the goss on that.

Miss Boggs
Proud Coach

Senior Boys NSW Futsal Competition

On Thursday 19th May the College Senior Boys Futsal team competed in the Regional Championships at Minto. The boys played extremely well and advanced through the rounds undefeated; only conceding four goals, thanks to exceptional defending by all players and outstanding goal keeping by Joseph Raso. The quarter final saw us meet Liverpool Boys High School ‘A’ team and again we were able to keep the goals against us to a minimum winning the game 3-1.

We advanced to the Semi-Finals to play Cecil Hills High School who were unable to fracture our solid defence; resulting in us winning 7-0. This set up a final showdown with the only other undefeated team in the competition Robert Townson High School. A tight game resulted in us going down 4-3 to be runners-up in the Competition advancing through to the NSW State Championships on Monday 25th July.

The boys were an absolute credit to the college and a pleasure to be associated with. The team was comprised of players from Yr 10, (Luca Marongui and Andre Gioiosa) , Yr 11, (Joseph Raso, Jake Ingle and Steven Portolesi). A special mention goes to the leadership qualities of the Yr 12’s in the team; Captain, Cristian Ciampa along with Anthony Tomelic, Piero Sanchez and Darren Vargas who led the team by example.

I wish the team every success in the upcoming Championships, and I know they will represent the College admirably.

Mrs Celea
Coach
GOOD SAMARITAN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
HINCHINBROOK
401 Hoxton Park Road, Hinchinbrook NSW 2168
PO Box 444, Hoxton Park NSW 2171
Phone: (02) 9825 9955 · Fax: (02) 9825 9966
Email: admin@gscchinbrook.catholic.edu.au

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 6th June
Year 7 Vaccinations

Monday 27th June
College Athletics Carnival

Tuesday 28th & Thursday 30th June, Friday 1st July
Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
KIDS HELP LINE  1800 551800
We care and we listen—anytime and for any reason
PARENT LINE  132055 or 1300 301300
Confidential Help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
LIFELINE  131 114
24 hours, 7 days a week telephone service

Mon 6th June  |  E. Hobby, J. Colley

Tues 7th June |  L. La Rosa, L. Pacchiarotta, N. Bebawi

Wed 8th June  |  M. Romeo, L. Dwarte, N. Bodagh

Thurs 9th June |  M. Alsafar, T. Severino, G. Beretta

Fri 10th June  |  STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mon 13th June |  QUEENS BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

Tues 14th June |  L. Versi, N. Bebawi, D. Mori

Wed 15th June |  R. Criniti, D. Hadjisocratous, A. Pipicella

Thurs 16th June |  A. O’Neill, G. Gilvear, G. Gerrish

Fri 17th June  |  D. Segatto, R. Romeo, D. Caruana

Presented by the University of Western Sydney
The UWS HSC Preparation Days’ aim is to provide students of Greater Western Sydney with the opportunity to maximise their academic performance for the Higher School Certificate.

This one day program has been designed to help students with:
Improved exam scores
Optimised exam responses
Improved study skills
Relaxation techniques

Through this program, students will:
Review key syllabus content
Receive concise explanations and workshop resources
Participate in discussions and question time

The sessions will include analytical review of relevant course material and workshops. See below for a sample program.

HSC ENGLISH
Monday 4th July
Belonging – 9:00am - 12:30pm
A plenary session for all students sitting the Standard and Advanced Paper One – Belonging – A perspective and concept of Belonging. Essential skills of critical analysis and textual analysis: Approaches to areas of study 1 hour lunch then students to choose either session Standard English Class or Advanced English Class

STANDARD ENGLISH CLASS
1.30pm - 4.30pm
Module A experience through language
Module B close study of texts
Module C texts and society

ADVANCED ENGLISH CLASS
1.30pm - 4.30pm
Module A comparative study of texts
Module B critical study of texts
Module C representation of texts

HSC Extension 1 English Students – Masterclass : Creative Writing
Friday 8th July – 1:30pm - 4:30pm
An analytical perspective and the essential skills of critical analysis. Understand how to apply the skills of academic writing and expression. Students will workshop exemplars from the Extension 1 Modules.

Dates Monday 4th, Friday 8th July. Fee $50 per day (Monday 4th July) and $50 Creative Writing Masterclass (Friday 8th July), includes optional campus tour in the one hour lunch break

Location Parramatta South (main) campus Building EAG Ground Floor. Lecture Theatres EAG 19 (Lecture Theatre 03) and EAG 18 (Lecture Theatre 01) Campus maps go to www.uws.edu.au, click “About UWS” Limited paid parking is available on UWS Parramatta North Campus. A bridge connects to the main Parramatta South campus. An out of session shuttle bus service runs between both locations.
The programs have been developed and will be taught by leading HSC teachers, teachers with HSC marking experience and UWS academic staff. Register online now at www.uwscollege.edu.au/hscprep