

19 December 2016

Dear Families of Santa Maria College,

As the year draws to a close, I write to you with gratitude for your partnership and support throughout the 2016 school year. Once again it has been an absolute privilege to lead this fine community in its 112th year. May the coming weeks bring you much joy and peace as you celebrate Christmas and the beginning of the New Year.

This year has witnessed the launching of our new Village structure for the College as an avenue to honour student wellbeing and learning within a flourishing and technologically innovative environment. I look forward to sharing the evolution of our Village model with the community in the next year as we move into phase two of its development.

We are pleased to advise you of our VCE results for the Class of 2016. The Santa Maria community would especially like to congratulate and celebrate the following achievements:

- Our Dux is Mollie Moloney gaining an ATAR score of **99.15**. Mollie is hoping to study Medicine. As many of you know, Mollie also qualified and completed Duke of Edinburgh (Gold) and was our Debating/Public Speaking Captain for 2015/2016
- **16** of our students achieved an ATAR score of 90+ with 9 of those 16, scoring an ATAR above 94
- **26** of our students received a score of 80+
- 57% of the Class of 2016 receiving an ATAR of 70+
- It is also pleasing to see the lower band has lifted with 84% of students achieving an ATAR greater than 50
- We congratulate and celebrate our senior VET/VCAL students who have achieved their goals with much success

It is also important to recognise the contribution of this year level in an impressive range of co-curricular activities and social justice pursuits. This engagement in broader school life, as well as the diligence shown in academics, is commendable. The outstanding achievements of the Class of 2016 is worthy of our praise. Our thoughts are now with our most recent past students as they embark on their chosen pathway post-secondary studies.

This year our College theme has been: **Stillness. Healing. Peace**. In a world that promotes 24/7 alertness and activity, the call to be still in a rapidly paced world has been quite poignant as a place of difference. Our College symbol of the bench has invited us as a Benedictine community to sit and ponder ... to wonder, to imagine, to re-create, to rest. The call to healing has evoked memories of loss, brokenness and fragility ... deep thinking, yet with the promise of restoration and renewal. The call to peace is an invitation to hope and to love beyond our imaginings. This is the same invitation the babe of Bethlehem ... Jesus ... beckons us to encounter this Christmas. May we accept this invitation quietly, humbly and with great joy!

Christmas Blessings, Peace and Gratitude,



Deborah M. Barker (Mrs)
Principal