



# Semper Paratus

**Newsletter of  
James Sheahan  
Catholic High School**

*Volume 24 Number 32  
Thursday 1 October 2009*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Friday 2 October**

Year 12 Graduation  
Assembly - 10.00am in the  
School Hall

Year 12 Graduation Mass  
St Joseph's Church 6.30pm

Last Day Term 3

### **Tuesday 20 October**

Students return for  
Term 4

P&F Meeting in Kenna Hall  
- 7.30pm

### **Tuesday 20 October**

HSC Exams commence

### **Friday 23 October**

Year 7 Medieval Day

Year 11 Reports issued to  
students

### **Wednesday 28 October to Friday 30 October**

Senior Retreat

### **Wednesday 4 November**

Years 7 - 11

Parent/Teacher/Student  
Evening

*Dear Lord,*

*Please bless these graduates as they go out into the world to make it a better place, while they pursue their dreams.*

*Gently guide them, lead them, show them Your way to success and happiness through service to others, as they maximize their own potential. Fill them with joy when they reach their goals. Strengthen them, as they deal with life's obstacles, and show them that every challenge is a path to character development.*

*Give them the intelligence to make a plan for their futures. Give them the patience and persistence to pursue their ambitions. Most of all, give them caring hearts to look for ways to help the people they meet on their life's journey.*

*Encourage them and lift them up now, as they spread their wings into a clear sky of limitless opportunity.*

*Let each and every graduate here be wrapped in the warmth of Your infinite love, and let Your wisdom show them the way to make the most of their lives.*

*In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

## **Farewell Year 12**

As the term draws to a close we engage in significant rites of passage for our Year 12 students to offer them a fitting and appropriate farewell from school. On Friday morning, following the Year 12 breakfast, the whole school gathers for the Year 12 final academic assembly. Here we acknowledge and affirm all prize winners in Year 12. We listen to words from representatives of each year group, and we form a guard of honour as Year 12 leave the hall for the last time.

In the evening, we join with Year 12 students and their families to celebrate the Eucharist at St Joseph's Church. This important Mass gives us the opportunity to pray with Year 12 families for their child in preparation for the coming examinations and to give thanks for the gift of these students to our school and to the world.

I can honestly say that what we offer Year 12 as they take their leave from Catholic Education, are by far the most moving and spirit-filled rites of passage of any school I have worked in. It is a testament to the sense of school spirit our students possess that makes these two occasions so special.

For some parents, this will signal the end of their association with James Sheahan Catholic High School. I thank all of those people who have had long associations with the school, and sincerely hope that the relationship with the school has been a positive, life-giving one for all.

## **Term 4**

Term 4 resumes on Tuesday 20 October for students. Monday 19 October is a staff development day (off-site). Students are to return in summer uniform. I wish all families a safe and relaxing holiday break.

*Craig Wattam  
Principal*

**YEARS 7 - 11**  
**PARENT/ TEACHER/ STUDENT EVENING**  
**Wednesday 4 November 2009**  
**4.00pm – 8.00pm**

A Parent/Teacher/Student Evening for Junior Students will be held in the School Hall on Wednesday 4 November between 4.00pm and 8.00pm. The evening provides an important opportunity for you to discuss the educational progress of your child. Booking forms need to be completed and returned to the Front Office by **9.00am Thursday 22 October 2009**.

Booking sheets were distributed through roll call classes on Friday 25 September. Parent/ Teacher/ Student evenings play a vital role in promoting student success in their studies. The evening provides the ideal opportunity for teachers to recognise and affirm the achievements of your child over the 2009 school year, to discuss with yourself and your child any areas causing concern and to provide information on your child's overall progress.

The input of your child in these discussions is actively encouraged and considered a vital part of this process. For this reason, it is a school expectation that your child attends the interviews with you.

In the case of junior students, the evening provides an occasion for your child to reassess his/ her performance, work commitment and focus as they rapidly approach their final examinations and to discuss with you and individual teachers, the areas requiring greater development or commitment. Year 11 students have an opportunity to reflect on their Preliminary Course results and areas needing further attention as they commence their final year of secondary study, leading to the HSC. The active participation of parents and /or carers in such evenings is considered an integral part of enrolment at James Sheahan Catholic High School and reflects the vital role that parents play in their child's education and development.

*Peter Meers*  
*Assistant Principal*

**STUDENT WRITERS' SHOWCASE**

Be sure to check out the new items on the Student Writers' Showcase on our website: a poem by Sarah Scott-McLean, an essay by Glenn Cardinio and a fantasy story by Alaina

Dean. We always welcome submissions for the showcase, but remember that we are interested in polished, finished pieces that you have edited and revised.

**PRELIMINARY EXAMS**

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who have recently finished their Preliminary Course and are set to embark on their final year of school study. Hopefully, the Preliminary Exams highlighted the areas where students need to improve and affirmed areas of existing ability.

One tip for the HSC year: you won't get much out of it if you expect to be spoon-fed a bunch of facts every day without any personal participation. Ask questions. Get involved in discussions and look for ways you can make your work a little more interesting and engaging.

**ENGLISH AND WRITING COMPETITIONS**

In the next few weeks, at school assemblies and year meetings, awards will be presented for the English Competition and the Writing Competition. Many of our students earned Credits and Distinctions, and those students should rightly feel very proud.

I would like to make special mention of Grace Whitton (Year 7) who achieved a High Distinction (top 1% of the state) in the English Competition.



As the organiser of the competitions, I would also like to make mention of the many students who earned a Certificate for Participation—for getting in and having a go, perhaps achieving a personal best or an unexpectedly good score.

In nearly every assessable category, in every year group, our students performed above the state average.

Well done to all.

*Chris Hanson*  
*Assistant Co-ordinator, English*

**2010 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS**

Students from Years 7, 8 and 10 have recently submitted their elective subject preference forms. We have been looking at the choices over the past week and have developed subject lines based on models which satisfy

the largest number of students. Due to the large differences in student preferences, not all sets of student choices can be met. Therefore, some students have not been allocated a class on some lines. These students will be interviewed this week and early next term. All students will be notified of their elective subjects for 2010 in early November.

### School Certificate Exams

The Year 10 School Certificate Exams will be held on Monday 9 November and Tuesday 10 November in the Hall. The Board of Studies has an advertised start time for the afternoon exams of 12.50pm. In order for us to complete the afternoon exams and have students catch the buses, **the afternoon exams will begin at 12.30pm**. Please be aware that this is different to any information sent by the Board of Studies.

*Michael Tilston  
Administration Coordinator*

### BLAYNEY PARISH HISTORY

I am creating a video clip using old photos, video clips, songs and memories of the history of Blayney Parish. If possible would anybody with old photos or videos of the Blayney parish or community please send them to the front office in an envelope with details on how to contact you for their return.

*Grace Garretty, Year 10*

### CASUAL CLOTHES DAY

Casual Clothes Days are always popular with our students. They are allowed to go uniform free for a small donation towards causes that promote social justice.

This term's Casual Clothes Day donations will support Brother Paul's Lasallian School in Pakistan. Year 12 were allowed to choose a dress up theme as this their last Casual Clothes Day. The theme they chose this year was Superheroes. The



concept of a superhero had a very liberal interpretation and provided entertainment for the whole student body.



*Lynelle Maguire  
SRC Facilitator*

### DATE FOR THE DIARY

The JSCHS Music Support Team will again be hosting a night of musical excellence featuring the musical genius of local musician Louis Ortiz on double bass, supported by JSCHS staff, students and parents.

Write **Friday, 4 December** in your diary NOW.

Further details will be available Week 1 of next term.

*Trish Aumuller*

### CLOTHING POOL

As the clothing pool will be closing at the end of this year (2009), the old uniform for Year 10, 2010 and Year 12, 2010 is available at reduced prices for anyone who requires extra pieces.

Would Year 12 students please hand in their uniforms by the end of the year if they don't want to keep them.



All second-hand uniforms left in the clothing pool at the end of Term 4 will be sent to a mission school. If you would like your uniform back, and not sent to a mission school, please collect it from the school on Tuesdays between 10.30am and 1.30pm.

*Marg Young*

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY – JUNIOR CHESS TOURNAMENT ORANGE

Enjoy playing chess!

This is a fun tournament for beginner to experienced chess players aged 7 to under 18.



You only need a basic knowledge of the game.

**Where:** St Barnabas Anglican Church Parish Hall, Corner Dora and McLachlan Streets, East Orange

**When:** Wednesday 7 October

**Time:** 9:45 am to 3:30 pm

**Entry Fee:** \$10 (\$5 additional family member)

**Register:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October at the latest  
By contacting one of the following Chess Coordinators

1. Alexander Aich - Ph 6884 4561

[alexander.aich@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.aich@gmail.com)

2. Joe Cummins - Ph 6362 6882

[hrc@neconnectcom.au](mailto:hrc@neconnectcom.au)

**What to bring:** Your own lunch  
Come along and have some fun.

## MORE CASUAL CLOTHES DAY PICS



### YOU COULD LEARN A LOT FROM AN INTERNATIONAL BROTHER OR SISTER!

Climate change? Further education?  
Cultural differences? Language?  
Study habits? Careers?

### AND WHAT FUN TEACHING HIM/HER ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CULTURE.

Carefully selected students will arrive February 2010 for 5 months from Europe, Japan and the U.S.A. They will attend local secondary school, are fully insured and have their own spending money.



**CONTACT: 1800 500 501**  
email: [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au)  
[www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au)