To be a boarder is to experience about 40 weeks away from home. If a day boy was asked about the same 40 weeks it is doubtful that they would claim that every term-time week was a week of endless excitement! They would talk of the meals, the homework, the chores, the good and bad times with their siblings, the sport at weekends and they might even mention the word boring.

It is fair to say that boarders experience all of that too. They have the same highs and lows but what they have that day boys never experience are the amazingly strong friendships with unbreakable links forged with boys who are their extra “brothers”. These links are forged in those early days born in challenging times when they help each other with homesickness and with homework. The links are strengthened in the day to day “rough and tumble of life” and by the quiet times spent together. By the time they leave the boarders have an unshakeable bond with a group of their peers that lasts them a lifetime. Their parents too have made friendships that carry on into the future. The boys also have a busy programme of events scheduled between the various boarding schools around Perth and within the Boarding House. Socials, movies, ice skating, bowling, Lazer Tag, Paintballing, Mixed netball, shopping trips, the beach, quiz nights, trips to sporting events and car shows are all on the activities list for those 40 weeks.

This year’s Year 12 group has been a pleasure for all of us to work with. We have seen them all graduate and move into the next phase of their life knowing that they have the maturity and independence to make good decisions and achieve success. Quietly and ably led by the leadership team of David McGrath, Callum McQuie, Jayden Paki and Dean Munns, they have been excellent older brothers to the other boys. Thank you to all the Year 12s and everyone in Boarding wishes them well in their future.

A number of boys applied from Year 11 to go on the leadership camp, many having already worked as Peer Support leaders in the College. After a lengthy process the following appointments have been made:

**Head Boarder:** Declan Ryan  
**Deputy Head Boarder:** Bart Trevenen  
**Head of Cebula:** Hayes Medcalf

All three students have a strong desire to be supportive of the younger boys and to develop the spirit of the Boarding House. They envisage this as being their role on both a day to day basis within Boarding and also in our competitive activities against the other Houses of the College. Due to a restructuring of the student leadership positions and roles this year, there have been no appointments of Deputies of Houses.

During the year we have seen some staff changes. In the kitchen, so brilliantly led by chef Barry Cornwall, we saw Vicki Dearnley leave to take up a challenging role in catering and Sharon Palmer successfully step into her shoes as Barry’s assistant. Fortunately, both Vicki and Sharon have remained on the weekend supervisory staff. We have seen our big, quiet, ex-policeman Terry Egan leave to drive on the big convoys going North with heavy equipment while Brett Douglas has left us to pursue his personal career aspirations. We are fortunate to have so many men and women with great and varied life experience working as senior supervisors and the team of junior supervisors with their own boarding experience ably assisting on weekend shifts. At a recent Boarding Schools Conference, talking with staff from schools across the country, it was obvious that we are indeed fortunate.