Year 7

It’s been an exciting and dynamic year for this group of Year 7’s and again it has been a privilege to assist 136 fine young men in making the transition from primary to secondary school.

A focus this year has been encouraging the boys to consider and uphold a number of the key values of St Eugene De Mazenod:

- To be aware of the dignity of all people
- To hold high expectations of others
- To strive for personal excellence

It is pleasing to note the boys have certainly honoured these values and are developing healthy attitudes to their endeavours at school and I hope their involvement in their respective families and communities.

Throughout the year the boys have presented themselves extremely well and actively engaged in the many wide and varied activities offered by the College.

Camp
Early in the first term the boys found themselves thrown into the Year 7 Camp, a great opportunity to face new challenges, make new friends and see themselves and their teachers in a different light. The Nanga Bush Camp, Dwellingup provided a great venue for our boys to actively engage in both challenging and relaxing activities.

Peer Support Program
The Peer Support Program was designed to provide support for our Year 7 students, helping them settle into Mazenod and get to know other students. Once a week two Year 11 mentors conducted a number of sessions where the Year 7 boys had an opportunity to develop their friendships, self-confidence and increase their awareness of College routines and expectations. We have found the program to be very beneficial to all those concerned.

Fathers & Friends
A “Father’s & Friends” breakfast in Term 1 was held so that our Year 7’s could spend some school time with a significant male in their lives. The day began with scrumptious breakfast in the gym followed by Form and Period 1 classes. This is a wonderful morning for all concerned.

Social Events
Late in the semester we arranged a ‘Social Get-together’ with St Brigid’s. It was a great afternoon where the boys interacted with the girls over a beautiful barbecue lunch followed by some fantastic games and activities. The Year 11 Peer Support Mentors assisted with the lunch preparations and conducted the activity sessions. This made for a tremendous afternoon enjoyed by all.

Our second social occurs late in the year and where both groups again have a day of ice skating. They participate in fun and games throughout the day.

The appointment of Miss Candice Betts as our Curriculum Coordinator has again seen the boys involved in a number of cross-curricular events. Some of these were: Ancient Greek Week, Environment Expo, and Zoo Excursion. During these events the boys researched particular aspects, generated reports, created displays and gathered knowledge from guest speakers. We certainly appreciated Miss Betts’ enthusiasm and passion for these events.

Leadership
We again appointed students to a variety of leadership positions. Many of our boys held positions of responsibility at their primary school so it is important that they have an opportunity to continue to display their leadership qualities. They all participated in our Lower School Leadership Program where they discussed the facets of leadership and then participated in some confidence/team work activities at the ‘Rock Face’ [rock climbing]. Many of these boys go on to become our leaders in Year 12.

1:1 Laptop Program
Now in its second year the College 1:1 Laptop Program has proved to be beneficial academically for the boys by allowing easy access to Information & Communication Technology [ICT]. Teachers have also been able to provide more extensive and individualised educational programs. We will continue to further develop the use of laptops thus ensuring that our students remain at the forefront of ICT development in education.

Our Year assemblies have been a tremendous forum for our boys to display their many and varied talents. Each Form class has had an opportunity to plan and conduct a number of assemblies throughout the year. These assemblies have provided us with and great insight into the sometimes ‘hidden talents’ of the boys. Standing up and speaking in front of the whole cohort, singing, playing musical instruments, and proudly displaying their school work were just a few of the highlights.

Another wonderful and successful year has passed where the College has provided the means by which the full potential of each of its students and that of the school community has been realised. Miss Betts, Mrs Bulich, Mrs Gault, Mr Mallon, Mr Perrin along with all Year 7 teachers have been an integral part of ensuring the boys are able to engage in an exciting and challenging curriculum. Their professionalism and dedication is outstanding.

We look forward to witnessing their journey through Mazenod.