2012 was my first year in a Head of Year role after being a Year 8 Form teacher for the past five years, and I have found it to be challenging but very rewarding. As I walked into the Year 8 corridor on the first day, I met a group of very enthusiastic and excited young men who were keen to catch up with their friends, meet the new students, and most importantly find out who their new teachers were. There was a large number of new students who started this year and it has been very pleasing to see this group settle into life at the College with ease. The friendly and caring nature of the students who made these boys feel at home characterises the friendly and caring demeanour of the Year 8 group.

The first event on the Year 8 calendar is the Team Building Camp at Woodman Point. The camp provides the students with an opportunity to challenge themselves through a variety of fun activities. Raft building, flying fox, kayaking and beach sports give the students a chance to display and develop their team skills and abilities. The highlight of the Year 8 camp is the traditional talent night where students get the opportunity to get up in front of their fellow peers and show off their array of talents. As usual the conditions were very hot and the boys and staff took the opportunity to cool off at the beach.

For the second year Term Two focussed on the Medieval era. As well as the boys participating in Medieval studies across their learning areas, on the final day of term the boys got to dress up in Medieval attire and participate in medieval games, a tradition following on from last year's Medieval Day. There was a Form class parade, jousting competition, tug of war and jester performances.

The group demonstrated its variety of talents in all aspects of College life, achieving academic excellence, success on the sporting field and outstanding accomplishments in the Performing Arts. Such achievements were recognised in Year 8 and whole school assemblies. Many of our Year 8 students have contributed to the College and the wider community by volunteering their time in a number of different ways: tour guides for Open Day, Young Vinnies members, Environment Club members and as House and Form Representatives. They have raised money for Project Compassion and donated to the Christmas Appeal. Each Form has also run its own Mass aided by Fr McMahon and Sr Frances Wilson.

The two social events with St Brigid’s, a traditional dance social and a river cruise along the Swan, were opportunities for the boys to develop their social skills and friendships. The Year 8 Footy Tipping Competition and assemblies run by Form and House Representatives in Term Three and Four were also highlights of the year.

I have had the privilege of guiding a diverse group of students through a challenging and exciting second year of their secondary schooling and along the way have seen the boys mature and develop, contributing to life at the College in their own unique way. I would like to thank the Year 8 team who have helped the boys throughout the year. Mr Donaghy, Mr Kostecki, Miss Lorkiewicz, Miss Settlemaier and Mr Pabst, thank you for your guidance and support of the boys. They have been very lucky to have such dedicated and caring teachers by their side. Special thanks must also go out to Ms Watson and the Support Teachers who have assisted students experiencing difficulties.

I wish the 2012 cohort of Year 8’s much success in their future endeavours!