The transition into Year 11 can be difficult for many students with expectations, both academically and behaviourally intensified, combined with coming to terms with rigorous courses of study, exams and Worklink placements can be quite difficult. The boys have risen to the challenge of striving for personal excellence and have learnt some valuable lessons along the way. The year started with a three day camp and transition program with a focus on developing leadership, goals, study habits, healthy coping strategies and motivation. There was also a bit of time available to sneak down to Adventure World so the students could enjoy some ‘fun’ time with their peers before the real work would begin.

Term One involved a pool carnival where each student was able to compete for their House in assorted novelty games and enjoy a BBQ and well deserved break from school. A presentation from Heath Black would have been a highlight for many of the students at the start of the year.

After the exams and Workplace Learning in Term Two, it was an opportunity for the students to unwind and celebrate the half way point of the year on a river cruise with St. Brigid’s. As the MV James Stirling made its way down the beautiful Swan River, the boys and girls danced the night away and had a great time. During Term Two all of the students participated in the P.A.R.T.Y. (Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth) Outreach Program.

Student leadership has been promoted throughout the year with the Peer Support Program that allows students to develop relationships with Year 7 students as well as through the Term Three Student Leadership Camp. This process involved a three day adventure in Dwellingup where the boys participated in a variety of leadership development activities while also having to cook and clean for themselves. There was even an opportunity to find out just how cold water can be on a canoeing adventure down the river. Congratulations to all the boys who went through this process and well done to the Prefect Body of 2013.

Year 11 would be a very daunting year without support from some amazing teachers and support staff. In particular, I would like to thank the five Year 11 Form Teachers: Mr Downman, Mr Thompson, Mr Logan, Mr Devon and Mr Buselich. Another big thank you to Mr Payne for his continued assistance with the boys as well as to Mr Delaney, Mrs Opechowski and Ms Petta for their expert guidance with careers and the issues facing the Year 11’s throughout the year. As the year draws to a close, I get the sense that this year group is beginning to understand just how special Mazenod is, and hopefully they will make the most of their opportunities in 2013. I wish all the Year 11’s success for their final year at Mazenod College and future endeavours.