



Dear Parents, Guardians and Agents,

It is great to see all our International boys with happy faces returning to school after a well deserved two week holiday. I have been impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of our students. In part this is due to our excellent programme, great facilities, dedicated teaching staff and caring environment which the students are simply happy to be part of.

New International Students



Group picture of 7 new International Students

The start of Term 3 saw 12 new International Students start at the College who come from seven different countries: China, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan and Thailand, We welcome them to the Sacred Heart family and community, and thank you for all your great support in having everything well organised for them to start at the College in such a short time frame.

New Staff at the English Language Learners' Department



Mrs. Moya Terris, ESOL Teacher Aide

We also welcome to the College Mrs Moya Terris who has joined us as an ESOL Teacher Aide as the result of the increased number of International Students. Mrs Terris will provide

extra support to Year 11 and Year 12 students, in order to help them to improve their English skills. Mrs Terris has a BA in French and had some ESOL home tutoring experiences. She is a mother to a Year 13 student at Sacred Heart College who has been at SHC since Year 7.

Early Departure

A reminder to all Parents, Guardians and Agents that early departure requests from school for the holidays must be made well in advance to the Director of Curriculum, Mr Hayward (chayward@sacredheart.school.nz).

Before the end of Term 2 we had a couple of students who left early to catch flights to return to their homes. Situations like this are understandable, but I would like to emphasise our policy again that Parents/Guardians need to book flights for their students in future that are in accordance with the Term Calendar. For boarders, the Dean of Boarding, Mr O'Donnell, made it very clear that their departure needs to be arranged within the holiday period, not before school has finished. For teachers this causes disruption as they have planned teaching programmes right to the end of the term. Early departure also causes confusion to domestic students as they think International students have extra privileges. Students need to have valid reasons, apart from not being able to get flights for leaving the College before the term has finished.

End of Term 4 Programme for Year 11 Students

This year the ELL Department has arranged a special programme for our new Term 3 International Students. When the rest of the senior students go on study leave on 8th November, the International Dean and Head of the ELL Department, Mrs Gardiner, will be taking them in the morning for a week and a half to do an English Level 1 standard. In the afternoon they will study for exams. We would like all of our new students to attempt at least one or two subjects or selected standards for NCEA. Often this is Maths. The advantage of this is that if they do 20 Level 1 credits, it will count towards their Level 2 study. They will finish the year on 6 December.

All new Year 11 International Students who started in Term 3 this year will need to do this programme. The existing Year 11 students can also join the programme if they wish, particularly if they have very few external examinations. Parents and Guardians need to pay attention to the change of date if you are going to book flights for your students.

Homestay Guidelines

As we have more students living in a homestay environment either full time or in school holidays, there is a need to have clear homestay guidelines set by the College so that the students understand the expectations of them from the host family. Mrs Gardiner and I will look at this in the next couple of weeks and we will send out a document with detailed information once these guidelines have been developed.

Term Dates

Term 3 Monday 1 August - Friday 7 October (1pm)

Term 4 Tuesday 25 October - Tuesday 6 December (1pm)

Year 13 Finish 7th November

Year 12 Finish 8th November

Year 11 Finish 6th December

Year 9 Finish after returning from camp on 4th December

Years 7, 8 and 10 Finish on 6th December

We wish all our International boys a happy and productive term, and that they make most of their time at the College.

If you need any information from us regarding your students, please feel free to contact either myself or Mrs Gardiner.

With regards

Ting Xu

Director of International Students