Dear Parents and Friends

Year 12 students are well into their exams and the hard work of study and revision. Year 11 exams commenced this week, with Year 10s to follow next Thursday, preceded by a short Swot Vac to run from Monday to Wednesday. These days provide an important revision opportunity for Year 10 students in preparing for their examinations. The Years 7-9 exam program will also be conducted over coming weeks as outlined in this newsletter.

Year 12, 2016 orientation days will be held on 19 and 20 November, with the Year 11, 2016 orientation on 27 November.

Traditional classrooms are often cited as failing to provide students with the necessary skills to be competitive in the 21st Century. Today’s businesses and organisations require individuals who can demonstrate critical thinking, creativity and problem solving, working in teams, communication and leadership, these are the skills that the Years 7-9 Project Based Learning program aims to develop. Project Based Learning is rigorous, relevant and engaging. It promotes self-directed learning and establishes connections to life outside the classroom.

On Wednesday all Year 9 students, as part of their World War One Project Based Learning unit, researched and conducted Remembrance Day commemorative services for every class across the College. Students wrote and rehearsed addresses that explored and extolled not just the suffering and sacrifice of those who served abroad but also of those who remained at home. The services enabled students to pair their new found historical knowledge with a real world outcome that required adult like collaboration and exceptional communication skills in a truly meaningful way.

Last week we welcomed refugees, from the Mercy Connect and Catholic Justice and Peace programs, to our annual Refugee Dinner. Families and staff from the Emmanuel community joined our guests in celebrating a very enjoyable night of welcome and hospitality, sharing a delicious meal together. Hearing the stories of the difficulties and challenges experienced by refugees filled us with admiration for the hope and resilience which sustained them in reaching Australia.

The College Celebration of Excellence Evening will be held at the Atrium at Flemington Racecourse on Wednesday 25 November.

In this month of November we pray our dearly departed rest in peace, in our belief that their life is changed not ended.

Christopher Stock
Principal
Campus Leaders

Both students and staff have returned after the mid-term break re-energised and looking forward to the final month of their studies. The students are focused and knuckling down, both in class and at home. During this busy time of the year, it’s important that students put into practice all the organisational skills discussed in Learning Advisor and Homeroom sessions. It is also important that they regularly revisit their goals to remind them of the areas of challenge that they are working on this term.

ATTENDANCE and WHY IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!

It is an important time for students to be at school every day and on time in order to finish the year well.

Please bear in mind the cumulative effects of absence. While the effects of irregular attendance adversely impact directly on a student’s current progress and understanding, the long term scars to his/her learning are devastating. Just as research has proven that exposure to the sun as a youngster can cause irreparable damage to his/her skin that will emerge later in life, poor attendance mirrors this. The gaps in knowledge and understanding accumulated in Years 7 to 10 become a glaring problem in Years 11 and 12. Subject development is a sequential building process that relies heavily on a firm grasp of each section of material. When a part is missing the student finds immense difficulty in learning the work and real frustration sets in; this effectively makes school life a genuine chore.

In many senior classes across all subjects, teachers spend much valuable class time trying to fill in the gaps in students’ knowledge caused through condoned parent absences. Time is lost on teaching the Years 11 and 12 subject material; a real disadvantage to our students. This situation can be substantially reduced if not eliminated by saying NO to any student absences other than genuine illness or serious family issues. Let’s work together to make a difference to your child’s future.

Should you require support in saying NO to your son/daughter in regard to any absences other than illness, please contact the relevant homeroom teacher or house leader/level coordinator. In some instances contact with Mr Barr, Ms Webster or a student counselor may be appropriate.

Let’s work together to support your child’s education and make a difference to their future.

Celebration of Excellence

The Celebration of Excellence Evening will be held on Wednesday 25 November at Flemington Racecourse. Students who will be receiving a Special Award or a number of Academic Awards have already received an invitation. This night is a highlight in the College Calendar where student achievement is recognised by the College Community. Students are reminded that they are to wear formal school uniform on the night. The Boys wear their blazer, tie and long pants and the girls their blazer, tie and kilt/slacks. No jumpers are to be worn. Please note that this is a ticketed event due to the large number attending.

Uniform

Families are asked to re-familiarise themselves with the uniform requirements listed in the front of the student handbook and to ensure that their children are adhering to them.

Thank you to the majority of students who wear their uniform with pride, and whose appearance and behaviour reflect positively on themselves, their families and the College. If you are experiencing difficulty in meeting uniform standards, please speak to a House Leader, Pastoral Coordinator or Campus Leader. Some key reminders are:

♦ Hats
The College cap/hat must be worn for all Physical Education and house sport classes, as well as any other outdoor activity. Students are also encouraged to wear this to and from school and during recess and lunchtime activities. Please ensure that if your child has misplaced or lost his/her hat/cap, it would need to be replaced as soon as possible.

♦ Piercings
The student handbook clearly specifies that students may wear a single, simple ear-stud in the ear lobe only. Other earring or sleeper styles should not be worn. No other piercings are permitted. There has been an increase in the number of students with Eyebrow bolts. If students arrive at school with these and cannot remove them at school, they will be asked to go home to remove it.

♦ Sports jackets
Staff have been speaking to students about the state of their sports jackets. Where the jacket is needing attention parents will be notified by a letter being sent home.

There have been some cases of head lice reported so please check your child’s hair and take appropriate action. Please remember that long hair should always be tied back and this will also help to reduce the possibility of infection.

Please note there will be no early leave at NDC on Monday 16 November as previously notified.

The Michael Grose article which we have attached this week is talking about five ways for parents to give their children skills, encouragement and support in their quest for independence.

As the year is quickly drawing to a close, it is important that everyone remains focused as the curriculum will be delivered right to the last day. Students need to continue to work on their goals and their homework plans in order to develop the right habits to assist them in their transition to the next year level.

David Barr & Jennifer Webster
BOOKLISTS

Booklists for 2015 for all Year levels will be distributed prior to the end of the year. All orders should be placed online. If this is not possible Lamont will accept orders in the mail or by fax.

Please be aware of the following dates:

Online orders must be finalised by the 13th December for free home delivery.

Book Collection Dates

St Paul’s Campus
10 December 2015 11am—2pm
22 January 2016 12noon—6pm

Notre Dame Campus:
10 December 2015 11am - 2pm
20 January 2016 12noon—6pm

Stationery Lists

Year 11 and 12 Students should also check carefully the Stationery List to ensure that they have the appropriate calculator for the Mathematics subject they have chosen.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Earlier in the week families with students in Years 9 to 11 received a letter outlining the introduction of our program to allow families to make a decision about the computer each student uses. Students in Year 7 to 9 in 2016 will continue with the College provided device. The decision to proceed in this way, we believe, caters best for the different needs of our students.

While the College does not recommend any specific device or supplier we have attached a flyer from JB Education for your information in this newsletter. If you find that they offer you the best price and service then you must order with them by the 30 November for delivery at the beginning of 2016.

Judith Weir
Leader of Faith Development

Matthew Talbot Soup Van – Christmas Party
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff and students who have tirelessly supported the Soup Van throughout the year. We have regularly had 5-6 volunteers every fortnight when we run the van, and it is this ongoing support that makes our support of the soup van possible. On Sunday 6 December we have a number of staff who will be driving the buses to bring the clients of the soup van to St Augustine’s Hall for the Annual Christmas Party, a day that I am sure will be most rewarding for all. I would also like to thank all the staff and students from Queen of Peace Primary School who have kindly been donating school grown vegetables from their school veggie patch to the soup van. All these donations have been welcomed with open arms and much gratitude. Thank you.

Defining Characteristics of a Catholic School
“A Rigorous Academic Program”
An excellent Catholic school adhering to mission provides a rigorous academic program for religious studies and catechesis in the Catholic faith, set within a total academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life. With this in mind it is important to be reminded of our own Emmanuel College Mission Statement.

Emmanuel College Mission Statement
Our values are underpinned by our commitment to bear witness to the following shared values as modelled by Jesus Christ and exemplified in the life of William Chaminade

- Justice
- Commitment & Endeavour
- Respect
- Honouring Diversity
- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Compassion

In bearing witness to these values we strive to fulfil all aspects of our mission: The essence of the College is learning and teaching, with faith education as a primary focus.

Remembrance Day
On Wednesday 11 November we paused and reflected for those first ANZACS in World War I whose actions established the traditions we as a nation hold so dear today. When the time again came, the sons and daughters of our ANZACS came forward without question and accepted the responsibilities asked of them in defending and representing their country in World War II and in times of turmoil in Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, and the various UN campaigns and more recently East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq. On Remembrance Day we remember the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters and recall the efforts of those who now sleep peacefully in faraway places. Thank you to all.

Prayer

Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us during times of war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain. May grace enable us this day to dedicate to the cause of justice, freedom and peace and give wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Chris O’Malley
Campus Organisers

**Year 11 Exams and Year 12 2016 Orientation**
The Year 11 Exams commence on Monday 9 November and conclude on Tuesday 17 November. Students are expected to attend these exams in formal school uniform. Students are not required to attend school if they do not have an exam. Exam schedules and expectations have been distributed to students. Classes are not scheduled during this time.

Year 12 2016 Orientation will commence at 8.30 am on Thursday 19 November and conclude at 1.00 pm on Friday 20 November. Attendance to this Orientation Program is compulsory as course information and preparatory work for next year will be set for all classes. Students will also receive subject preferences, booklist etc. Again students are expected to attend Orientation in formal school uniform.

If you have any queries, please contact your child’s House Leader, or Stephen Lunardelli (St Paul’s Campus) or Vince Crimi (Notre Dame Campus) on 83255100.

**Year 10 Exams and Year 11 2016 Orientation**
Year 10 classes conclude Friday 13 November. Monday 16 November to Wednesday 18 November is SWOT VAC., where students will prepare for examinations. The Year 10 Exams commence on Thursday 19 November and conclude on Thursday 26 November. Students are expected to attend these exams in formal school uniform. Students are not required to attend school if they do not have an exam. Exam schedules and expectations will be distributed in assembly. Classes are not scheduled during this time.

Year 11 2016 Orientation will commence at 8.30 am on Friday 27 November and conclude at 1.00 pm. Attendance to this Orientation Program is compulsory as course information and preparatory work for next year will be set for all classes. Students will also receive subject preferences, booklist etc. Again students are expected to attend Orientation in formal school uniform.

If you have any queries, please contact your child’s House Leader, Stephen Lunardelli (St Paul’s Campus) or Vince Crimi (Notre Dame Campus) on 83255100.

**Semester 2 Examinations Yr. 7, 8 & 9**
All Year 7, 8 & 9 students will undertake Semester 2 examinations, between Monday 16 November and Thursday 26 November.

Below are the dates and periods when students will sit for their core subject examinations Year 8 & 9 English, Religion, Science, Mathematics and Humanities and Year 7 English, Mathematics and Humanities.

Students may not usually have this subject at this time. They will go to their normal classroom as scheduled and be supervised by the teacher who would usually teach them at that time.

Year 8 & 9, for their other elective subjects, teachers will inform students when they will undertake their examination. These elective subject examinations will take place in their normal class time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 7</th>
<th>YEAR 8</th>
<th>YEAR 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16th November ENGLISH</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th November RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</td>
<td>Monday 16th November ENGLISH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th November</td>
<td>Thursday 19th November ENGLISH</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th November HUMANITIES</td>
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<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th November HUMANITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th November</td>
<td>Wednesday 25th November SCIENCE</td>
<td>Thursday 19th November SCIENCE</td>
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<td>HUMANITIES</td>
<td>Wednesday 25th November HUMANITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 26th November MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>Tuesday 24th November MATHEMATICS</td>
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vince Crimi at Notre Dame Camus and Stephen Lunardelli at St Pauls Campus.

Stephen Lunardelli & Vince Crimi
McCoy House Report

The St Paul’s Swimming Carnival was held on Friday the 6th of November. On a grey and cloudy Melbourne morning, we headed off to the pools hoping that the rain would hold off for the day so we could enjoy what has always been a fun and eventful day.

The young men of McCoy House had come close to winning the carnival in recent years, and had set themselves a goal to increase participation in all events to hopefully earn more points and achieve a victory.

I was blown away by the level of commitment and enthusiasm shown by the students. Yes - they participated in all of their events with great pride. But perhaps more importantly, they displayed the utmost respect for each other as well as students from the other houses. They showed great sportsmanship by encouraging all participants throughout the day, helping out staff wherever they could and even raising funds for the Movember campaign.

The non-stop cheering and support from the McCoy students certainly inspired some amazing performances. I would like to thank all of the boys who competed on the day who represented their house with a great spirit. A special mention must go to the following participants who worked tirelessly on the day competing in nearly every event:

Nicholas Prassinos  Aaron Luu  Matt Day  Chris Kouils  Edward Coombes  Marcus Gianchino  Michael Prassinos

Of course, we cannot forget our self-appointed team mascot, McCoy Man (Mitchell Csono) who led our cheer squad throughout the entire day.

The rain luckily held off, and the day was a great success. When the winners of each year level were announced, we were so excited to hear that McCoy had come away with wins from Years 7 through to 10, and were announced as the overall champions of the day. I was so proud to see that the hard work of each student had paid off, and Michael Prassinos accepted the coveted Champions Jacket on behalf of the whole house.

Well done boys!

Sophie Korosidis
McCoy House Leader SPC

For students, this time of the year is a busy and stressful one. The Year 12s are in the middle of their exams and just this Monday the Year 11s began their exams. For the Year 7s – 10s they will be completing exams over the next couple of weeks as well. The bright and warm light at the end of the tunnel however is that it is nearly summer and that means the excitement of summer holidays!

It is important however, at this time of year, to stay focused on our studies and to strive to do the best we can. I know that this is something that is reinforced by all staff here at Emmanuel College. I also wish to acknowledge and thank all parents for the wonderful support that is provided by you to your sons/daughters at home.

On a different note, I would like to congratulate the following Year 12 McCoy leaders for next year: Jasmin Shields-Harris and Jack Amourous (House Captains) and Sanari Dharmapala and Jacques Ozone (Sport Captains). I look forward to working with this group of students next year. The rest of the McCoy student leaders are in the process of being finalised and I must say that I am impressed with the quality of students that have applied for the role.

I would like to wish all departing McCoy students the best for the future and I hope you achieve everything you aim for.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to work with your sons and daughters this year. I have enjoyed getting to know so many fine McCoy students as well as their parents. I look forward to continuing this partnership next year in 2016.

Tess Blassis
McCoy House Leader NDC
Chaminade Homeroom Report

Term 4 saw Roberts Homeroom participating in the Swimming Carnival with vigour and enthusiasm. Chaminade were fantastic in the House Spirit and Participation, and came a close 3rd in the Championship. We also said goodbye to our Year 12s this term and we wish them all the best in the Year 12 exams. Our Year 11s are also undertaking exams and they will soon be having their Year 12 orientation which will expose them to all the expectations for them in 2016. Our Year 7-9 students will be starting exams next week and there are a lot of nervous students; however we know that the study and effort we put in will allow us to achieve at our best.

We also have Celebration of Excellence evening on the 25 November which a few of our homeroom members have been invited to. We are excited and proud of all of these students.

All the best for all students undertaking exams and hope we have a positive end to the year.

Rose Difabrizio
Roberts Homeroom Teacher SPC

With Term 4 well under way, it’s hard to believe that we are starting to prepare for the end of the year.

Our homerooms are noticeably smaller as we farewelled our Year 12 students a few weeks ago. Each Year 12 student has made a valuable and meaningful contribution to each Chaminade Homeroom and their absence has not gone unnoticed. As a house we said goodbye and good luck to the ‘Class of 2015’ with each Homeroom teacher reflecting with the house the attributes and qualities of each student. Each student was also given a parting gift and a few handy tools to help prepare them for their exams.

We would also like to thank our Chaminade Captains, Erin Dick and Justin Go for all their help with the house. Their hard work and dedication to the house will be continued next year with Michael Siragasano and Jennifer Wilson as House Captains for 2016.

Hannah Gough and Daniel Gatt also did a superb job as Sports Captains for 2015. Shane Desa and Aaktristi Sharma our 2016 Captains have already been preparing for the Swimming Carnival to be held this Friday. We cannot wait to see all Chaminade students from Years 7-10 representing the house.

Last week we also said goodbye to our Year 11 students for the year as their classes ceased. The Year 11 exams are now well under way. This is a reminder to all of us that our exams are just around the corner. In homeroom we have been discussing with our homeroom teachers how we can do our best and learn from our previous exam results. In learning advisor, we've had the opportunity to learn from each other and share helpful revision ideas. This was extremely beneficial to the Year 7 students who will be sitting exams for their core subjects for the first time.

Finally, as this is the last Chaminade homeroom report for the year, we would like to thank all of our homeroom teachers for doing such an amazing job throughout the year. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Chaminade C NDC

Sports News

Last week saw the end of the ACC competition for Year 9s and 10s. The cricketers finished with a win and something to take away for the season, and Rhys Mutch produced a stunning double hat trick. Well done Rhys! There is one week left in Year 7/8 sport, and I wish all teams well for this Thursday.

Congratulations to McCoy who were victorious in the SPC Swimming Carnival on Friday! The participation and excellence of the McCoy team were unmatched all day, and they ran away massive winners. Winters house were runners up in a much improved display.

Congratulations to Matthew Hussey who won the 3000m race at the state athletics championship on the weekend, and has now qualified for the Nationals, to take place in December at Lakeside Stadium.

If you have any sports news from outside of school to share, please let me know at brobertson@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au.

Brad Robertson
Leader of Sport SPC
This term our Year 8 students participate in surf education as part of the Physical Education curriculum and water education program. Our Year 8s travelled down the surf coast for the day to try their skills at surfing. Students gaining confidence and experience learning about surf safety and awareness, learning board handling skills, which waves to catch and correct techniques for positioning, paddling and standing on a surfboard. As part of water safety awareness students also discovered how to safely negotiate the surf, rip currents, and other dangers that may present themselves at a beach.

Kathrine Robinson-Pope
Leader of HPE
Annual Refugee Dinner

On Thursday 5 November St Paul’s Campus played host to the second welcome dinner for new settlers into our local community. Many of these brave people have amazing stories to tell of their journeys to Australia from Vietnam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Congo and many more faraway lands. Often fraught with danger and difficulty they have arrived seeking refuge and asylum in Sunshine, Footscray, Altona and other local areas.

Our new friends would like to pass onto the organisers and administration of Emmanuel College, “a huge thank you for making them feel very special and honoured to be invited and made such a fuss of with this event.” A great night was attended by about 70 people meeting and enjoying conversation with fine food and recollections of personal journeys to Australia.

Teachers from both St Paul’s and Notre Dame Campus attended and helped to create a lovely dinner experience held in the McMahon Centre.

Friends from the Mercy Connect Tutoring Program (held on Saturdays at the Sunshine Library). Volunteer tutors are always welcomed and appreciated. Contact (Sister Mary at) somml@bigpond.com
From the foundation of St Paul’s College by the Society of Mary, the Catholic faith has informed all aspects of life at St Paul’s and Emmanuel College. Students and staff have many opportunities to participate in liturgy throughout the year, and embrace the Catholic values of charity and social justice.

Students are also able to get involved in special events, such as Catholic Education Week and World Youth Day, and are encouraged to learn about and appreciate diverse faith traditions from around the world.
### Calendar Term 4 Weeks 7B & 8A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| 16 November | Year 7, 8 and 9 exams commence  
               Year 10 SWOT Day                                                  |
| 17 November | Year 11 exams conclude  
               Year 10 SWOT Day                                                  |
| 18 November | Year 10 SWOT Day                                                       |
| 19 November | Year 12 2016 Orientation  
               Year 10 exams commence  
               Year 12 exams conclude  
               SPC ACC Year 8 cricket/tennis/volleyball finals                  |
| 20 November | Year 12 2016 Orientation                                                |
| 24 November | Year 11 & 12 Leadership Day @ St Pauls Campus                           |
| 25 November | Celebration of Excellence Evening @ Flemington Racecourse 7pm          |
| 26 November | Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 exams conclude  
               ACC 2016 Leadership Launch @ St Bede’s 5-8pm                    |
| 27 November | Year 11 2016 Orientation  
               Year 9 Project Day—Social Justice                               |
| 29 November | Mass @ St Augustines 9.30am                                            |
| 30 November | Year 9 Project Day—Social Justice                                      |
| 1 December  | Year 7 2016 Orientation  
               Year 7-10 2016 ID Photo Day  
               Year 9 Project Day—Social Justice                               |
| 4 December  | Year 7 -9 Classes end @ 3.10pm  
               End of Year Eucharist  
               SPC Talent Quest @ lunchtime                                    |
## Community Notices

### Parenting workshop ‘The Other Talk’ in Altona North

Australian Drug Foundation is delivering a free parenting workshop at Altona North Community Library on the evening of 1 December 2015. The workshop is called The Other Talk and is running in partnership with Hobsons Bay City Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration:</th>
<th>6.00pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop:</td>
<td>6.30pm – 8.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Altona North Community Library, Cnr Millers and McArthurs Roads, Altona North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who should attend?</td>
<td>Parents of children aged 8-15 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration is free but places are limited.

### ALTONA PIRATES BASKETBALL CLUB

**PLAYERS WANTED**

We have places available for new players aged between 10—18 years of age.

For further information contact our Club Registrar: Rebekah Keeghan: 0439 840 805

Or email [registrar@altonapirates.com.au](mailto:registrar@altonapirates.com.au)

### PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY DAY

St Joseph’s Convent, 61 Melbourne Rd, Williamstown 3016

**THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER**

Afternoon Session 11.30pm – 3.00pm

Evening session 7.30pm – 9.00pm

For information contact [therese.quinn@sosj.org.au](mailto:therese.quinn@sosj.org.au) or mobile 0419 280 841

### BECOME A FOSTER CARER!

Our next information session is on Saturday 28 November 2015 @ 10.30am to 11.30am in the Yarraville area.

Come along to find out more & have your questions answered. Ask us to come and speak at your school.

To book or to receive an information package please contact Liesl Trenfield on 93967400 or liesl.trenfield@anglicarevic.org.au.

It is easy to become an Anglicare Foster Carer, call us NOW to talk about how

You will make all the difference!
Manage your child’s device simply and securely with JB Hi-Fi Education Solutions’ online BYOD portal.

A customised portal has been specifically designed by the school in conjunction with JB Hi-Fi Education Solutions. This offer is only available for families taking part in the parent funded 1:1 program.

The online portal is a simple step-by-step system allowing you to select your device, accessories (if applicable), extended warranty and insurance. We offer flexible payment methods and various shipping options to ensure you receive your purchase securely and in a timely manner.

Please see below for more information on what is included, how it works and what you need to do to successfully take part in the program. For any additional questions please contact our education team on 1300 730 548.

What's included and how does it work?

**Program Selection**
The BYOD portal is unique to your child's school. You will be provided with a unique code to access the page.

**Insurance Options**
Insurance is available over a 2 and 3 year period. Insurance covers accidental damage and theft.

**Device & Warranty**
The school will provide device options for you to choose from. All devices include a manufacturer's warranty.

**Payment & Shipping**
Our flexible payment options include financing (buy now pay later), BPAY and credit card. Once ready your device will be available for pick up from your local JB Hi-Fi store.

**Accessories**
If accessories are available to support your device you will be able to select them at the time of purchase.

**Review & Confirmation**
Look back on your order, ensure you are happy with your purchase and confirm. You will receive a reference number after purchase.

Order by 30 November 2015 for January 2016 delivery


School code: EC2016
The many faces of independence

Here are 5 ways for parents to give their children skills, encouragement and support in their quest for independence.

It’s been well documented in recent years that children/young people are dependent on adults for longer. In Australia one in four 18-30 year olds still lives at home and those numbers are on the increase. There are many reasons for this including lack of housing, affordability, working and partnering later, and simple convenience.

The propensity for many parents to do too much for children is a massive contributor to this increased dependency. Oddly, this is the exact opposite of what parents have always done, which is to develop their children’s independence, and in doing so effectively become redundant from their children.

There are a number of reasons for the current high level of dependency parenting including family shrinkage (parents are able to do a great deal for kids in small families), older parents (often over-concerned), busyness of life (it’s easier to do than delegate) and a heightened fear that the world is a dangerous place for children and young people.

**Independence is the point**

When independence becomes your priority then suddenly you’ve found a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children including the key four – confidence that comes from facing fears; competence that’s built through mastery; creativity that’s encouraged when kids must resolve their own problems; and character that is forged under the duress of challenge and hardship.

Adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence. And of course, independence takes many guises including:

1. **Self-help skills**
   The starting point for independence building is giving kids the skills, know-how and confidence to look after their own wellbeing and welfare. This is shown in the many everyday situations where parents model, teach and provide opportunities for children to look after themselves. Including toddlers undressing themselves, primary-aged children preparing their own snacks, and teenagers organising their own transport to school and after school activities. Kids develop real confidence from being able to look after themselves and others.

2. **Autonomy to make choices and mistakes**
   Without realising it, as parents we frequently make choices on our children’s behalf. We choose the food they eat; the games they play; their leisure activities and often the clothes they wear. When families are large (four or more children) parents usually give their children more space to make their own decisions as well as opportunities to learn from their poor choices.
... The many faces of independence ...

This may mean that children choose healthy interests and pursuits that parents are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of their parents’ wishes. In small families parents often know so much about minutiae of children’s lives that inevitably we tend to impose greater well-intentioned control over children’s decisions.

3 Freedom to explore the neighbourhood

On a recent trip to Italy I was struck by how much freedom to wander their neighbourhoods Italian children had. It was a throwback to the type of childhood that many of today’s parents experienced, where we had the opportunity to navigate our neighbourhoods on our own without having to check in with our parents all the time.

4 Freedom to explore unpredictable and potentially risky environments

Independence is also built when children spend time in unpredictable, potentially risky environments such as the bush or new environments beyond their neighbourhood. There may be some risk involved but this is where real learning lies for children and young people. Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning.

5 Taking responsibility for your own problems and actions

There’s no doubt many kids are adept at shifting their problems and responsibilities to adults. One of my children would always blame me when they were late for school. Even though the child in question had an alarm clock and was more than capable of using it, any lack of punctuality was somehow shifted to me. Go figure! Independence comes when children take ownership of their responsibilities rather than using someone else as a scapegoat.

In order to grant children and young people the type of independence outlined parents need to be brave rather than fearful; work hard to develop the skills and know-how kids’ independence requires; and be willing to give kids the encouragement and support they need to step out of their comfort zones when independence seems to hard.