Message from the Principal

Welcome to your first edition of *The Highlander* boarder parent newsletter. This newsletter is designed specifically for boarder parents, to provide a direct line from the Boarding staff to inform you of the latest boarding events and news at the College. Together with regular updates from your son’s Housemaster, we hope this helps you feel that little bit closer to your son’s life at Scots.

At Scots, we believe in honouring the learning and adventures of boys. Every day in a boy’s life should be part of an exciting adventure. He should be challenged and know the true joy of achieving worthy and ambitious goals through his own meaningful work and through the efforts of the teams of which he is a valued member. As a boarder your son has a unique opportunity to experience this on a daily basis. Through a wide array of academic team projects to sporting pursuits, life in our boarding houses provides rich experiences of camaraderie and teamwork like no other. It is where life-long bonds are formed, as boys strive for excellence together with their House ‘families’.

The Scots College is committed to demonstrating best practice in boarding care and adolescent health and our Boarding team is looking forward to keeping you posted and working together with you to support your son. We trust that each term your son returns home to you in the holiday breaks, you will note the physical, social, emotional and academic changes that will define him as a fine Scots boy.

Look out for *The Highlander* in your in-boxes twice a term.

*Dr Ian Lambert*
Principal

Message from the Head of Senior Years

Choosing a name for the Boarding Newsletter was not easy. In keeping with the College’s image, *The Highlander* fits nicely with the geographical nature of boarding. It is my hope that this new communication forges strong links between the College and our many distant families. In addition to this newsletter we are looking to experiment with podcasts later in the year in an attempt to keep those on the Highlands throughout Australia and the world connected to important information nights. Please be patient as we try our best.

May I extend a sincere thank you to the many parents who attended the first Boarder Support Group meeting of 2011. In particular I must thank the many parents who were elected to positions on the committee:

- Mr Alan Liddle – President
- Mr Andrew Locke - Vice President
- Mrs Deb Alworth - Vice President
- Mrs Megan Donnelly - Secretary

This core group of four make up the executive committee. They are to be ably assisted by the Year group representatives:

- Year 12 - Mrs Deb Alworth
- Year 11 - Mrs Georgina Kennedy and Mrs Robyn Watson
• Year 10 - Mrs Lisa Champion
• Year 9 - Mr Ben Swan
• Year 8 - Mrs Angela Lavender/Mrs Margot Shannon
• Year 7 - Mr Steve Todd

The first task of the Executive is to confirm the timing of meetings for the remainder of 2011 while the representatives for each Year are to look for opportunities to connect parents socially across each Boarding House. I draw your attention to the minutes of the first meeting attached. The Boarder Support Group minutes can be viewed on the Pipeline Newsroom.

Thank you for your assistance in making the start to the year as smooth as it has been. The end of the second week of term usually sees the onset of homesickness in some (boys as well as parents). This should not be overlooked. Normalising feelings is very important, particularly in a male environment where boys often think they have to lock feelings away or deny them. We now know that this is not helpful. Our Boarding Staff are here to help. So if you are arguing between, "he has to ride it out" and "I’m driving down there to pick him up tonight", it is time to call someone, pass the issue up and ensure our staff are hearing all that you are hearing. We are in this together.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

With every good wish,

Mr Tim Browning
Head of Senior Years and Director of Admissions

Message from Sister Jennifer

The Scots College Clinic is situated at the bottom of MacIntyre House, next to the tennis courts. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have a treatment area and a six bed ward. Boarders are able to stay overnight or long term if needed.

Sisters Jennifer, Sally and Judy work 24 hour shifts, so each day the boys might meet a different person. Sisters Cath and Julianne are here for extra support during the school day. All the staff are qualified registered nurses with a vast amount of nursing experience, which enables us to provide excellent holistic care for the students.

For boarders, we provide first aid and more complex injury and illness management. If the boys need appointments with the orthodontist, a specialist, or physiotherapy treatment, we arrange them and organise transport, with an escort if the boy is junior or unfamiliar with the area.

We are here for weekend sports injuries, pre-dance pimple care and good old fashioned TLC. We enjoy getting to know the boarding boys well and sharing in their excitements and supporting their disappointments.

Sister Jennifer
College Nurse
Message from the Dean of Boarding

I would first like to begin by thanking the wider boarding community who have warmly welcomed me into my new role as Dean of Boarding. I am excited by the challenges ahead and look forward to working with all stakeholders in our boarding partnership as we strive to bring the best possible experience to your boys.

As we begin the year I would like to highlight some immediate operational changes that we have instigated.

1. Daily Routine
At the end of last year we conducted a review which looked at how we could improve the way we schedule and administer the day to reflect current research, in particular, sleep patterns and the productivity of homework periods. As a result we have modified the daily routine to the following:
   a. Rescheduled timing of the day to allow for earlier bed times for all years.
   b. Instigated a lock down of technology (computer and mobile phone) from 9:00pm for Years 7 to 10.
   c. Implemented a DEAR (drop everything and read) program in the period immediately prior to lights out to allow for a quieter and more relaxed time before sleep.
   d. Sundays will see a technology free zone from 9:00am to 4:00pm in all Houses.
   e. The prep periods have been slightly shortened and a short break built in between sessions to allow for greater concentration and productivity.

A copy of the Macintyre and Senior House daily routine is attached for your information. Click here to view.

2. Dining room
As you would know Trippas White Group have now taken over catering operations within the College. This change will see an immediate change to the style and presentation of food offered to our boarders. In conjunction with Trippas White Group, we are intent on providing a dining experience for the boys rather than just an eat and go culture. To this end we are modifying the style of dining across the week to increase a little more formality whilst also introducing a few evenings of a more relaxed nature. In the medium term we are looking to develop the dining room into an extension of boarder education. This will include a master class on dining etiquette and the possibility of some direct boarder involvement in the food preparation area. The boys have responded very positively to the food and its service so far, a very good start. Term 1 Week 3 menu can be accessed in the Pipeline Newsroom.

3. Weekend Activities
From this year we will be running two signature Sunday events each term. These will be conducted by a particular House for each term and will be available to all boarders. In Term 1 these events will include:
   1. A surf awareness course run in conjunction with SLSA.
   2. A day walk from Pittwater to Manly.

Year 10 boarders will also have the opportunity to undertake the silver Duke of Edinburgh as an extension to those who gained their bronze award whilst at Glengarry.
4. Academic Support

The Deputy Housemasters are responsible for the oversight of academic intervention for Years 7 to 10. In doing this they are currently looking at various programs to be run in conjunction with prep times to assist in organisation and study skills. Pru Salter a well known expert in this area, has also been engaged to run some workshops in Term 2. The boys, as per usual, always have access to all support services and extra classes run by specific faculties to assist them.

In Years 11 and 12, subject specific workshops have been timetabled to assist during assessment task and exam block times. Like the younger boys our senior boarders have full access to all academic support services of the College.

It has been a busy time, however, we feel that these immediate changes will add value to your boy’s time in boarding. The tutorial time schedule can be viewed on the Pipeline Newsroom.

A few operational points:

1. Key boarder dates have been added for your reference.
2. All end of term travel will be addressed in week five.
3. Boarder travel passes are processed through the College and will be done in weeks two and three, both new and replacement cards.

On a final note, the College strongly encourages a culture of open communication, if you have an issue or concern please approach your boarding housemaster or myself directly. This way we can address it and offer some resolve before it does indeed become a major concern.

Have a great term and I look forward to seeing you around the College.

Regards,

Mr Phil Cooney
Dean of Boarding

From the Scots Boys

Sport News

Many members of the boarding community represented the College during the recent school holidays, participating in a cross section of sports at various venues (even in different states). The boarders often have a commanding representation at these events and it is testament to their willingness to be involved in the life of the College.

Rowing

The senior rowers initiated a training camp at Penrith and Gladesville. Representing the boarding community were three boarders in the 1st XIII, three in the 2nd XIII and more than half of the positions in the IV’s comprised of boarding students. The rowers are as physically prepared for the season as they have ever been.

Cricket

The 1st XI had a cricket tour to Melbourne with five boys representing the boarding community. They won a game against Caulfield Grammar, but unfortunately lost the two day game against Scotch. The 2nd XI had a trial game against Kings, which they convincingly won. The cricketers are looking well prepared for their fixtures against Shore and Kings.
Tennis
The tennis players have been involved in a number of tournaments and camps in preparation for the season ahead. The tennis teams have been getting stronger and stronger every season. Josh Mackenzie (Royle, Year 10) is a very welcome return to the College after 12 months at a tennis academy in Queensland.

Water Polo
The College water polo team competed in the Trans - Tasman cup against the strongest schools in Australia and New Zealand. Many members of the boarding community participated in this event, giving Scots a competitive edge.

Basketball
The basketball teams have been busy over the holiday period; playing in the National Championships (Victoria) and the Trinity Cup. These games helped the boys to prepare for the Raschke Cup held on the first weekend back to school.

As you can see, Scots boarders represent the College across all sports and are always striving to reach their potential by going to the extra skills and fitness sessions. Their commitment to team and leadership through example is highly commendable and we encourage them to keep up the good work.

Tim Allworth
Senior Boarder Prefect
Kirkland House

Catering at the College
The Trippas White Group have made themselves at home in The Scots College Dining Hall. All the boarders have welcomed them to the College and over the past week they have produced an excellent standard of food, impressing all the boys.

Mr Cooney, the new Dean of Boarding, has promised that the Dining Hall will offer a unique experience and this has certainly been true to date, as the new caterers have made meal time something to look forward to. The new staff are friendly and the quantity and quality of food is exceptional.

There will be new procedures when attending dinner over the coming weeks. On Monday evenings we will enjoy a formal dinner, requiring smart dress and Wednesday evenings will be an opportunity to relax over a more casual meal. I am sure this will be a nice change and look forward to sharing the experience of good food and variety with my fellow boarders.

Harry Bolleau
Year 12 Boarder
Kirkland House
Key Dates for Boarder Parents

- **Monday, 14 March 2011**
  Year 7 Information Evening

- **Monday, 21 March 2011**
  HSC Pre-Trials Examinations

- **Monday, 28 March 2011**
  Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews

- **Saturday, 2 April 2011**
  Head of the River Regatta

- **Monday, 4 April 2011**
  Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

- **Wednesday, 6 April 2011**
  House Athletics Championships

- **Friday, 8 April 2011**
  Boarder Travel Day

To view more important dates please visit the Pipeline Newsroom.

**Pipeline Newsroom**

Visit the Pipeline Newsroom to access relevant communication regarding your son(s) time with us at the College.

Pipeline Newsroom: news.tsc.nsw.edu.au

Username: thescotscollege

Password: bravehearts2011

(Please note this log in is different to your Pipeline personalised password.)

**Other news**

**Term 1 Week 3 Menu**

Can be accessed through the Pipeline Newsroom

**Tutorial Time Schedule**

Can be accessed through the Pipeline Newsroom