Term 1, No 2

Message from the Principal

The great news is that boarding is looking very healthy at Scots. Building on our strong foundation, many of our new programs and initiatives are serving to strengthen each House community, build academic capacity in each House, and enrich the strong sense of belonging and camaraderie. I would personally like to thank members who are active on our new Boarders’ Association for their encouragement, insight and support.

I believe it is also important to single out the significant work of our boarding and residential staff at Bellevue Hill and Glengarry. With the introduction of Assistant Housemasters with specific responsibility for academic leadership in the Houses, we have been able to review and improve many aspects of our boarding experience. Our significant Outdoor Education and Boarding program and facilities means we are a residential community where life and learning continues seven days a week. Consequently, teaching and learning continues beyond the classrooms and across our multiple campuses. For students, there is the opportunity to live with and learn from classmates from around the nation and the globe. Their diverse backgrounds and perspectives stem from more than just geography. We acknowledge and thank our Boarding and residential teams for their care, concern and nurture of our boys who live away from home.

As we begin the 21st century, our staff continues to teach young men the value of learning and achievement, service to others, and respect for the individual. We believe that these goals can best be accomplished by exposing students to a wide range of ideas and choices in the context of a rigorous curriculum and a supportive academic and residential community. Therefore, we welcome students and teachers of various talents and backgrounds, and we encourage their dedication to a multiplicity of pursuits—intellectual, spiritual, and physical—that will enable them to succeed in and contribute to a complex, changing world.

Scots to the Fore!

Dr Ian Lambert
Principal

Message from the Head of Senior Years

It has been a busy start to the year and it is pleasing to see the boys establish a firm routine. One observation that strikes me about our Boarding community is the clear sense of pride and respect that exists. Boarding is the centre of our College, where our values and beliefs are practiced on a daily basis. This is challenging for an adolescent. Meeting such expectations on a 24 hour basis, with reduced privacy, is difficult. It would be far easier to return to your own private residence, with your own pantry, your own TV etc and your own routine. I commend all our boys for undertaking community life with such an open and accepting spirit and embracing the routine of the day in a liberating fashion.

It is fair to say that some boys have made a few of mistakes or errors of judgment so far this term. This in itself is not a surprise; these experiences provide an opportunity to learn. Living in a community can be tough at times and living down your past is important. No one really remembers the mistakes one makes, but they do remember how one chooses to deal
with them. On this note I have been impressed with the honesty and manner presented by boys seeking to make amends for such errors.

I have had a number of questions from parents regarding the leave protocols in recent weeks, thus I write to articulate both the purpose and rationale of the enhanced permissions procedures for 2011.

It is the responsibility of the College to keep all of our boys safe and promote their care and well being at all times. In a boarding community it is essential that we track the movements of boys, while at the same time provide appropriate age determined independence and opportunities to demonstrate personal responsibility. Tracking boys and approving leave is a critical area, as it influences both OH&S and insurance accountabilities.

I must prevail upon you to ensure the following expectations are met:

- Should your son need to change his agreed leave arrangements while on leave, immediate contact with his Housemaster should be made to discuss the matter.
- Boys are not permitted to return to the Boarding House during the night, or enter the House without first signing in to the Master on Duty. It is vital that staff are completely confident in tracking boys at all times.
- Leave permissions cease the first time a boy returns to the Boarding House unless the Housemaster has granted further leave.
- The care and welfare of all Boarders is a partnership between home and the College. Your assistance with these protocols is appreciated.

The holidays are now within reach. May I ask you to confirm your travel details with your Housemaster so that they are abreast of your intentions. As usual, please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to raise any matter.

Boarder Parent Association Meeting Friday 25 March 4.30pm (Iles Theatre) I extend a very warm invitation to all parents to attend the second Boarder Parent Association Meeting for 2011. The dates for the remaining meetings are as follows:

- Friday 25 March 4.30pm
- Friday 27 May 4.30pm
- Friday 5th August 4.30pm

Please make every effort to attend. I meet with the Executive Committee last Friday and I know they are looking forward to reporting back to all parents. An agenda will be forwarded in due course.

With every good wish,

Mr Tim Browning
Head of Senior Years and Director of Admissions

Message from the Dean of Boarding

I am often approached from both new and existing parents as to what programs exist to assist boarders in particular with additional academic support.

One of our principles in boarding is the concept of value adding to the individual student. This is no more important than providing opportunities for boys to obtain additional academic support when required or to access faculty staff to clarify any concerns. The mechanism for doing this exists both at an informal and formally structured level.
In accessing formal support, boarders have access to the full resources of the College. Living on campus provides the individual student with the ability to attend any of the extra support classes that are run by nearly all faculties and subject areas. Primarily targeted at senior students, these tutorials are conducted both before and after school throughout the week. A timetable structured workshop program is also conducted in subject specific areas for boarders during prep. This program sees all major subjects covered in the lead up to major assessment blocks such as pre-trials, trials and year eleven exam periods. The format of these allows for flexibility in delivery but generally caters for small study groups and a real opportunity for boys to address any concerns. In addition to this, the academic development team has open classes across all afternoons providing assistance to all boys in key learning areas. Boys in year’s seven to ten also have the opportunity to attend subject specialist workshops run by faculty staff during prep time. In assisting the younger boys with organisation and study skills, we have engaged Prue Salter of Enhanced Learning Educational Services who will run targeted boarder programs in Term 2. Whilst these are aimed more at Year 7 and 8 Boarders, they are open to all. It is not unusual for senior boys to sit in on the sessions to obtain a well needed refresher!

As always, Boarders benefit from the informal academic interactions that occur across Houses and within. The opportunity always exists for boys to work with staff from their own House or to visit other Boarding Houses to take advantage of the diverse academic expertise that our Boarding staff can offer.

I would encourage that in conversations with your boys, that you remind and direct them to these services when they feel that they require any level of academic assistance.

Operationally it has been a busy time in Boarding. The last few weeks have seen several outings including our House leaders attending a dinner at Ravenswood, a trivia night at PLC Pymble for boys across all years and a beach awareness visit to Bondi, hosted by lifesavers of Bondi Rescue fame. Upcoming excursions include a walk from The Spit to Manly and several dances with our local girl’s schools.

As we approach the end of term, Housemasters are taking bookings for country link services. This is a service provided free of charge to all rural Boarders and provides for both forward travel home to place of residence and return to the College at the conclusion of the vacation period. The travel day for Boarders this term is Friday 8 April and they will return on Tuesday 26 April.

A reminder also that Saturday 2 April is the annual Head of the River conducted at the Sydney International Rowing Centre. This is considered a compulsory event by the College, hence is a mandatory occasion for Boarders and Day Boys alike. It will be anticipated that all leave will adjust to accommodate this. It is a great day out and I hope to catch up with as many of you as possible on this day.

Regards

Mr Phil Cooney
Dean of Boarding

Message from the Chaplain

During the first six weeks of this term, there have been a number of opportunities for boarders to participate in the spiritual life of the College. The Boarders’ Youth Group (‘Friday Night Live’) has commenced its program for the year, with lots of boys from Years 7 – 9 enjoying indoor soccer, a Bible talk and delightful supper this past Friday evening. Upcoming events will include a visit to Bronte beach, an evening with girls from St. Catherine’s and Dodge Ball in the gym. Each Wednesday evening prior to the commencement of prep there is a Bible study group that meets for a brief discussion and time of prayer. Boarders from Years 10 – 12 in particular are invited to attend.
Boys have appreciated the change this year to a smart casual dress code for most Sunday evening Chapel services. On Sunday 27 February we hosted girls from Kambala for a Chapel service and supper. On Sunday 6 March we had the first of our Sunday evening formal dinners, followed by a Chapel service – led by the students of Royle House – that focussed on the privileges and responsibilities that we have as members of a boarding community, and the example of humility and service that we find in the life of Christ. This past Sunday evening we welcomed Tom French from Crusaders as our guest speaker. Throughout this year, there will be a number of Crusader holiday camps, which boys will have the opportunity to attend, as well as camps run by Presbyterian Youth. Boarders interested in attending any of these camps can find out more details from the Christian Union website, Christian Studies staff, or any of the staff involved in running Christian Union activities.

On Sunday 27 March at 9.30am we have our once-a-term Family service in the Chapel. Boarding families are warmly invited to join in this worship service, hear the Chapel choir and enjoy morning tea on the balcony of Anderson Hall immediately following the service.

Reverend Conrad Nixon
Senior Chaplain

Update from the Boarder Parent Association

Dear Boarder Parents,

This is our first update for 2011. It has two objectives:

1. To bring you up to date on the many developments in the boarder community, and
2. To notify you of the Boarders’ Association meeting scheduled for 25 March at 4.30 pm – Robert Iles Theatre.

The scheduled meeting agenda is derived from the issues discussed in the newsletter can be viewed by clicking on this [link].

In this newsletter your committee has attempted to cover the comprehensive list of issues and ideas raised by parents, College staff and the students over the past year and provide you with an update on developments.

For clarity, we have grouped the items in the newsletter under the headings that precipitated from the Boarders’ Association meetings last year. These are:

- Student Welfare
- Boarder Culture
- Networks
- Communications and Logistics
- Strategy

We trust this will make the communication clearer for parents. We are also mindful that some issues may have “slipped through the cracks” and therefore we request that you review the agenda items for the next Boarders’ Association meeting and let us know ASAP if you would like to add to the agenda.

It is important to understand that the school has a dynamic development program and has prioritised the implementation of College initiated plans and parent suggestions. The update below is aligned with these College prioritised objectives.
Student Welfare: Pastoral Care, Facilities, Food, Nutrition and Well-being

1. Following the selection by the College of new caterers, the Committee has received numerous positive comments from students, staff and parents about the excellence of the food offerings and catering service from the Trippas White Group. Your Committee has acknowledged this positive outcome in writing to the Headmaster and the College Council thanking them for their strategic decision and commitment to excellence in nutrition as part of the Boarder model.

2. Most of the suggestions and issues raised in the Scots Boarders Food, Nutrition and Dining Experience submission to the College have been reviewed and are part of a planned implementation program under the executive Boarding Staff – Mr. Tim Browning (Head of Boarding and Senior Years) and Mr. Phil Cooney (Dean of Boarding). The plans for the year will be detailed at the upcoming meeting and circulated after the meeting to the whole Boarding Community. Some items are still under review and will be reported on in due course.

3. The primary suggestions from the Committee covered the following items and all of these items have been addressed and incorporated into the dining experience. The items covered are – food quality and quantity, dietary and nutrition standards, eating habits, dining room culture, quality control, ongoing feedback and review (by students, staff and parents), professionalism of catering offering, service and management and hospitality training. Some of these items are also addressed in under other headings below.

4. Two Boarder Committee parents will be included in 6 monthly reviews of Boarders Food, Nutrition and Dining Experience.

Boarder Culture: Academic, Pastoral, Sport, Co-curricular; Respect and Integration

1. The Scots Parents Association has indicated that it will make available to the Scots Boarder Association some funds to support activities and/or equipment deemed to be beneficial to the Boarder Students development. The Boarders Association has requested that these funds be directed to initiating activities/outings that promote the building of stronger friendships and interpersonal relationships within the year groups (i.e. tutor groups) of each Boarding House. The purpose of the outings/activities is to encourage the building of friendships, a sense of belonging, integrate year groups and to provide positive a social experience early in the year.

• The Boarders’ Association has suggested to the College that if the Tutor Group activities planned for this year (start Term 2) are successful, then in subsequent years Tutor Group outings could take place on the first weekend of each year (beginning 2012) at the College’s expense. It is also suggested that the first weekend of each year be an at school weekend (although groups are likely to participate in activities as a group outside the school on this weekend).

2. Boarding Parents have requested more social interaction for the Boarders. This could be in sharing dinners on Friday evenings with groups from local girl’s boarding schools, attending dances or social nights such as trivia nights. Also we have discussed ongoing social agendas for students who remain at the College over the weekend on an opt-in basis. The College has already, at its initiative, been reviewing plans along these lines for implementation during the year.

3. Boarding Parents have requested that Boarders have a competent level of water skills to better ensure the students safety in and around water, both still and ocean. The College has similar views on water safety and is
planning implementation of swim safety programs, including conducting swimming tests to check boys’ level of competence and to offer instructions in water safety to those who require it.

4. The Committee raised the issues of young Boarder sportsmen receiving adequate transport and lunches for sporting events. We understand these issues have been addressed by the school and have been addressed in better communication and coordination between sports masters, housemasters and caterers.

5. The Committee has requested the college to give an overview of the academic management of Boarding students and their access to tutors. In particular the academic pathways for individual students and plans for academic interventions based on individually evaluated circumstances and need. These will be addressed in detail at the Boarders Association meeting.

6. The Committee has requested that Boarder Parents be informed of the normal daily routine of the Boarders. This will be addressed at the Boarder parents meeting.

7. The Committee has requested that Boarder Parents be informed of the responsibilities, rules and freedoms that apply to the Boarders across years. This will be discussed at the Boarders’ Association meeting.

8. The College is planning on circulating a new handbook for Boarding to be published in Term 2. This will be briefly discussed at the Boarders’ Association meeting.

9. The tradition of celebrating birthdays has been discussed and is being reviewed by the College and the Senior Boarders.

10. Boarder Leave policy and rules will be discussed at the meeting.

Networks: Boarders Association, Social Networks, Family Integration, International, Regional and Metropolitan, Scots Parent Association and the Women’s Association

1. The dates for the Boarder Parent Association meetings for 2011 are:

   Friday 4:30pm
   Robert Iles Theatre

   • 25th March 2011
   • 27th May 2011
   • 5th August 2011 – AGM

2. The newly elected Boarders’ Parent Association Committee will set a date for a meeting before the new year.

3. A Boarder Parent social night is being planned for Friday 5 August. This is to coincide with the AGM, a home rugby match and the Scots’ Boarder Trial weekend.

4. The Boarders’ Association has suggested the school pays for the parents of the boys who trialing boarding to join the social evening. The objective being to assist in the integration of potential new boarding families and aid in communicating the boarding model from current Boarder parents point of view.

5. Deb Allworth will organize the evening. College will assist in sending out the invitations.
6. The Role of Boarding Year Representatives is to connect parents socially and to promote a culture that is supportive of the College, parents and boys. Where relevant provide information to the Boarders Association Committee.

7. Tim Browning will follow up the College providing each Year Rep with an e-mail contact list for all families in the year and a system for including future new families.

8. The College will investigate the opportunity to provide a tele-conference capability for Boarder Committee meetings whereby committee parents can attend meetings without traveling.

9. The Association will have a representative on the Women’s Association. Their AGM is this coming week. Linda Keeping and Megan Donnelly are our recommended representatives.

10. The Women’s Association Tennis Day provides an opportunity for Day Boy mothers and Boarding mothers to meet and socialize. It has traditionally been a competition between the Boarding mothers and Day Boy mothers. In past years the Boarding representation has diminished. The Committee would like to make sure that the Boarding mothers are aware of the event and encouraged to participate. Megan Donnelley is the contact.

Communications and Logistics: Boarder Parent Handbook, Contact and Communication with Parents, School Web site and Travel

1. The School is in the process of producing a Boarders Parent Handbook. The College is encouraging Boarding Parents to contribute some practical advice to new parents – for example guidance for purchasing: essential and optional.

2. The College is producing a regular communication with Boarding parents. *The Highlander*, which is emailed to parents in W2 and W6 each term. This is information written by the Dean of Boarding, Head of Senior years and where possible contributions from boys. This newsletter is designed to give parents an update on Boarding developments and relevant information.

3. The College is aware that some parents have not received *The Highlander* and is checking that the College's email system is sending to all intended recipients.

4. The Committee commented that the relevant Boarding Dates published by Phil Cooney earlier in the year were very useful and would like them to be continued to be published in *The Highlander*

5. At the end of each Term a Boarding House Newsletter will be emailed parents. This is to give an insight in to the activities, culture and pastoral care of each individual house.

6. The School website is currently being reviewed and re-written. A general and public overview of Boarding will be given on the College's website. Specific information and contact details will be available through Pipeline under Associations.

7. The Committee requested that the Glengarry fitting days be held on afternoons that are suitable for Boarding parents. This is being followed up with Head of Middle Years. Preferable afternoons are Monday or Friday.
Strategy

Tim Browning has previously addressed the Association on Strategy and will briefly comment at the start of the meeting on the strategy of boarding strategy, policy and plans and where these fit within the College’s strategy.

Scots Boarders Association Committee Representatives

Staff Members - Tim Browning and Phil Cooney

Parent Committee Members and Year Representatives - Alan Liddle, Andrew Locke, Sally Boileau, Deb Allworth, Megan Donnelley, Angela Lavender, Margot Shannon, Mandy Gavin, Ben Swan, Lisa Campion, Steve Todd and Paul Duncan.

From the Scots Boys

On Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 February, Royle house travelled to Glengarry to stay in the Outdoor Pursuit Centre (OPC) for a bonding weekend.

We spent a relaxing Saturday afternoon talking and playing touch rugby and as the sun went down we gathered sticks for a campfire. The House then spent the night around the fire telling stories, toasting marshmallows and getting to know some of the new boys a bit better. Mr O’Meally also spent some time with the boys doing some night time special effects photography. Gradually, people began drifting off to the dorms to get some sleep in preparation for a big morning of activities.

On Sunday we awoke ready for morning activities. We were split into three groups and put on a rotation of activities. There was a small orienteering course where we competed against each other to find all the markers, as well as a low ropes obstacle course where the groups were required to work as teams to solve problems. Finally, there was more touch footy. Henry Leslie also managed to keep the House amused with his futile attempts to catch the Swanwick’s dog, Buster!

Everyone in Royle came away with positive experiences. The seniors got a chance to relive their days at “the Gaz”, the younger boys were given a taste of life at Glengarry, some of the foreign boys experienced their first ever camp fire and we all got to know each other that little bit better. We left Glengarry on Sunday afternoon after what was an eventful and enjoyable weekend.

A warm thank you must go to Mr Allen, Mr Horrox and all the Glengarry staff for their warm hospitality and ensuring that Royle House had a great weekend.

**Angus Neil** (Year 10 Boarder) and **Curtley Oakley** (Year 9 Boarder)

Royle House
Key Dates for Boarder Parents

**Friday, 25 March**  
Boarder Parent Association Meeting

**Sunday, 27 March**  
Family Chapel Service

**Saturday, 2 April**  
Head of the River

**Sunday, 29 May**  
60th Parade of Remembrance

Other news

Dining Hall Menus

- Week 7
- Week 8
- Week 9

Boarding Housemaster Meeting Minutes

The Dining Hall menus and the Boarding Housemaster Meeting Minutes can be viewed by logging into the Pipeline Newsroom.