Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students,

The announcement by the Minister for Education, Hon Kate Jones MP, of changes in the Senior Assessment program commencing for Year 11 students in 2018 is highly significant. Our current Year 8 students will be the first to experience this change. This is a decision that has come following a lengthy review of the current system which has served education in Queensland well; however, in recent years there has been a significant decline in the percentage of senior students choosing the current OP Pathway, particularly as an entry point into tertiary studies.

The new model will combine school based assessment with common external assessment managed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. For tertiary entrance requirements the Australian Tertiary Rank (ATAR) will replace the Overall Position (OP) score for students completing Year 12 in 2019.

As we prepare for this change we will work well with all stakeholders, not only to be ready for the change in 2018, but also, to ensure that for our current Year 11, 10 and 9 students our work remains robust, continuing to deliver the very best learning outcomes for all our students.

Whilst I understand and support the need for change, I am sorry to see the end of the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test, which has been used as the assessment instrument for comparability of school based assessment. Along with many of our staff, I am an advocate for the QCS test as a fine assessment instrument with its focus on learning. I acknowledge that there has been some criticism over time, particularly regarding gender balance of the test items, but on the whole the assessment over the four papers is rich and rigorous, assessing thinking and reasoning skills with their application across multiple literacies. This test does not assess knowledge of content. Hence in preparing our students for the QCS test we focus on skills and processes, understanding of multiple literacies, time management and problem solving techniques.
In speaking with many of the Year 12s through their QCS lunch breaks this week, they too appreciate the learning and preparation for the Core Skills test as evident in their comments: “I enjoy working through the SRI questions”, “I learn something new all the time”, “the preparation has really helped me to learn”, “we do not have to study for the QCS test as we do all the preparation at school”, “I would prefer it to an external exam”. It is heartening to hear our Year 12s speak so positively about the preparation for the QCS test which is supporting them in their wider learning.

The Writing Task on Tuesday was particularly impressive with the stimulus concept being “what feeds us”. The stimulus material explored music, art, literature, psychology, learning and education, religion and faith, travel, technology, science, sport, the media, morality, ethics, history and food. It was one of the best Writing Task papers I have seen; something for everyone with a focus on meaning and purpose. It was amazing and I enjoyed listening to our Year 12s speak about their creative responses to this paper.

We were proud of the way that they managed the two days with a calm and focused commitment. We know they and our staff have given their very best to the QCS test.

On Friday we celebrate the Arts at Mt St Michael’s with a wonderful Festival, showcasing the work of students and staff. This was a terrific event last year. It is an evening not to be missed. Thank you in advance to the P&F and parent supporters who will be assisting with hospitality through the evening.

We look forward to welcoming parents and visitors to the College and having a great night.

Sincerely,
Alison Terrey

Abbey Liddell
Eleanor Hambleton
Chloe Peters
Congratulations

Emily Barr and Alexandra McDonough, two of our high achieving Year 11 students, on being accepted into the UQ Young Scholars Program for 2015/2016.

Bella Negus attended a ceremony at Government House on Monday night and received the Queen’s Scout Award. This award is the highest youth award achievable in the Scouting movement in the Commonwealth realms. It includes the achievement within four main areas, made up of different badges, which require different levels of approval. The four main areas are Leadership Development, Personal Growth, Outdoor Activities and Community Involvement.

Teresa Fornataro on being selected by the Red Hill Gallery, which represents over 120 artists. Each year, the Director, Mrs Margaret Campbell-Ryder, selects one student who has ambitions to pursue Art studies post Year 12 and invites the student to participate in the School Work Experience program.

Year 10 Star Awardees: Casey Armstrong was nominated for her quiet and unassuming purposeful work ethic, her positivity in approaching all class and assessment work and her role modelling to other class members. Sophie Price was nominated for being a motivated and generous learner who works well in group activities and consistently has an enthusiastic and mature attitude. She displays great passion especially with regards to athletics.

Calypso Sheridan-McDonnell on her excellent results at the recent Junior World Swim Competition held in Singapore. She completed in the 400 IM, 200 IM and 50 and 100 metre breastroke. Calypso returned to Brisbane on an overnight flight from Singapore to be present at her QCS Test with her Year 12 peers. On Friday, she flies to Samoa for the Youth Commonwealth Competition. What an amazing commitment to the Year 12 MSM team.

Thank you to Georgia McPhee for handing in $10 to the College Reception.
Our Spirit of the Arts Festival is on this Friday, from 5 pm to 8 pm

Wishing all the dads in the College Community a very Happy Father’s Day.

Parents and Guardians are reminded to sign-in at Reception when they come to the College.

Parents are not to go directly to see students or teachers.

Dear Parents & Guardians

You are invited to the End of Term Peace Liturgy & Assembly on Friday, 18 September at 11 am, in the Sophia Centre.
To all members of the Mt St Michael’s Athletics Squad for their record breaking achievements at the CaSSSA Athletics Cup. The squad performed incredibly at this event on Monday, 24 August, bringing home the Percentage Cup, the Field Events Trophy and the All Age Relay Trophy. A huge collection of pennants are also decorating the front reception of the College after a series of wonderful performances.

**CaSSSA Cup Athletics Results**

### Age Group Results

**U12**
1. Mt St Michael’s
2. Lourdes Hill College
3. All Hallows’

**U13**
1. All Hallows’
2. St Rita’s
3. Mt St Michael’s

**U14**
1. Mt St Michael’s
2. All Hallows’
3. St Mary’s College Ipswich

**U15**
1. All Hallows’
2. Mt St Michael’s
3. St Rita’s

**U16**
1. St Rita’s
2. All Hallows’
3. Mt St Michael’s

**U17**
1. Mt St Michaels College
2. Lourdes Hill
3. All Hallows’

### All Age Relay results
1. Mt St Michaels
2. All Hallows’
3. Lourdes Hill

### Track Trophy Results
1. All Hallows’
2. Mt St Michaels
3. St Rita’s

### Field Trophy Results
1. Mt St Michaels
2. All Hallows’
3. St Rita’s

### Percentage Cup Results
1. Mt St Michael’s
2. St Rita’s
3. Brigidine

### Aggregate Trophy Results
1. All Hallows’ 1928
2. Mt St Michaels 1919
3. St Rita’s College 1733
Mt St Michael’s Staff and students takes great pride in the Mission and Values of the College and as an extension of this, we are continuing with our Ministry Care Programme this year.

We are aware that there are students and families within our community who are at risk due to a variety of factors. So, through the various networks of the Parents & Friends Association, the College Foundation, the Past Pupils, the Pastoral Programme at the College and simply by word of mouth, we hope to become aware of these situations and to respond on a case by case basis.

The College acknowledges that just by being here we are carrying on the mission and vision of the Foundress of the Sisters of Charity, Mary Aikenhead. The poor, the vulnerable, the marginalised in society were always close to the heart of Mary Aikenhead.

During the course of 2014 we responded as a community through preparing meals for families whose difficult circumstances we had been made aware of. We are continuing this over the course of 2015 and beyond.

If you would like to contribute to the Ministry Care Programme and support those who are going through difficult times, please contact Stephen Campion on scampion@msm.qld.edu.au
P&F Ladies Lunch
Friday, 21 August 2015