On Monday evening this week the Edmund Rice College Parent Forum in conjunction with the College hosted an evening for parents and College staff with Jonathan Doyle, a prominent speaker on the raising of boys and the pressures that face them on the path to adulthood.

Jonathan suggested a number of illuminating insights on pressures that boys face including issues such as the internet and inappropriate use and underage drinking. He provided his audience with a number of strategies for parents, particularly around the idea of more direct supervision and intervention in areas such as establishing ground rules with internet use in the home, the overseeing of friendship groups with your children, and the importance of establishing closer ties through close attention to family interaction and regular communication with your son.

I would like to encourage parents to attend the Parent Forum meetings throughout the year. It is a great opportunity to find out more about the College. The frequency of meetings this year have been increased to twice a term. The remaining meetings for Term 1 and Term 2 are: April 2, May 14 and June 25. I hope to see you there. All commence at 7.30pm and take place in the College Hall.

On Tuesday of this week the College held a senior student assembly for the induction of Student Representative Councilors in Years 11 and 12 for 2013. I would like to congratulate the following students who received their badges:

- **College Captain**
  - Jack Matinca
- **College Vice Captains**
  - Jack Brown and Andrew Somerville

**Year 12 SRC representatives**
- Ali Achaechi, Paul Burleigh, Brad Gullick, Roger Heffernan, Jye Lawrence, Simon Maksour, Vaughan McCreanor, Jason Reid, Jonathon Saba, Sebastian Wilson

**Year 11 SRC Representatives**
- Thomas Bartley, Daniel Constable, Christopher Gandy, Mitchell Hennessy, Jake Lapham, Samuel Lord, Daniel Silcox, Christian Trajceski

Another highlight of the Assembly was the awarding of the Dux award for 2012 to Nicholas Gerovasilis. Nicholas, who received an ATAR of 99, was a most deserved recipient of the Award. He was a highly committed and enthusiastic young man who was in every respect an outstanding student. His speech to our senior students was inspirational and gives excellent insight into why Nicholas was so successful. Year 11 and 12 students would be well advised to revisit the speech through their HSC year. Extracts of his speech follow:

“When I first received my ATAR, I remember someone asking me, ‘How did you do it?’ And as more people asked me the question, the more it occurred to me, I really didn’t have the answer they were looking for. There is no shortcut to the HSC. There is no trick that you can find on the internet that will give you the edge over other students. In fact, when it comes to the HSC, the only thing you can possibly do, which will guarantee the best possible results for you, is plain and simple willingness to put the effort into your studies. There’s no way to get around the fact that studying is the only fail proof way of tackling this year, which was undoubtedly the toughest in my time at high school.

cont’d....
But while ultimately, you’ll all be tested individually, that does not mean you should go through this year alone. In fact, while your ATAR and marks are individually given, there is definitely a distinct advantage to having a cohort which performs consistently well through the ranks. However, it is the support that I drew from my classmates which was perhaps even more important. These people understood how I felt every step of the way, because they, too, were going through the same thing. Personally, I know I would’ve cracked a lot sooner had I not had a strong network of friends who I underwent the HSC with. Not only can you learn from those around you, but it is equally true that nothing reinforces knowledge like explaining it to others.

Besides your friends, however, there is another group of people who will understand how you feel better than anyone. Your teachers. I did the HSC once. They live through it every year. They understand the pressures and requirements for success better than anyone. I was fortunate enough to have an incredible group of teachers who constantly made themselves available to us through the entire year, and without them it would not have been possible for me to gain the marks that I did and for that I owe them probably my unending thanks. Before I had commenced my HSC I had convinced myself that it was not possible for a student from Wollongong to match it with the big Sydney private schools. But having now finished, I realized that our teachers are as good as any in the state, and if you put the effort in, there is no limit to what a student from this school can achieve.

For six months before the exams, the desktop of my computer had a quote on it. It was from Dr. Seuss, and it read, ‘Only you can control your future.’ Every day when I saw it, it served to remind me that ability alone will never bring success. There are a lot of smart people out there. But what this quote told me, is when it comes down to it, what separates students, is how much I was willing to put in to get the best marks I possibly could.

On a practical level, some of the best advice that I can give you, and I’m sure you’ve already been told, is that practicing HSC papers is paramount to your preparation for the exams. Study notes are great, but in isolation, they aren’t enough. The HSC is great in the sense that each year, there really isn’t that much change. The same things are continually occurring. And so having seen those things before and having had a go at them really does set you up nicely for the actual thing.

To Year 11 I would stress the importance of this year for you. I know from personal experience that it substantially easier to maintain momentum gained from your preliminary year than it is to suddenly try and change ingrained poor habits. While this year has no direct bearing on your final mark, the attitudes and work ethic you establish this year will certainly be evident in your HSC year. Furthermore, while it is too late to stress that upon Year 12, I cannot emphasise enough the importance of your final term of this year before you start your HSC year. It is important that you keep in mind that it is just as important as any subsequent term next year and application to your assessments will undoubtedly start you on a great path leading into next year. Additionally, the 7 weeks Christmas holiday you have after Term 4, will be 7 weeks you wish you had over again if you do not use the time wisely.

So to finish up, I wish Year 11 and 12 best of luck. As I said, this will probably be the hardest year of your life but, in saying that, if you’re willing to make sacrifices, willing to give up certain things for your studies, and achieve the best results you can, it will open up a lot of doors for you in years to come.

We are fortunate enough to attend such a fantastic school that offers its students so many fantastic opportunities to excel in field of their desire. For my part, I thank Edmund Rice for the role they played in my development. I can only hope that at the end of this year, or next, whichever it may be, you too will be able to stand back and reflect positively on your HSC year, and those you shared it with.

PETER MCGOVERN
In reflecting on the touchstone of Liberating Education, the Director of EREA, Dr Wayne Tinsey said that at the core of our tradition is a central concern for, and priority towards, those young people in our world who are marginalised and in need of the Good News of God’s love and concern for all. Following the example of Blessed Edmund Rice we seek opportunities to use our education to be a sign of God’s love in the world. Our education is not just about getting a good job or early entry into uni, although these things are worthwhile; it is about becoming a good man – a man who contributes to society and understands that relationships are at the core of community. It is about celebrating success and potential in all domains of the formation of a young person. The story of each person is sacred and a Liberating Education recognises this and celebrates it. In light of this, it was timely that I received the following notice about Harmony Day this week.

To celebrate Harmony Day and this year’s theme: Many stories—One Australia, SBS has partnered with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to give all Australians the opportunity to share their story through film, photography or writing. See http://www.sbs.com.au/harmonystories/ for more details or to enter.

Liberating Education – Year 12 Retreat

The retreat carried out last week at Port Hacking, Stanwell Tops and Shoalhaven gave the young men of Year 12 an opportunity to consider their own ‘Dreams for the Future.’ Our Australian Indigenous peoples have given us the gift of the Dreaming and the recognition that the reality of life is interconnected – the liberating idea that all aspects of life inform each other and are held together by the spiritual dimension of our lives. While they had some fun, the retreat was challenging on a number of levels as boys considered their own spirituality, their motivations, their ideas about life and their relationships. We are very grateful to the teachers who gave up three days of their time to support the boys in this endeavour: Mrs Knowles, Mr Bates, Mrs Elliot, Mr Tognetti, Mr Persian, Mr Pinazza, Mrs Lothian, Mrs Lowe, Mrs Hurley, Mr Mitchell, Mr Polidoro, Mrs Anderson and Mr McGovern who was able to spend one day with the group at Shoalhaven.

There can be no better sign of a Liberating Education than that the boys are able to express for themselves how they are growing.

Here’s what some students had to say……..

‘The retreat was an utterly brilliant experience for the boys. We were able to all bond together and become very close. We have made friendships for life.’
(Andrew Somerville)

‘It was a great experience to understand people’s beliefs and opinions and a time to relax.’
(Remy Ciguenza)

‘It illuminates you as a spiritual being and lets you step up to the challenges life has to offer.’
(David Merxhushi)

‘It was a confronting and challenging experience yet one I simultaneously enjoyed and will remember down the track. The bonds and closeness we all developed is something that I will always cherish.’
(Nikolas Jukic)

‘Best retreat yet! Awesome time, great experience and learned a little more about myself and others.’
(Rhys Pryor)

‘The retreat was a great experience and the time spent with mates was a great way to start the year.’
(Jonathan Dunstan)

‘The Year 12 retreat to Stanwell Tops was the culmination of weeks of hard work on the teachers’ part. It was an exhilarating experience full of fun, games and male bonding.’
(Tom Spunar)
‘Insight of yourself and others was the focus of the retreat. With large self-reflection, not just present self but the man we will flourish into, come the near future.’ (Roger Heffernan)

‘Very enjoyable experience and is great to help oneself reflect and think about their qualities and morals.’ (Rory Barrie)

‘The retreat was a worthwhile and challenging experience and has helped prepare the young men of Year 12.’ (Ethan O’Neill)

‘An incredibly enjoyable experience and a lot of fun to get to know ourselves and our peers.’ (Stephen Hughes)

‘It was great fun and a very rewarding experience.’ Dom Fernandez

‘It was a good experience; I learned a lot about myself.’ (Aiden Estrabe)

‘Port Hacking is swell. The boys were great, the teachers fabulous. Just fully enjoyable.’ (Max Connor)

‘This retreat was a very well-spent time away. We appreciate the work the teachers put in to make it enjoyable.’ (Jacob Gauci)

‘It was a great experience and it’s sad to say that it’s our last one.’ (Gabriel Covarrubias)

“It was a reflective, fulfilling experience that allowed me to express myself to others and in the process, discover values and morals which I have. Overall it was worthwhile. (David Dang)

‘Along with a great experience came great people involved. A very deep and meaningful time.’ (Agim Bekirovski)

‘Really brings the personality out of you and makes you think about your future, your family, friends and where you are in life.’ (Ahmet Kilinc)

‘There were some intense moments of reflection, but in the end we have all come out better and stronger for it.’ (Jack Matinca)

“One of the most eye-opening experiences in my life. It really challenges who you are as an individual.’ (Brennan Anderson)

“The retreat was a great time to reflect on our lives, appreciate what we have and to appreciate the values and perspectives of the lives of our friends.’ (Ali Achaechi).
Congratulations to all students who nominated for SRC representation this year and we wish all the members who were elected to their positions a worthwhile and enjoyable opportunity to be responsible ambassadors for Year 10 in 2013.  Mr Bates

Room 24  Kieren Richards
Room 25  Andrew Mastroianni
Room 26  Connor Daly
Room 27  Jacob Cordina
Room 28  Callum McFadden
Room 29  Justin Biceski

The SRC elected the following form representatives:
Andrew Mastroianni, Isaac Hayne, Connor Byrne and Owen Christie.

Mathematics Learning Resource, Mr Dixon

MyMaths is a new web-based teaching and learning resource for secondary school Mathematics students.  

*Every student at the College now has access to this resource which contains:*
  - Interactive lessons covering every topic
  - A homework task for every lesson
  - Booster packs containing activities for more capable students
  - Maths games

*In addition to the above features:*
  - Maths teachers can set online homework tasks which are marked instantly.
  - Each student can track his progress using his individual student portal
    (Ask your Maths teacher for the log in details for your portal).
  - Each student’s learning profile builds progressively over his years at the College.


Login:   edmundrice
Password:  delta

With common tests taking place later this term, now is the time to start revising.
Unfortunately the program cannot be operated using an iPad but we are working on it.

ERC Students Volunteer to Support Lifeline

The Rotary Club of Wollongong South, NSW Muscle Car Association and Berkeley Sports Club held a fundraising event to support Lifeline’s Post Suicide Support Service in the local Illawarra area. This event is known as Autorama Illawarra, and was held on Sunday, 17th February 2013 at Berkeley Sports Club. Several students from the College volunteered their time working all day (in pouring rain) to make sure it was a success. Because of their efforts Lifeline will be receiving a cheque for $12,000. The students involved were: Braiden and Nicholas Zappia, Josh and Mark Russoniello, Adem, Remzi and Aiden Beketasovski, Mitchell Volcanovski and Adam Cabor. Well done boys!

**REMINDER from Mrs Watkins, Year 7 Co-ordinator**

**YEAR 7 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING - WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH AT 7.30PM**
(refreshments available from 7.00pm) A gathering for parents – the boys do not need to attend.
Students will be leaving their iPads on their class desks on Wednesday afternoon so that parents have access to them during the evening.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canteen Volunteers for week commencing Monday, 4 March – Group 2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Careers, Mrs Hodson

HSC Seminars - Charity - 27th February 2013 (Years 11, 12) - hscintheholidays.com.au

The UOW is sponsoring an evening of seminars for senior students and parents on March 12th, 6.30-8.30pm. Presenters include senior markers, counsellors and past high achieving students and will include sessions on maintaining a stress free HSC; HSC English; study strategies and exam tips. Tickets are $10 per family with all proceeds going to Father O Reilly's Youth Off the Streets Charity.

Bluescope Steel Cadet Information Day Program - 27th February 2013 (Years 10, 11, 12)

Career Snapshot of the steel industry. Interested students need to book for these sessions at Australia's Industry World. contact Lynne Radburn on 42757023 emaitours@aiw.org.au Programs: Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd; Wednesday 3rd; Thursday 4th July, also Monday 8th; Tuesday 9th; Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th July.

Work Experience - 27th February 2013 (Year 10) - Act by: 15th March 2013

Year 10 students only have two weeks to complete their Student Placement Records! This is very important because organisation of the rest of the work experience program commences from this point - 15th March. If there is any student with a problem they are to see the Careers Adviser immediately.

Year 11 Interviews - 27th February 2013 (Year 11)

It is good to see that Year 11 students have been to see the Careers Adviser about subject changes and career directions. Discussions are personalised and targeted to achieving a sense of direction.

Sport

- Congratulations Callum Carson on his recent 3rd placing in the 2013 Australian National MTB Championships in the under 17's Olympic Cross Country Division.
- On Thursday 21 February, two Edmund Rice students travelled to Sydney International Regatta Centre at Penrith for the NSW All Schools Triathlon Championships individual events. Brad Gullick competed in the Senior Division and finished 8th to grab a reserve spot in the NSW All Schools Team for the School Sport Australia Championships in April. Jules Cleary competed in the Intermediate category and overcame recent injury restrictions to place a creditable 45th.
- Brad also got the silver for the NSWCCC category.
- The Senior team came 2nd in NSWCCC category and 9th overall. (Matthew Preeo, Brad Heffernan and Mitchell Hennessy)
- The Junior team came 49th (Jayden Keys, Brock Scrivener, and Iain Carlisle)

PARISHES PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BY WORKING TOGETHER

Parish information sessions on “PARISHES WORKING TOGETHER- ADDRESSING CURRENT AND FUTURE PASTORAL NEEDS IN THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG” are generating much discussion about parishes and ministries in our Diocese as well as future challenges to be met by all of us. People wishing to give their feedback about discussion questions and activities in the Workbook can email their responses to netty.broekman@dow.org.au or mail them to Pastoral Planning Project Officer, Xavier Centre, PO BOX 1239, Wollongong 2500.

This week all families will receive a copy of Feedback Questions which will form the basis of Regional Consultations to be held across the Diocese in April. Your responses to the Feedback Questions on the sheet (which are also in Chapter 6 in the Workbook) are important as the Regional Consultations will give people in neighbouring parishes the opportunity to give their views about the future configuration of parishes and sharing of programs and resources. Completed Feedback Questions can be left at the School Office. Information about venues, dates and times for the Regional Consultations is given below. Should you not be able to attend the Consultation in your Region, there is a General Consultation on Wednesday 24 April 7.30 pm at the Xavier Centre adjacent to the Cathedral in Wollongong.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of the Diocese</th>
<th>Date of Consultation All sessions will be held from 7.30-9.30 pm</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern Illawarra</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Nazareth Hall, Shellharbour City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Illawarra</td>
<td>9 April</td>
<td>Xavier Centre, Wollongong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Illawarra</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Hall, Bulli</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Consultation</td>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Xavier Centre, Wollongong</td>
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We have had enquires from a number of parents in relation to fees payable for the remainder of the year. Please find following a summary of scheduled fees and charges for 2013.

### Fees and Charges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities, Book Hire fees and most Levies $1,802</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities &amp; Technology Levy $1,317</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities, Book Hire fees and all Levies $1,880</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,195</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities, Book Hire fees and all Levies $1,898</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,213</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities, Book Hire fees and all Levies $1,986</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,301</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities, Book Hire fees and all Levies &amp; Book Hire Security Deposit $2,359</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities + add specific subject resource costs $1,524</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tuition, Activities, Book Hire fees and all Levies $2,237</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities + add specific subject resource costs $1,502</td>
<td>Tuition &amp; Activities $1,502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note:
- The Term 1 Fee Statement is significantly higher as it also includes Book hire and Levy charges.
- Sibling discounts are applied to tuition fees.

**FEES POLICY - PAYMENT OF FEES**

All parents on enrolling their child agree to pay fees. The yearly fee is billed over 3 instalments, at the beginning of Terms 1-3. Fee statements are required to be settled in full before the end of each term.

If a student is away for a term or part of a term, on an overseas trip for example, you are billed for the full term payment. The absence of a student for a period of time does not alter the cost incurred by the College.

*Parents or guardians facing genuine finance hardship should contact the Principal or Business Manager to enable suitable payment arrangements to be made.*

**INFORMATION ON FEES & LEVIES**

**TUITION FEES**
These costs relate to the delivery of the syllabus in the classroom and other costs associated with achieving our educational goals. Note that in Years 7 and 9 the fee also includes the cost of the NAPLAN tests provided for the students, which are not government funded. The Year 7 charge also includes the cost of a stationery package. The cost of a PDHPE workbook and other elective subjects are now included in fees for Years 7 to 10. *A sibling discount of 20% applies to this fee for the second sibling and 25% for the third or more. ERC has a sibling discount arrangement with St Mary’s College.*

**ACTIVITY FEES**
This includes all compulsory excursions, activities, camps in Years 7-10 and reflection days/retreats in Years 11 and 12. This is different for each year group.

**BOOK HIRE FEE**
This book hire service saves parents the cost of purchasing new textbooks each year and ensures all students have the appropriate text from the start of the year. Licensing fees for all electronic textbooks and the Student
Homework Diary is also included in this cost. This is $125 per student in Years 7-10 and $175 for senior students.

TECHNOLOGY LEVY
The provision of a technology rich learning environment is central to 21st century teaching and learning practices at the College. This levy has been introduced to assist the College in providing and maintaining robust commercial grade internet access and technology infrastructure for a network capable of supporting 1000 users. The College is continuing its preparation for the entire student population to move to a 1 to 1 program by 2014. This levy is $100 per student.

BUILDING LEVY
This levy is essential to enable the College to maintain and improve its existing facilities. In 2012 the College commenced a significant building and refurbishment program with the refurbishment of the senior quad area and the construction of two COLAS and an additional undercover walkway. Later this term the College will commence construction of our multi-purpose sports hall, with a project value of $5.55m. This levy is $400 per family.

P&F LEVY
This levy replaces the need for the Parent Forum to fundraise. These funds are directed towards areas identified by the Parent Forum. Last year these funds were used to provide a guest speaker on raising boys and also to construct a COLA in the Library quadrangle. This levy is $60 per family.

EDMUND RICE COLLEGE BUILDING FUND (This is a voluntary levy)
Contributions to the College Building Fund are tax deductible. In 2013 all funds received will be contributed towards the multi-purpose sports hall project. The College is also seeking individual and corporate donations towards this project. Please contact Mr Jeffery, the College Business Manager, for more information on how you can assist with this.

____________________________________

Community Notices:
St Patrick’s Day Mass – 15 March @ 9.00am, St Patrick’s Catholic Church, Port Kembla. During this Mass Mrs Bernadette Cooper will be recognised for her long association with St Patrick’s. Morning tea afterwards rsvp: info@sppkdow.catholic.edu.au or phone 4275 5500 by 8 March, 2013.

Singers Wanted: Good Samaritan Parish is looking for singers of all ages, levels and ranges to come and be a part of a fun choir. If you play an instrument they certainly want to hear from you too. Rehearsals are held every Thursday at the Good Samaritan School Hall, Fairy Meadow from 7.00 – 8.30pm. The choir sings every week for Mass and special occasions. For more information please call Carmel 0408 468 123 or Jim 0402 784 208.

Is there a dish your family is famous for?

Please help us share your love and passion for food by sending in your favourite dish for OPEN DAY (13 MARCH) ~ HOSPITALITY FOOD FAIR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Son's Name:</th>
<th>Son's Home/Room:</th>
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Please circle: Is the dish Savoury / Sweet / Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Dish:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>No. of containers required:</th>
<th>Large / Small (please circle)</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Parent's Name: (please PRINT)</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Contact Phone No:</th>
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