

4 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, an enormous thank you! Thank you for making the decision to send your sons and daughters to Santa Sophia Catholic College for Year 7, as it has meant I have had the pleasure of meeting them. It has been a long term filled with many new learnings for everyone involved, but everyday I am inspired by the resilience, willingness to strive for personal excellence and being a loving human, that Year 7 students demonstrate.

I must admit, Year 7 are a cohort who are always up for a conversation and are willing to share aspects of their life. This is something that I really value as it helps build connection beyond the classroom. I am committed to developing the whole person of each and every Year 7 student.

I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you a couple of my **highlights throughout the term** from my time with Year 7:

- Year 7 students engaging in their 'wellbeing lessons' - themes of empathy and kindness have been great to see spread throughout the cohort
- Regularly receiving positive staff feedback on Year 7 as a cohort in relation to their learning and their character
- Year 7 and their willingness to complete surveys and provide positive 'teacher shout outs'; this has formed a great reciprocal relationship between students and their teachers
- Attending a whole grade Religion lesson where students expressed their thoughts and acknowledged the impact that their donations (Caritas) could have on another person's life
- Students' excitement at their first high school swimming carnival ... they made a splash!
- Students' receptiveness of the Brainstorm Productions performance on 'The Hurting Games', which emphasised the importance of being a safe, digital citizen online
- Student questions and willingness to create possible solutions to real-world problems
- The resilience of students when facing adverse situations such as floods, COVID-19 and teacher shortages
- Everytime a smiling Year 7 student walks past me, says hello and asks me how my day is going (this happens throughout every day and demonstrates students' good character)

Your support and trust throughout a chaotic and ever-changing first term has been very comforting. **My goal is to work alongside you and your child in partnership throughout their high-schooling journey**, to develop young people who live a life filled with wisdom, integrity and faith.

Thank you again for your support as we embark upon this journey together. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions:

[agardiner2@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:agardiner2@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Take care and have a safe, Holy Easter with your family.

Warm regards,  
Allison Gardiner

WHEN WORKING WITH YOUNG  
PEOPLE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN  
YOU WILL SEE RESULTS  
IN 10 SECONDS  
AND THERE ARE TIMES YOU  
WON'T SEE IT FOR 10 YEARS.  
EITHER WAY,  
KEEP PLANTING THOSE  
SEEDS OF CHARACTER,  
EVENTUALLY THEY BLOOM.