



Immaculate Heart College

Through Mary to Jesus: "The Way, the Truth and the Life"
John 14:6

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re; 2015 INFORMATION PACK

This covering letter is both for existing as well as new families of Immaculate Heart College. It explains the 'Information Pack' for 2015 which contains within it various documents that should serve to assist parents in their preparation for the new academic year.

Included in the **2015 Information Pack** are the following documents:

- This Covering Letter
- College Vision and Mission Statements
- Commencement Dates for 2015 (inclusive of opening dates and times of Reception for the new academic year, Orientation Morning for new students, and commencement dates for Kindergarten through to Year 6 students)
- College Calendar 2015
- Blank College Timetable for Pre-primary to Year 6 (for time allocation of periods)
- 2015 College Uniform Information
- Schedule of Fees 2015
- 2015 Booklists and related information (for ordering/purchase of booklist items for Pre-primary to Year 6)

Further to the above-mentioned items contained within, please note the following key points:

Kindergarten

An **Orientation Morning** has been planned for all new students, including Kindergarten students. This will take place on **Friday 30 January from 9.00am to 11.00am**. Parents are asked to bring their children to the College, gathering at the College's Multipurpose Hall by 9.00am. Students do not wear school uniform on this day. Please see the *Commencement Dates for 2015* document for the Orientation Morning agenda.

Kindergarten students attend school on the following days during the year: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The students will commence the academic year on **Tuesday 3 February** for half a day, from 9.00am-12.00pm. Thereafter, attendance for Kindergarten students is for half a day up to and including Friday 13 February. **Full time attendance commences on Tuesday 17 February**, from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Parents can deliver their children to the Kindergarten from 8.45am onwards for a 9.00am start.

The College uniform for Kindergarten students is the summer sports uniform for Term 1, the winter sports uniform for Terms 2 and 3, and the summer sports uniform for Term 4. This includes the appropriate footwear and accessories such as the College Bag and Library Bag. A comprehensive booklet regarding the Kindergarten and related requirements will be provided to parents at the start of the academic year. Parents are also encouraged to visit the College's website for further information (www.ihc.wa.edu.au).

Pre-primary to Year 6

An **Orientation Morning** has been planned for all new students from Pre-primary to Year 6, including Kindergarten students. This will take place on **Friday 30 January from 9.00am to 11.00am**. Parents are asked to bring their children to the College, gathering at the Multipurpose Hall by 9.00am. Students do not wear school uniform on this day. Please see the *Commencement Dates for 2015* document for the Orientation Morning agenda.

Pre-primary is a compulsory year of schooling; therefore, the expectation at Immaculate Heart College is that Pre-primary students will attend school daily and in a full-time capacity. **All students from Pre-primary to Year 6 will commence the new academic year on Monday 2 February at 8.45am**. Students can arrive at the school from 8.30am onwards for an 8.45am start. The school day ends at 3.00pm. The 2015 term dates are included in this Information Pack.

Parents are asked to provide a packed lunch for their children, including a water bottle, as well as healthy snacks for Recess (fruit, vegetables, crackers, etc.). The College has a **Crunch & Sip** policy which means that snacking on fruit and vegetables, and sipping on water, is permitted in class throughout the course of the day.

The College Canteen (**Kangaroo View Café**) is open every Friday. Students must order their lunch by mid-week (by Wednesday, 3.00pm) but they may purchase healthy snacks from the Canteen at Recess on Fridays. The College Canteen is a member of the **WA School Canteen Association Inc.**, adhering thus to the 'Traffic Light' system which promotes more 'green' foods; therefore, healthy eating.

Students will also be expected to wear the summer school uniform on every day of the week in Term One except for Fridays when they wear their summer sports uniform. The College hat and sunscreen must be worn all year round when outdoors.

Parents who are new to the College are encouraged to visit the College's website (www.ihc.wa.edu.au) for further information regarding all requirements and policies, such as the College's Sun Protection Policy. Questions can be asked at the Orientation Morning.

Class Groupings and Buildings

In 2015, there will be a need to continue with composite class groupings in some year levels; that is, two year levels in one class, as has been the case thus far. Of course, such decisions are subject to further enrolments and cannot be made definitively at this stage. However, the following arrangements will *most likely* apply:

- Kindergarten will be housed in the Early Learning Centre (Area 1).
- Pre-primary will be housed in the Early Learning Centre (Area 1).
- Year 1 will be housed in the Demountable Classroom (Area 1).
- Year 2 will be housed in the current 'Chapel' room (Area 2) until such time as the new primary school building is completed. The 'Chapel' will be moved to the Parish Centre whilst the whole-school Mass will continue to be held in the Multipurpose Hall (Area 2) every Wednesday morning.
- Year 3/4 will be housed in the current Year 1 room (Area 2) until such time as the new primary school building is completed.
- Year 5/6 will be housed in the current Year 4/5 room (Area 2) until such time as the new primary school building is completed.

*Please note: When the new primary school building is ready, and after an official opening is held (a condition of the Capital Grant), staff and students from Years 2 to 6 will move into the new building, freeing up the classrooms in the Multipurpose Hall for other uses.

Both Areas 1 and 2 will be fenced off securely from the building site. Plans are also underway to develop the nature-based play areas of the school. Furthermore, all children will continue to have access to the Multipurpose Hall which is used for indoor sports, games, eating and playing during the winter months, assemblies, and other activities. The College's new oval (*Pitsikas Oval*) is already in use.

The temporary College Chapel, currently housed in Area 2, will be moved to the Parish Centre and will remain there until such time as the Multipurpose Hall is vacated, after which it will be reinstated in the Hall for easy accessibility to both staff and students.

College Curriculum

Immaculate Heart College has two focus areas: Academic Excellence and the Catholic Faith. A strong emphasis is placed on both of these areas with the Catholic Faith being integrated into the curriculum due to the College's distinct Catholic ethos. In brief, the College's curriculum is as follows:

Religious Education (Kindergarten to Year 6)

The main curriculum resource for the College's Religious Education (RE) and Virtues Program is *To Know, Worship and Love*. Other resources include *The Bible, Christ, Our Light and Life*, and the *Kids for Jesus (K4J)* online series. These resources are provided to the students by the College.

Kindergarten students receive formal tuition in RE 15 minutes per week whilst all other year levels are taught RE four times per week for half an hour each day. On Wednesdays, all staff and students attend whole-school Mass. There is also one 20-minute session per week dedicated to learning Hymns.

The formal RE and Virtues Program is taught daily by the Religious Sisters at the school and once a week by the College Priest at the whole-school Mass. Informally, and in an integrated

manner, all teaching and non-teaching staff promote the Catholic ethos of the school throughout the curriculum. Catholicity and the Virtues of Faith, Hope, Charity, Fortitude, Justice, Prudence, and Temperance permeate all Learning Areas in an integrated manner that enhances the College's ethos (see the *Vision and Mission Statements* document, and the College's Handbook for further information).

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is the cornerstone document that guides the Kindergarten Teaching/Learning Program of the College. Its five principles, approaches to practice, and learning outcomes are adhered to in the everyday teaching and learning experiences of the Kindergarten staff and students. As the overriding framework, it guides planning, programming and practice for the teacher, leading students confidently towards compulsory education in Pre-primary and the new Australian Curriculum (AC), as well as the existing Curriculum Framework (CF) of WA.

In 2015, the new AC for Kindergarten will be used in conjunction with the EYLF. Currently, Term Four of 2014, the Kindergarten Teacher is trialling the new AC for Kindergarten through her Teaching/Learning Programs. Thus far, it is proving to be compatible with the EYLF and in line with current good pedagogical practice at the school.

The Australian Curriculum (AC) and the Curriculum Framework of WA (CF)

In 2012, Immaculate Heart College implemented the Australian Curriculum (AC) for English, Mathematics, Science and History (in part) for Pre-primary to Year 3. The same approach was applied in 2013 for Pre-primary to Year 4. In 2014, the History and Geography Learning Areas of the AC took the place of Society and Environment (otherwise referred to as SOSE) from the Curriculum Framework (CF). This arrangement will continue to apply in 2015. Furthermore, additional Learning Areas from the AC will be added as the CF is phased out over time. The current AC Learning Area being trialled by the school is The Arts.

All other Learning Areas will continue to be offered from the CF until such time as they are introduced as AC Learning Areas and are approved by Western Australia's Minister for Education. The Learning Areas concerned are The Arts (as well as Music), Languages Education (Modern Greek), Health and Physical Education, and Technology and Enterprise.

Within the focus area of Academic Excellence, the College is committed to improving the literacy and numeracy standards of every student through careful consideration of the individual needs of each child, as well as through a whole-school planning approach. With specific Professional Learning (PL), targeted intervention through one-on-one tutorials for students who need it most, and investment in appropriate resources, the College aims to help every student achieve his/her potential best.

In addition, a continued growing emphasis will be placed on the General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum. The General Capabilities are concerned with the skills that equip students for life. They are integrated in the Teaching/Learning Programs of every Learning

Area. Hence, students are being prepared in a holistic manner that equips them with skills for an ever-changing future.

College Timetable

The College's timetable for Pre-primary to Year 6 offers over 50% of teaching/learning time to literacy (English) and numeracy (Mathematics). This is achieved through morning literacy and numeracy blocks of time throughout the week. The College is committed to a literacy and numeracy focus that will continue into 2015. All other Learning Areas in the weekly timetable meet the *recommended* time allocations (specific time allocations are not provided by educational authorities).

A blank IHC Timetable has been included in this Information Pack to show the starting and finishing times of the day, Recess and Lunch times, and time allocations for each of the eight periods per day in Pre-primary to Year 6. The Kindergarten timetable adheres to a later starting time (9.00am) but the same finishing time (3.00pm). However, the Kindergarten timetable structure is more flexible than that of the rest of the Primary School.

In conclusion, this letter does not profess to cover all areas of the College's daily life. Instead, it is merely a 'Starter Kit' for new families and a 'Refresher Kit' for existing families. Please do not hesitate, therefore, to contact the College if there is anything further that you might need to know before the commencement of the new academic year.

Once again, thank you for enrolling your child/children at Immaculate Heart College. Everyone at the College looks forward to a close working relationship with you for the benefit of your child/children's holistic education.

Kindest Regards

Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis
Principal

28 October 2014