



From the Principal

John M Freeman

Staff News

Farewell and thank you:

It is a sad reality for every school that eventually our colleagues will retire and it is with enormous gratitude that I want to recognise the services of Ms Lee McKenzie who has been part of our community as a student, teacher, parent and leader for six decades. You will find a copy of a tribute to Lee following this section of the Newsletter.

Whilst the following staff have not served the community of Lavalla Catholic College for as long as Lee, we do want to acknowledge with gratitude their service and wish them the best of success for the future. Thank you to:

- Prudence Scholtes
- Kristiaan Vallek
- Terry Archipow
- Rosemary Drenen
- Nicki Haskew
- Mahendra Kapoor
- Lee Metcalf
- Jemma Michael

We also farewell Adrian Crawford who has been a member of the Lavalla Catholic College Advisory Council since August 2009. Adrian was Deputy Chairperson from October 2009 until December 2015 and then Chairperson from January 2016 until now. Furthermore, Adrian was a member of our Fees Committee and made a number of important improvements to policies and process related to this area. We thank him for his service over the years and for entrusting us to educate his children Ryan and Tessa and wish Adrian and his family all the best for the future.

We also congratulate Karina Taylor who is now engaged to Leroy Cassar.

We also celebrate the birth of Hugo Brian José Sanchez, who was born on 15 November, and is Lawrence and Bevin Sanchez's third child.

Student News

Congratulation to Joshua Wong (Year 12 2019) who advised that his Media submission has been shortlisted for Top Screens.

Congratulations to Angela Francolino and Nicole Formaran who have been selected as the Class of 2021 Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars and will now be afforded extra support from the University of Melbourne and early access to many of their facilities.

Hampers for Vinnies

One of our longstanding traditions on St Paul's campus is the collection of goods by each homeroom to be donated to St Vincent de Paul to needy families in our community. Once again we will endeavour to gather a large number of hampers were organised and hand them over at an assembly on Thursday, 5 December.

We will also hand over what we raise by our St Paul's musicians when they take to the streets of Traralgon carolling on Wednesday morning, 4 December.

Community Service

Congratulations to Candice Ford, the Year 9 Bridge Team and all our Year 9 students for all the work they have undertaken in our 2019 Year 9 community service program.

The program was launched at the beginning of term 3 and in this time students have been involved in tree planting, nursing home visits, rail trail maintenance and much more. This amounts to over 2000 hours of services contributed in our communities. Well done all!

Marist Cricket

We wish Brett van Berkel (Coach), Alex Rathbone (Team Manager) and Mark Judd (Assistant Team Manager) well as they accompany our Marist Cricket team - to Marist College, Ashgrove for the Annual Marist Cricket Competition which commences Sunday, 1 December and concludes on Friday 5 December. The Team comprises of Liam Little (Captain) (11), Hunter Eenjes (11), Benjamin Fleming (10), Elijah Sharp (10), Harry Cooper (10), Joshua Monacella (Vice Captain) (10), Tyron Barnwell (Vice Captain) (10), Darion Duncan (10), Ryan Bosch (9), Thomas Morton (9), Samuel Gissara (9), Campbell Peavey (9) and Harry Van Rossum (9),

VCE 2019 Results

Please note that VCE Results will be available to students on the morning of Thursday, 12 December and all Year 12s are invited to attend a celebration morning tea will be held in the Kildare Student Services Centre commencing at 10.00am until 11.30am to celebrate with staff who accompanied them over the last six years,

Awards Night

Please note that Awards Night takes place on Tuesday, 3 December, commencing at 6.00pm in the Champagnat Centre. This is a significant event for the College because we have the opportunity to celebrate our students in Years 7 to 11 for their academic, cultural and sporting achievements. I look forward to seeing you then.

Transition and end of year Program

Currently we are in the process of transitioning to 2020. Year 10 and 11 students are undertaking exams and will then move to Flying Start classes until 6 December. Year 9 classes formally concluded at St Paul's Campus on

Thursday 28 November with a farewell assembly in the afternoon. They have commenced Year 10 transition classes on today until Friday 6 December. Year 7s and 8s will also conclude classes on Friday 6 December.

On Tuesday 10 December we welcome our Year 7s for 2020 for their transition day.

Bushfire Season

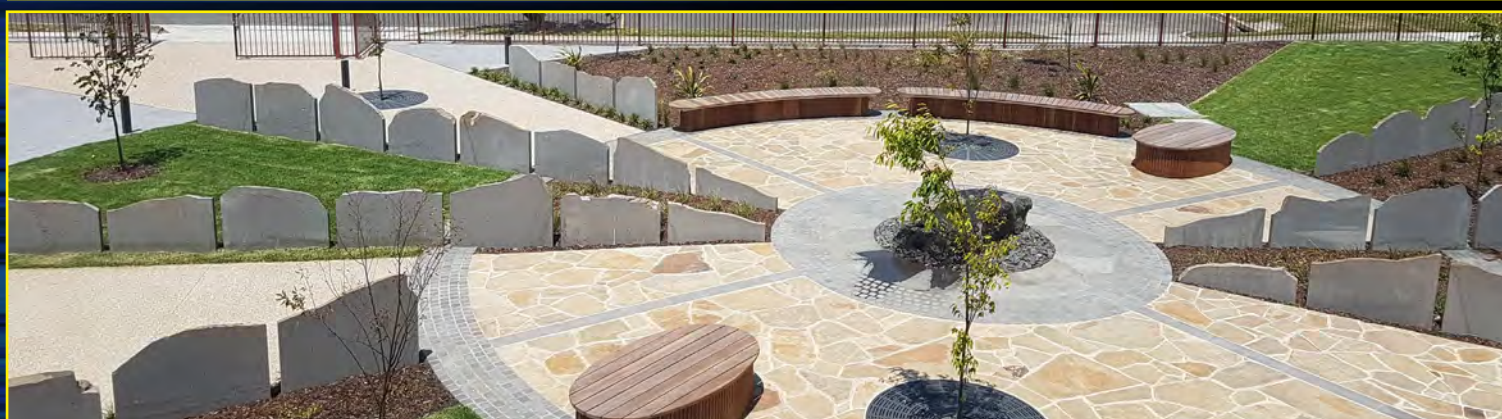
We are now in bushfire season so you will find included in this newsletter the notice to all families regarding our Bushfire Procedures. This information can also be found on our website under the Community section. This summer season is developing as be one where the threat of fire is high and I urge all families to consider both their own personal bushfire plans as well as related issues that might impact on your family if a fire threat occurs during school time.

This information can also be found on our website in the Community and Links section in the Important Procedures and Information tab - <https://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au/students-parents/important-procedures-and-information>

The Hermitage Administration Centre Landscaping Themes

A few people have asked about the landscaping at the front of The Hermitage Administration Centre, so I share the following:

- From the central water Rock the landscape spreads out and so it spreads The Word towards the community, the school and beyond.
- St Marcellin Champagnat built The Hermitage with stone hewn from the site. The quarried and sawn stone symbioses this process.
- The curving pathway leading into the school is fed by the Water rock representing the idea that 'We become streams of living water, quenching our thirst'. The curving path also represents the River Gier that runs beside L'Hermitage in France
- The circular symbol with radiating lines also references the Aboriginal pictorial representation of 'Meeting Place'.
- The use of stone and timber throughout the landscape continues the design intention of the building palette. Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.



FAREWELL – DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEE MCKENZIE



An Educator of the Heart
"To teacher children, you must love them first and love them all equally."

Marcellin Champagnat
(founder of the Marist Brothers)

It is with much sadness, but bountiful gratitude that the Lavalla Catholic College farewells Ms Lee McKenzie. Lee has been a creative and innovative

teacher and a huge part of the College's history. Remarkably she has been a dynamic educational leader and influencer for more than half of the College's 60 year history.

Lee announced her retirement to us earlier this year after a distinguished career of over 35 years in Catholic secondary education. Apart from a few years when she lived in Western Victoria, Ms. McKenzie has dedicated herself to the young men and women of the Latrobe Valley.

Working at Lavalla Catholic College, Lee was employed as a young professional at Lourdes College in 1979 and has been an influential and courageous leader through two amalgamations and the growth variations of the College's demographics over the various decades.

From a young professional to influential leader, she has held numerous positions in her career. Becoming well known to the broader college community through her roles as the inaugural VET Coordinator, Head of St Paul's Campus, Deputy Principal – Staff, Staff Development and Community and a number of other senior roles, she has brought to her leadership the deep belief in the transformative power of education.

She achieved this by creating a safe, calm and vibrant learning climate that enabled students to open their hearts to infinite possibilities, transformed because their curiosity was nurtured and they had a confident belief in their future.

Lee has been a creative and innovative teacher and leader, placing at the centre of her everyday work the best interest of her students. Her legacy will not be so much that she has been a brilliant and much loved teacher, because she is certainly that, but that she knew how to educate the heart! Lee is deeply spiritual and motivated by the belief that each child has the capacity to learn and achieve. It was important for her that graduates of Lavalla Catholic College engage with contemporary culture, broaden their worldview and developed a discerning mind to ensure a just society.

One of the great joys of working in a school is the emphasis on community and Lee certainly promoted a strong sense of community, belonging and connectedness evidenced by the generation of students who remain in contact with her and the many colleagues who have become friends drawn to her wisdom, gentle counsel and wicked sense of humour.

Lee's creative talent and high intellect is evident in her beautiful storytelling abilities, whether through writing or as a raconteur, which she shares so generously. Her mastery of language allows her to capture the most simple of images in the most colourful and powerful descriptions. She has been called upon to be 'speech writer', oversee many college publications and has been an early adopter to various forms of electronic communication in a time when Instagram and Facebook were just being thought of.

She was a regular contributor to the Champagnat Journal, a small publication that published educational and spiritual essays, where her spiritual column and poignant short story about a father with a disabled son was recognised through two prizes from the Australian Catholic Press in the early 2000s. Set in the supermarket, Lee tells the story of a father's dealings with his disabled son. Through her own deep spiritual reflection Ms McKenzie captured the imagination of her readers by showing us that God's spirit is present in our everyday encounters if our hearts are open to seeing it.

She is known for her sensitive reading of situations, for her understanding of human nature and for her insightful analysis of society, religion and politics. No wonder her writing spoke to so many of us!

Never judgemental, and always collaborative, Lee epitomises the true meaning of the college motto: to lead, to teach and to make decisions with a strong mind and compassionate heart. Whether it was a troubled or distressed member of the Lavalla community, Lee maintained their dignity, respect and worth.

A lover of learning herself, Lee's has contributed immensely to Catholic Education in the Marist tradition. Through exemplary teaching practise, her research and insight into positive education and emotional intelligence, she has been a role model for many developing educational leaders while also leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of teaching and leadership expertise.

With a real passion for connection to, and love of people, Lee is a true and authentic educator in the largest sense of the word. Lavalla Catholic College wishes her the very best in her retirement, where she will no doubt continue in the Marist tradition 'to lead, to teach and to make decisions with a strong mind and compassionate heart'. We will miss you.

FAITH MATTERS

Chris Roga



A Christmas Message

In 2018, it was estimated that Australians spent an average \$537 on gifts this Christmas, adding up to a cumulative \$10.7 billion. 43% of people donated to some Christmas charity.

I think these figures are fantastic! We obviously value family and friends and are willing to spend money on

them to show them we care. That is excellent; the foundation of a healthy person, family and society.

Christmas challenges us. Most of the time we work from a mind-set of scarcity; "I do not have enough.", "I want", "I need" and we grab more and more for ourselves. Without bothering about the effect on others.

Jesus was born to bring us into a mind-set of abundance, a world view where we have sufficient; enough and more than enough. Christmas is about love and grace and joy and gratitude.

We have a choice to let go of the mind-set of scarcity and put on the mind-set of sufficiency. We free ourselves. We become whole. We share our

time, our money, our energy, our wisdom, to serve something larger than ourselves.

No matter how much, or how little, money we have, if it is directed to a purpose for others, you will be and feel wealthy in ways beyond words.

That is why the figures of Christmas spending are so encouraging. This Christmas, spend money on your family, friends and charities, but also give them the gifts of time, energy, love and yourself.

In Conclusion

This is my last newsletter as **Director of Catholic Identity and Mission**. Next year, I plan to serve as one who helps each of us grow in age, maturity, wisdom and joy. Thank you for the years of support. I have enjoyed every moment and person.

I am pleased to welcome Mrs Robyn Rebecchi as the new Assistant Principal for Catholic Identity and Mission and I wish her every blessing as she will bring new life and joy to the college.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.*

IMPORTANT DATES

2019

Last day for students

6th December 2019

Office Closes

17th December 2019

2020 Return Dates

The Hermitage Administration Centre
Re-Opens 13th January 2020

Year 7, 10 and 12
commence 30th January 2020

Year 8, 9 and 11
commence 31st January 2020



LAVALLA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
STRONG MINDS COMPASSIONATE HEARTS



*May the Blessings of Christmas be with You.
May the Christ Child light your way,
May God's Holy Angels guide you,
and keep you safe each day.*

YEAR 9 HISTORY CAMP

Student Historians Explore Ballarat

As part of the new Year 9 Bridge Program, over 120 Humanities students studying History travelled to Ballarat, via the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, to immerse themselves in Australian History. Learning walks along Sturt Street and the Prisoner of War Memorial, an Art Gallery tour, the Sovereign Hill Aura sound and light performance, a Federation University visit to see their collection of artefacts, as well as a trip to Ararat to learn about Chinese culture and experiences during the gold rush era made for a busy three days. Students also toured J Ward, a former prison catering for the gold rush population which later transformed into a facility for the criminally insane. The way mental illness has been treated over time was explained and students were able to make connections with their learning in their Physical Education program.

As part of this semester's inquiry into World War I, students learnt about the 'tunnelers' of the Western Front. Many came from the Ballarat area armed with their expertise in deep-shaft mining. On the home front, the Lucas Factory girls raised money and dedicated time to the building of Ballarat's

stunning Victory Arch and the planting of over 3000 trees along the Avenue of Honour. Local indigenous culture as well as other early and contemporary representations of Australian identity were explored in various venues using different mediums. A report investigating a specific inquiry question created by each student has been the primary focus of this latter half of the term.

'The light show was one of the best parts of the trip, allowing us insight into the life of the miners and the making of gold . . . J-ward was definitely the highlight . . . for most, hearing some of the eerie stories and viewing life from inside a gaol cell is an experience unlike any other.'

[Abbey Pianta]

'My favorite part of the camp was the Federation University as I found it interesting how the Ballarat miners tunneled under German forces at Hill 60.'

[Antony Giglio]

'I really enjoyed learning more about Australia's past . . . the teachers and volunteers that helped us made the way we learnt a really fun experience.'

[Caeley Potter]



GEOGRAPHY NEWS

Year 10 Geography - Amazing Race

On Monday, 18th November, blessed with amazing weather, the two Year 10 Geography classes competed in the 2019 Amazing Race. Set within a new area of Traralgon, students began the race with a mixed relay at the Bert Thompson Reserve, then set off collecting clues, taking selfies and solving geographical challenges for the next hour throughout the CBD. With 12 teams entered in the race, the competition saw students using strategic planning as well as the strengths of team members to maximise their points before finishing with a sprint finish along Kosciusko Street to the Kildare Campus finish line. Congratulations to all students on their enthusiasm and effort. Special thank you to Ms Widrich as well as Bridie, Zoe and Serenta from Year 11 Geography for assisting in the management of the race.

- 1st: Blake Henry, Daniel Watson and Flynn McLuckie
- 2nd: Loren Quail, Sara Rickwood and Lakoda Scopel
- 3rd: Thomas Allford, Beau Morgan, Campbell Sutton and Thomas Tripodi



2nd Hand Uniform Shop

There is an extra Uniform Shop open day in December on Orientation Day. **Open from 3.30pm till 6.00pm.**

- 5th December
- 10th December (2020 Year 7's only)

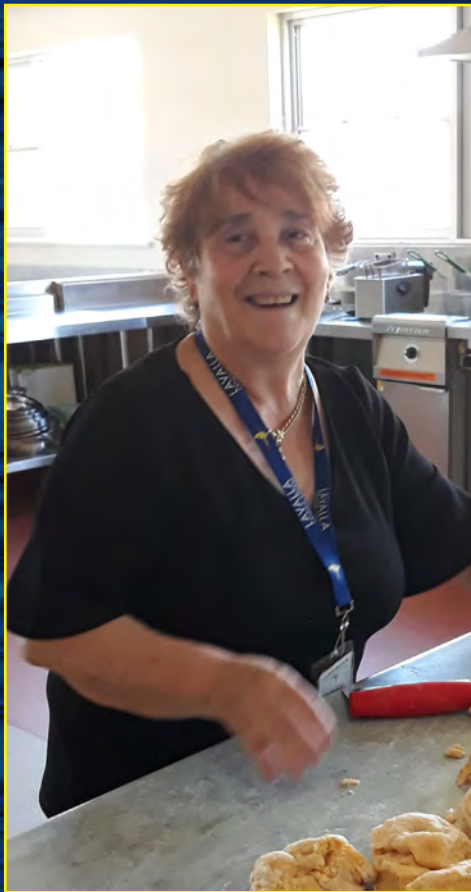


ITALIAN NEWS

Making "Crostoli"

On Tuesday 19th November, Ms Cataldo's Year 10 Italian class had the opportunity to learn how to make "crostoli" under the guidance of Mrs Melina Tripodi who is the grandmother of two of the Year 10 Italian students, Thomas and William. "Crostoli" are Italian sweets which are usually prepared during the Carnevale period in Italy.

Melina taught us how to work the flower and egg mixture, cut it, shape it and fry it. We enjoyed the cooking lesson and eating the "crostoli". They were delicious! Buonissimi! We made that many that we were able to take some home for our families to enjoy and share some with our friends at school. Thank you, Melina, for sharing your family recipe with us! We really appreciate it. Grazie!!



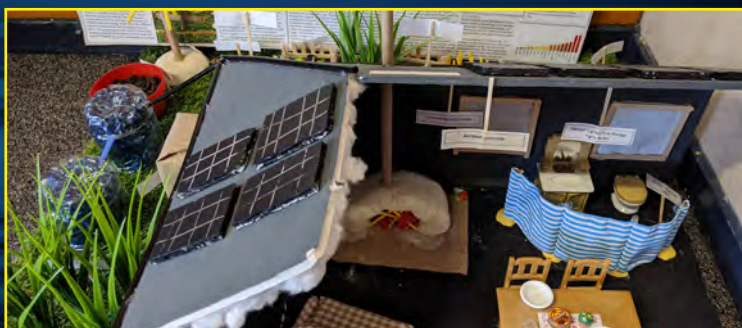
YEAR 7 SCIENCE FAIR

The Year 7 Science Fair was held during the parent teacher interviews for the first time this year. The projects were presented alongside the ancient civilisation projects for Humanities and showed off the hard work our students.

The works of excellence from each homeroom were then later judged by the year 7 science teachers to decide the winners for this year. The quality of work was extremely high and I am happy to announce two winners for each category:

- **Sustainable housing:** Hannah Van Iwaarden and Elly Fleming
- **Sustainable energy:** Henry Turnbull and Cody Morgan

Congratulations to all 4 winners.



CALENDAR

Monday December 2, 2019

- Marist Cricket Carnival - Ashgrove Brisbane
- Year 10 to 12 2020 Transition
- Year 7 Retreat Day

Tuesday December 3, 2019

- Marist Cricket Carnival - Ashgrove Brisbane
- Year 10 to 12 2020 Transition
- Awards Evening

Wednesday December 4, 2019

- Marist Cricket Carnival - Ashgrove Brisbane
- Year 10 to 12 2020 Transition
- Junior Music Busking and Carols

Thursday December 5, 2019

- Marist Cricket Carnival - Ashgrove Brisbane
- Year 10 to 12 2020 Transition

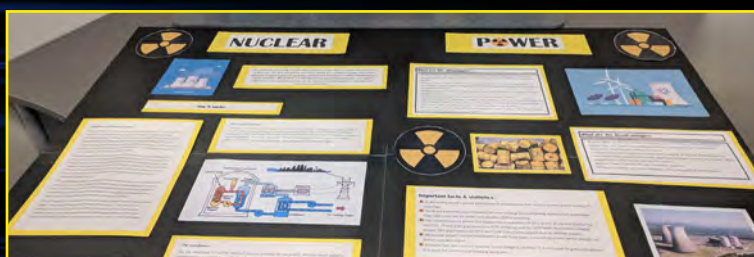
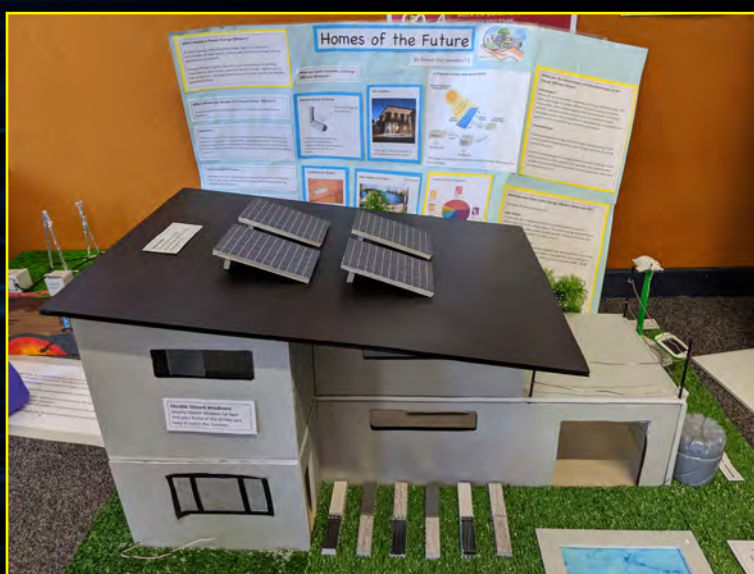
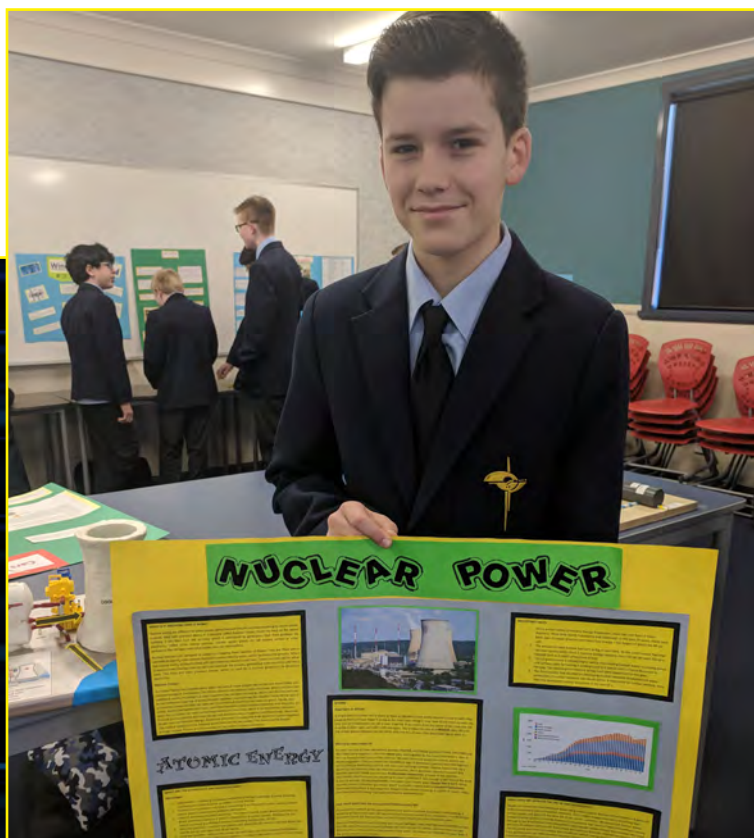
Friday December 6, 2019

- Marist Cricket Carnival - Ashgrove Brisbane
- Year 10 to 12 2020 Transition
- Transition Day - Year 8 & Year 9 2020
- **Last Day for Students 2019**

2020 STEM Exchange Program

Latrobe City Council is seeking expressions of interest from local students to participate in the 2020 Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) Exchange. The program is an initiative that has emerged from Latrobe City Council's two Sister City relationships in Taizhou, China and Takasago, Japan.

For more information or head to the Latrobe city website: <https://bit.ly/2Qjr5A3>





Years 9 - 11 Students.

2019 TEXTBOOKS.

2019 Textbooks for Years 9 - 11 are no longer required for classes after the **28th of November 2019.**

(Excluding textbooks carried over into 2020. These may be needed during Transition. Please check your 2020 booklist)

We recommend taking your textbooks home as soon as possible after this date to start listing them for sale on The Sustainable Schools Shop Website.

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Information regarding The Sustainable Schools Shop Textbook Trading System is included with your 2020 booklist and on The College website.



Years 7-8 Students.

2019 TEXTBOOKS.

2019 Textbooks are no longer required for classes after the 6th December 2019.

(Excluding textbooks carried over into 2020. These may be needed during Transition. Please check your 2020 booklist)

We recommend taking your textbooks home as soon as possible after this date to start listing them for sale on The Sustainable Schools Shop Website.

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

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