



WAVERLEY COLLEGE

22 January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust the College year will start in a positive way for you and your sons. As the students begin their 2016 journeys at Waverley, I look forward to each making a positive contribution across a range of areas.

I wish to draw to your two matters to your attention. These concern Compulsory College Sport and the Annual May Procession. Both these matters were mentioned in the College Commencement Letter but require further clarification.

#### **Compulsory College Sport**

Our College Enrolment Policy, which each family has signed, emphasises the priority of the College sporting program over other commitments. I draw your attention to this as I often receive a number of requests for exemption early in Term 1. It would seem that the majority of these are related to sport commitments with outside organisations. In many cases, these are one-off events. Some are the results of overlap with holiday sporting programs. On some occasions, students have high-level representation duties. Other requests come from new families who are adjusting to Waverley requirements.

Letters requesting exemption must be received two weeks prior to the date of exemption so that they can be processed, coaches can be consulted and response letters sent out.

#### Two Exemptions per Year Policy

It would not be my practice to grant more than two exemptions per year in relation to unavoidable clashes with an outside sporting event. Each time a letter requesting an exemption is received, it is entered into a database which records each request, the reason and the exemption decision. This database is reviewed every time a request comes in.. From time to time, exemptions are sought due to family circumstances (funerals, significant celebrations interstate) or illness. These are treated on a case-by-case basis.

If you have concerns that your son is over-stretched due to involvement in school and outside sporting commitments, it is my expectation that school sport is the first priority and that outside commitments (both match and training) are adjusted. Absence from training and ongoing exemption requests result in poor team spirit and significantly undermine the work of coaching staff and parent supporters groups. This can also be a source of embarrassment for the College when there is an impact on our commitment to co-curricular activities with the other CAS schools.

#### Agreements with Outside Bodies

The College has firm agreements with several local peak sporting bodies (eg. Sydney Roosters, Swans Academy, AFL NSW/ACT) that are supportive of the priority of Waverley College sport. Both of the organisations mentioned will advise parents of potential clashes prior to sign-up. For further information, please contact Mr Patrick Brennan, Director of Co-Curricular (Acting).

Mr Ray Paxton Headmaster

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### The Annual May Procession (Sunday May 4)

The most important community event in the College Calendar is the Annual May Procession and Feast of Edmund Rice, traditionally held on the first Sunday in May. In 2016, this takes place on Sunday, 1 May. This is a compulsory event for all students and staff. Students are required to attend between the times of 1.30pm and 3.00pm. I would ask that all families be proactive in ensuring that there are no obstacles to their son attending this event. It is important to emphasise the value I place on this key College Feast Day. It is the main celebration of our College identity. Attendance at this event is discussed at each student's enrolment interview and each student and family makes a commitment at this time. Attendance at the May Procession is, essentially, a condition of enrolment at the College.

This is a position I take extremely seriously and communicate this so that misunderstandings do not occur. These comments will be reinforced at our Parent Information Evenings in Term One. Thank you for your ongoing support of the co-curricular program at Waverley College and your son's attendance at the May Procession.

Yours sincerely

**Ray Paxton**  
Head of College