12 December 2011

Dear Year Seven Parents,

It was terrific to see you all at our very successful Orientation Day in October and may I once again take this opportunity to say a very warm welcome to Huntingtower. 2012 promises to be a brilliant year in every respect for all students, parents and teachers!

The aim of this letter is to give you information regarding the start of the school year and the staff who will be supporting your children. We welcome two new members of staff to Huntingtower, and the Year 7 team; Mrs Toudi Kouris who will be the Year 7 Coordinator and Mrs Rosetta Batsakis, who will be joined by our experienced team members, Mr Phil Amos and Mrs Brett Borbely.

The first two weeks of school are dedicated to a transition program, which includes the friendship camp in week three. The program allows students to meet their peers, and introduces the Year Sevens to their teachers and their rooms as well as introducing the conduct and behavioural expectations, and the operational protocols of Huntingtower. To this end, textbooks are not required in the first week and I suggest that these come to school bit by bit as the first two weeks progress. They need to be ready to go in the students’ lockers on the Friday before camp. Pencil cases and scrapbooks will be required from day one.

Students must also be dressed in full school uniform from day one, unless otherwise directed.

For the first two weeks, the students are placed in their House groups, Bruce (Red), Mather (Blue), Rayner (Green) and Warrel (Yellow). On Wednesday 1 February, a series of diagnostic assessments will be undertaken by the students. The results will inform us how best to cater for each individual. On the afternoon of Friday 3 February, we head for the Monash Aquatic Centre for team building and some well deserved wave pool activities! The Year Sevens split into their permanent classes 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 at the end of the second week.

The camp at Point Leo is a major part of the transition program. It allows students and teachers to get to know one another in a casual camping environment. Please find the parents’ camp information booklet enclosed with accompanying permission slips which need to be returned by Friday 3 February. Throughout the camp, we hike and engage in outside activities whether it rains or not, so for your child’s own safety and comfort, I urge you to hire a waterproof jacket (Japara) for the camp. Please return all hire forms and money to Bindaree Outdoor Education Services.

There will be an Information Presentation on Thursday 2 February at 6.45pm in the PAC, which is prior to the New Parents Evening.

Best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Meredith Lawson
Middle School Coordinator