Orientation & Information Handbook

A guide to your first day at St Laurence's College
2016 TERM DATES

TERM ONE
27 January 2016 - 24 March 2016

TERM TWO
11 April 2016 - 24 June 2016

TERM THREE
11 July 2016 - 16 August 2016

TERM FOUR
4 October 2016 - 25 November 2016

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Dear Parents

On behalf of the College community I welcome you and congratulate you on selecting St Laurence’s College for your son’s future education. The College has a strong academic standard, broad curriculum as well as a definite focus on the well-being of the individual and comprehensive co-curricular programs.

Students are encouraged to take the opportunities that exist in sport, creative and performing arts and service learning.

As you would appreciate, the strength of any community is built upon the active participation and involvement of its members. This is certainly true in a school like ours. Just as there are numerous opportunities for the boys there are many groups in the school who support our enterprise. These include sporting and cultural parent committees, social occasions, workplace training connections as well as the traditional parent representative organisations. The Parents and Friends Association, Old Boys Association, canteen helpers, library assistants are always seeking active support. Please become involved in one of these groups.

The following pages contain detailed information on the organisation of the College and arrangements for 2016.

I look forward to personally welcoming you to St Laurence’s College in 2016.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

IAN MCDONALD
Principal

A message from the Principal

building the future
COLLEGE IDENTITY

St Laurence’s College is a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition. At our core is the commitment to live the Gospel message of Jesus where love, reconciliation, renewal and care for the poor are central to our being. We are called to relationship in community demonstrating the Catholic Church’s commitment to the dignity of the individual, recognising that each person is made in the image of God and is a reflection of God’s goodness.

A Lauries education is based on the charism of Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers. Blessed Edmund Rice's commitment to living the Gospel is reflected in three words: Presence, Compassion and Liberation. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, we engage in education by ensuring that the Touchstones as outlined in the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition underpin all that we do. These Touchstones reflect our commitment to provide:

A LIBERATING EDUCATION
We engage head, hearts and hands through experiential learning and critical reflection maximising the potential of all to be active contributors to and prophetic voices within an ever-changing society.

WITH GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY AT ITS CORE
We celebrate and reflect Edmund Rice’s Vision of Presence, Compassion and Liberation by living the Gospel message of love, reconciliation, justice and peace.

ENSURING THAT WE BUILD AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
We embrace and celebrate diversity in a community that continuously seeks to create and renew respectful, compassionate relationships by which all can experience what it means to be fully human.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE THROUGH SERVICE & SOLIDARITY
We stand in solidarity with those at the margins and the Earth itself inspiring all to live lives of service locally and globally.
The ethos at St Laurence’s College allows boys to follow their studies with purpose and confidence, and which promotes their full human growth. Consequently, great value is placed on maintaining suitable classroom environments which are conducive to learning. The school has high expectations of student behaviour in all situations, expectations which aim to promote a high degree of self-discipline within the students. Expectations concerning dress, appearance, attendance and punctuality and general good conduct are aimed at enhancing self-confidence, self-esteem and good habits for later life.

Across the year levels, student support and wellbeing are the responsibility of a team of teachers led by the Heads of Primary, Middle or Senior School and supported by Heads of Year, Assistant Heads of Year and Home Class Teachers. Members of the pastoral team liaise with subject teachers in attending to the academic and pastoral care of the students in their charge. Parents and students are welcome to make appointments directly with members of the pastoral team if they have any concerns. Normally this is done through the home class teacher, Head of Year or subject teacher depending on the type of enquiry. St Laurence’s provides Student Counsellors and a Careers Counsellor and has access to various other support agencies and personnel. The academic care of the boys demands that our teachers acquire a fundamental understanding of how their own actions, their relationships with students and the learning environment which they create can enhance the well-being of their students.

Our aim is to provide a quality educational experience for each and every child and to promote a sense of identity and connection to our school. To enable this, each boy is required to be involved in some aspect of co-curricular participation. It provides a means by which relationships can be developed and consolidated, promotes and nurtures responsible behaviour and attitudes and enhances the holistic development of the individual. Much learning arises from interaction with others and communication skills are valued in a lifelong learning school.

JOHN BUTTERWORTH
Deputy Principal
CAMERON WIGAN
Head of Primary

St Laurence’s College Primary is a wonderful place for your son and family to commence “The Lauries Journey”. The Primary School is structured to maximise your son’s learning experience in all aspects of school. He will be strongly encouraged to engage in all academic, co-curricular and community experiences.

Classes are formed with a focus on academic balance, previous school connections and other relevant pastoral or learning information. Home Class Teachers will be the first port of call for the care of your son. The Head of Year provides the day to day leadership of spiritual, pastoral and academic programs for the respective year level. The Head of Primary provides the overall leadership for the Primary School across all dimensions of school life.

If you require assistance or have questions prior to the start of the new school year, please refer to the details below. Contact details and names of HCT and HOY for 2016 will be advertised to parents in a Primary Supplement (newsletter) at the start of 2016. A parent information night will be conducted early in Term 1 to provide specific information regarding each year level.

EMAIL: cwigan@slc.qld.edu.au
PHONE: (07) 3010 1108
PRIMARY OFFICE: (07) 3010 1142

DAVID KNIGHT
Head of Middle School

St. Laurence's College Middle School provides challenging, rigorous and relevant learning programs that actively engage students in the learning process and support students to achieve excellence. In the Middle School we strive to ensure that all our students are happy, confident, safe and secure within this learning environment.

The Middle School comprises Years 7 to 9, and encompasses a unique and challenging period for adolescent boys. Students are encouraged to develop independence, take responsibility, and become accountable for their own learning in preparation for the Senior School. We accept and recognise that our students are undergoing significant physical, social and emotional developments, and we aim to provide students with an extensive extra-curricular and pastoral care program to both extend and support them throughout this time of growth.

The Lauries Journey lessons aim to promote resilience, personal growth, confidence and self-esteem which in turn will assist students to make strong choices and decisions to better manage their lives, studies and relationships. Intrinsic to our underlying philosophy is respect, inclusion and fairness for each other and the wider community.

EMAIL: d knight@slc.qld.edu.au
PHONE: (07) 3010 2885
RECEPTION: (07) 3010 1111

CHRISTOPHER OAKES
Head of Senior School

Senior School at St Laurence’s College is composed of the final three chapters of the Lauries Journey, Years 10-12. It is a time of growth as your sons begin the transition from boys to men. St Laurence’s aims to provide the best opportunities for students to strive and excel by coupling strong educational expectations with excellent pastoral support. The Head of Senior School, actively engages in consultation with Heads and Assistant Heads of Year, as well as with the Head of Senior Studies and academic team to ensure this is the case.

At the forefront of the Senior School pastoral programme is a focus on developing graduates who will enter the adult world ready for all it holds and do so in a way that reflects the Edmund Rice and Christian values fostered within the Lauries’ community.

EMAIL: coakes@slc.qld.edu.au
PHONE: (07) 3010 2880
RECEPTION: (07) 3010 1111
YOUR FIRST DAY AT LAURIES

Date: Wednesday 27 January, 2016
Time: From 7.45am
Where to meet: Edmund Rice Performing Arts Centre (ERPAC), St Laurence’s College

Students in Years 5, 7 and 12 commence the academic year on Wednesday 27 January 2016. Senior students will be outside ERPAC from 7.45am to greet you and introduce you and your son to their Home Class Teacher. All students will then gather in ERPAC’s Auditorium from 8.15am for a short welcoming assembly, including arrangements for senior transport buddies, and then move into classes under the guidance of their Head of Year at approximately 8.30am. The first day is a full school day and classes conclude at 3.00pm. All students are required to be in the correct Lauries school uniform from day one.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

A selection of stationery is required each year and in accordance with year level stationery lists. These lists can be downloaded from the College website under ‘Curriculum’ and then under the menu title ‘Stationery Lists’ (Please note: This section also contains all the information you need in relation to your stationery orders, order due dates and payment details). The College operates a Book Hire Scheme and textbooks are issued during subject classes over the first couple of days to all students. The cost of this is included in your annual school fees.

SUPPORT ITEMS

In conjunction with My Student Account (MSA), the College now has an electronic student debit account system. The student photo ID card is used to make purchases in the same way you would use a debit card linked to a prepaid account. The card is used at The Lauries Shop and the College Canteen. The College calendar and diary will be distributed to all students in the first week of school. Students will also be issued with their tablet/computer within the first couple of weeks after starting at Lauries.
GENERAL INFORMATION

LAURIES NET

Lauries Net provides online access to news, events, learning and teaching resources to all members of the College learning community. Lauries Net not only provides a window into the dynamic life at the College, but also serves as an essential tool supporting the teaching and learning environment. Access is restricted to current members of the College learning community, with each user requiring a username and password to log into the network. All of these details will be provided to you via the email address you provided the College at time of enrolment at the beginning of the school year. For all Lauries Net enquiries, please contact IT HelpDesk via email at ithelpdesk@slc.qld.edu.au. Access Lauries Net via the ‘Parent Link’ on the College website’s homepage in the top right-hand corner.

PARENT LOUNGE

From the Parent Lounge, you can access information regarding your son/s including: invitations to Tours and Excursions, his results, review medical details and update your contact information. Students are invited to attend Tours and Excursions via email. Parents are requested to accept through the Parent Lounge. The Parent Lounge is located on Lauries Net and is accessed with the same password and login as Lauries Net, which will be issued for access from the beginning of Term One. Access Lauries Net via the ‘Parent Link’ on the College website’s homepage in the top right-hand corner.

TRANSPORT

Located in the SouthBank/South Brisbane precinct, Lauries is easily accessible via numerous modes of transport. Translink provides an easy way to plan your son’s journey to and from the campus with information on buses, trains or ferries, should you use public transport. Senior students also act as Big Brothers for new students travelling on the various major transport routes. Please be aware that while it isn’t possible to cover all bus networks, it is advisable for you to take your son on a practice run during the school holidays to ensure they are aware of their travel arrangements via public transport. Parents picking up or dropping off their son/s are advised to use Savio Oval, the main entrance to the College. Designated, but limited car parking spaces are available and have been marked on the bitumen to ensure a smooth transition, especially during ‘peak hour’ at the College.

TRANSITION INFORMATION

Changing schools can be a stressful time for both students and parents. Boys coming to Lauries from smaller suburban schools will notice substantial changes. Home Class Teachers, Heads of Year and other staff, as well as older students will assist with the transition period, providing help with transport, relationship formation, navigation around the campus and developing the “Lauries Spirit”. Another essential part of the transition / orientation process will be the parent information nights in early Term 1. Please look for these dates in Student Diaries, the College Calendar and Newsletters early in the year.
GENERAL INFORMATION

THE COLLEGE DAY

A typical day for students at St Laurence’s College commences at 8.25am with the sounding of the first bell when students move to their home classrooms ready for morning administration at 8.30am. Period 1 commences at 8.50am. School concludes at 2.55pm for Primary students and at 3.00pm for all Middle and Senior School students. More detailed information on the daily timetable and attendance requirements can be found in the Student Diary, which will be distributed to all students in the first week of school.

FEES

Fees are charged prior to the commencement of each term and are payable within 21 days of the date of issue. Strict adherence to payment is expected and extensions are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Camps, retreats and levies will be charged through term accounts. A current fee schedule is available via Lauries Net. Please note, all fees are reviewed annually. The 2016 fee schedule will be available to view from December 2015. Payments can be made by Credit Card, B-Pay, Direct Debit and bank transfer through our online portal, and parents will receive electronic statements via email to the nominated account.

CORRESPONDENCE

Communication from the College will be forwarded to the location noted on the Enrolment Application form as the Correspondence Address (and Email Addresses in some circumstances). This information is easy to update when required by following the prompts on Lauries Net or by calling College Reception on (07) 3010 1111 during school opening hours. In the case of separated parents, Academic Reports and School fees can only be forwarded to both parents upon specific request.

COMMUNICATION

The College Newsletter is issued each week and a Primary Supplement every fortnight. Both editions are available via Lauries Net. The College produces a triannual magazine titled ‘The Lauries Magazine’, issued each March, July and November. The College Annual is available to all students from the previous year and is distributed in February the year after. All publications provide a great way to stay up to date with the happenings and upcoming events at the College and within the Old Boy’s network. This 2016 Orientation Handbook is located electronically on the College website under ‘Enrolment’ , ‘Orientation Day’.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The College uses social media as an effective communicative tool to keep parents up to date with daily occurrences at the College and for future events which may be of interest. With a selection of great photos, videos, events and useful links, our official Facebook, Twitter and Youtube accounts can be accessed via our College website using the icons for each, located in the top right hand corner next to the search bar and in the bottom, middle section of the homepage.
UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

The Lauries Uniform Shop

The Lauries Shop supplies the entire College and sports uniform requirements for all students. It is conveniently located near the pick up/drop off zone at the Stephens Rd entrance. Information regarding The Lauries Shop, price list and opening hours including December and January back-to-school times are available via the College website within the ‘Community’ tab. No appointments are required. We accept Mastercard, Visa, EFTPOS, cash, cheque (made payable to ‘St Laurence’s College’) and student cards for payment.

All students are required to wear the College uniform each day. In terms 2 and 3, students wear the College blazer and tie. St Laurence’s College proudly participates in the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) interschool competition and it is compulsory for all students to wear the College playing kit for their chosen sport without exception.

If you have any questions about College or sports uniforms, please contact The Lauries Shop on (07) 3010 1100 or uniform@slc.qld.edu.au

NAVIGATING ONLINE

College Canteen

The Lauries Canteen operates on a daily basis during the academic year for breakfast, morning tea and lunch. The College Canteen does not accept cash, all transactions are paid for using students’ ID Cards, allowing the queues to move quickly. Student photos appear once scanned through the checkout, so no student is able to purchase items using another’s ID card. The implementation of this system has eliminated the need for any student to bring cash to the premises.

The menu is updated regularly and is available via the College website under ‘Community’, ‘Lauries Canteen’. Our Canteen Convenor, Mrs Julie Thompson, is always looking for volunteer help in the canteen. To express your interest, please contact College Reception.

SLC Music

Lauries has an active music program, offering classroom and instrumental music from Years 5 to 12. From Term 2, Year 5 students have the opportunity to participate in St Laurence’s outstanding instrumental music program, encompassing strings, concert band, musicianship and piano. Students can select an instrument to learn and have group lessons. Continuing musicians who have been learning a musical instrument at Lauries, can enrol in lessons from the beginning of Term 1. Music Enrolment Contracts are available via the College website under ‘Co-Curriculum’, ‘Music’, ‘Music Enrolment Contracts’.

Lauries Sport

The College provides a broad range of sporting activities. These activities provide for the personal growth of the student developing individual skill, team work, leadership, mateship, understanding and self-discipline in an atmosphere of competition, fun and enjoyment. This in turn benefits curriculum performance and school behaviour and helps build a real sense of community. Find out more about the Lauries Sports program via the College Website ‘Sport’ tab on the homepage.
Legend
1. Br Adams Administration Building
2. Archbishop Duhig Building
3. Br Hogan Yr 8 Centre
4. Br Spillane ITAD Centre (Industrial Technology and Design)
5. Archbishop O’Donnell Building
6. Br Grundy VAPA Centre
7. Br Brady Building
8. Br Campbell Resource Centre
9. STEM Building and Sports Center (Under Construction)
10. Chapel
11. ERPAC (Edmund Rice Performing Arts Centre)
12. Gair Field
13. Savio Oval

College Campus