

SALESIAN HOUSE

Term 1, February 2021

newsletter



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Salesian House Captain, Meg, with House Parents David and Denise

It was wonderful to see all of our families in the Bosco Chapel to begin the school year. Everyone arrived: organised, determined, excited, perhaps a bit fragile, moving into our unique system again, or wanting to settle after the big decision to join Salesian House. I thought it a great night. The badge ceremony for Meg was simple but so important. I delighted in the barbecue tea and the chance to say hello. The few scattered tears of goodbye were beautiful and heartfelt.

Our families seemed confident and that meant that they share a trust in the process of boarding. And I wanted to assure them, as we ate a snag or drank a Coke, that it will all be okay. Salesian House is a special place and the formation of its community, with its goodness, and its customs, is powerful, and will have a big influence on their child this year. The boarding process is one of routine, structure and relationship. Young people will learn plenty. They will learn plenty in the classroom, learn about challenge of resilience, of being alone and doing it themselves, and growing personal qualities at Salesian House.

Mr Forster read in the gospel on our first night about an argument by the disciples about who was the greatest. It's a strange question in Salesian House. Boarding probably doesn't have too much of that. 'The greatest' doesn't happen here. There is too much respect for building a good community and for making things work. There may be the nosiest, chattiest, messiest, maybe the quietest, or the funniest, but I can't imagine 'the greatest'. Our experience, especially when we start the year, is about innocence, about vulnerability, about naive enthusiasm for a place and we anticipate a good time and an opportunity. That's what happens at Salesian House. No 'greatest' because this place has a simple enthusiasm, a respectful innocence. The secret of Salesian House is its goodness. Its goodness is contagious. That's what great.

I write with the highest confidence in David and Denise. They work hard and work with deep insight and a sense of vocation and care. Jane and Lisa organise and support. It will go well.

Mums and dads supports us in our efforts and we will honour their sacrifice and trust in sending sons and daughters here. And they are making sacrifices. We know that.

We have had a few weeks now and our boarders keep returning on Sunday nights. They have had a chance to make an assessment of the place and their part in it. I hope that my promise of friendship, support and commitment has happened. Salesian House is a good place. It is so much fun. It's about hope. Hope that our young people achieve high educational goals and hope in their formation as young adults in a new boarding experience.

Warm regards

Greg Hay

Principal, St Mark's College

Salesian House Report

It was a great first gathering in 2021 on Tuesday 26 January. All families were supported well and Mr Hay welcomed everyone to our first liturgy and commissioning of Meg as Salesian House Captain. Chef Ben prepared a wholesome BBQ dinner with salads, fruit and chocolate cake for desert. Thank you to all who attended and those who helped make this night very special.

Jane has been involved in a number of activities to start the year, with sport being played in the Gym, a trip to the beach and also the community gym. Street nights are also proving to be very popular with the students.

Saleisan House Captain, Meg's enthusiasm and dedication within her role is encouraging and inspiring to us all. Fellow boarder, Meg is the Bosco House Leader, so both attended the Leadership Camp at Mary Knoll Centre recently with the other Year 12 leaders.

We are very grateful to have participated in two prayer nights so far with thanks to Mr Hay and Ms Clarke, we look forward to the remainder of the terms prayer nights as they always give us inspiration.

Ashley, the school counsellor, loves coming to the Boarding House and seeing the students. She is going to be teaching the students skills in meditation this week. Ashley visits every Tuesday afternoon.

Special mention to Sophie Hall, Year 12 2020 who attended the Dux Assembly on February 3rd and received recognition for achieving 90.7 ATAR in 2020, we congratulate Sophie on this fantastic result.

Denise Arbon

Denise Arbon

House Coordinator

Leading with pride

Meg

For me being Salesian House Captain for 2021 is a chance to work closely with my other fellow boarders. By embracing my role, I am able to form relationships and connections in order to create an enjoyable and comfortable year for everyone. It is a great privilege to be called the Salesian House Captain for 2021 and I hope to fulfil this position as others have in the past.
Meg, **Salesian House Captain**



Meg with Aislynn the Creative Arts Captain at the Leadership Commissioning Assembly



Congratulations to all of our 2020 Year 12s, Ted, Sophie, Harry and Patrick, on their graduation. An extra congratulations to Sophie Hall, who achieved an ATAR of 90.7 in Year 12!

Around Salesian House



2021, a new school year

Our Boarders have had a busy start to Term 1

Welcome

to our new Boarders:

- Chloe, Year 8
- Hannah, Year 8
- Claire, Year 9
- Emily, Year 9
- Zac, Year 10
- Tayah, Year 10
- Georgia, Year 11
- Lauren, Year 12

At first, I was nervous to begin my final year of high school as a new boarder. Due to its relaxed atmosphere, along with the friendly nature of my peers and House Parents, the boarding house has now become second home to me. I have developed several friendships and now feel like I am a part of a close-knit community that will always be connected, even after the school year ends. Activities, kindly organised by members of staff, have further enriched my relationships and helped balance study time with recreation. Boarding at St Mark's College has genuinely enhanced my Year 12 experience and has quickly become the highlight of my educational journey. Lauren, **Year 12**



Meg in her role as Bosco House Captain with Patrick and the Bosco House mascot



Issy collecting grapes from the farm for the 2021 vintage

Sharing birthday celebrations!
Meg, Anthony and Madi celebrating their birthdays from January and February



Sophie was recognised for her outstanding Year 12 result at the Dux Assembly



Emily playing with the children during a visit to the childcare centre



Ethan and Anthony collecting honey at McNally Farm

Around Salesian House



Zac learning to crush the grapes as part of the 2021 vintage at McNally Farm



Georgia made stir fry as part of the high-risk foods assignment



Jannah celebrating her birthday



Mia playing with the children at the childcare centre



Codi and Meg at Prayer Night



Have you seen our new TV commercials featuring Anthony and several of our Boarders at Salesian House?

You can check out the commercial here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmEfk6bL5A