25 January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the new academic year and our 170th Anniversary in the Year of Mercy. I extend a special welcome to all our new families joining the College community. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year spending time with family and friends. The holiday helps students to feel refreshed and ready to aim for personal excellence on their return to school. Staff members also enjoyed a well-earned rest.

Future Plan
Please find enclosed a hard copy of Mercedes College Future Plan document. This sets the strategic direction for the College over the next four years. It is a combination of staff, parent and student feedback and is a key document for every member of the community to reflect on.

I acknowledge the achievements of the Class of 2015 and these students will be recognised at the Excellence Assembly on Monday, 1 February. These students worked conscientiously to achieve their results giving up many leisure activities to pursue their studies. They were supported by Mercedes staff members who work tirelessly to assist students to achieve success. Parents are also key supporters of their daughters at this time and share the joys and challenges of the final year of secondary school.

Mercedes offers so many exciting opportunities and I encourage daughters and parents to attend relevant events and to be as involved as possible especially as this is a special year for the College marking the 170th Anniversary.

170th Anniversary Parent Sundowner - 5 February
The 170th Anniversary celebrations start with a Parent Sundowner on 5 February on the College oval. In the past this has been a sundowner for Year 7 parents and students but because this is a special year we want as many parents as possible to attend the function and celebrate as a community. This event also replaces the Year 12 Soiree, as published in the 2016 P & F Calendar which was to be held on 8 February.

Family Masses
To begin the 2016 academic year in the Year of Mercy we will be celebrating two Family Masses at St Mary’s Cathedral. Please note all students are expected to attend and must be in summer uniform, including hat. The dates are as follows:

15 February – Yrs 8/10/12
22 February – Yrs 7/9/11
Parent Information Nights
Parent nights are also a feature early in Term 1 and I strongly encourage attendance at these sessions as important information is provided that will support your daughter’s progress at school and it is a chance to meet key members of staff. Dates for the events are as follows:

**8 February**
Yr 11 – 6.00pm  
Yr 12 – 7.30pm

**11 February**
Yr 8 – 6.00pm  
Yr 9 – 7.30pm

(The Yr 10 2017 Course Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 11 May 2016 commencing at 6.00pm.)

**Parent IT Information Night – Wednesday 3 February, 6.30-7.30pm**
This session is open to all parents/guardians and particularly important for Year 7 parents. Paul Reid, Director of Learning Technology, will provide parents with a greater insight into how technology will be used to support your daughter’s learning in 2016.

**P & F Guest Speaker – Nathan Hulls – Wednesday 10 February 6pm for 6:30pm start in the College Staffroom**
Parents are invited to come along to this free presentation by Nathan Hulls; Teen Behaviour Specialist, Motivational Speaker and Success Coach.

**SEQTA**
The College continues its focus on SEQTA, the platform that assists with home/school communication and the ability of students and parents to monitor academic progress.

I am looking forward to seeing parents at our many events and celebrating our 170th Anniversary. Some of you may have seen the Cinead at the Innaloo Cinema Complex that celebrates this anniversary. This Cinead will continue for the first half of the year.

I am proud of Mercedes College and everything that is done to provide an environment that will bring out the best in each student so that they achieve their potential. Our committed staff members will once again support the needs of your daughters during 2016.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Kind regards

Mrs Kerrie Fraser  
Principal