



SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 6, TERM 2

WEDNESDAY, 5TH JUNE 2019

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

**NATIONAL APOLOGY TO SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE
EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA**

The Catholic Church in Australia agreed to be a part of the Redress Scheme for Survivors of Sexual Abuse. This comes one year after the EREA apology. On Thursday, 1st June 2017, Edmund Rice Education Australia, made a formal apology to the Victims of Child Abuse at the National EREA Principals' Meeting in Canberra. I was at that meeting. Child abuse has been an appalling failure of the Catholic Church over many generations. The leadership of the Church in this area has been completely inept. The reputation of the Church and individual institutions was placed above the appropriate care and compensation for the survivors of abuse. The Church's slow, inadequate and belligerently ignorant response has, in many cases, caused extra pain. The behaviour of some Christian Brothers in this area has been shameful, embarrassing and totally contrary to all Gospel values.

Below is a copy of The Apology. This apology is significant. Also significant is that CBHS Lewisham is a safe place for all members of our community, especially our young men.

THE APOLOGY

In this time of Pentecost – a time when the spirit provides us with the courage to find a new voice – we, the leaders of Edmund Rice Education Australia, on behalf of our communities offer the following apology. Today we begin a journey of major change by publicly acknowledging the sexual abuse of students in our schools; some dead, some alive, some unknown:

*Today we directly acknowledge the **scarring harm** of sexual abuse as abhorrent, sinful, shameful and disgraceful; and we also acknowledge that whatever was done can never be undone. **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge the **helplessness, powerlessness, fear, guilt and shame** that has been, and remains part of a victim's life when, as a child, they recall feeling no control over their lives and even blamed themselves for what had been done to them. **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge the fact that young people in our schools were **betrayed** in their adolescence where they had every expectation of, and needed nurturing and protection. **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge the **anger** which our young students have felt, have shown and may still harbour against their abusers and others who they feel failed to protect them. **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge the **sadness, grief and sense of loss felt by victims**, especially when the perpetrator was loved and trusted by our young people and their families. **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge the **alarming statistics** of serial sexual abuse, assault and molestation of young people in our schools by Christian Brothers, Clergy and lay staff – **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge that the pain inflicted and suffered continues to have **ongoing devastation** on victims in their adulthood as partners, parents, extended family and leaders in their careers and communities – and that there is no hiding this pain – **For this we apologise ...***

*Today we directly acknowledge the unimaginable **pain endured by families, friends and loved ones** who have been broken by the ingrained lasting trauma, often hidden, of each and every unspeakable criminal indignity and personal violation – **For this we apologise ...***

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*And finally, most significantly, today is the day we directly acknowledge that there has been a history of **denial, secrecy, suppression and diminution** in relation to sexual abuse crimes. Barriers have been placed which have hindered redress. Victims have not had a real voice. Rightful acknowledgement has not been given to those crying for justice. We have not spoken or acted as Edmund Rice and the Gospels would have demanded – **For this we apologise ...***

In the knowledge that, to many the offering of an apology at this time may seem unhelpful, even possibly adding to the pain in some cases, we offer it sincerely in the hope that it is seen as a significant and necessary step towards healing, reconciliation and ongoing redress. In the true spirit of Pentecost, we pray that Edmund Rice Education Australia has found a new voice in laying stronger foundations for support, re-connection, inclusion and ongoing care for all who have suffered in this way.

I am sorry. We are sorry. We commit to a liberated future.

Dr Wayne Tinsey, Executive Director, Edmund Rice Education Australia

PASTORAL CARE SURVEY

As a parent or carer of a student at the school, we are interested to know your thoughts on the Pastoral Care House System for your son. Please take your time to answer the questions thoughtfully. It should only take you between 5 and 10 minutes to complete. Your comments are anonymous and collected by an external consultant – no individual respondent will be identified by the survey.

Survey link: <https://24.selectsurvey.net/mapl/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=9LLJmo2>

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL, ALL LEWO

Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham is a proud Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. Whilst we show deep respect for other faiths, our school's values are based on "a Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition" which clearly spells out our commitment to the Four Touchstones.

- **Liberating Education** – We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.
- **Inclusive Community** – Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.
- **Gospel Spirituality** – We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.
- **Justice and Solidarity** – We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.

I am very concerned and disappointed that some students are using religion as an excuse to show some disrespectful and rude behaviour to teachers and fellow students. It is not appropriate to use the excuse "I am defending my faith" to put down, ridicule or criticise the faith of others – all faiths are genuinely respected and valued at CBHS. It is never appropriate to use religion to justify bullying by way of racism, sexism, bigotry or homophobia.

Quite simply, CBHS Lewisham will not tolerate bullying, rudeness or disrespect under any circumstance, especially when religious beliefs are used as an excuse to put down someone else's beliefs or devalue their faith.

Students who continue to show disrespectful or rude behaviour to teachers will be suspended and not be allowed to return to the school until after a satisfactory interview with the Principal.

CBHS is much more than a great school. In keeping with its rich faith-filled past, it now has all the energy and vitality of a modern Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. It is an inclusive and innovative school that is responding creatively to meet the wide range of needs of individual students who represent the full spectrum of a multicultural and diverse Australian population. The school will continue to provide a vision into the future where people of all countries and backgrounds have equal opportunities, equal treatment and the dignity and comfort of knowing they are supported and loved.

With the guidance of Blessed Edmund Rice, may we continue to strive with strength to be of service to others. Live Jesus in our Hearts Forever.

Yours truly,

Br Paul Conn
Principal

CURRICULUM UPDATE**YEAR 8 INFORMATION NIGHT**

The Year 8 Information Evening is organised for Tuesday, 18th June commencing at 7 pm in the Treacy Centre. The evening is aimed at parents who are interested in being updated on the RoSA requirements. I will also outline the choice of elective subjects that are to be studied for Year 9-Year 10, and explain the process for students making choices for elective subjects in Year 9-Year 10 in 2020-2021. Student attendance is not required as the same information will be provided to your son during the day on 18th June. Students were issued a note with this information via Homeroom this week.

Year 11 2020 Subject Information Market

Current Year 10 students are reminded of the second session that has been organised for Tuesday, 18th June in the Treacy Centre commencing at 2.15 pm and running through until 5.00 pm. This is titled a *Year 11 Subject Information Market* in the School Student Diary. This session is compulsory for all students (only) who intend to enrol into Year 11 in 2020. Parents are kindly asked to make alternate transport arrangements with their son as this event concludes at 5.00 pm.

During this session, students will be able to visit several of the faculty areas to listen to detailed information on each of the Year 11 and Year 12 courses and the work requirements in each HSC course.

Year 12 Learning Goals

Year 12 students have had the opportunity to review their individual learning goals set at the beginning of Term 4, 2018 and make revisions for the remainder of their courses. Having received teacher feedback from the recent Parent Teacher Meetings, each student was well placed to revise their individual learning goals so as to reach their academic potential and remained motivated in their studies including the Trial HSC and HSC Examination. Parent and carers are asked to speak with their sons about these new goals so that the goals are transparent and worked towards daily.

Monica O'Brien
Assistant Principal – Curriculum

CSDA DEBATING

CBHS Lewisham debated St Scholastica's College at home last Friday evening.

The Year 7 and Year 8 teams debated whether “adults do too much for us”; Year 9 and Year 10 argued “that environmentalism is more about appearance than effecting change” while the Year 11 and Senior Open Teams debated whether “we are too critical of failure”.

After five competition rounds, the Year 11 and Year 10 teams remain undefeated, the Senior Open, Year 8 and Year 9 teams have each won four debates and the Year 7 team has three.

The boys are looking forward to debating Trinity Catholic College at Auburn on 14th June. We look forward to seeing you then.

Mr Paul McCallum
Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator



Year 10 Debating Round 5



Year 7 Round 4

MCC SPORT REPORT

The Winter MCC Season in Rugby League and Football continues with Round 4 this Thursday with teams playing against Kogarah.

Venues for this week are:

Rugby League:

1st XIII and 2nd XIII at Marrickville Oval

U14 at Bexley Oval

U15 Bye

U13A Camperdown Oval

U13B Bye

Football:

1st XI and 2nd XI at Ilinden Sports Centre Rockdale

U14 and U15 at Lambert Park

U13 A & B at Arlington Oval

All parents are reminded that players are required to wear the respective CBHS Lewisham Rugby League and Football shorts and socks, both of which are available from the school Uniform Shop.

Training continues today (Wednesday). A reminder to parents that if your son must leave training early that he gives his manager a signed parental note detailing reasons. As we have a duty of care, we ask parents to be at training at 4:50 pm if picking up students. Any students without a note to leave from the venue or not picked up will be taken back to school.

All parents requiring information about NSW Combined Catholic College teams and events should visit the new website at www.csss.nsw.edu.au to download all information and entry forms. Please note that ALL individual entries and nominations must be made by parents of interested students via this process. Families should check the website for clarification so your sons don't miss out.

Upcoming Dates:

MCC Winter Season:

Round 4 v Kogarah	6 th June
Round 5 v Ashfield	13 th June
Round 6 v North Shore	20 th June
Round 7 v Pagewood	27 th June
Spare Round	4 th July
Semi	25 th July
Final	1 st August

CBHS Athletics Carnival Tuesday, 2nd July at Homebush

Mr Vince Colagiuri
Acting Sports Coordinator

REMINDER

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Parents are advised that supervision commences each day at CBHS at 8.15 am. A bell will sound at 8.15 each morning indicating that the playground is now supervised by teachers. Whilst students are permitted to enter the school prior to this bell (no earlier than 7.30 am), parents need to understand that teachers will not be on duty.



AFTER SCHOOL

The school does not provide supervision after the 3.15 pm bell (2.45 pm on Thursdays).

Students who catch the School Specials are supervised until the buses have departed.

