

Boarding Newsletter

Term 1, 2008



Boarding at Lindisfarne has never been stronger. It has been a most positive start to the year by all boys across all year levels. There is a real positive atmosphere in the place. Although very busy everyone has contributed to the success that the boarding is enjoying currently. There is a relaxed atmosphere and calmness around the place but at the same time like always much has been achieved and the start made by all has been extremely pleasing. Our role has once again grown and hit a new record high of 240 boarders. It is fair to say that our facilities are stretched but with the cooperation of the boys we are coping.

Mr Mangan

I would like to publically thank Mr Mangan in his role as acting Rector this term and the contribution he has made in making term one so successful in boarding. His style and approach has gelled well with the other staff and boys and his efforts have certainly been appreciated. After all his fine work it is with sadness for our school and boarding that we see Mr Mangan move on to take up the Principal's position at Tauranga Boys. We certainly wish him well in his new position and our loss is certainly Tauranga's gain.

Boarding Prefects

Our team of 22 Boarding Prefects really have made an excellent start to the year. They have been very responsive along with using their initiative and leading from the front.

The Boarding Prefects for 2008 are

Goodwin	Benjamin	Junior House
Hair	Daniel	Junior House
Hewitt	Harry	Junior House
Lansdown	James	Junior House
Morgans	Bryn	Junior House
Stoss	Alex	Junior House
Thomsen	Gregory	Junior House
Laming	Richard	Junior House (Deputy Head)
Crowley	Jack	Junior House (Head)
Clarkson	Richard	Year 11 House
Gregory-Hunt	Dallon	Year 11 House
McRedmond	Liam	Year 11 House (Deputy Head)
Perry	William	Year 11 House (Head)
Abernethy	George	Senior House
Buchanan	William	Senior House
Hildreth	Angus	Senior House
Parsons	Thomas	Senior House
Scott	Isaac	Senior House
Stoss	Chris	Senior House
Wakefield-Sciascia	Arama	Senior House
McNair	Sam	Senior House (Head Boy)
Reynolds	Sam	Senior House (head of Boarding)

They have been well supported by others who have also been selected to take on positions of responsibility in assisting with prep and dining hall duties. We as a staff are very appreciative of the efforts they have made to date. What is also very pleasing is that at each year level beginning from year 13 and filtering down to Year 7 there is a real positive atmosphere and a sense of camaraderie amongst the boys. This appears to be more evident this year than in other years when hearing feedback from the boys.

First Weekend in



All of our junior students and boarding prefects along with some seniors enjoy a meal together on the first weekend of the term.

One would have to say that the first weekend in was a great success for the new boys and the relationships they built over the weekend will have lasting positive effects in the years to come and I congratulate especially the Year 10 boys and boarding prefects

that have made the beginning of the year such a success in helping the new boys adjust to life at Lindisfarne.

As it is the first weekend of the year there are many things that must be achieved with the precious 48 hours. Mentioned is the programme that took place for the weekend. Fire Drill Evacuation practise on the Friday night. The boy's were superb in their completion of this. Saturday dawn and nearly every boy is involved in sports trials during the day. On Saturday evening the boys are taken to the Havelock North Cinema Gold for a movie. Saturday dawn and another early start as the juniors complete activities with the boarding prefects. These activities are based around building trust, challenging yourself, cooperation and competitiveness in your peer group as well as with the prefects. A wide range of activities are undertaken to the boy's through all of these situations. Later in the morning the older boy's help the younger ones learn the school haka in preparation for the very important Boarders versus Dayboy Haka challenge to take place later in term one. After lunch the boys travel to Splash Planet to cool down from the intensive heat and have the opportunity to socialise with the two girls schools of Iona and Woodford. The day and weekend is then finished off with a Chapel service. A busy but very productive weekend. This year the boy's have really settled well and there seems to be a real calmness about the place and the leadership role of the senior boys has been impressive.

Boarder vs Dayboy Haka

Here our boarders really get to demonstrate their passion for the school as they challenge the dayboys to the same level of commitment. The Haka was superbly performed and was ferocious and well led by James Buxton. In all my years at the College which is now 17 years and 4 years in the boarding I would say that this year's haka was as impressive as last year's which ranks it up there in the top two haka's of all time. All our boys can be congratulated on their performance and commitment to the school. Most importantly though from our perspective is that we reclaimed the title so cruelly taken off us last year and once again our boy's have performed with credit

Napier Art Deco Weekend

On Sunday the 17th February, all the full time junior boarders went to the Art Deco Weekend in Napier. Once again a thank you to Matron and Mr Leheux for taking the boy's and providing the opportunity once again for the boy's to enjoy a day out.

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Amazing Maze in Maize

On Sunday, the 24th of February, a select few of the full boarders of Junior House went on the weekly mystery trip. This weekend the destination was *The Amazing Maze 'n' Maize*. We soon scampered out of the bus and entered the maze after receiving instructions. This year's maze theme is Kiwiana so we worked our way through an array of buzzy bees, gumboots, Kiwis and ferns engraved in the maize. After a few wrong turns and lost teachers, (Mr Le Heux only got out by smelling the freshly brewed coffee!) we piled back into the bus and headed back to school for Chapel. Thanks to Matron and Mr Le Heux for making the trip possible and entertaining.

George Perry
Year 10

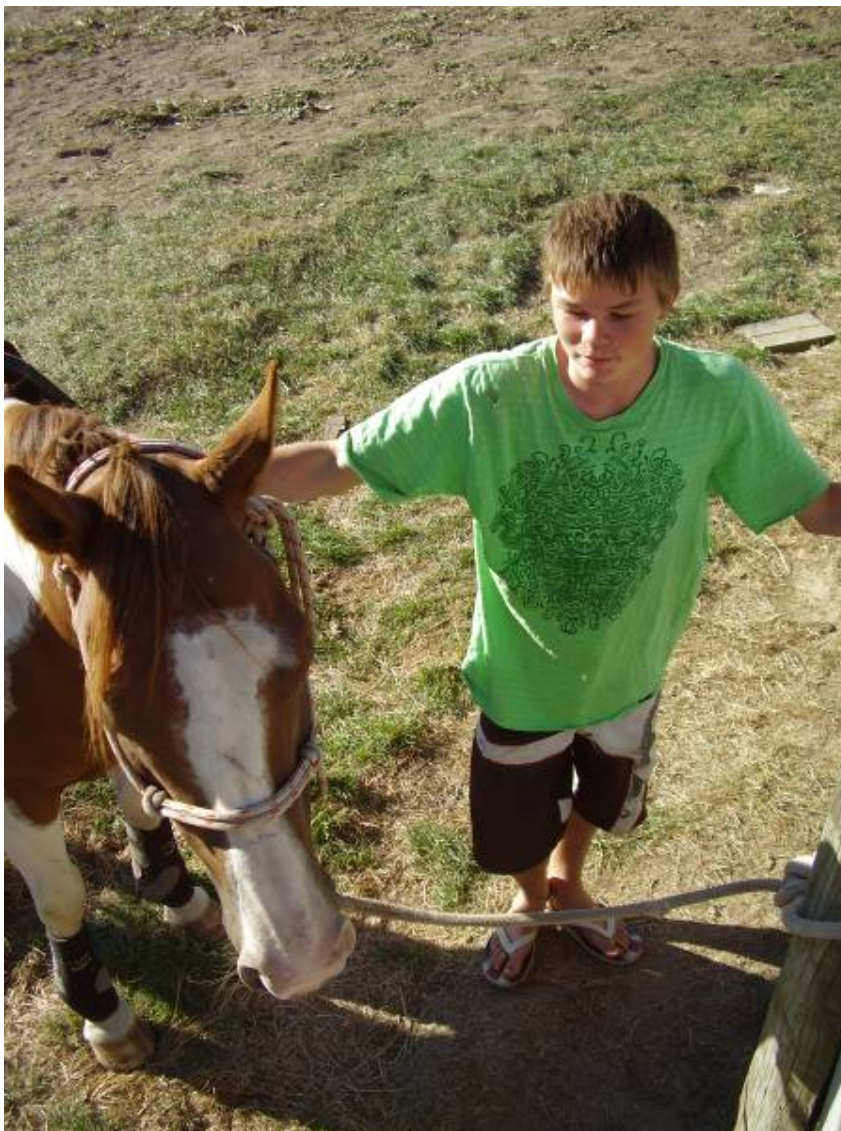


Mohaka Rodeo

On Saturday the 8th of March a dozen of the Lindisfarne full boarders accompanied Mr Le Heux to the Mohaka Rodeo. After a short drive we turned up and had a good look around at all the stalls and the colourful people. We started watching the Junior Steer Ride and saw some good up and coming riders. After a good much of ice creams shouted by Mr Le Heux we watched the adults riding bulls and the barrel races where the riders had to ride around three barrels over a circuit in the least amount of time. The main highlights of the day were the Bronco rides and especially the Highway 61 Bull Ride where we saw a man take a Mark 1 kick to the cranium. All in all it was a great day out with the enthusiastic and cheerful crowd.

Simon White
Year 10

Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up.
Jesse Jackson



Fright Night Maze in Maize

Year 12 and 13 boarders team up with Iona and Woodford for the annual “Fright Night” at the maze in maize. This is a great social occasion and enjoyed by all who go.

Napier Prison

Once again a big thanks to Mr Leheux and Matron for taking the boys to Napier’s Old Prison – Pity some were not left there but them the breaks

Gala

The Gala was a huge success raising in excess of \$40,000 again. I extend the schools thanks and gratitude to the boarders who are always there to lend a hand and are a driving force behind the success of any Gala. It is an early start for our boarders on Gala day as they are up by 6.00 am in order to be first there to help with the moving of gear at 7.30 am. Below is a couple of shots as the boarders prepare the stalls for the gala. Once again a huge thanks for your efforts and cooperation on the day in many aspects from moving the donated gear firstly into the gymnasium and then to the field, car parking, dorm security, stalls, set up and clean up. A wonderful effort appreciated by all.

Boy's raffle consisting of a Playstation 3, instructed air flights, rugby ball, fishing rod and mini gym kit was won by

Parents and Friends Association

From the boarding community we extend our thanks to the Parents and Friends association who put on the Gala and make it such a success and for the funding they provide to the school and boarding. Your efforts are certainly appreciated by all within the boarding.

Junior Social at Woodford

This is another enjoyable evening for all the junior boarders who took the opportunity to attend. Many were tired from camp but amazingly still had plenty of energy for the evening.

Paintball

This is certainly one of the favourite activities for the boys. Especially enjoyed by the juniors and a good deal of fun and pain is endured during an outing to paintball

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.

Maya Angelou

Kip McGrath Private Tutoring

This year private tutoring will be offered at the Kip McGrath venue for boys in English, Mathematics and Senior Science as spelt out below. The boys will be required to make their way there by taxi and we will endeavour to put them in taxi's of 4 to the best of our abilities.

At present many boys are already getting extra assistance from the College staff outside of normal class periods and some have already signed up privately from the beginning of the year.

Kip McGrath will be available for tutoring which charges a flat rate of \$40 per session per boy. A maximum of 4 boys will operate per class session. You will be directly invoiced by Kip McGrath.

Kip McGrath Education is primarily for those boys requiring extra assistance for remedial work but there is some scope for extension work.

Please fill in the form below if you wish to be involved in this tutoring service. All requests for tutoring through the Kip McGrath service need to be faxed to Mr Petersen by Monday 12th May. Please circle the appropriate levels.

.....

Our son _____ in Year _____ would like to be

involved in the following private tuition offered by Kip McGrath.

Mathematics	Year	11	12	13
Physics	Year	11	12	13
Biology	Year	11	12	13
Chemistry	Year	11	12	13
English	Year	11	12	

Signed _____
Parent

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

George Bernard Shaw

Staff and Prefects Duty list for Term 2.

Duty List (Staff and Prefects)

<u>2008, T2</u>			<u>Junior</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Year 11</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Prep</u>	
Mon	5	May	Teacher Only Day	Goodwin	Crowley	Clarkson	McNair	Parsons	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	6	May		Goodwin	Crowley	Clarkson	McNair	Parsons	DBR, BRP MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	7	May		Goodwin	Crowley	Clarkson	McNair	Parsons	GER, KET	BES
Thur	8	May		Goodwin	Crowley	Clarkson	McNair	Parsons	GLP, BEL	
Fri	9	May		Goodwin	Crowley	Clarkson	McNair	Parsons	GLP, MAA, BRP	
Sat	10	May	Ball / Entrance Exam		Crowley	Clarkson	McNair		GLP, MAA, KET	
Sun	11	May			Crowley	Clarkson	McNair			
Mon	12	May		Lansdown	Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds	Scott	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	13	May		Lansdown	Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds	Scott	DBR, BRP	MAS
Wed	14	May		Lansdown	Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds	Scott	MAA, BEL	
Thur	15	May		Lansdown	Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds	Scott	GER, KET	BES
Fri	16	May		Lansdown	Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds	Scott	GLP, DBR	
Sat	17	May			Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds		MUR, GER, BRP	
Sun	18	May			Laming	Gregory-Hunt	Reynolds		MUR, GER, KET	
Mon	19	May		Morgans	Hair	Perry	Abernethy	Buchanan	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	20	May		Morgans	Hair	Perry	Abernethy	Buchanan	DBR, BRP MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	21	May		Morgans	Hair	Perry	Abernethy	Buchanan	GER, KET	BES
Thur	22	May		Morgans	Hair	Perry	Abernethy	Buchanan	GLP, BEL	
Fri	23	May		Morgans	Hair	Perry	Abernethy	Buchanan	GLP, MAA, BRP	
Sat	24	May			Hair	Perry	Abernethy		GLP, MAA, KET	
Sun	25	May			Hair	Perry	Abernethy			
Mon	26	May		Stoss, A	Hewitt	McRedmond	Hildreth	Parsons	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	27	May		Stoss, A	Hewitt	McRedmond	Hildreth	Parsons	DBR, BRP MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	28	May		Stoss, A	Hewitt	McRedmond	Hildreth	Parsons	GER, KET	BES
Thur	29	May		Stoss, A	Hewitt	McRedmond	Hildreth	Parsons	GLP, BEL	
Fri	30	May	Exeat							
Sat	31	May	Exeat							
Sun	1	June	Exeat							
Mon	2	June	Exeat	Crowley	Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia	Stoss, C	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	3	June	Senior Exams	Crowley	Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia	Stoss, C	DBR, BRP MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	4	June	Senior Exams	Crowley	Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia	Stoss, C	GER, KET	BES
Thur	5	June	Senior Exams	Crowley	Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia	Stoss, C	GLP, BEL	
Fri	6	June	Senior Exams	Crowley	Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia	Stoss, C	MUR, GER, BRP	
Sat	7	June			Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia		MUR, GER, KET	
Sun	8	June			Thomsen	Clarkson	Scia Scia			
Mon	9	June	Senior Exams	Laming	Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons	McNair	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	10	June	Junior Exams	Laming	Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons	McNair	DBR, BRP MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	11	June	Junior Exams	Laming	Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons	McNair	GER, KET	BES
Thur	12	June	Junior Exams	Laming	Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons	McNair	GLP, BEL	
Fri	13	June		Laming	Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons	McNair	GLP, MAA, BRP	
Sat	14	June			Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons		GLP, MAA, KET	
Sun	15	June			Goodwin	Gregory-Hunt	Parsons			

Mon	16	June	Hair	Lansdown	Perry	Scott	Reynolds	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	17	June	Hair	Lansdown	Perry	Scott	Reynolds	DBR, BRP, MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	18	June	Hair	Lansdown	Perry	Scott	Reynolds	GER, KET	BES
Thur	19	June	Hair	Lansdown	Perry	Scott	Reynolds	GLP, BEL	
Fri	20	June		Lansdown	Perry	Scott		MUR, GER, BRP	
Sat	21	June		Lansdown	Perry	Scott		MUR, GER, BRP	
Sun	22	June		Lansdown	Perry	Scott		KET	
Mon	23	June	Hewitt	Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan	Abernethy	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	24	June	Hewitt	Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan	Abernethy	DBR, BRP, MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	25	June	Hewitt	Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan	Abernethy	GER, KET	BES
Thur	26	June	Hewitt	Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan	Abernethy	GLP, BEL	
Fri	27	June	Hewitt	Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan	Abernethy	GLP, MAA, BRP	
Sat	28	June		Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan		GLP, MAA, BRP	
Sun	29	June		Morgans	McRedmond	Buchanan		KET	
Mon	30	June	Thomsen	Stoss, A	Clarkson	Stoss, C	Hildreth	MUR, GRG	WAF
Tue	1	July	Thomsen	Stoss, A	Clarkson	Stoss, C	Hildreth	DBR, BRP, MAA, DBR, BEL	MAS
Wed	2	July	Thomsen	Stoss, A	Clarkson	Stoss, C	Hildreth	GER, KET	BES
Thur	3	July	Thomsen	Stoss, A	Clarkson	Stoss, C	Hildreth	GLP, BEL	
Fri	4	July	Thomsen	Stoss, A	Clarkson	Stoss, C	Hildreth		

Please feel free to contact the staff listed on a particular night if you have an issue or need to communicate with someone. Not listed as officially on duty is Matron who can be contacted for medical emergencies if required.

Please use the cell phone system during the weekend to make contact re: issues with leave etc on 0274 382 772 (Masters Duty Phone). If someone else answers a message can be given to your son or the Duty House Master will receive the message and contact you back if the Duty Tutor is unable to assist you. Matron's phone for medical issues is 0274 798 991. I am trying very hard to ensure that the at least one person in the duty team at the weekend carry the cell phone with them – so please use.

Please use the duty list to contact the appropriate person. Email is still a good option if not requiring an immediate response.

House Master and Tutor staff codes

GLP – Mr Petersen
GER – Mr Rogers
MAA – Mr Allen
MUR – Mr Richardson
GRG – Mr Gilbert
DBR – Mr Brown
BEL – Mr Leheux
KET – Mr Taylor
BRP – Mr Pinker

Staff Prep Supervisors

This year as with last year we have introduced new staff to boarding through the position of a prep supervisor. We are very grateful for their input and guidance they provide in assisting the House Master and Tutor on a particular night.

Extra prep supervisors staff codes

MAS – Mr Summerfield

BES – Mr Spriggens

WAF – Mr Fortune

Junior Assistant House Master

It is with pleasure that I announce the new Assistant House Master position. Congratulations to Mr Darren Brown on his appointment. His role will evolve with time but with the increased numbers in boarding this is a very positive move as it shares some of the responsibilities and ensures we have good staff ratio for the boarders in our care. Mr Richardson is still the person you make contact with if your son is in Years 7 – 10 when dealing with concerns, pastoral care and during the week leave. Mr Brown will assist Mr Richardson where necessary. Mr Glen Petersen still deals with the weekend leave for your son but any other concerns or enquiries should be directed to Mr Richardson.

New Senior Boarding Master

Congratulations to Mr Rogers who was successful in applying for the vacant position left by Mr Bovey. Although filling Mr Bovey's shoes is a difficult position for anyone as Mr Bovey had a unique style when dealing with seniors it is pleasing to mention that senior house has settled well and is well lead by Mr Rogers and his very able team of prefects.

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Elizabeth Kubler Ross

Any Lines of Communication

The best and easiest way to get a hold of boarding staff at Lindisfarne is through their email. I strongly suggest this is used for contact especially when trying to communicate leave. Through the email leave can be generated by giving all the necessary details. It is not essential that the leave is done on the official form providing we have the necessary information through email.

How to contact the Duty Team

At the weekends the best line of communication is through the following 2 cell phones

Tutor on Duty	0274 382 772
Matron	0274 798 991

Returning after Exeat Leave

When an Exeat break includes an extra day all boys are required to come in the evening before classes begin the next day. Should it be timetabled an Exeat returning for full boarders Sunday night then weekly boarders may return as per their normal weekly arrangements on the Monday morning.

Dinner Leave

Dinner leave during the week is for full boarders for special occasions. As a weekly boarder many things that need to be done are able to be completed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings when you are with your families. For dinner leave to go ahead parents must approach the House Master of their son's year level at least two day's prior to the dinner leave being required. For juniors dinner leave can be arranged through Matron.

Car use by Boarders

This is still a huge concern of ours and it needs to be explained again. The use of vehicles by the boys at school is a convenience for parents as far as the boys getting to school from home and from school back to home when on leave. The only other time the vehicle is to be used is if the school has granted permission for use with a regular activity like ATC or the like and there must be written permission from the parents requesting the use of the vehicle for such activities. The school still has the right to turn down that request based on evidence of the boys character. This extra use will only be granted for Year 13's under special circumstances and signed off by the Rector. One off activities the school will not be granting permission nor are we keen with boys being passengers to get to other peoples places on leave unless prior permission has been approved through the school and they are regular passengers for travel like a sibling or a weekly boarder neighbour.

We fully understand your concerns re: cost of the taxi service to get to events but we are extremely conscious of the risk involved in boys using their cars and we have a lot of vehicles from Year 12 & 13 boys. Please appreciate our stand point and the position we are in.

Saturday Day Leave

Leave after breakfast at approximately 9.00 am. Return by either 7.30 pm prior to the movie or by 9.00 pm. This is to be arranged with the Master on Duty prior to leaving.

Sunday Day Leave

Leave after Brunch approximately 11.00 am – 11.30 am. Return for Chapel if it is on. Chapel is compulsory and return will need to be by 7.15 pm. If no Chapel then return by 8.00 pm.

Every boy returning from leave must sign back in with the Master on Duty. When signing in or out for Leave it must be in dress uniform.

Absences

All absences from school needs to be phoned into the school office and as boarding staff we would very much appreciate an email sent to Mr Petersen which directly informs us of your son's absence from school and consequently we are informed that he should not be on our boarding list when our regular checks are made. Likewise upon his return it would be appreciated if we were also informed.

Note: Lost Property

Every article in the school must be named including shoes. It is the parents and the boy's responsibility to ensure this is done. All items must have embroidered name tags.

The College discourages lending or borrowing of other boys gear of any sort.

The school launders year 7 – 11 mufti. Year 12 & 13 have the facilities to do their own. Please choose mufti wisely.

Sickness

Please parents understand that if your son is genuinely sick with vomiting or diarrhoea it is important that he is kept at home as one boy in the hostels with infectious complaints can cause many others to become sick.

Also please keep boarding staff informed if your son is to be away or late arriving back at school.

The journey is the reward.
Chinese Proverb

Leave Requirements for Full Boarders

Please remember if you are having difficulty with contacting us then by all means feel free to make contact via email. As House Masters we prefer contact by email so please use.

LINDISFARNE COLLEGE BOARDING DEPARTMENT

LEAVE APPLICATION FORM

Name of boarder _____ Year Level _____

I hereby apply for leave for the above student.

Travel details.

Depart College on (Day/date) _____ at _____ am/pm.

Mode of transport (inc. name of driver if by car) _____

If your son is not travelling home there is no jurisdiction for him to use his car

Return to College on (Day/date) _____ at _____ am/pm.

Mode of transport (inc. name of driver if by car) _____

Destination.

He will be staying with _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I confirm that I will be responsible for this student and release the College from its obligations until he signs in again at the College. He will be under my jurisdiction for the duration of the leave no matter where I allow him to go. If he is not returning home, I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the family that he is to stay with to ensure that there is adequate supervision for the period of leave. The host family must also send in jurisdiction to confirm that my son is staying with them and will be in their care. Likewise with travel in other persons vehicle jurisdiction is required from both yourself and the host's car.

Signed : _____ *Parent/Guardian.*

Contact phone number/s _____

PLEASE FAX TO Year 13 & 12 (Mr Rogers) 06 8768566
 Year 11 (Mr Allen) TBA
 Year 10, 9, 8 & 7 (Mr Petersen) 06 8729910

Please post or fax this form to reach the school to the appropriate House Masters no later than 10pm on Wednesday prior to the leave for the weekend required.

We are happy to take leave by email

Special note for Weekly Boarders

If any changes, on a weekly basis, occur for your son regarding his weekend leave which differ from your original documentation (the Weekly Boarding Leave Application Form) then we, as House Masters; Mr Petersen Yr 7-10, Mr Allen Yr 11, Mr Bovey Yr 12 & 13 must be informed of those changes by the previous Wednesday night. It is very important that this information is communicated to us so that our records are true and accurate and therefore there is no confusion over your son's whereabouts. Failure to comply with this request will be treated as a serious breach of communication which will result in leave being declined. The school will not accept responsibility for students when the information we are provided with is not correct and therefore our official leave list documentation is incorrect.

Pillow and Duvets

Also a reminder RE: Every boy should have his own pillow and duvet. This is a request due to health and safety issues with hygiene. If your son has not brought a pillow to school would you please ensure he does so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time reading this and I hope you are having an enjoyable break or at least your sons are.

Chapel Attendance

All boys are expected to attend 3 Chapel services per term. As a full boarder if your son is at school on a Chapel weekend regardless of how many he has previously attended he is expected to attend Chapel. As a weekly boarder if returning on a Sunday evening and there is a Chapel service he is expected to return to school for Chapel regardless if he has already fulfilled his 3 Chapels. Should he not be attending Chapel then Monday morning is the return time. On a non Chapel weekend he is to return by 8.30 pm.

Although this may seem strange there is a logic behind this and when dealing with 240 boys this is an easier way of tracking and ensuring that we are aware of who is in or not for the evening and staying the night.

Pizza

The ruling on pizza is as a junior pizza orders are not allowed unless permission is granted by Mr Richardson due to a meal being missed. Mr Richardson will make that decision.

As a senior pizza orders are allowed from the Thursday evening. Some boys like to order pizza all the time but we feel a responsibility to parents to not allow this all the time when we know we are providing food for the boys and have an awareness of your budgets etc.

Property Damage

This is a huge plea to you as parents to talk with your son's in regard to how they use our school facilities. This is mentioned to them a lot but unfortunately they are still very rough and a little bit mindless with their use of the facilities. An example of the report done by myself at the end of the year reads like such and you may well find that your son has incurred a charge to recover the damage caused by himself and others relating to his dorm. This type of report will be completed at the end of every term from now on and charges for damage will follow. I apologise for this in advance as it must be frustrating for yourselves as well but these are the facts on the damage that the boys are responsible for. Hopefully by talking with your son over the break and our continued reminder and vigilance at school should see a shift in attitude and over time we eliminate or at least drastically reduce the amount of damage caused. We are making every effort as staff to get on top of this and I do believe next year we will see a dramatic improvement. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Board games borrowed not returned and thrown around the dorm
All dorms have shoe scuff marks and ball marks which need cleaning and repainting
Walls similar
Broken drawers
Latches removed for cupboards
Holes in some dorms from hockey sticks Couches and squabs ripped
Sky remotes missing or damaged TV cabinets and trolleys damaged or missing
Light switches and power points busted
Towel rails broken or pulled out from wall
Pin board cut or stained with food
Mattresses bent in half so no longer able to be used due to spring damage
DVD / Video players broken
The list continues

Couple of activities to finish

You don't actually have to take the quiz. Just read straight through, and you'll get the point, an awesome one.

Take this quiz:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.
How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel, appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
6. Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you. Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

The Window" (Author unknown)

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour a day to drain the fluids from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation. And every afternoon when the man in the bed next to the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed would live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the outside world. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake, the man had said. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Lovers walked arm in arm amid flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Unexpectedly, an alien thought entered his head: Why should he have all the pleasure of seeing everything while I never get to see anything? It didn't seem fair. As the thought fermented, the man felt ashamed at first. But as the days passed and he missed seeing more sights, his envy eroded into resentment and soon turned him sour. He began to brood and found himself unable to sleep. He should be by that window - and that thought now controlled his life.

Late one night, as he lay staring at the ceiling, the man by the window began to cough. He was choking on the fluid in his lungs. The other man watched in the dimly lit room as the struggling man by the window groped for the button to call for help. Listening from across the room, he never moved, never pushed his own button which would have brought the nurse running. In less than five minutes, the coughing and choking stopped, along with the sound of breathing. Now, there was only silence--deathly silence.

The following morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths. When she found the lifeless body of the man by the window, she was saddened and called the hospital attendant to take it away-- no words, no fuss. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall.

Moral of the story:

The pursuit of happiness is a matter of choice...it is a positive attitude we consciously choose to express. It is not a gift that gets delivered to our doorstep each morning, nor does it come through the window. And I am certain that our circumstances are just a small part of what makes us joyful. If we wait for them to get just right, we will never find lasting joy.

The pursuit of happiness is an inward journey. Our minds are like programs, awaiting the code that will determine behaviors; like bank vaults awaiting our deposits. If we regularly deposit positive, encouraging, and uplifting thoughts, if we continue to bite our lips just before we begin to grumble and complain, if we shoot down that seemingly harmless negative thought as it germinates, we will find that there is much to rejoice about.

**Have a great holiday and we look
forward to our association again in
Term 2, 2008**