As your son/daughter approaches their next phase of life entering high school I am sure you are wondering, as a parent/guardian, “Where do I fit in?” High school is a crucial moment in your son’s/daughter’s development towards becoming an adult. Contrary to popular belief, however, high school is not the time for parents/guardians to step back. In fact, more and more research has identified a strong correlation between successful student outcomes and positive partnerships between schools, families and the community.

A strong partnership increases

- self-esteem
- engagement in learning
- participation in more challenging subjects

and improves

- literacy and numeracy outcomes
- attendance
- completion of homework
- behaviour at home and school
- connection to school and learning
- school completion rates

A strong partnership also has benefits for families, it increases

- understanding of their child’s learning needs and progress
- confidence in the school environment
- investment in their child’s education
- feeling of support from school and other parents
- satisfaction with the work of the school

and improves

- self-esteem
- capacity to help their child do better at school
- involvement in their own education
- connection to the school
- links with community resources and services

With all of this in mind, we would like to offer you as many opportunities as possible for you to make connections with MacKillop Catholic College, along with your son/daughter.

Welcoming Liturgy and Morning Tea – Thursday, 9 February
We begin the start of the Year 7 academic year with a Welcome Liturgy on Thursday, 9 February, starting at 8.30a.m. in our Gym. It would be wonderful if you could time your arrival for around 8.00a.m.-8.15a.m. so that you and your son/daughter can gather with us on the basketball court, connect with teachers and meet other parents, fellow students, and the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders. We hope you will also be able to join us for Morning Tea hosted by the Principal, Mr Eamonn Pollard in the Rice Resource Centre (Library) following the Liturgy whilst the students begin their day with their new Tutors and friends.
Meet the Tutor Conferences – Friday, 3 March
You are also invited to join us on Friday, 3 March. Year 8-10 students and parents/guardians will be meeting with their Tutor Teachers to set social, academic and community goals for this coming Semester. The focus of the conferences for the Year 7 cohort will be to Meet the Tutor- a less structured, but invaluable opportunity for you and your son/daughter to meet the Tutor Teacher, to ask questions, to determine how your child is settling in and so on. There will also be opportunities to receive information regarding iPad usage at home and school prior to our roll out of the iPads in Week 4. In Semester 2 (start of Term 3), Year 7s will begin a goal setting process to set goals to achieve by the end of the year.

MacKillop Catholic College Swimming Carnival – Wednesday, 8 March
The Swimming Carnival on Wednesday, 8 March is yet another opportunity for parents/guardians to come along and join our College community. The event will be held at the Hobart Aquatic Centre on Wednesday, 8 March.

We look forward to welcoming your family to MacKillop Catholic College in 2017 and encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities presented throughout the year to meet staff and discuss your son/daughter’s progress.