3 February 2017

Dear Year 7 Students

As you prepare for your first day at MacKillop Catholic College...

It is important to remember that everyone is NEW on the first day. It is a new experience for all of you, and everyone is in the same boat. Many of you have attended a tour and the information evening at the College, but whether you are coming from a primary school with several other classmates, just a few, or you are the only one, it is likely that MacKillop Catholic College is a lot bigger than your previous school. So you are going to have a mixture of emotions. You may be feeling excited but you are also most likely feeling a little worried and nervous.

One of the biggest concerns you might be having is about finding your place, not only in your own Year group but also amidst the older students. The good news is, on Orientation Day, you are not only going to meet your Tutor Group and Teachers but also an awesome group of Year 10 students whose main job is to help you find your place and make connections at MacKillop.

Another concern you might be having is leaving old friends and making new ones. I will let you in on a secret – even adults find it hard to make new friends when put in a new environment. Whether you are coming to MacKillop knowing lots of other students or you don’t know anyone, finding where you ‘fit in’ will not always be easy - but you have made friends before and you will make friends again. To help you on these first few days, here are some tips.

- It is important at this stage to stay in contact with your ‘old’ school friends, but also be open to meeting new people.
- Give it time. Sometimes you connect with someone instantly because you have a shared interest, but this is not always the case.
- Friendships will change a lot as you grow and change through high school, so it helps to have a range of different people you can turn to on that first day.
- There will be many activities in the first week to help you get to know people. Be positive and introduce yourself to someone you don’t know.

The classrooms and timetable are set up at MacKillop to help you go from primary school to high school with very little drama, but it can still be difficult finding your way and having so many different teachers. At times, you may find yourself lost or unsure. Everyone has felt this way at some time and, like you, we were all new here once. We are here to help and while it may seem scary, the easiest way to avoid worrying is to ask.

We look forward to welcoming you to MacKillop Catholic College.

Kind regards

Ms Phillipa Coward
Year 7 Co-ordinator