

Red Bend Catholic College



A local community of Mission within the Australian Marist Community

Newsletter



Principal's message | Mr Stephen Dwyer

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of our College community.

Mercy Awards

Our College has been built upon two great religious traditions; the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy. Last week at assembly we announced the recipients of the 2021 Mercy Medals. The Mercy medals are presented to students who live by core Mercy values as espoused by Catherine McAuley the founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

This year a Mercy banner has been designed at the College that outlines six core values of Mercy Education. These values are:

Courage. Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, advised to "always act with courage." Courage helps us to be resilient in tough times, to keep on serving and to counter injustice.

Service. Jesus came among us as one who serves, and he called us to do the same. It means that we lead and influence others by serving the community.

Hospitality. Hospitality is about opening one's home and heart to those in need. It means for us to be good neighbours, welcoming everyone, and turning strangers into friends.

Respect. Catherine McAuley encouraged her Sisters to show "mutual respect". This means that we uphold the values and rights of all in our community. It is our responsibility to work with everyone for the Common Good.

Justice. Jesus is about fair treatment for all. Jesus said that those who seek justice are blessed. It has been said that 'mercy is justice in tears' because we seek justice with love.

Compassion. Compassion is about responding to the concerns of others with sympathy. It involves us being kind, gentle and patient with those around us.

I congratulate the recipients of the Mercy Medals. Each of these individuals through their actions display Mercy values. They are true and active examples of serving others by their quiet acts of kindness being lived out here in our college community. We are very proud to acknowledge them as our Mercy Medal winners for 2021. Pictures of the recipients are on the following pages.

ACE Awards

Congratulations also to the recipients of the ACE Awards that were announced at assembly this week. The ACE awards are important awards

that recognise individuals who are aiming at something better. Through their consistent application and ongoing dedication to their learning, they are making a genuine difference. Well done to all.

Year 12 Class of 2021

This week is normally the week where we are celebrating and farewelling our Year 12 students in their last week of learning. It is a time where we acknowledge and thank Year 12 for the amazing contribution they have made to the life of our College community. As the leaders of our college, their passion for life and learning, their great spirit, and active participation, has demonstrated great role modelling for others in our community. With the ongoing COVID restrictions, most of these activities and celebrations have been postponed until term 4. To bring conclusion to the last days of learning, Year 12 participated in an online reflection and celebration today. We are very proud of how they have responded to the many challenges that have come their way and we keep them in our prayers as they continue to prepare for their final HSC exams.

We have a lot to be proud of

As we look back over the term, especially the recent weeks of lockdown and online learning, we have a lot to be proud of. Although there have been many challenges, the Red Bend spirit has shone through and there is much to celebrate with numerous activities that our community has engaged with and supported. Some of these online activities include:

Week of Wellbeing activities

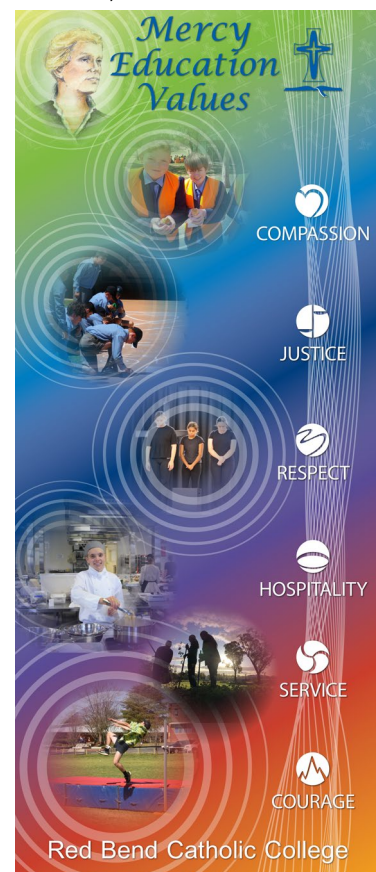
- Book Week daily activities
- Sport Trick shots
- Science Week activities
- Pastoral Care daily activities
- Year 11 online Marist Superconnect evening
- Year 12 have completed their Trial Exams online
- Year 11 have just completed their exams online
- The SRC and Student Leadership team have been meeting online

These are just some of the ways in which our community has risen above the challenges of COVID and continued to engage in life, faith and learning at the College.

I would like to thank the many parents, carers, students and staff who completed the online learning surveys. The survey data gives us very valuable information that will assist us to review,

analyse and improve online learning in the future. Our aim is always to provide quality online learning experiences for students when required. As the term draws to a close and the holidays begin, I hope the holiday break is a time for you and your family to rest and renew. I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the staff of the College for what they do each day in what has been a very challenging term. We are all carrying with us concerns for the health and wellbeing of each other; and we know that people are increasingly carrying greater burdens. Our Marist theme 'Breathe- the Spirit of Life' urges us to take time to slow down, breathe and be present to ourselves and those around us. I hope that the coming holidays is a time for you to rest, reflect and renew your spirit and that you all stay safe and well.

With the current stay-at-home orders lifted in the Forbes LGA it is our hope that we are able to start term 4 at the College with normal face to face learning. We will keep you updated over the holiday period if there are any changes. May Mary our Good Mother and St Marcellin Champagnat continue to watch over our community.



Mercy Medals



Claire Houghton



Ru Little



Vienna Farrell



Krista Barker



Seth Heckendorf



Noah Kennedy



Luke Hertslet



Georgia Tincknell



Hunter Ross



Elliott Ruhmann



Tahliyah Sullivan-Neen



Joshua Winter



Dean Van Wyk was the recipient of the Staff Medal

ACE Awards - Term 3

APPLICATION - CONSISTENCY - EFFORT



YEAR 7 - Baxter Brown, Halle Brown, Laura Chang, Tom Glasson, Tarlei Glastonbury, Zoey Hunter, Beau McMahon, Daisy McMahon, Isaac Page and Harry Turner.



YEAR 8 - Charles Best, Coby Hall, Ella Harbidge, Isla Kennedy, Phoebe Morrison, Ellie Parker, Cooper Pullen, Angus Pursehouse, Chet Read and Lara Smith.



YEAR 9 - Zoe Anderson, Clancy Bolam, Kaylar Emery, Ash Gates, Cooper Huppertz, Alyssa Loxley, Bella Neville, Sienna O'Connell, Steven Su and Clayton Wing Yip.



YEAR 10 - Michael Coady, Sophie Dunstan, Dekota Hindmarsh, Pat Kupkee, Tully McCahon, Ethan O'Neill, Ty Read, Stanley Rush, Bronte Thompson and Libby Wilder.



YEAR 11- Imogen Brenner, Laura Harley, Bradley Mattiske, Jamon McCarthy, Shaienne Metzeling, Finn Miller, Paris Neville, Tyler Nicholson, Eliza O'Connell and Joseph Pereira.



YEAR 12 - Patrick Cormie, Austin Fay, James Finn, Max Gates, Jaspar Hannelly, Chloe Harley, Nicholas Job, Charlie Jones, Kat Lancaster, Cameron Madgwick, Brooklyn Maloney, Jorja Mann, Calvin Matthews, Maisy Osborne, Billy Phillips, Claire Simpson, Isabella Thomson, Sophie Westley and Jayden Williams.



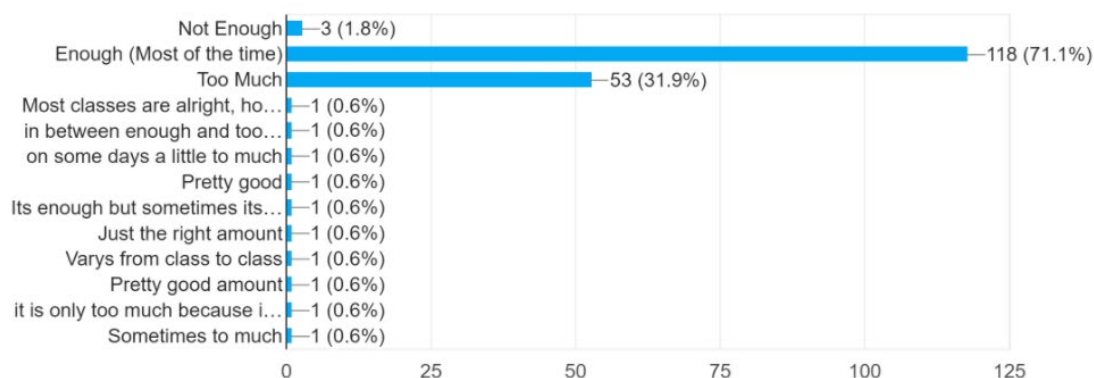
Deputy Principal's message Mr James Metzeling

Thanks to everyone for your continued support with online learning. We have been analysing the feedback provided to our online learning survey and felt it was important to share some of the findings below. Below you can see the data from the student and parent Surveys.

Question 1 - Student Survey

1. In regards to the amount of work provided for you. Do you find the amount of work provided:

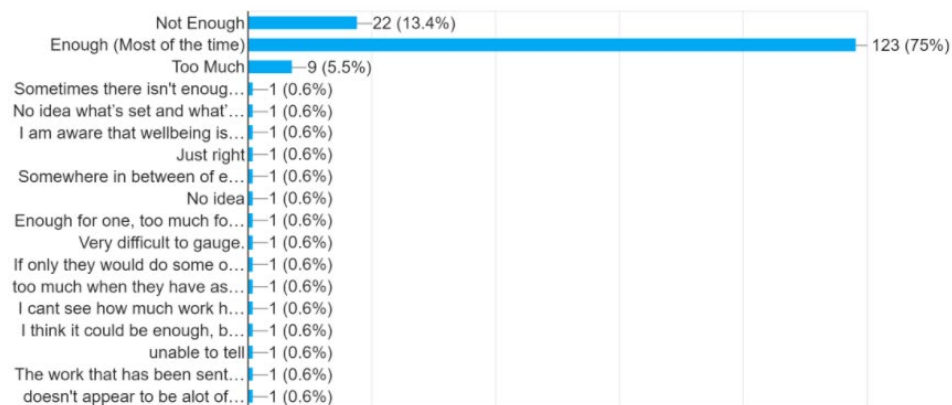
166 responses



Question 1 - Parent and Carer Survey

1. In regards to the amount of work provided for your child. Do you find the amount of work provided:

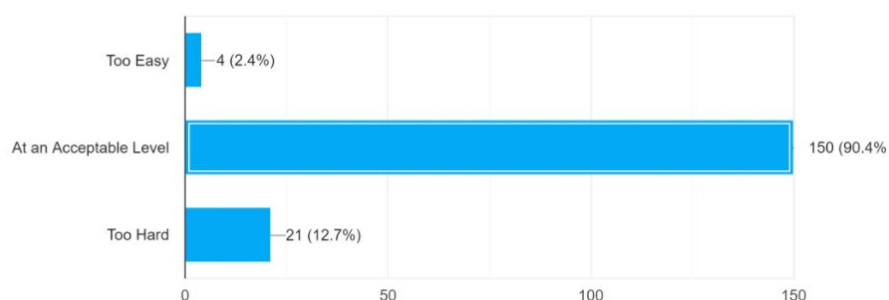
164 responses



Question 2 - Student Survey

2. In regards to the academic nature of the work that was set, do you find it:

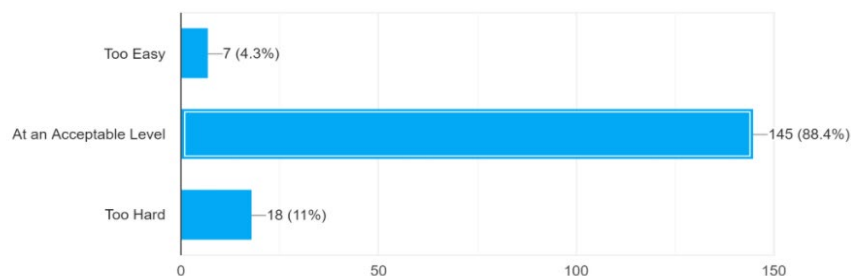
166 responses



Question 2 - Parent and Carer Survey

2. In regards to the academic nature of the work that was set, does your child find it

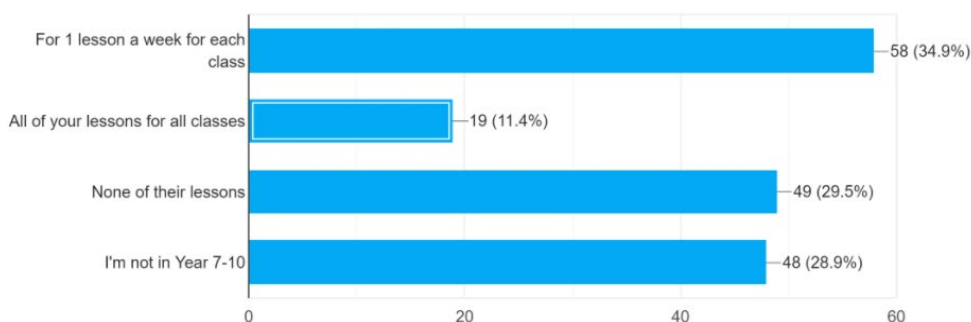
164 responses



Question 3 - Student Survey

3. If you are in Yr 7-10, would you like to be involved in a google meet with your class

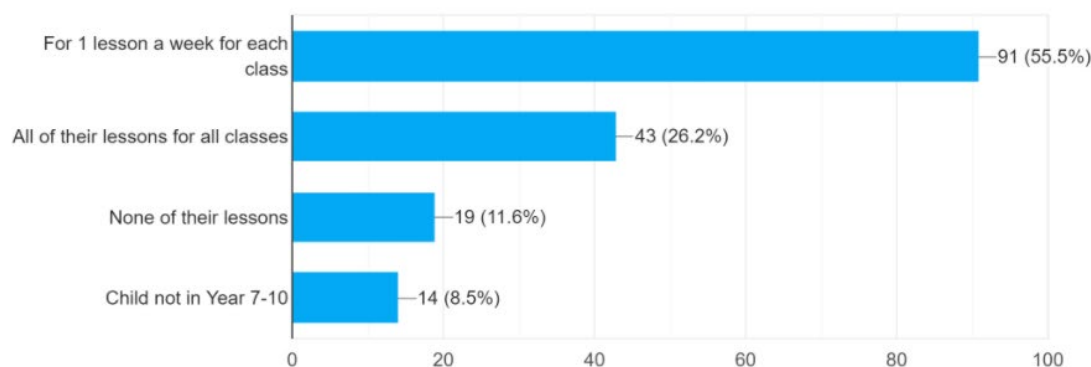
166 responses



Question 3 - Parent and Carer Survey

3. If your child is in Yr 7-10, would you like them to be involved in a "google meet" video conference with their class

164 responses



We have found this feedback and data very valuable and it will help inform us with our planning for the future should the need remain to return to online learning.

Digital Distractions:

Technology is an integral part of life for our children – it's the portal for their leisure, learning and connection. However, digital technologies can also disrupt a child's focus, put a dent in their learning and compromise their wellbeing.

If you are interested in finding out more about what you have just read I would encourage you to watch the following webinar. The webinar covers the following:

- how long we should expect focused attention from children and teens
- the research behind why digital distractions are interfering with our children's attention
- how some technologies have been intentionally designed to be captivating and alluring
- why banning technology isn't the solution
- how to teach children and teens how to build a 'fortress around their focus' and leverage the benefits that technology offers them

Clicking on this link will take you to the webinar : Digital Distractions.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday break. God Bless.

Cake decorating

Last week the Mrs Tandy's Year 11 and 12 Hospitality students were set a challenge - to make a birthday cake! Partly due to the fact that the Forbes Show was unable to happen, and partly due to the fact that it was Mrs Tandy's big birthday!

As you can see, a number of students made a real effort to make some cakes, and the bonus for them was they got to eat them afterwards! Congratulations to Year 11 and 12 Hospitality students- stellar effort!

Tristin Nicholls is the guest judge for this year. Her placings are as follows:

Thanks Laura for asking me to Judge, a great little challenge set for them.

The students have done a wonderful job trying their hand at cake decorating. This can be very tricky in many ways, it definitely comes down to trial and error... We have all learnt that over the years with our Yr 9 Show cake entries!

The caramilk one looks like you'd definitely need a few litres of water to follow!

The standout one for me would have to be the cake with purple flowers. The buttercream looks like a great consistency and they have beaten the butter to almost white, which is great. Lots of effort has gone into smoothing out the icing around the cake.

All others deserve a Highly commended. Well done to the students who took the time and effort to have a go at this task.

Tristin



Astronomy ...

Earth...The Ride! by Mr Alex Abbey

If you've ever been to Movie World on the Gold Coast, you may have been dared to go on "Batman...The Ride!", or some such.

You've possibly even had a ride on the Cha Cha at the local Show at some time.

As you sit on the ride you are moving in at least three different circles, all at the same time.

No wonder you feel dizzy by the time the ride is over...and probably wishing you hadn't eaten that last hotdog or ice cream.

However, even if you were one of the people wisely watching the Cha Cha from the other side of the barrier...you were still experiencing many different motions, all at the same time!

It's just that throughout your life you have experienced a fine balance of gravity, centrifugal force, and inertia.

The Earth's gravity is trying to pull you towards its core.

At the same time, the Earth spins on its axis once a day (every 24 hours) and this spinning would throw us out into Space if it wasn't for that gravity.

(The Earth's spin is so fast that the fastest military aircraft struggle to keep up with it.)

Then the Earth is also orbiting around our Sun on a journey that takes an entire year (365 and a quarter days).

Add to that the fact that our Sun and our entire Solar System, and all the other stars in our Milky Way Galaxy, are revolving quite quickly around the centre of our galaxy.

(It only takes a couple of hundred million years for the Milky Way to rotate once, but we cover an almost unthinkable rotational distance in that time.)

Then there is the accelerating expansion of the entire Universe because of the Big Bang explosion, so our galaxy is moving away from most other galaxies at breakneck speed.

So next time you look up into the night sky, think for a moment about all these different motions that you are experiencing during every second of your life.

But don't think about it for too long...you might start to feel dizzy.

By the way, even though there really isn't "up" or "down" in Space, the next time you are looking "up" at the night sky, consider that in a way, you are hanging off the bottom of our planet, looking "down" into infinity.

I hope you aren't scared of heights.

While we're thinking about all this motion, let's try to spot a few satellites streaking across the sky.

The Chinese Space Station, Tiangong, which translates to "Heavenly Palace" is the best one to spot at a reasonable hour for the next week or so.

(However, it's much smaller than the International Space Station and therefore not nearly as bright.)

The following table lists the times that Tiangong will be visible above Parkes and Forbes next week.

Date	Start			Highest Point			End		
	Time	Degrees Above Horizon	Direction	Time	Degrees Above Horizon	Direction	Time	Degrees Above Horizon	Direction
20 Sept	7:00pm	10	NW	7:03pm	53	NNE	7:04pm	28	E
22 Sept	6:35pm	10	WNW	6:38pm	78	SSW	6:42pm	10	ESE

This information is provided courtesy of the Heavens Above website

www.heavens-above.com

Happy stargazing!

NAPLAN results

Over the coming days, if not already, parents of students in Years 7 and 9 will receive the 2021 NAPLAN results. These tests were held back in May, this year being the first time that all tests were done online. Please make contact with the school if you do not receive your child's results or if you have any questions.

Year 11 Exams

The Year 11 Yearly exams concluded on Wednesday 15th September. The exams assessed the Year 11 students' knowledge, skills and understanding of the course outcomes covered in terms one to three. The exams included multiple choice questions, short answer and extended or essay responses. Students had to answer a range of questions that required them to recall and apply their knowledge, make inferences, solve problems, critically evaluate, make a judgement, troubleshoot for a solution and or analyse.

The online exam experience was not without its challenges. Wifi drop outs, limited internet and hardware breakdowns, for some students, were ever present obstacles. Despite these challenges the students navigated their way through the online exams with patience, resilience and determination.

Congratulations to all Year 11 students for reaching the significant milestone, in their education, by completing the preliminary course study. The Year 11 courses provide an essential foundation for the HSC. Feedback from the exams will provide motivation and direction for students. Term four heralds the final stage of the students' secondary school journey, with the start of the HSC course.

We extend our best wishes to the Year 11 students for the upcoming holidays. A time to relax and recharge.



IT information

Over the holidays the IT team will be switching to a new web filter. This will give us more insights into your child's digital wellbeing at school. It will mean that your child will need to enrol their device into the school management system (if not already done so). Please keep an eye out for an email to your inbox early next week.

Please ensure that you have
downloaded the app

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