



# Maronite College of the Holy Family NEWSLETTER

23-25 Alice Street, Harris Park, 2150  
Tel: 9633 6600 Email: [Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Admin@mchf.nsw.edu.au)

**Term 1 - Weeks 1-2: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *Prayer for a New School Year*



*God of wisdom and might,  
We praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body, and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and the staff.  
Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding;  
and peace to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

A warm welcome to all the existing and new families joining the Maronite College of the Holy Family Community. I assure you that your children will be in safe hands. We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and are now ready to begin another successful school year.

#### **Our topic for 2021 is RESPECT**

Respect yourselves and others, respect the building and facilities by taking care of them.

#### **Our Spiritual Topic for 2021 is ST JOSEPH**

Pope Francis has declared 2021 as the year of St Joseph. We are dedicated to honour, reflect, follow, and imitate the virtues of St Joseph. He is the Patron of the Church, the Patron of all Christian Families, the Patron of workers.

While you were all enjoying the break there was a lot of maintenance happening around the College. The following maintenance work was carried out:

#### **D Block**

Storm Prevention Barriers were installed to further enhance the safety and comfort of all students whilst also giving the balconies a new look.

#### **A Block**

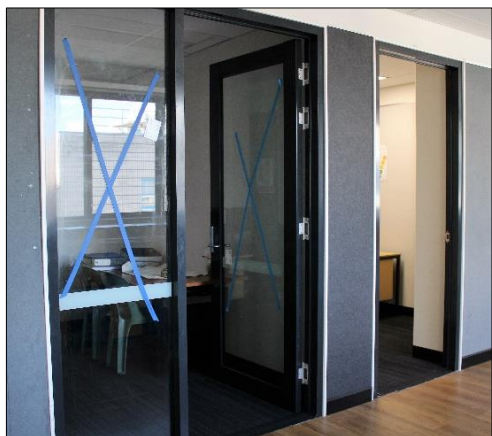
Cladding work is still in progress. This will be giving the College a new facelift.

The two projects above have come to a total cost of \$2.3 million.



In addition to the above projects the following was also completed in the holidays:

- 2 new staff offices in C-Block & 4 new staff offices in B-Block this enables more space for Coordinators to meet with students and parents.
- Painting
- New rails around D-Block



All these jobs have given the College a new facelift. Let us pray that this new look and new year will be the start of a new journey free from viruses, stress, and problems.

I would like to welcome all the new staff to the College. I encourage all parents to make contact with their children's teachers by phone or email. Face to face meeting should only take place for urgent matters and should not take longer than 10 minutes. A reminder to all parents about observing social distancing at all times and wearing masks when coming on to the College grounds.

**Sr Irene Boughosn**  
**PRINCIPAL**





A very special thank you is extended to all the parents and friends of the College for their donations towards the Container that arrived in Beirut on Christmas Day, 2020. The Container has now reached the hands of the Maronite Sisters in Lebanon. All donations will be distributed to those in need.

On behalf of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family and Caritas we thank you for your support and wish God's blessings upon you and your families.



## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### Welcome to 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Year. A new year, new possibilities, new experiences!

I am honoured to commence a new journey at the College as the Assistant Principal. I look forward to the journey, including the challenges and celebrations, as we continue to work towards building the hard work we have been doing in the past few years.

I take this opportunity to welcome our new kindergarten and year 7 students as they respectively commence new chapters in their lives. I welcome our new students and families who have joined us this year.

### MCHF Welcomes New Staff

The College welcomes our new staff to the College for 2021. The Staff commenced their induction process by attending their orientation session as part of the first phase of their induction. The new staff will undergo their second phase in settling in for the next three terms. In their fourth term the staff will participate in a review session to finalise and officially complete their induction. We wish our new staff all the best during their time in our community. We welcome the following staff members:



Primary	Secondary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Zeait (Leader of Learning - Stage 1)</li> <li>• Mr Aboufarah (Leader of Learning - Stage 2)</li> <li>• Ms Kevill (Leader of Learning - Stage 3)</li> <li>• Ms MacLeod (Kindy Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Zgiar (Year 1 Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Webb (Year 1 Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Beylouni (Stage 3 Support)</li> <li>• Ms Abi Kabalane (Year 5 Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Mekdessi (Year 6 Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Francis (Year 6 Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Issi (Arabic)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms McCluskey (Head of Secondary)</li> <li>• Ms Papanastasiou (Learning Centre Supervisor)</li> <li>• Ms Ishak (PDHPE Teacher)</li> <li>• Mr Vial (PDHPE and Religion Teacher)</li> <li>• Ms Tleige (Science Teacher)</li> <li>• Mr Cunningham (English and HSIE Teacher)</li> <li>• Mr Yager (Science Teacher)</li> <li>• Mr Bartlett (VET Construction Teacher)</li> </ul>



### COVID Guidelines

The following COVID guidelines are effective as of first day of Term 1, 2021:

- The College is a registered COVID Safe premises.
- Parents/Guardians can enter the College grounds for one of the following reasons:
  - Purchase items (i.e. books or uniform) or make payments
  - Drop off students in Kindergarten, Years 1, 2 and 7
  - Attend Parent Orientation meetings for Kindergarten or Year 7 and 'meet the teacher' meetings with staff for all year/stage groups.
- Attend meetings with staff with an appointment only. All parents/guardians, guests and visitors must **sign in using the QR Code** when entering the College grounds and a **mask must be worn** when on College grounds. All meetings will be limited with to 1 hour where possible. A COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
- Parent Association Meetings can proceed on College grounds after school hours.
- Water bubblers will be reconnected. However, we still encourage students to bring their own water bottles.
- All students over the age of 12 are required to wear a Mask when travelling on public transport (or chartered/private transport) to and from the College.

We request and appreciate your cooperation as we play our part to ensure our College remains a COVID Safe premises.



## 2021 Theme: RESPECT

Our 2021 Theme focuses on respect. It is important that we support this theme in all aspects of the College life.

### MCHF Learner Model

We are proud to launch our MCHF Learner Model as part of our work to establish a K-12 learning framework. The model identifies dispositions we aim to instil in our teaching and learning at the College.

### Uniform and Grooming Expectations

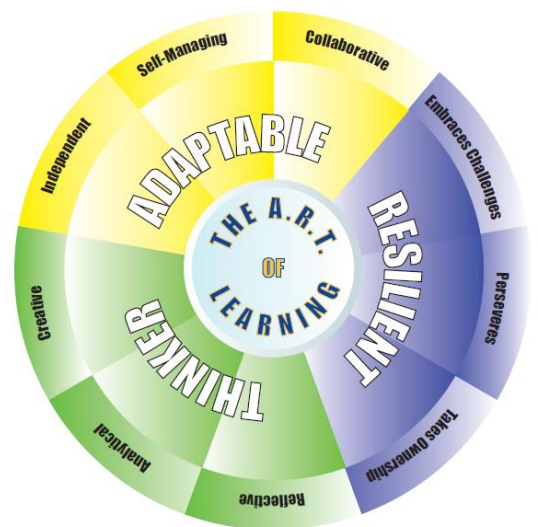
One of the focuses for this year, as part of our College Theme, is to improve the uniform and grooming of our students. Therefore, you may be contacted and advised to address or rectify a concern in regards to your child's uniform and grooming. The expectation is that parents/guardians and students will respect and adhere to the College's policies and procedures. The importance of self-respect and respect for the College is shown by how every student presents themselves every morning. We appreciate your support and cooperation in this matter.

### Staff Training

The Staff at Maronite College of the Holy Family commenced the 2021 year with three days of Professional Development. The Staff were presented on a session of the Maronite Faith and Traditions by Fr Geoffrey Abdallah (Dean of St Maroun's Cathedral, Redfern) and the Year of St Joseph, presented by the College Principal, Sr Irene Boughosn.

Furthermore, Staff were addressed on the changes to NESA's Professional Development and the COVID Guidelines by the College's new Assistant Principal, Elie Asmar.

This was followed by two days of staff attending various training sessions including Child Protection, Anaphylaxis, CPR and Asthma.







**Mr E. Asmar**  
**Assistant Principal**

## PRIMARY NEWS

Welcome back to a new year. I would particularly like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have joined the MCHF community. I am sure the Christmas break was a great time for families to rest, rejuvenate and get ready for the year ahead. The start of any school year always begins with a certain amount of excitement and frenzy. Teachers are busily getting their classrooms prepared and programmes finalised whilst parents are purchasing school supplies, uniforms and lunch box goodies. For the students, their eagerness to return was seen on the first day as they caught up with their friends and shared wonderful stories from their holidays. As I visited classes, I was impressed to see that all students had quickly settled back into the school routine. For this, I must thank the dedicated and organised staff here at MCHF who have worked throughout the break to create a calm and nurturing environment for the students.

### Kindergarten 2021

On Wednesday, we officially welcomed our 2021 Kindergarten students to MCHF. This is a huge milestone in the life of a child and indeed for their parents as well. You can be assured our whole school community are ready and willing to look after them as they commence their educational journey. By the end of day one, I can honestly say that, although somewhat tired, all students had enjoyed their first taste of 'Big School'. Each one of them is a blessing to our College and they have certainly put the biggest of smiles on the face of their teachers. This year, our Kindergarten teachers are Ms Bechara (Kindy Red), Ms Alweddy (Kindy Rose), Ms MacLeod (Kindy Blue) and Ms Delos-Reyes (Kindy White).







### Holy Communion

This term our Year 4 students will begin to prepare for their First Holy Communion which will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 10:30 am**. A Parent Information Session has been scheduled for **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm**. The meeting will provide information about parental spiritual guidance and other relevant details regarding the celebration. A note outlining specific details of the meeting will be sent home early next week. We keep them in our prayers and thoughts as they embark on this important spiritual journey.

### Importance of Reading

As we start back in the routines of school life, I ask that you continue to encourage your children to read each day. Talking to them about what they have read allows them to practise sharing their ideas and understanding about the text. Also take time to read yourself. Children who see their parents read are more likely to become good readers themselves.

### College Uniform

As we begin the new school year, it is important that all students comply with uniform expectations. Wearing the College uniform with pride is an important message to give to your child about their identity as a member of the MCHF community. This includes having appropriate haircuts and wearing the College hat when playing. We would appreciate parent assistance in ensuring that the College Policy is always adhered to by your child. If you have



good reason why your child is not in correct uniform, we kindly ask that a note be written and sent to the class teacher.

### **Weekly Merit Awards**

The Merit award recognises the achievements of individual students. Classroom and specialist teachers reward students who are demonstrating academic progress or social improvement in their class or on the playground. Merit Awards are presented to students at Wednesday morning assemblies. Awards will also focus on our College theme of respect as well as social skills.

### **Keys to Success**

Positive behaviour of students is also encouraged through the Keys to Success program. When students display the qualities of Persistence, Kindness, Honesty, Courage, Patience and Reverence they will receive a token. After accumulating 6 tokens, students will receive an award. There are 4 awards to obtain. These include the All Rounder, Bronze, Silver and Principal's Award.

### **Primary Music Lessons**

Mr Wood will be holding private music lessons on Wednesday's each week. To enrol your child, please see the Administration staff in the Main Office. The cost of each 30-minute lesson is \$20.

**Mr D. Day**

**Head of Primary**

## **SECONDARY NEWS**

On behalf of the Secondary staff, I welcome all students back to the College for 2021. My name is Erin McCluskey and I am the new Head of Secondary at Maronite College of the Holy Family. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has made me feel so welcome since I have arrived, and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of our families over the year.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January we welcomed Year 7 for their Induction Day with our Year 10 Peer Support Leaders. Students got to meet their homeroom teachers and Year Advisor, Ms Hadchiti, and were given the opportunity to settle in and get to know the Secondary school before the rest of the students returned.



On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February we welcomed back the rest of the Secondary school and held our first

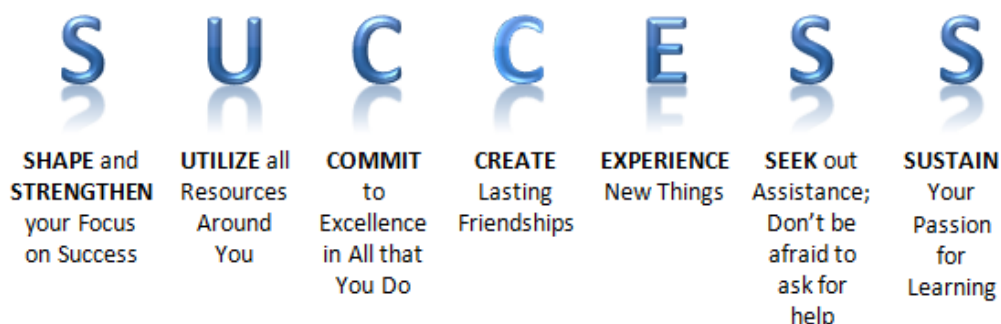


assembly in almost a year. In my address to students, I spoke about our focus for the year; presentation, behaviour and academic excellence.

The expectations around behaviour, uniform and grooming were outlined to all students. This year, we will be placing an emphasis on these expectations and ensuring students present themselves in a professional manner. *Please see, below, a summary of the 'Student Uniform and Grooming Policy'.*

'We are what we repeatedly do, therefore excellence is not an act, but a habit'.

Developing good habits is a key to success. Students were asked to raise the bar they need to reach this year and believe that they can reach it as the only way to achieve more is to expect more. They were asked to set goals for themselves to work towards and to work hard to achieve them. We are raising the standards and I am confident that each student will be able to achieve their own success this year.



### Student Uniform and Grooming Policy (Secondary)

*Updated 4/11/202*

#### Hairstyles and Grooming

All students are expected to observe the fundamental standards of personal cleanliness and hygiene necessary to promote good health and well-being.

#### Boys

Boys are expected to keep their hair well-groomed and clean at all times. Haircuts, which by their style or length draw attention to themselves as being out of the ordinary is not permitted. Appropriate haircuts are professional, blended, short and neat. The cut must not have any steps, shaved lines, razors on skin or reach the eye brows. *Any student with such a haircut will be directed to fix the problem within 24 hours, otherwise, they will be sent home to until the problem is rectified.*

- The only jewellery permitted for boys is a suitable watch and a religious cross on small chain
- No ear rings or rings are permitted
- No bracelets are permitted (religious bracelets is permitted, but not recommended)
- Boys must be clean-shaven every day; no facial hair or sideburns are permitted. Students who come un-shaven to the College will be contacted by the College for an arrangement to be made to rectify the issue such as providing permission to shave at the College or sending home to shave.
- No eyebrow slits are permitted
- Tattoos of any size or shape are not permitted
- Excessive use of hair gel is not permitted
- Use of Antiperspirant roll on deodorants is permitted and recommended

#### Girls

Girls hairstyles must be neat, clean and tidy. Hair should only be of a natural colour. Cuts and management of hair needs to suit the uniform and be appropriate for College appearance. Girls with long hair (shoulder length and longer) are to tie it back with royal-blue or black ribbon or hair-ties. Girls with short hair are to ensure hair is tied up off the face. No hair extensions allowed. *Any student which does not meet these requirements will be directed to fix the problem within 24 hours.*

The College limits the amount and type of jewellery students can wear because jewellery can put a student's safety at risk when the student is participating in certain sporting, science or technology activities.

- A watch is allowed as well as a cross on a necklace chain



- Girls are allowed to wear only ONE PAIR of simple ear stud or sleepers in the centre of the ear lobe. No additional piercings or additional clear earrings are permitted.
- No nose rings permitted
- No rings, bracelets or anklets are permitted (religious bracelets is permitted, but not recommended)
- No make-up, nail polish or artificial nails are to be worn
- Tattoos of any size or shape are not permitted
- Use of Antiperspirant roll on deodorants is permitted and recommended

Unacceptable items, if worn, will be confiscated by the teacher. They will be kept in the College Office for safe keeping and returned to the student at the discretion of the Director of Pastoral Care or Year Advisor. Homeroom Teachers will conduct uniform and grooming inspections every morning and offenders will be reported to their Year Advisor for follow up. College staff will continue to monitor student uniform and grooming throughout the day, including recess and lunch.

The College requests the support of parents/guardians in administering the College Uniform and Grooming code. This can be achieved by ensuring that students are correctly dressed and groomed when leaving for school in the morning. If there is a reason that a student is unable to wear correct uniform, a signed note must be provided, indicating the nature of the issue and when the situation is likely to be remedied. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact the Year Advisor at any time with concerns or questions regarding the uniform or grooming standards. Disciplinary action is taken against students who are out of uniform on a consistent basis.

### College Bag

The approved Maronite College of the Holy Family bag is the only bag permitted and can be purchased from the College. It is to be kept in good condition with no stickers attached, or graffiti displayed. It should be clearly labelled with the student's name and address. No other bag of any type is permitted to be brought to the College.

### College Uniform

Boys Items	Girls Items	Unisex Items
Sky Short Sleeve Shirt with Crest	Sky Short Sleeve Peter Pan Collar Shirt with Crest	Boys and Girls Blazer with Crest
Sky Long Sleeve Shirt with Crest	Sky Long Sleeve Peter Pan Collar Shirt with Crest	Boys and Girls Woollen Jumper with Crest
Grey Trousers	All Season Pleat Front/Back Skirt	Boys and Girls Short Sleeve Polo with Crest
Plain Royal Tie (Yrs 7-10)	Royal Cross Over Tab Tie (Yrs 7-10)	Boys and Girls Short Sleeve House Polo with Logo
Tartan Tie (Yrs 11-12)	Tartan Cross Over Tab Tie (Yrs 11-12)	Boys and Girls Long Sleeve Polo with Crest
Grey/black Socks	Navy/black Socks	Boys and Girls Sport Shorts
<b>Available from the College</b> College Bag Caps Scarfs Beanies		Boys and Girls Track Suit Pants
		Boys and Girls Track Suit Jacket with Crest
		White Ankle Style Sport Socks
No shoes other than closed black leather school shoes (for College uniform) or sport running shoes (for sport uniform) are to be worn. Such permission would ordinarily be for medical reasons only.		

**NOTE:** Students in Years 7-10 are to wear their full College sports uniform only on sport days. The House Polos must be worn on Thursdays and at Carnivals. Students in Years 11-12 must wear the correct sports uniform, including the College tracksuit, when they participate in sporting activities. This may include the College Senior personalised Jersey/Jacket.

**Ms E. McCluskey**  
**Head of Secondary**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8A and 8B Learn to Swim Program
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8A and 8B Learn to Swim Program
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8C and 8D Learn to Swim Program
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Year 8C and 8D Learn to Swim Program
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – St Maroun's Feast Day and Honour Day Mass at 9am (Years 11-12)
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Monday:  
Years 8-10 receive ashes at 10:45am  
Years K-7, 11 and 12 receive ashes at 1:30pm
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Parent Volunteer Induction
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Year 7A and 7B Learn to Swim Program
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Holy Communion meeting for parents at 6:30pm (OLOL CYPC)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Secondary Parent Information Evening at 6:30pm
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Year 7A and 7B Learn to Swim Program
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February – PDSSSC Opens Basketball Gala Day
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Mass at 9am for Years 8 and 11
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – 7C and 7D Learn to Swim Program
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Year 7C and 7D Learn to Swim Program
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Wellbeing Wednesday
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Secondary Swimming Carnival
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Mass at 9am for Years 3 and 5
- **Monday 1st March – STUDENT FREE DAY – Staff Development Day**
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Photo Days
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9am for Years 9 and 12
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – PDSSSC Touch Football Gala Day
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – College Tour
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Social Justice Mass at 9am (Years 7 and 10)
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Bullying Awareness Week
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – St Joseph Mass at 9am (Years 2 and 6)
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9 Camp
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Mass at 9am for Years 1 and 5
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Stations of the Cross at 11:30am (Years 7-10)
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Holy Week Mass at 9am (Years 4 and 7)
- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Term 1 Ends**

## ★★★ CONGRATULATIONS ★★★

**All Rounder Awards:**

**EARLY DAYS YET!**

**Bronze Awards:**

**Silver Awards:**

**Principal's Awards:**

## THIS WEEK...

Mrs LeMerle and 2 Purple go on an adventure without leaving the Learning Centre – The joys of reading!





Regarding Play League Stars, below, you will find the flyer and form attached with this newsletter

# PLAY LEAGUE STARS:

**WHEN:** 15/2/2021 - 22/3/2021

**TIME:** Mondays 3.15pm - 4.15pm

**WHERE:** Maronite College of the Holy Family



**LEAGUE  
STARS**

## PARENT CORNER

Parents; Please check your details on the school portal and make any necessary changes. In particular, please ensure address, contact numbers and email addresses are correct.



# Traffic Controller Wanted!

The College is seeking a qualified traffic controller to assist with morning drop offs and afternoon pickups.

For more information or to express interest in the position, please contact the Main Administration.

## Impetigo (School Sores)

Recently an outbreak of *Impetigo (School Sores)* has been discovered at the College. Students with the following symptoms should seek medical attention.

- The first symptoms can include areas of the body blistered or crusted. Blistering Impetigo may rapidly grow in size and number. Crusted Impetigo usually grows slowly and are always smaller than the fully developed spots of blistering impetigo.
- In cases where a larger area of skin is affected, a person can develop a fever, swollen lymph nodes or feel generally unwell.

If you find signs of *Impetigo (School sores)*, please seek medical attention from your family doctor and avoid contact with other people. Impetigo is usually spread through direct contact with other infected people.

Students with *Impetigo* are to ensure that the sores are kept clean and covered with a waterproof dressing. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and water for 10-15 seconds after sores are touched or redressed.

Students with *Impetigo* who cannot have their wound covered should be kept at home until 24 hours after the antibiotic treatment has been started or until the blisters have dried out if antibiotics are not used. Please refer to the Fact Sheet for more information.

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that parents of Maronite College of the Holy Family have exclusive access to Elevate Education's Parent Webinar Series for Term 1, 2021. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

## PARENT WEBINAR SERIES

TERM 1, 2021

### #1 | MOTIVATION

"My child only studies when I nag them to". The best study methods are useless unless your child has the motivation to begin. Learn how to create & sustain motivation across the year.

### #2 | TIME MANAGEMENT

Does your child cram for tests last-minute? Then this is the webinar to tune into. Students lead busy lives, and you can help them to work smart, kick procrastination and achieve balance.

### #3 | TECHNOLOGY

Tech and devices are integral to a child's life and learning – so you can't simply switch them off. The question is how we learn to responsibly use technology and help our child navigate and self-regulate this challenging area.

### #4 | NOTE TAKING

Does your child study for an exam by re-reading their entire textbook or copying it word-for-word? We help your child create an efficient, succinct, and useful set of notes to deepen their revision.

- ✓ Live Q&A
- ✓ Resources & Planners
- ✓ Community Support

## TERM 1 Webinar Dates

### February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

### March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

>>> CLICK TO REGISTER<<<

**elevate**  
education

1300 667 945  
auscoaching@elevateeducation.com



The webinars take place across term 1, beginning on **Wednesday 10th February** at 6pm. Registration is essential and is free for parents of Maronite College of the Holy Family.

[You can register by clicking here.](#)

The webinar is run **live online from 6pm – 7pm** where the presenter will share Elevate's key research and skills, and will conduct a live Q&A so you can ask them questions directly.

Should you have questions or would like to contact Elevate directly, their details are listed below.

☎ [1300 667 945](tel:1300667945)

✉ [auscoaching@elevateeducation.com](mailto:auscoaching@elevateeducation.com)

🌐 <https://au.elevateeducation.com>

👉 <https://www.facebook.com/ElevateEd/>

#### **2021 BYOD Portal**

<https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod/>

School Code: MCHFBYOD

#### **FOLLOW US...**

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**LinkedIn:** <https://au.linkedin.com/company/maronite-college-of-the-holy-family>