



Tuesday 6 February 2024

Re: Sacred Heart College Camps Program

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

This letter is to inform families and the broader Sacred Heart College community of decisions that have been made in respect of our Camps program for 2024 and future years.

Sacred Heart College has had a strong tradition of year level camps with different camps offered for Year 7 – 10. These reflect our firm belief that camps are an essential part of the holistic education described in the College’s mantra, “Learn. Care. Flourish.” Perhaps the clearest evidence in support of their importance were the Covid-19 years when many camps and excursions were unable to proceed, and students’ growth and general wellbeing was negatively affected.

However, a number of significant issues have arisen in relation to the College’s camps program over the last few years. These include:

- A significant increase in the cost per student of camps, and particularly the Year 9 & 10 camps. These camps have almost doubled in cost per head.
- The 2022 Victorian Catholic Schools industrial agreement introduced a payment or time in lieu (TIL) requirement for teachers required to attend any activities outside school hours. In effect, this cost results in teachers receiving payment/TIL of 2 ½ days for each night away on camp.
- The College has found it increasingly difficult to adequately staff camps particularly with teaching shortages across the country.

As a result, the College has decided to transition over the next two years to a new model of camps. At Sacred Heart College, year level adventure camps will be a feature of the Junior School Program with students participating in the camps program at Year 7, 8 and 9. Students in Senior School will participate in retreats, reflections days as well as the opportunity to be involved in external immersion experiences.

This change will be implemented over the following three years to ensure that the transition occurs in an equitable and manageable fashion.

The following table details the transition:

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Year 7	3 day adventure camp (Kingleake)	No change	No change	No change
Year 8	5 day adventure camp (Anglesea)	No change	No change	No change
Year 9	4 day interstate camp	4 day adventure camp (venue & date TBC)	5 day Alpine Camp	5 day Alpine Camp
Year 10	5 day Alpine Camp	5 day Alpine Camp	5 day Alpine Camp	No camp

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As noted, the College is still to confirm the new arrangements for the 2024 Year 9 camp, but it is expected to be held in the second half of the year at a Victorian location. We will inform students and parents of these details as soon as possible.

If you have any questions on this, please contact the College via camps@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Egberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren Egberts
PRINCIPAL