Year 9 Information Evening
Agenda

- **Introduction and Welcome** – Mr Peter Freitag
- **Outdoor Education in Year 9** – Mr Liam Sullivan
- **Personal Project and International Baccalaureate** – Mr Ben Beaton
- **Communicating Progress** – Ms Jan Skidmore
- **Canberra Tour** – Ms Jan Skidmore
- **Social Issues** – Mr Peter Freitag
Outdoor Education
Personal Project and International Baccalaureate

*IBO Mission Statement*

The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
Summer Term 2009
• February 24 Parent Information Evening
• March 25 Student Review Meeting
• April 9 Boarders’ Student Review Meeting

Autumn Term 2009
• May 12-14 NAPLAN Testing (results to be posted home)
• Week beginning May 25 Semester 1 Reports posted home
• June 26 Civics Programme (either Canberra Tour or Perth/Fremantle)

Winter Term 2009
• August 18 Personal Project Information Meeting (Students)
• August 20 Personal Project Information Meeting (Parents)
• As scheduled Outdoor Education Programme
• Week beginning October 5 Semester 2 Reports posted home

Spring Term 2009
• October 19 Students commence Year 10
• November 16 Year 10 Parent Information Evening
• Week beginning December 7 Year 10 Interim Reports

Important Events
• May 14 PA/MA Year 9 Parents’ Function
• TBA Social Activity
• December 4 Speech Night
Sharing what we know ..

- How has the term started?
- How has the year started?
- What is the impact of “growth spurts”?
- Are they achieving a balance – homework, sport, sleep, social?
- Has the communication changed?
- What is wonderful about my son?
Canberra Tour

- Questions to Mr Steve Davey (9383 6852) or Rebecca Kennington number (9383 6956) (Monday-Wednesday)
- Meeting for students later this term re rooming requirements etc.
- Meeting for parents in Autumn Term.
- This year 130 boys are participating.
- Remaining balance will be charged to the school account.
Social Issues
Things you need to know …..

• Year 9 is one of the two hardest years.
• What you do and say is copied by your son without you realising it.
• This is a crucial year for giving your grunting son time – learn to grunt back but be there.!
• Watch out for boredom – keep him busy (music, sport, hobbies, school, work).
• Do things with him and his friends (he’s not too old for family fun).
• Avoid allowing him to go to places where you think there might be a lack of mature supervision …….
Social Issues

• Young people are so well connected. They work together with email, SMS, phone calls and the like – they are networked to put the pressure on you en masse!

• Young people are under enormous commercial pressure (buy this, use that).

• Parents are so busy and our young people often feel alone and vulnerable. Our working hours don’t always allow us to see our boys as often as we would like.

• Girls are more forward these days. Both boys and girls are maturing earlier. Mature bodies but not necessarily mature minds and social skills.

• Peer pressure.
Social Issues

• You have to work together, YOU have to network. There is an army of young people out there … and you think you can do it alone? Get involved with each other, talk to each other – you can be subtle about it! We all want our boys to grow up safely and with direction.

• Talk to other parents, get to know them. Don’t let your children make the decisions. Work with them.

• Your child will NOT die of embarrassment if you ring up his mate’s parents to see what they think about the trip down south…or the upcoming party.

• It’s especially difficult for single parents. They particularly need the network.
Boundaries

Can you play hockey without the sidelines?
Parties and Alcohol

• You are allowed to say no.

• You are unlikely to be your son’s best friend.
And if it goes wrong ......

- There must be consequences..

- He needs to know you love him but he has let you down and he has let himself down.

- Don’t make sanctions last a life time! Short and sharp!

- Be consistent.

- Teenage boys don’t mind being told what needs to be done, but it has to be the same as before or the same as promised.
And if it goes wrong ......

• Let them know how you feel.

• Don’t make outrageous assertions that can’t/won’t be carried out ("you will never go out again").

• It is not easy – there are no quick solutions.

• You can talk to other parents – they are in the same boat.

• You can talk to your children – keep the communication open and friendly (you may need to go and chill for a while if you feel uptight). An elder child can be helpful here.
Cyber Bullying

- Lots of information in the press.
- Surveys at Scotch suggest it is low here.
- Do boys recognise this as bullying?
- Please be aware of computer use, mobile phones etc.
- School/home?
Also ......

- People at school will help where possible (House Head, School Psychologist, Deputy Head) or a teacher you feel comfortable talking with.

- Girls on the scene?

- Canberra tour.

- Dancing classes with MLC.

- Sporting contacts (hockey, tennis etc). Large group outings – movies, fast food outlets, beach etc.

- Invite them home to your place.