



IMPORTANT DATES

SOUTH PLYMPTON

&

BROOKLYN PARK

*Please check College
[Website](#) for Important
Dates*

From the Head of Junior School

Dear Emmaus Families and Friends

What Tools Do You Have In The Tool Box?

During my spiritual retreat time in the holidays, over a two day period I read a book of the Bible and also a book called 'Faithful'. I was so encouraged by this quiet time, I made a list of tools to add to my tool box for this working year. It fell neatly into ten dot points and so as I returned for 2022, I printed them out to place on my office desk.

1. **Choose Praise**
Note to self - in my daily interactions I need to be intentional to praise God in all things.
2. **Trust God has it**
Note to self - I don't always need to know how it is going to turn out! I need to trust that it WILL turn out...
3. **Focus on who God is**
Note to self - do I spend enough time with God focusing on His heart to make me more like Him?
4. **Practice Gratitude**
Note to self - Journal more often the beautiful blessings God places in my life on a daily basis
5. **Talk to God**
Note to self - talk to God about things troubling me straight away, not just a few days later!
6. **Relationship first; then faithful service**
Note to self - seek the Lord in all things and be reassured God does not expect me to get everything right.
7. **Exercise wisdom in words**
Note to self - I will experience some rubbish as part of the job. Bite my tongue and let it go through to the keeper!
8. **God's got your back**
Note to self - Be patient. So often we want quick answers. Joseph sometimes had to wait for years, before God's ultimate plan was seen.
9. **Be transformed into the image of Christ**
Note to self - I can only be transformed more and more into the image of God if I am regularly reading the word.
10. **Notice God at work**
Note to self - take time to smell the roses.



I really want God to be and guide my vision in all things, to be my rock, and my foundation.

During a whole of staff devotion, I shared the above with staff, and also played the following two songs. If you are reading this newsletter on your phone or another device while sitting in the car, or waiting for children's music lessons or sporting events, I invite you to rest in the arms of Jesus as you listen to these two beautiful songs:

[You Raise Me Up](#)

[Be Thou My Vision](#)

Blessings to you and your families at this time,

Helen Vonow
Head of Junior School

From Student Services

If a Student is Absent or Late

Parents please note that if your child is absent or going to be late on any given day, you must notify the school each day your child is away. Please call the relevant Absentee Line and leave a message. It is a 24/7 automated voice mail message service.

Brooklyn Park - 8292 3898

South Plympton - 8292 3838

Junior School - South Plympton

Greetings Emmaus Christian College Community! My name is Andrew Bloomfield and I am a new leader in the Year 3-6 Wellbeing and Administration space this year.

It has been an unprecedented start to the 2022 school year but I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing our students back to face-to-face learning in recent weeks. Part of my Wellbeing role is to journey alongside of students and offer pastoral care support where needed. I consider it a blessing and a privilege to create and foster God honouring relationships with the students in my care while supporting and encouraging them along their learning journey.

In the administration aspect of my role, I have the opportunity to help organise and coordinate our weekly Junior School assemblies while working closely with the three Year 6 House Captains and six House Leaders. Year 6 Leaders are ever growing in wisdom and stature as they endeavour to lead and engage our student body well through weekly assemblies.

I am humbled by and thankful for the opportunity to serve the Emmaus community in the areas of wellbeing and administration this year. I strive to be a behavioural and organisational link between students, teachers, parents/caregivers and our ever growing and expanding Emmaus Community. I hope you have a wonderful and meaningful year ahead.

Andrew Bloomfield
3-6 Wellbeing & Admin



Brooklyn Park

Cultivating a Class Community

A vital component of a successful educational year is building a class community where every student feels loved, valued and heard.

To create this class community, and amongst the rigours of curriculum, the Year 3/4 class have been involved in team building games, collaborative activities, self-portraiture and a classroom mural that references our uniqueness as individuals, and, our masterpiece as a collective group. It is when students deeply understand that they are an integral component of our class community that they truly thrive.



Kristy Houston
Year 3/4 Teacher, Wellbeing and Administration Coordinator

Middle School

Matthew 5:16 tells the followers of Jesus to *"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

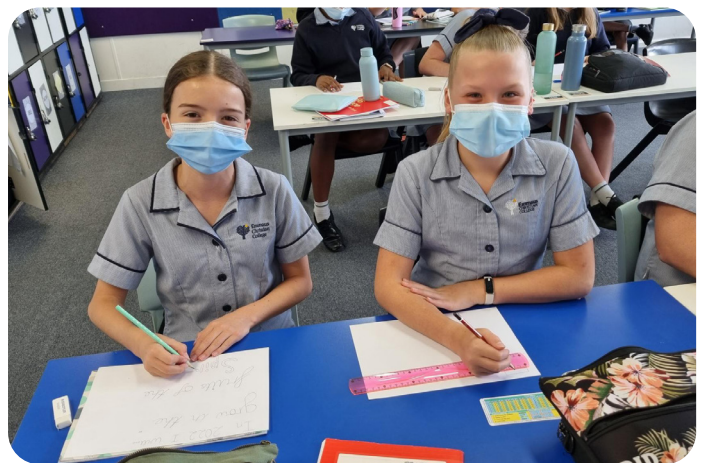
In 8D, we have discussed the fact that the world we live in is shrouded in darkness. God calls us to be light in that darkness - not in our own strength, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. We brainstormed a long list of things we need more of in our world today, and then spent time asking the Lord to help us focus on one idea to focus on as a goal for 2022. The students then each created a poster which completed this statement: In 2022 I will...

Some of their insightful ideas are listed below:

- Have more faith
- Have hope
- Forgive others
- Be loyal
- Have more self-control
- Be kind
- Bring joy
- Grow in the fruits of the Spirit
- Trust in God
- Be more grateful for food
- Choose a path that leads to the light



Bec Dal Santo
Middle/Senior School Teacher



Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will continue with appointments until the end of Term 1. Please book an appointment via [SOBS](#).

The days available are Monday **OR** Thursday.

The times are from 8.15am to 10.15am and 2.45pm to 4.15pm every 15 mins. If you need more than 15 mins, please book 2 time slots.

Students who need to purchase uniform please come to the uniform shop Monday **OR** Thursday at RECESS or LUNCH, not before school as I have appointments and it gets too congested.

QKR Orders

Please do not come to the uniform shop to collect your order. The order will be sent to the class teacher who will give the order to your child. If I have sold out of an item, I will contact you.

If you need any uniform, please do not hesitate to [email](#) or phone on 08 8292 3810.

Thank you for your patience during this time.

Christine Blom-Cursaro
Uniform Shop Manager

Mobile Phone Policy Changes

Thank you to all parents and students who have supported us with this change in policy for mobile devices at Emmaus this year. We have appreciated the overwhelming support of families and our intention is to improve both student wellbeing and ability to focus on school work. It is a big change for students in Senior School and on the whole they have been helpful with not having their phones. By keeping phones in lockers it reduces the chance of having it placed in Student Services for the day. I have included the policy again as a reminder.

Also, I thought you would appreciate the fabulous new t-shirts staff wore for the first day of school for Years 8 - 11.

Once again we do appreciate how a team approach makes all the difference.

Jonathan Carpenter & **Andrea Gear**
Head of Middle School **Head of Senior School**



Adjustment to the ICT policy 2022

4.8. Student Personal Devices

Students may bring personal devices, including mobile phones, to the College. However, they do so at their own risk. Students will keep the devices on silent mode and in their locker during the school day. Student personal devices will not have access to the College network.

Junior School

- Between 8.35am and 3.10pm, personal devices are to be turned off and in the student's bag during the school day.

Middle and Senior School

1. In recognition of the social and educational benefits of being 'unplugged' from their phones, Year 7-12 students are not permitted to use their phone or wireless headphones/ear buds on school grounds between 8.35am and 3.10pm including break times.
2. If student personal devices are at the College, they are to be locked in the student's locker.
3. Students are to put their internet connected device, ie. Smart watches, on 'airplane mode' to prevent phone calls and messages being sent or received during the school day.
4. Exceptions can be made with the permission of a teacher for pedagogical reasons such as:
 - Using a subject-specific app
 - Excursions (eg. Geography Field Trips)
 - If a task requires students to take photos and videos of their peers, it is to be done using school-issued devices.
 - Students are not permitted to use their phone to listen to personal music.
5. If students are using personal devices without staff permission:
 - a. Teachers will remove the device/s and place them at Student Services.
 - b. Students will collect the device at the end of the school day from Student Services.
 - c. A second placement at Student Services will result in further consequences.
 - d. If a student refuses to hand over their phone or these concerns continue, further steps will be taken.

Community News

NAB AFL Auskick

Join the fun! Get involved! Registrations are now open!
 Trained coordinators and COVID-Safe protocols in place at every centre.
 Click on this [link](#) to find your nearest centre.

Student Wellbeing

I remember watching a documentary about a geologist who would document lava rocks and sediment at the sites of live volcanoes. He was asked by the reporter, *“you must be fearless, I could never do that, I would be so scared”*. The geologist responded, *“Oh, I am not fearless, I am brave. I feel scared constantly, but I chose to do this every time, despite my fear.”*

We as parents and teachers have an opportunity to teach our children and teenagers about how to approach fear - not as something to be avoided, but as something that is normal and something to work through.

Fear can present itself as nervousness, anxiety, worry, bravado and a lot of other ways. It could range from the smallest of worries to the largest of fears. As parents and teachers, we have a key role to play in helping to build our children's resilience when it comes to approaching this very common and universal experience. Justin Coulson (Child Psychologist) explains it well by saying, *“fear responses are normal, healthy, and to be expected... and few children are fearless.”*

Some ideas that Justin Coulson gives us that are really helpful in developing our children's resilience regarding fear (Helping Children Face Their Fears, 2022).

Take it slow. When we introduce small steps at the child's pace these small levels of exposure can help prepare our children for the next scary step. Think about learning to ride a bike. If we did not use trainer wheels or a balance bike first, the chances of crashing or going at an uncontrollable pace might have created more fear than reduced it.

Allow your child to express their fear without recrimination. This helps to create a safe space in which they can process their fear, as well as look at it with you. Rather than let it stay undisclosed within them. This too can be a time for us, as adults, to be curious about their fear and ask open and gentle questions about what is going on.

Allow your child to have a way out. Rather than helping, force can lead to resistance. Our children will become less willing to give it a try the next time if they were forced the previous time. Instead, work hard to encourage and give choice.

Encourage bravery. You may include in your daily routine a space to share with your child times in which you were fearful but chose to be brave. Encourage your child to share their experiences too. This can normalise fear and also normalise the resilient responses to it.

Empathy rules. Empathy is the experience we can give others in which they feel understood. Justin Coulson writes that validating our children's fears help them to feel less alone in the experience and can help them keep those fears in perspective.

Lastly, you may be noticing that fear or anxiety in your child is at a level in which you need further support. This is very normal. We encourage you to seek out further support. Resources like the Happy Families website are a helpful start. You are also welcome to contact the College, seek the wisdom of peers and friends, and professional help if needed- as a *“whole-team of people may be required to help your child overcome these fears and move towards a positive experience overcoming their fear”* (Helping Children Face Their Fears, 2022).

[Helping Children Face Their Fears](#) (2022). Retrieved 22 February 2022.

Blessings

Ben Squire
Student Wellbeing Counsellor