



12th March 2013

Dear

It's hard to believe it's now some 16 months since you finished at Wollemi. I hope you are flourishing in your studies or in your work. I have no doubt that your presence in force at Jordain's mum's funeral was a massive consolation to the family, as was your solidarity with Frank at Christmas time. All of us at Wollemi were very proud of your efforts to support a classmate in this early major test of the bonds between you. Please continue to keep up your prayers for Jordain, his dad and his sister and of course for Mrs Saltau. It is in moments like these that friendship can be found to be too superficial but your friendships have passed this test. Understand that the loss of a family member leaves a deep chasm and Jordain will need your ongoing support in the months ahead.

I have been thinking about sending you a letter for a while. A good number of years ago, one of my past students wrote back to me to say that he wanted to take time to think about the path his life was starting to take. You too are at such a time.

A little over a year out of school is a good moment to take stock of life as a young adult. Draw confidence from your victories over the past year in studies, friendships, family and faith; and also be determined to make some mid course corrections. A ship sailing only few degrees off the optimum course can easily correct course early in the voyage, but after a long time at sea sailing in the wrong direction it's not so easy. You are still early in your voyage with your own hand on the tiller. Can you tick each of these boxes?

- Do you have determination to be the best at what you do... to master your chosen work and profession, to attach yourself to the best mentors, and to enrol in the best courses, etc?
- Are you determined to be the best you can be? To do good, we have to be good.

(. . . continued overleaf)

- Cardinal Pell once urged a group of graduates, "Look after your decency". Do you keep up the struggle to be pure (and it can be a big struggle)? A Redfield dad told me that his father advised him bluntly, "Don't play around with sex because you will need to be faithful to the one you marry." The future happiness of many depends on your efforts week by week. It is so worth it.
- Mistakes are inevitable and can be an integral part of final success. What were your mistakes last year. Have you learned from them? Are you humble enough to apologise?
- Do you have an idealistic project that you help in. I recently heard of a young man who organised a service project to Kenya. Others help weekly on night patrol. Others are getting involved in politics to make our wonderful country even better. What do you do?
- "We become like the company we keep." Are you knocking around with friends who will improve you?
- Family is family. Is your love for your mum and dad, your communication with them, better than even a year ago? Do you ask your dad's and mum's advice? Even if they can no longer tell you what to do, seek out their views. Value their opinion. Continue to learn from them.
- Have you become the best big brother to any younger brothers and sisters?
- And most importantly, do you have a generous habit of prayer every day? Do you seek out the sacraments regularly? Do you draw your strength from the Eucharist? Are you determined to maintain your life of grace? We must be generous with God as he has been good to us.

I'm attaching a handout I gave out recently in the school. It is about the Year of Faith and I encourage you to grab this opportunity to deepening your own personal piety and knowledge of your faith. When we spoke about these things two years ago in

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your religion class we anticipated the moment when you need to be a self starter in your faith. Go for it. You will be happy to know that I have the current Year 12 back on the radio! Tune in occasionally on Wednesdays AM 1701 at 8pm.

It is a delight to see many of you dropping into the school, and you are always welcome. Come in whenever you can or send news. I want to keep the old boys' pages of the website fresh with news.

Kindest regards

Andy Mullins
Headmaster
encl. Year of Faith handout