



Mount Alvernia College
"Educating young women in the Franciscan tradition"

Student Matters 2019

Essential Information

For the 2019 School Year

NEW in 2019

Principal's e-Honour Board – Promoting Student Excellence

This year, students will have the opportunity to be acknowledged each week for excellence by being nominated to receive the Principal's e-Honour Board Certificate.

The categories of Leadership, Academic Achievement, Positive and Effective Teamwork, Initiative and Problem Solving, Cultural and Artistic Excellence, Outreach and Service to Community, and Sporting Achievements are further explained on pages 8 and 9 of the *Student Planner*. You will also be able to read about the parameters regarding the who, when, and where of these awards.

We look forward to honouring the many students in our college who continually give of their best.

Service Learning

In previous years, students from Years 7 to 10 have been **invited** to be part of the Service Learning Program of the College, thereby eliminating the opportunity for **ALL** students in these year levels to know service and the benefits for both the recipients and themselves.

As a Franciscan college we pride ourselves on reaching out to others so, from 2019, **ALL STUDENTS in Years 7 to 10 will be scheduled to attend at least one service learning activity within the school year**. The scheduled commitment will occur during school hours and utilise between one and two hours from scheduled classes per calendar year.

Venues for Service Learning include St Anthony's, Little Flower Parish Hall, and Holy Cross Laundry, Banyo. We are looking into further opportunities for our girls so we value any suggestions you may have.

You will be advised through the school newsletter where each year level will be attending.

Outreach

Students can also be part of the college outreach activities. These activities for the most part occur before or after school hours and, in some cases, during school holidays, eg Sony Camp, Delamore Outreach, Solar Buddies Action Team, St Vincent De Paul.

Students will be invited to be part of these activities, and will require parental permission to attend. More information about these activities will be provided throughout the year.

Immersion

Immersion allows students to make meaningful connections with communities and cultures beyond their immediate environment. During immersion, it is common for students to work on projects designed to learn more about a culture not their own, or to assist in supporting a community to grow.

It is anticipated that Mount Alvernia will continue to provide this opportunity for students with a planned immersion each year. The destination will alternate between an overseas destination and a remote community within Australia.

For 2019, the overseas immersion being offered is for students in Years 10 and 11 to experience Vietnam. Planning is well underway with the immersion organisers, World Challenge. This immersion will take place from 28 November until 19 December. Expressions of interest are still being accepted. Ms Alison Ward will facilitate the immersion. Please contact Alison at warda@mta.qld.edu.au if you would like further information.

During the year we will be looking ahead to an immersion within Australia that will help participants to make a meaningful connection to remote Indigenous Australians. This immersion will be planned for 2020. Please look out for information about this immersion in the coming months so that you can send an expression of interest for your daughter.

Earphones/Ear Buds/Headphones /Headsets (Wireless or Bluetooth)

Ear phones, etc, are NOT to be worn once a student has entered the college grounds. This includes walking to and from classes and during breaks. Any student wearing such devices (including an earbud in one ear) will be asked to remove them immediately and given a lunch time detention. Further offences will incur a Friday afternoon detention. Earphones are to be used ONLY at the request of a staff member and for the purposes of learning, as they do not facilitate a student's ability to converse well with others or to hear important notices.

Smart Watches

Students will be asked to remove any item that distracts them from their learning or has the capacity to assist them unfairly during exams. This includes smart watches, eg iWatch, Fitbit varieties, etc.

Uniform Infringements

Holidays are a great time for young people to explore their options and interest in hair colours, false nails, false eyelashes, brow contouring, piercings, etc (if that is their thing).

Uniforms allow all students to be uni-form and not worry about expectations that they may perceive should determine the way they look. Uniform requirements provide ALL students with clear guidelines about what is acceptable.

Students arriving at school on the first day of 2019 who are in breach of correct uniform requirements **will be asked to remove the offending item (if this is possible), or asked to return home until the issue has been rectified.** Parents will be notified if this is necessary. ALL Home Room teachers will be monitoring and responding as necessary when they meet their group on Thursday 31 January.

CONTINUING in 2019

School Camps

School camps are a necessary component of your daughter's education. The Australian Curriculum requires ALL students to be supported in acquiring the General Capabilities so that they can learn to live and work successfully in the future. Camps within an Outdoor Education setting are an essential part of the curriculum at Mount Alvernia, and therefore attendance is **compulsory**.

The cost for your daughter to attend camp is included in the annual school fees and, as camp payments and bookings are made in advance, **refunds are not available** should your daughter be unable to attend.

In the event that your daughter is unable to attend due to ill health, **please contact the College via the absentee line as per the normal procedures. A medical certificate will be required should she be unable to attend.** There will be no facilities to support students to remain at school.

Year Level	Dates	Venue	Providers
7	20-22 February	Adventure Alternatives, Woodford/Kenilworth	Adventure Alternatives www.adventurealternatives.com.au
8	12-14 June	Adventure Alternatives, Woodford/Kenilworth	Adventure Alternatives www.adventurealternatives.com.au
9	6-9 August	Adventure Alternatives, Woodford/Kenilworth	Adventure Alternatives www.adventurealternatives.com.au
10	3-5 June	Maranatha, Yandina	Maranatha Recreation Camp 275 Wappa Falls Rd, Yandina

Student Code of Conduct

Acceptable and unacceptable behaviours are clearly listed in the *Student Planner* and on the college website. It is important to note that the code of behaviour also applies to college activities that are outside school hours. This includes, but is not limited to, sporting events, school dances, formals, and all excursions.

Uniform

Part of the *Student Code of Conduct* includes abiding by the requirements of the *Uniform Policy*. What is acceptable uniformity for all students with regards to formal, sport, and excursions can be found on pages 15 to 17 of the *Student Planner*.

Each year students are required to read through the *Student Procedures* during Home Room, and should therefore be fully aware of the requirements. This includes sections on make-up, hair colour, jewellery, false nails, and nail polish.

Please note: Students have the **option** of wearing a **formal uniform** that consists of college blouse and grey trousers. The college-designated grey trousers and blouse will only be available from the College **Uniform Shop**. The trouser and blouse combination can be worn throughout the year.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are permitted at Mount Alvernia, but are only to be kept in the student's locker or used if requested by a teacher within a learning environment for the purposes of learning. Students are only permitted to check their phones during break time. This is only for the purpose of checking any messages from parents or caregivers that may be important, eg pick-up time, change of plans, etc. Students are NOT permitted to make phone calls during this time unless they have permission from a teacher. Please help your daughter develop problem solving strategies and resilience by not phoning your daughter or encouraging her to contact you during school hours. Students should see their Pastoral Guardian or teacher if they have any concerns while at school.

Detention

Detention is not a choice but an obligation to rectify and consider a change in behaviour. Please assist us to support your daughter's growth by talking to her about the importance of following the rules that are established for the welfare of ALL students.

In the event that your daughter is unable to live up to the *Student Code of Conduct*, her behaviour will be addressed by the relevant teacher or middle leader. In the first instant, the student will be required to consider the effect of her actions on others. This is done through the Franciscan Behaviour Management restorative approach which aims to restore relationships.

In the event that your daughter continues to breach the *Student Code of Conduct*, either lunch time or Friday afternoon detention will be assigned. **Friday detention is from 3.15–4.15pm.** As per the *Student Procedures* in the *Student Planner*, parents will be notified if this is to occur.

Use of Sick Bay

Please note that the sick bay is a temporary place for students who are waiting to go home when they are feeling unwell. When the first point of contact is unavailable to collect your daughter, the emergency contact person will be contacted.

Please note: **Students are NOT permitted to make their own arrangements to go home.** The College acts in *loco parentis* and has the responsibility to ensure it is aware of your child's whereabouts during school hours. Students who are unwell are required to go to Student Services so that the college staff can arrange for appropriate care or parental contact as necessary.

Mount Alvernia and Padua Formals

Please note that students in Years 11 and 12 have permission to leave the College after Period 4 on days where they are involved in either the Mount Alvernia or Padua Formal. According to the new timetable, this would mean the appointments can be made after 12.35pm.