

16 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Dino and I are excited to welcome you back to school. We hope that you enjoyed a peaceful and restful holiday break with your children and that you have had a good start to the new year. The high school continues to grow and we will have just over 40 more students in the MSS as we start the school year. We especially want to welcome our new families to Calvary, particularly our Year 7 families starting high school for the first time, and pray that your time with us is a blessed one. We have lots of exciting activities, cocurricular events, house competitions, a musical and more planned for our 2026 year and we hope that you encourage your child to take part in experiences that take place beyond the classroom.

We believe that for our students to successfully thrive at school we need to have an effective partnership between the school and parents, and so we will always welcome the opportunity to talk with you should you ever want to reach out to us about any issues or concerns you may have regarding your child's educative experience. Although rewarding, parenting is a tough job, and the College will seek to support our parents across the year with resources and articles from our Wellbeing Team and once again we are bringing parenting expert and author Dr. Judith Locke to our College on the 18th & 19th of February to run parenting sessions.

I would like to encourage everyone to come along to our information night (Tuesday 27th Jan – first day back) so you can hear a short overview from us about important information, and to meet your child's teachers. This year our teachers are looking to consolidate on the positive culture we have in the MSS and to continue to raise expectations in the classroom. Our MSS focus this year will be on *every student, working well, in every class*. In line with our College expectations 'be kind, be fair, be your best self' (inspired by Micah 6:8) we will be endeavouring to be our best selves by collectively working toward positive and productive work habits that will lay good foundations for life beyond school.

In a world saturated by AI shortcuts and IT designed to distract, we will be refining our use of technology to consistently use it purposefully and productively. We have new IT programs that our students should find make learning more effective and engaging, but we are balancing our technology use out with distraction free approaches to learning and would remind everyone to please ensure that students have a physical paper notebook for every subject. In 2025 we also noticed a creeping trend of smart watches making their way onto school grounds and would remind students that there is statewide ban on both smartphones and smart watches. Students who bring smart watches to school will be required to leave them in their lockers alongside their mobile phones.

The remainder of this communication contains important information about the start of the school year, which we ask all families to please read. We look forward to partnering with you in your child's education and eagerly anticipate a year filled with God's providence and blessing.

QUSTODIO REMINDER

The Qustodio app provides parents the ability to monitor their child's use of College laptops outside school hours, as well as one additional smart device. To register an account, [please click here](#) and use your personal email address you have on file with the College. After registration, you will be able to monitor and guide student use of College laptops outside of regular school hours. To monitor a home-based device, [click this link](#) to follow this guide to install the Qustodio app on a family device. Many parents are extremely grateful for the app and use it to ensure their child(ren) stay focused on homework by disabling distractions, explore the internet safely by blocking inappropriate content, and establish healthy screen habits by scheduling screen-free times.



IMPORTANT DATES (EARLY TERM 1):

- **Friday 23 January**

- Year 7 Book drop off and meet the teacher opportunity
- Student Leadership training day (Student Leaders were notified at the end of last year). 10am-2pm

- **Monday 26 January**

- Australia Day public holiday

- **Tuesday 27 January**

- First day of school – students to wear their House shirt.
- MSS Information Night & Meet the Teacher 6pm at the CCC (Calvary Community Centre)

- **Friday 6 February**

- Year 12 Formal

- **Wednesday 11 February**

- MSS Leadership Induction 9am

- **18 February**

- Judith Locke (author/clinical psychologist parent session)

- **18-20 February**

- Stage 4 and 5 Camps
(Parents will be receiving communication about the various camps early next week)

WHAT TO DO/BRING FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

What to wear:

- On the first day (27 Jan) please wear your House shirt and sport shorts with the correct sport shoes (and socks).

What to bring:

- Please bring your stationery and books to put in your locker.
- Students with laptops should bring these.
- Ensure you have a Calvary hat, a water bottle and food (the Mango Café is open and available that day).

Where do I go at the start of the day?

Supervised areas in the morning include the Western Carpark hanger, the Pavilion and Café areas until 8:35am. There will be lots of teachers out and about on the first morning and at 8:35am they will direct students to their respective student areas for the start of the day. We will sort out lockers, etc., after the start of the day.

What will happen on the first day?

The first day of school for 2026 has been thoughtfully planned to foster community and engagement as students transition into the new academic year. Students will bond with their form classes, participate in various assemblies, and conclude the day with interhouse activities, offering a fun and friendly opportunity for competition. To ensure all students in Years 8–11 are fully prepared for learning, laptops handed into the College at the end of 2025 will be returned on the first day of school, enabling a seamless start to their academic activities. We look forward to welcoming all students back for an exciting and productive year ahead.



STAFFING UPDATE

We have several new and returning staff joining the College in 2026.

- Hannah McLaughlin (Science/Sport)
- Carolina Ruiz (Laboratory Technician)
- Sarah Seo (Mathematics) is returning after maternity leave
- Ben Angus is (Mathematics) is completing a Semester 1 contract with us
- Melissa Schubach (Learning Assistant).

We are looking forward to welcoming these wonderful educators and staff to Calvary.

KEY 2026 INFORMATION

What follows is a summary of key information that is available on our website under the parent information section <https://calvarycc.qld.edu.au/parent-information>. We have modified and changed some requirements from the start of 2025 which we have outlined below. If you want more in-depth information, please consult the website.

BOOKLISTS

Our booklists are structured around allowing you to make choices that suit your budget and child's personal taste. **I would like to stress the need for all students to have a physical notebook for every subject.** Each week, some lessons in classes will require students to use a notebook and not a laptop. Please ensure your child has the stationery they need to start the year. Booklists are available online on the Parent Information page and can be ordered directly through Officeworks for your convenience. You do not need to buy from Officeworks if you find like stationery elsewhere.

SHOE REMINDER

Sport Shoe



Predominantly white or black leather or mesh laced sports shoe.

Formal Shoe (Unisex)



Must be a black leather laced formal school shoe.

Please note that students cannot wear sport shoes as formal shoes.

HAIR

If your child's hair style is in breach of our uniform policy, they will be excluded from returning to school until their hair is compliant with our uniform policy:

Hair must be neat, tied up (if long), and presentable.

- It must be a natural looking colour
- All forms of mullets, rat tails, undercuts and extreme hair styles are not permitted.



Hair length:

- Hair at the sides and back of the head must be similar length and suitably blended.
- Hair at the top of the head must be tied up if it is long and falls over the sides and back.
- Hair must be off the ears, off the eyebrows (1cm above), and off the collar.
- You may shave your head, but you are not permitted to carve patterns, symbols, lines, etc. into your hair.

HATS

Students must have both a formal hat and a sport hat. You are expected to wear the right hat with the right uniform every day. Hats may be left in lockers to assist students in meeting this expectation.

JEWELLERY/MAKE UP

Jewellery

- Necklaces and rings are not permitted.
- Earrings must be one single plain stud or sleeper (6mm or less) in the lower lobe of the ear.

Smart watches are not permitted (students may wear a standard watch).

Make up (mascara/visible foundation/eye shadow, etc) is not permitted. Fake eye lashes are not permitted.

Our extended uniform policy can be found here in the uniform section on the Parent Information page of the website.

UNIFORM SHOP UPDATES <https://shop.calvarycc.qld.edu.au/>

The Uniform shop will be open at Carbrook for walk ins on Friday 16 January to Friday 23 January 2026 (but the store is closed on Thursday 22). No prior bookings are required. Be aware, you may have to wait whilst others are being served.

Once school resumes, the Uniform Shop at Carbrook will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during Term Time from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

EXPIRED UNIFORM ITEMS

Just a reminder that the old-style formal blouse and formal shirts can no longer be worn. The senior school versions of these were tuck in shirts and blouses with the buttons for ties. The middle school version of these were the grey and white striped shirts and blouses. If you need to check the status of any uniform items, please refer to the parent information section of the website.

ACCESSING COMMUNICATIONS, LEARNING PROGRESS, AND ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Our key channels of communication are the College App, website, MSS Facebook page and email. Every Thursday we publish our MSS Communications on the website and College App. Communications contain important information about school life and upcoming events.

If you would like to see photos and videos of events across the year, please join our 2026 MSS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/19rLj1VEPM/> Please note, the 2025 MSS Facebook page is no longer active and will be closed in the coming weeks.



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Parent Lounge (accessible via the website and App) is where you can update your details, child's medical data, etc. Across the semester, we would like to strongly encourage parents to access the 'Curricular Activities' section of Parent Lounge as this is where you will find our ongoing feedback on your child's learning progress across the semester and report cards. All other pertinent information should be accessible in the Parent Information section on our website.

We eagerly await the return of our students to school and pray that your child's experience at Calvary in 2026 is exciting and rewarding.

Yours sincerely

Josh Wilson and Dino Arraiol
Deputy Principal MSS / Head of MSS