Dear Parents/Caregivers

The culmination of 13 years of schooling for your son/daughter occurs at the end of this year with the awarding of Overall Positions (OP’s) and Tertiary Ranks. These scores are dependent on how well students achieve in their subjects and on the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. It is crucial then, that students achieve to the best of their ability.

The QCS Test is compulsory for students who are going for an OP. Students who are OP ineligible are also strongly encouraged to sit the QCS Test as a strong result will greatly improve their Tertiary Rank. On the other hand, if non-OP students perform poorly on the QCS Test, it will have no detrimental effect on their results or their cohort’s results. This is a great opportunity for non-OP students.

The QCS Test is scheduled for Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August 2016 (Week 7 of Term 3).

Each year our College holds special sessions to prepare students for the QCS Test. This year we are running sessions on Wednesday mornings. The usual session time is from 8:30am to 10:40am; however, there are a couple of sessions that will run for the entire school day. The Agricultural Science class that runs on a Wednesday is planned around these sessions and these students are well aware of this timetable. The current schedule for the year is as follows (and may change with plenty of notice):

**Term 1:**
- Week 5: Wednesday 24 February, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 6: Wednesday 2 March, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 7: Wednesday 9 March, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 8 & 9: Nothing - this gives students time to focus on their end of term assessment

**Term 2:**
- Week 2: Wednesday 20 April - Full day practice test (under QCS conditions).
- Week 3: Wednesday 27 April, No session
- Week 4: Wednesday 4 May, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 5: Wednesday 11 May, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 6: Wednesday 18 May, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 8 -10: Nothing - this gives students time to focus on their end of term assessment
- Week 11: Wednesday 22 June - Full day practice test (under QCS conditions)

**Term 3:**
- Week 2: Wednesday 27 July, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 3: Wednesday 3 August, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 4: Wednesday 10 August, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 5: Wednesday 17 August, 8.30 – 10.40am
- Week 6: Wednesday 24 August, 8.30 – 10.40am (Optional last session)
**Wednesday sessions are compulsory for all OP-eligible students** and highly recommended for non-OP students intending to sit the QCS Test.

We are holding an **OP/QCS Information Night on Thursday February 18 6:30pm - 7:30pm in the church** where we will discuss all relevant information. We ask that both **students and parents** attend this information session.

Please try your very best to make it to this event so that you can hear how the Queensland OP System works, and ways we can work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

Yours sincerely

Rob Steffler
Dean of Studies