PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

We are well advanced into the Advent season and the waiting for the birth of the Christ child continues. It can seem like a long wait and it certainly is a busy time of year. As we have seemingly rushed to the end of the school year, we have had much to celebrate and reflect on in our year of Travelling in Mercy. Congratulations to all of our students, Years 7 through to 12, who have acknowledged the achievements of their year of learning and carefully considered the feedback and success criteria for the next stages of their learning. There is much to celebrate, as we did on the Night of Excellence and the end of term Showcase. The students of the term for Term Four were awarded at the assembly and received their certificate and badge. They are:

STUDENT OF THE TERM

MARGARET SUSAU – YEAR 7 (JMG4)
Margaret consistently works her hardest in every one of her subjects. Even when she finds things challenging, this never ever deters her - she just keeps trying! Persistence is a character strength that Margaret displays every day. So that she can make the most of her learning here at Mercy, she attends homework club on most nights after school. She is the first student to volunteer to help out with any room duty responsibilities and she always offers a helping hand to both her teachers and peers. She participated in the Performing Arts concert, singing with her class, and is always there to cheer on her peers when they are involved in sport or musical endeavours. Margaret is always willing to share herself with others - even performing a dance from her cultural background to her class to show them a special part of who she is. She has completed an amazing first year at Mercy College.

MELINDA SANATY – YEAR 8 (JMG1)
Melinda has been a willing and positive student in all her classes throughout the year. Her steady and calm manner has been a highlight and it has enabled her to offer assistance to those around her when they are having trouble with their work. During the Independent Learning Fortnight, she worked solidly to research her topic and then spent time preparing the best display she could. Each day she was able to display the dispositions of persistence, diligence and care. She always participates actively and cheerfully whether in a group or with a partner. Her gentle manner and respectful behaviour is a calming influence on those around her. Melinda is a reliable and dependable person. She has consistently offered help and support to all those in her JMG. In particular, when the duty group has a member absent she always pitches in to fill the gap - this is frequently done without even being asked.
Congratulations to our Year 12 class of 2016 who received their results on Monday. Once again we are proud to have many high achievers, including the Dux for 2016, Erika Fernandez. Along with many outstanding ATAR scores, we are very proud to also be able to celebrate achievements by students who overcame obstacles in their learning and are now working with our Careers department to pursue pathway options.

Attached to this newsletter is a calendar which provides details of important dates to keep in mind during 2017, including term dates. This calendar is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change throughout the course of the year. Please ensure you read the newsletter for updates.

I take this opportunity, in the last newsletter of the year, to thank all members of our College community for their support of our community. Your enthusiasm for all that is Mercy makes us the strong and vibrant community we are; students, staff and families together in excellence, hospitality, justice and compassion. As the school year ends, we have farewelled Mr David Oxley (Maintenance team), Mrs Carmel Stevenson (Educational Support team) and Mrs Mary Dean (RE teacher) all of whom are retiring. We also farewell staff who have been undertaking contract roles this year or are pursuing other professional directions next year:

   Ms Felicity Monck, Ms Madeline Fagan, Ms Meg Jennings, Ms Andrea Coughlan, Ms Nathalie Brennan, Ms Suzan Rustom, Dr Katherine Putnam and Mrs Vanessa Winchester.

We wish them all the very best in their future pursuits.

**A Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for a peaceful New Year. May all the blessings of Christmas be with each of our Mercy families.**

**Dr Michelle Cotter Principal**

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – MRS JENNI HICKEY**

**Student Day/Photo Schedule - Thursday 2 February 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>9.00am – 1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>10.00am – 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>10.30am – 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12 group</td>
<td>2.45pm</td>
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I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a restful holiday.

**DIRECTOR OF MISSION – MS LORETTA KITCH**

**Mercy Spreading Christmas Cheer**

As the year draws to a close and we focus on celebrating Christmas with our families and those we love, it is good to know that we haven’t lost sight of those who find this time of year more challenging. Thanks is passed on to our Year 11s from McAuley Community Services for Women for all the shoe boxes full of toys that they donated to children in families escaping domestic violence. Staff also donated about 80 pamper packs of toiletries to McAuley that were put together this year by the Seeds of Justice team. Katherine Romei, McAuley’s School Engagement Officer, described Mercy’s giving this year as a “fabulous effort”.

Our tradition of donating items for hampers in Years 7-10 continued this year with 70 jam-packed hampers being put together on the final school day by the Years 7-9s. We delivered our hampers to our neighbours, the Coburg Branch of the Salvation Army, just in time for their Christmas give away on Tuesday, December 13. This year, the Salvation Army Christmas program was helping 145 families in need for the area and they describe our hampers as the “icing on the cake”. Major Cathy Elkington tells us there are often tears shed by the families who receive the hampers as they know that they can celebrate with a special festive meal as a result. Our thanks to Mr David Oxley from Mercy’s maintenance team who helped with the hamper delivery early this week.
As the time for the celebration of the birth of Jesus approaches and we again ponder the impact of His light coming into our world, I wish you and all our Mercy families much joy and peace. Here is a final Advent prayer for 2016:

God of life,
Our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing as this Advent season draws to a close for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to continue to travel in mercy, that the dawn of his coming this Christmas may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING – MS VANESSA FOLINO

Semester 2 Reports
Semester 2 reports will be mailed out on Friday 16 December. These reports provide parents with an understanding of how their daughters have travelled throughout the semester. The commendations provide an opportunity for affirmation and the recommendations provide parents with an understanding of what their daughters can be doing in order to achieve greater success.

Next year, reporting at Mercy College will be delivered online via PAM (Parent Access Module). In order to support this transition, the Semester 2 Reports are available online also. This will allow us to understand how to best assist parents in the move across to online reporting. This final Semester 2 report will be the last time reports are mailed out and in the future, if you would like a hard copy of a report, you will be able to print it from PAM.

If parents would like a hard copy and don’t have access to the Internet, they should contact the school and arrangements will be made.

http://pam.mercycoburg.catholic.edu.au

To access this site you will need your family username and password; this was mailed home this week. To open the report, click the student name, click Assessment Reports on the left.

Preparation for 2017
The students have embarked on nearly two months of holidays. The Christmas break is a great time to reflect on the year and set goals for the new one. During the holidays, the students should make sure they get the balance right between: time with friends and family, work, study, exercise and eating well. Setting this routine into motion will ensure that the transition into the 2017 school year will be much easier and they will begin with confidence and enthusiasm.

It is imperative that students complete their holiday homework and possibly reading ahead or, in the case of senior students, doing some VCAA past exams and reading the examination reports. The holidays are also a great time to pull out past assessments and revise anything relevant to 2017.

Have a happy and safe Christmas. Enjoy the break, it is about balance!

"The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today." Elbert Hubbard

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING – MRS MICHELLE McNAMARA

Mercy Stars caught being good in Term 4
At the Term 4 Showcase, the final Mercy Stars lucky dip took place. Danielle Cassarino (JMG2) and Sabrine El Moussawi (JMG6) each received a $30 Hoyts card. Congratulations to all students who were recognised for displaying Respectful, Responsible and Safe behaviours during the year. Mercy Stars will be back bigger and better next year!

Excellent Attendance awards
At the Semester 2 Showcase, we recognised 5 students for the amazing achievement of 100% attendance in 2016 - they did not miss a single day of school! The girls received a Certificate of Excellence and a box of Celebrations chocolates to help them celebrate their achievement.

Congratulations to Naya Mansour JMG2, Isabelle Fittipaldi JMG3, Radha Sharma JMG3, Samantha Rosella JMG4 and Sayo Durojaye JMG6.

The following students had 100% attendance in either Semester 1 or 2 and were presented with Certificates of Excellence at their final year level assemblies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER 1</th>
<th>SEMESTER 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamia Elabde JMG1</td>
<td>Molly Little JMG1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessie Nguyen JMG1</td>
<td>Larissa Starssunn JMG4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Ziyambe JMG1</td>
<td>Sandy Mansour JMG6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naya Mansour JMG2</td>
<td>Ava Mercuri JMG6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anastasia Martino JMG2</td>
<td>Alannah Frattasio 9A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alessia Speranza JMG2</td>
<td>Kelsey Mills 9A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanya Vesudeva JMG2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabella Bellmunt JMG3</td>
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<td>Tara Hanna JMG3</td>
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<td>Amelie Plevier JMG3</td>
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<td>Georgia Wooster JMG3</td>
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<td>Jacinta Aigner JMG4</td>
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<td>Isabella Calcagno JMG4</td>
<td>Cassandra Sadler 9A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya Hattarki JMG4</td>
<td>Minerva Sanaty 9A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Susau JMG4</td>
<td>Pia Taylor 9A</td>
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<td>Jessica Mirabelli JMG5</td>
<td>Mary Rosella 9B</td>
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<td>Dinithi Nagolage JMG5</td>
<td>Alice Rossi 9B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mara Nassan JMG6</td>
<td>Laura Russo 9C</td>
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<td>Nishita Silvester JMG6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olivia Cornello JMG7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olivia Rizza JMG7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millie Srethna JMG7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia Anile 9A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dounia Assifiri 9B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alessia Deluca 9B</td>
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</table>
Many students were also presented with Certificates of Excellence for attendance of 95% and above in either Semester 1 or 2 at their final pastoral care session.

2016 has been a busy year and I congratulate all the girls for their efforts and achievements this year. They have been well supported by a dedicated group of teachers, their Year Level Leaders and their pastoral care teachers and I thank them on behalf of the girls for the amazing job they do. I take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a safe, happy Christmas and relaxing holiday.

**PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT**

As always, the Performing Arts Concert is a spectacular showcase of the learning at Mercy College in all performance areas, both inside and outside the classroom, and the Semester Two concert on Friday 1st December was no exception. Performing Arts teachers, Ms Caitlin Lamont, Miss Zoe Wood, and Miss Michelle Walker worked tirelessly with students to produce an excellent show.

Thanks must go to instrumental teachers Miss Carlie Mills, Dr Joseph Jordania and Ms Jessica Luna.

The Master of Ceremonies, Krystal Sullivan (Year 9), led the proceedings which included dance, drama and instrumental performances; some students had only been learning their instrument for mere months!

All photos taken by the College at the event can be accessed via the link below;

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B2MG18RsZkRaEJsbyJwUzRGenM?usp=sharing

*Ms Caitlin Lamont  
Acting Co-Head of The Arts*

**LANGUAGES @ MERCY – ITALIAN**

**Italian Language Tour 2017**

As a Catholic and Mercy school, we seek to provide opportunities for our students and staff to achieve excellence, hospitality, justice and compassion. Living in a globalised world, schools are always looking to provide students with opportunities to engage with the real world and apply their learning and shape their identity through exposure to the beliefs, opinions and values of others.

Mercy College is looking to run an Italian Language Tour in 2017. The tour intends to immerse students in a cultural experience that will require them to communicate in Italian and develop connections with the Italian community. This experience would bring with it language development, personal development, intercultural development and an understanding of what life is like for people on the other side of the world. The Italian Language Tour would allow students to make connections with their learning and see their passion continue to grow. It would also provide students in Year 11 with a brief immersion before they head into Year 12. Priority will be given to students studying Italian in Years 9, 10 and 11 in 2017.

The tour commitment is year-long and involves pre and post involvement in language activities and travel workshops. Students need to apply formally to participate in the tour. The tour has a language development focus, will include a 20 night stay and the anticipated cost is $4,300.

An information evening was held Tuesday December 6 however, if you were unable to attend and would like an information pack, please contact the College on 9319 9299. If you have specific queries please do not hesitate to contact Ms Folino.

Expressions of interest forms will be made available at the beginning of 2017. These forms, together with a deposit of $500, will be due by 10 February, 2017.

**Italian Language Assistant in 2017**

The Co.As.It Language Assistants Program places young university graduates from Italy to work as language assistants in Victorian schools. Language Assistants support qualified language teachers to provide authentic language and cultural experiences for students. Mercy College’s application for an Italian Language Assistant in 2017 has been successful. The young university graduate will arrive on 21 April and stay until the end of the school year. To support the Language Assistant’s transition into life in Australia, they are provided with 4 weeks’ accommodation. Mercy families have the opportunity to host the assistant for 4 weeks. It is a great chance to experience another culture at home, forge lasting relationships and improve or even learn some Italian. Families interested in this hosting experience are asked to contact Ms Folino, Director of Learning on 9319 9299.

*Ms Vanessa Folino  
Director of Learning/Head of Languages*

**MERCY COLLEGE UNIFORM SHOP**

The Mercy College Uniform Shop will be open during the following days and times in January/February 2017, prior to commencement of Term 1:

- Monday 30 January 9am-3pm
- Tuesday 31 January 9am-3pm
- Wednesday 1 February 9am-3pm and
- Thursday 2 February 8am-12pm (normal Uniform Shop hours)

Please be advised that the Uniform Shop may be busy during these times.

Elena is the Uniform Shop Manager and can be contacted on 9319 9235. Normal school term opening hours of Wednesdays 1.00pm – 4.00pm and Thursdays 8.00am – 12.00pm will resume in 2017 from Thursday 2 February 2017.

Remember if your daughter has grown out of her uniform and the items are in good to excellent condition, you can bring them to the Uniform Shop to be sold on your behalf. Please ring on the number above if you have any queries.

*Ms Elena Veliou  
Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator*
PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
We wait in hope.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, ‘Come Lord Jesus!’
Amen

REFLECTION

Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!
Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which
is Christ himself.
Jesus is the radiant day that has dawned on the horizon of
humanity.
A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great
tenderness to the entire world.
A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety.
A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and,
above all, reconciliation.
A day of joy: a great joy for the poor, the lowly and for all the
people.
The grace of God can convert hearts and offer mankind a way
out of humanly insoluble situations.
Where God is born, hope is born.
He brings hope.
Where God is born, peace is born.
And where peace is born,
There is no longer room for hatred and for war.

Pope Francis
# Semester One: Term 1 February 2 – March 31

**January**
- **Mon 23**: College office opens
- **Thu 26**: Australia Day (office closed)
- **Mon 30**: Teaching staff resume

**February**
- **Thu 2**: Students' first day/School Photos (see newsletter for year level start times)
- **Fri 3**: Term One classes commence

**Week 1A**
- **Wed 8**: Staff PD Day (no students)

**Week 2B**
- **Tue 14**: Year 7/New families/Student Leaders BBQ/PC meet & greet
- **Thu 16**: Discover Mercy Open Day
- **Fri 17**: College Swimming Carnival

**Week 3A**
- **Wed 21**: Opening School Mass
- **Fri 24**: Mercy in Action – Cambodia 2017
- **Sun 26**: Trivia Night 6.30pm – 10.00pm

**Week 4B**
- **Tue 28**: Shrove Tuesday

**March**
- **Wed 1**: Ash Wednesday
- **Thu 2**: College Board Meeting, 5.30pm

**Week 5A**
- **Wed 8**: International Women’s Day morning tea
- **Thu 9**: VCE/VCAL Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, 4.00pm – 8.00pm
- **Sun 12**: Catholic Education Week begins

**Week 6B**
- **Mon 13**: Labour Day
- **Fri 17**: Feast of St Patrick

**Week 7A**
- **Sat 25**: Cambodia Immersion departs

**Week 8B**
- **Wed 29**: Easter Liturgy/Term One Showcase
- **Fri 31**: End Term One

**Term One Holidays**
- **April**
  - **Mon 3 to Fri 7**: College Office Closed
  - **Sat 8**: Cambodia Immersion returns
  - **Fri 14**: Good Friday
  - **Sun 16**: Easter Sunday

# Semester Two: Term 2 April 18 – June 30

**April**
- **Week 1A**
  - **Mon 17**: Easter Monday
  - **Tue 18**: Term Two classes commence
  - **Wed 19**: Parent seminar – The Resilience Project
  - **Thu 20**: “Catch Me If You Can”
  - **Fri 22**: College Board Meeting, 5.30pm

**Week 2B**
- **Tue 25**: ANZAC Day (College closed)
- **Thu 27**: Year 7-10 PST interviews, 1.30pm – 8pm
- **Fri 28 – Sat 29**: “Catch Me If You Can”

**May**
- **Mon 1**: M.A.D. Day 1 – Year 9
- **Thu 4**: Year 10 Work Experience concludes

**Week 8A**
- **Tue 6**: Junior School breakfast
- **Wed 7**: DAV Debating, Round 4
- **Thu 8**: Year 9 English exam
  - **Fri 9**: Year 9 exams

**Week 9B**
- **Mon 12**: Queen’s Birthday
- **Wed 14**: G.A.T [Units 3&4 students] 10am – 1.15pm
- **Thu 15**: Grade 5 visits day
  - **Fri 16**: Year 9 exams
  - **Sat 17**: Year 10 & 11 exams commence
  - **Sun 18**: Year 9 exams

**Week 10A**
- **Mon 19**: Staff PD Day – Assessment & Moderation (no students)
  - **Tue 20**: Year 12 trial English exam

**June**
- **Wed 21 to Tue 27**: Melbourne as a Classroom
- **Thu 22**: College Board AGM, 5.30pm

**July**
- **Mon 10 to Fri 14**: College Office Closed
## TERM THREE JULY 17 – SEPTEMBER 22

### JULY

**WEEK 1A**
- **Mon 17** Term Three commences
- **Thu 20** VCE/VCAL Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences, 4pm – 8pm

**WEEK 3A**
- **Aug 2** 100 days of Year 7 parent celebration
- **Thu 9** Beyond Year 12 university expo
- **Fri 10** Yr11&12 2018 Subject Selection Expo
- **Wed 15** School closure day, AMSSA conference

**WEEK 5A**
- **Tue 15** Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary
- **Wed 16** Beyond Year 12 VTAC Parent info evening

**WEEK 6B**
- **Wed 23** Discover Mercy Open Day

### AUGUST

**WEEK 5A**
- **Mon 15** Staff PD Day (no students)
- **Tue 16** MELBOURNE CUP DAY

### SEPTEMBER

**WEEK 9A**
- **Mon 25** Term Four ends for Years 7 – 9

### TERM THREE HOLIDAYS
- **Mon 25 – Fri 29** COLLEGE OFFICE CLOSED

### OCTOBER

**WEEK 1A**
- **Mon 9** Term Four commences
- **Wed 11** Discover Mercy Open Day
- **Fri 13** Year 12 Supporters’ Day

**WEEK 2B**
- **Thu 19** Year 12 last day of classes & final assembly
- **Fri 20** Year 12 Graduation Mass, 7pm
- **Sun 29** Year 12 Celebration Day breakfast

**WEEK 4B**
- **Wed 23** Staff PD Day (no students)
- **Thu 26** College Board Meeting, 5.30pm

**WEEK 5A**
- **Mon 6** VCAA exams commence
- **Wed 11** Mid Term Break – no classes
- **Fri 13** All Saints’ Day

**WEEK 6B**
- **Mon 13** Year 10 & 11 study day
- **Tue 14** Year 10 & 11 exams commence
- **Thu 16** Year 7 2018 Parent Info evening, 7.30pm

**WEEK 7A**
- **Mon 14** Year 10 & 11 exams conclude
- **Wed 15** Student Leadership Immersion 2017 camp
- **Thu 22** Student Leadership Immersion camp ends

**WEEK 8B**
- **Mon 27** VCE/VCAL Early Start Program
- **Tue 28** VCE/VCAL Early Start Program
- **Wed 29** Term Four ends for Years 10 & 11

**WEEK 9A**
- **Mon 4** Get Smart Program
- **Tue 5** Get Smart Program
- **Wed 6** Get Smart Program
- **Thu 7** Get Smart Program
- **Fri 8** Term Four Showcase

**WEEK 10**
- **Mon 11 – Thu 14** Staff professional learning program
- **Fri 15** Final day for teaching staff

### TERM FOUR HOLIDAYS
- **Thu 21** Term Four ends for 2017
- **Mon 25** Christmas Day

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES AND TIMES WERE ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION, PLEASE CHECK THE COLLEGE WEBSITE.**