Ash Wednesday

Please join us for our Opening School Mass in the Hall on: Wednesday 18th February at 12.30pm.

Second Reading
2 Cor 5:20-6:2
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be reconciled to God, now is the acceptable time.

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. As his fellow workers, we beg you once again not to neglect the grace of God that you have received. For he says: At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the day of salvation I came to your help. Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.
Year 7 2016 Enrolment OPEN DAY

We will be holding an Open Day and Enrolment Information sessions for interested parents and their children on Saturday 14 February 2015 from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

The day will include information, displays and an interactive tour of the many facilities available at our school, with a formal presentation and information session in the school hall at 10.30am.

| 10:00am - 2:00pm | Open Day Displays and School Tours
| 10:30am         | Information and Presentation in School Hall

Please take note of our new
Uniform Shop Opening Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays  12pm - 1:30pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
**Project Compassion – “Food For Life”**

This year’s Project Compassion stories focus on the ways in which Caritas Australia is working around the world to empower vulnerable people to establish sustainable food sources and develop income streams for life.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Year 7 2015 Reflection Day

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
National Apology to Australia’s Indigenous People

Friday 13 February 2015 is the 7th Anniversary of the ‘National Apology’ to Australia’s Indigenous People.

Wednesday, 13 February 2008 was a day of great significance in the history of our nation. The Australian Federal Government made a formal apology to the Indigenous peoples of Australia, specifically those in the Stolen Generations. It is the 7th Anniversary of this special historic event in Australia. Kevin Rudd stood in front of both houses of our Federal Parliament and said to the Parliament of Australia that:

“I move
That today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.
We reflect on their past mistreatment.
We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were stolen generations - this blemished chapter in our nation’s history.
The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia’s history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.
We apologise for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians”

It is a day to remember and pray for the children who were taken away from their families and homes. This apology is a step in the path to reconciliation. It is a commitment to right the wrongs of past injustices and is about building a bridge of respect between all people.

Let us acknowledge the four Aboriginal Nations across the Diocese of Wollongong the Dharrwal Nation, Tharawal Nation, Gundungurra Nation and the Yuin Nation traditional homelands to the custodians of this land who long before us lived, loved, respected, protected the land and raised their children. With the greatest respect we also acknowledge our Elders, for it is their wisdom and knowledge that has guided us to where we are today.

Closing the Gap, is our national responsibility, it is a shared journey.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
A Message from the Office

FEES STATEMENTS AND PAYMENTS

All families should have received their Fee Statement either via email or mail. There are many options for payment of fees. A sheet is attached outlining methods of payment accepted.

It is important that all parents and carers make an effort to pay their fee account. The school relies on this money to be able to provide for your child’s education. Many parents make great sacrifices to send their children to John Therry and we appreciate your support.

All parents / carers are asked to make some attempt to pay something off their fees. If you are experiencing difficulty with paying of fees you are asked to make an appointment to see either myself, Josephine Geer, the School Secretary, or the Principal, to discuss your circumstances. There is facility for fee relief, but you will be asked to complete an application and show financial details of income.

We are required to report large outstanding debts to the Catholic Education Office. This is not something we like to do, but as part of the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong we are governed by their regulations with regard to debt recovery.

If we have an arrangement in place, or you have had an interview and explained your circumstances, then we can deal with the debt at a school level. If we have had no payment, no response from letters we have sent and no contact from parents or carers, then we will refer accounts to the Catholic Education Office (CEO). If there is still no response, then accounts will be sent to a debt collection agency.

All of this can be avoided if we have an open and honest relationship with all our families. You can be assured that all interviews are confidential and kept in the strictest confidence.

If you have any queries regarding anything relating to fees or day to day life at John Therry, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time via the school office. If I cannot help you myself I will be able to direct you to someone who can.

Mrs Josephine Geer
School Secretary
PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL FEES

School fee accounts will be emailed or mailed every month.

Accounts paid in full before the end of Term 1 will be eligible for a 5% discount on the tuition fee component of the account.

Payments can be made in full or part using the following methods:

**BPAY**
BPAY allows school fee payments to be made twenty four hours a day, seven days a week over the phone or via internet banking. Check that your financial institution offers this service. The Biller Code and Customer Reference number for your child is recorded on the school fee statement.

**EFTPOS**
Payments from savings and credit card accounts can be made at the school finance office. These payments are processed immediately whilst the cardholder is present to authorise the amount.

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**
Credit card payments may be made over the phone at any time through the school finance office. Direct Debit payments via your credit card can be organised on the 1st or the 15th day of each month.

**CENTREPAY**
Centrepay payments allow you to authorise Centrelink to make a payment to the school from your benefit. Forms may be obtained from Centrelink. Your account number information is on your statement or can be obtained from the school finance office.

**CASH / CHEQUE PAYMENTS**
Payments by cash or cheque can be made at the finance office during normal office hours 8.00am to 4.00pm. Cheques are to be made payable to John Therry Catholic High School. For safety and security reasons we strongly recommend that a large amount of cash is not brought to the school by students.

**DIRECT DEBIT**
Direct Debit is a written authorisation that is given to the school by you to make a one off payment or payments on a regular basis from your nominated account. An authorisation form is required to be completed and returned to the school for this payment method to occur. Any changes need to be notified to the school in writing.

If you have any questions regarding your account at any time please contact the school finance office on 4645 8100.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to a new school year. Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and good holiday. It is very refreshing to see all the students return with such excitement and enthusiasm. A very warm welcome to all our Year 7 students and the new students to our school.

Just a few reminders to help us look after you and your family more efficiently.

CONTACT DETAILS
The school phone number is 4645 8100 and fax number is 4645 8111. You can email the school at info@jtchsdow.catholic.edu.au, visit our website at www.jtchsdow.catholic.edu.au and receive information via Skoolbag app and to your email. Please ensure all your details are kept up to date. If you change addresses, phone numbers or email please let the school office know.

NEWSLETTER
Our newsletter will be published weekly on to our school website and to the Skoolbag app which is available for your mobile phone. If you would prefer a printed copy please contact the school office and leave your name and your child’s details and we will ensure they are given a copy to take home.

EARLY LEAVERS
If your child needs to leave school early please provide them with a note to show their classroom teacher so they are able to leave class and be at the office at the time you are picking them up. The note can be written in their school planner / diary. This will limit the amount of time you are waiting for them. They must report to the office to be signed out.

If something comes up and you need to collect your child from school, please ring the office before you come and we can have them waiting for you, rather than you waiting while we find them. It is often difficult to locate students if they are at sport or doing a practical class somewhere. They are not always in the classroom for lessons.

LATE COMERS
If your child is late for school for any reason they must report to the office to be signed into school. Problems arise if they do not do this, as they will be marked absent for the whole day. This will result in you receiving a letter asking you to explain why they were absent.

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL
If your child is absent from school you need to provide a reason. You are able to phone the office and let us know or send in a written note. If your child is absent for three days in a row with no explanation you will be contacted to explain why. This is to fulfil the requirements of the Government leave regulations. If you are planning a family holiday during school time then you need to complete an “Application for Leave” request which has to be approved by the Principal.

Please contact the office if you are unsure of the regulations and rules regarding absenteeism. The school is required by law to document all absences of every student.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
If you keep us informed as to why your child is absent from school it can eliminate the need for us to contact you and send out letters regarding your child’s absence from school.

If your child is a senior student – Years 10, 11 or 12, and they have assessments or exams on days they are absent, they will require a doctor’s certificate to explain their absence and to be eligible for special provisions if necessary.

**SICK BAY**

If your child presents to sick bay, it is school policy that if they are injured or sick they will be sent home. We do not have the facilities for students to spend lengthy times in sick bay. It is imperative that we have your current contact details and details of other contacts who are able to collect your child in the event of illness or injury.

If an accident occurs at school and your child is injured, you will be notified immediately. An ambulance will be called for all head injuries and any other injury deemed serious enough. If a child is taken to hospital in an ambulance they will be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer can get to the hospital.

Members of the office staff are first aid trained, but we are not allowed by law to administer pain relieving medications, ointments or the like. Band-aids, ice packs, heat packs and water are the only first aid treatments available to us. Due to the chance of allergies or other reactions we do not give students anything at all.

In the event you are unable to collect your child we will ask you to find someone else who can. If your child cannot be collected and we feel they are sick enough, an ambulance will be called.

If your child has to take a prescription medication during school hours you need to complete a medical form at school and give permission for us to administer that medication. We are not permitted to administer non-prescription medication to students.

**BUS TRAVEL**

If your child travels to and from school by bus they must present their current bus pass to the driver each day. In the event your child loses his or her bus pass you must contact the bus company or have the child inform the driver, and you will have to pay for a replacement pass.

**CAR TRANSPORT**

If you drive your child to and from school you are asked to drop them off in the turning circle at the front of the school. **You are not permitted to drive into the school grounds.**

If your child drives to school they are to park on the roads outside of the school. They are asked to not block local driveways or access to public places. Under no circumstances are they to drive into the school car park.
At all times please be mindful that there will be students, cars, buses and staff all in the vicinity of the road and car parks. There will also be primary age students from Our Lady Help of Christians who share some of our buses.

Please be vigilant at all times with vehicles around the school.

**LOST PROPERTY**
Lost property that has not been claimed at the end of year will be disposed of at the discretion of the uniform shop if not collected by the end of term. Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child’s name. We have no way of knowing who has lost what if they do not have a name on them. Each year we have an enormous amount of lost property around the school from uniform, jackets, scarves, hats, footballs and all sorts of other items. It is a lot easier to return them if they have names.

Mrs Josephine Geer
School Secretary
## Sport Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys Cricket</td>
<td>Mr. Tannous</td>
<td>No Game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Girls Cricket</td>
<td>Ms. Bond</td>
<td>Won 61-56</td>
<td>What an impressive start from these very talented young ladies. We were sent in to bat first with Meaghan Retiring on 21 and Chloe also contributing 14. Some great teamwork in the field and accurate bowling it is safe to say these girls are going to be contenders. MVP: Chloe Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Boys Oz Tag</td>
<td>Mr. Morris</td>
<td>No Game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Girls Oz Tag</td>
<td>Ms. Hogan</td>
<td>Lost 12-2</td>
<td>A tough start to the season with a very inexperienced team. Well done to JT girls who played hard and consistently throughout the game. MVP: Matilda Sherwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Volleyball</td>
<td>Mr. Williamson</td>
<td>No Game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Volleyball</td>
<td>Mrs. Hynard</td>
<td>Lost 3-1</td>
<td>A solid start to the season considering many novices made up the team. The girls played well and have the ability to win many matches in the season. Well done for their first game. MVP: Celtie Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Basketball</td>
<td>Mr. Peters</td>
<td>Won 13-8</td>
<td>Vs Mt Carmel B Simply refused to give up. A bit out of practice after the holidays. We need to finish much better and make free throws. In the end, we had a fought win against a good opposition. Full court pressure by JT was the difference. MVP: Alvin Navais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Basketball</td>
<td>Ms. Patterson</td>
<td>Lost 18-9</td>
<td>The girls had a tough game first, up against a well drilled St Pat’s team. JT put in a great first half effort to be down 10-3. Jessica Bergamin provided us with a wonderful 3 pointer to give us a boost. We never surrendered and went down fighting, MVP: Jessica Bergamin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Boys Softball</td>
<td>Mr. Goodhew</td>
<td>No Game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Girls Softball</td>
<td>Mrs. White</td>
<td>Lost 5-0</td>
<td>For the first game of the season, our JT softball side showed a lot of promise. The girls combined well as a team and held a pretty accomplished side to a 5-0 loss. Mackenzy Pappard demonstrated a cool head and maturity in the field, while Jasmine Agland proved to be a very willing and motivated team player. Well done girls. MVP: Jasmine Agland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sport Report continued.**

Welcome Back to 2015.

The new year has brought many new sporting opportunities for the students in the MISA, Diocesan and NSW CCC competitions.

**Term 1 MISA** has kicked off with the girls competing against St Patricks College. The school produced some great games and good results. 2014 saw our Junior Boys teams win the Champion Trophy for the school. Overall, John Therry lost to Mt. Carmel by 11.5 points after winning Term 1 and 4. Let’s make it our personal goal to beat these schools every term so we can once again become the dominant sporting school in the MISA competition.

**Diocesan Events.**

The next few weeks will see John Therry participate in the Diocesan Boys Touch Football, Girls soccer, Boys Rugby League, Tennis Teams event and the Diocesan Swimming carnival. Team meetings and training will be held soon, students are encouraged to read the daily announcements or bug their Learning Group Mentors about all things sport. See below for Diocesan Dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd February</td>
<td>Diocesan Carnivals – Boys Touch (Wollongong) + Girls Soccer (Nowra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th March</td>
<td>Diocesan Rugby League (St Greg’s) JT HOST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Mar</td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival (Corrimal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diocesan Tennis Teams (4B + 4G) – Wollongong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Students are to sign up for their chosen sport at the sports office and wait for upcoming selections.**

**NSW CCC**

Several NSW CCC individual sporting opportunities are already available with several students trialling in Baseball, Softball, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis and Golf. All the best to these students and we wait to hear good news after your trial dates. Remember that there is a new way to nominate for individual sports for NSW CCC. This information can be found on the “JT SPORT PAGE” under the NSW CCC tab and then down the bottom of the pages under attachments.

**John Therry Swimming Carnival.**

The 35th Annual Swimming Carnival will be held at Bradbury Pool on Friday 29th February 2015. Students should assemble on the basketball courts at the rear of the Bradbury pool (Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre) from 8.15am as the attendance rolls will be marked at 8.30am. In the event of bad weather, a cancellation announcement will be made on C 91.3, email and on the School’s website from 6:30am onwards and a normal school day will be held.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
John Therry Catholic High School

Term 1 Week 3A

John Therry Cross Country Carnival – Competitors Only

The School Cross Country will take place on Tuesday 10th March at school periods 1-4. Students will compete for Age Champion and selection in the school’s Diocesan team, which will then compete 29th April in Term 2.

Students who wish to run must complete the online registration which was shared with them on google. Student times will be recorded in PE and Sport lessons in preparation for the upcoming carnival.

John Therry Athletics Carnival

This year’s carnival will take place on the 27th March, Friday Week 9 term 1. The carnival has been moved from our normal time due the Diocesan and NSW CCC carnivals moving forward in time. Our carnival coincides with the end of the athletics season so our elite students should be on top of their game to break even more records this year.

For more information on any of the above notices please check out the “JT SPORTS PAGE” on google sites or feel free to call on 0438673350.

Yours In Sport

Mr Jamie Cook
HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT WITH THEIR LEARNING

Whilst parents are often involved in their teenager’s sporting, musical or dramatic activities, parental support on the sidelines of their adolescent child’s studies can be also be beneficial, particularly to academic performance. Research shows that children are more likely to succeed if parents are involved in their learning. Hendersen and Mapp (2002) found that ‘the more families support their children’s learning and educational progress, the more their children tend to do well in school and continue their education’.

Strategies for Parents to help their secondary school aged students achieve their potential:

- **WORK ENVIRONMENT**
  The obvious logistical support is providing a quiet, open space with few distractions for working at home. Involve your student in creating this space. Workspace tools for effective learning include a desk, ergonomic chair, a noticeboard and good lighting, as well as a shelf or drawers for folders, reference books and non-essential work. Spending time to discuss options, alternatives and reasons for establishing a dedicated work area is valuable.

- **BREAKFAST**
  Importantly students need to start the day with a nutritional breakfast, as this will increase energy, attention, concentration and memory, particularly if the breakfast includes grains, fibre, protein and is low in sugar. Parents can facilitate this good start to the day as part of the daily routine. Similarly, nutritious snacks and lunch will enable the student to remain more focused throughout the day.

- **ORGANISATION**
  A calendar for each term should be created and displayed near your student’s desk and in prominent thoroughfares in the home, such as the kitchen. The calendar or term planner should include: all co-curricular and social activities, as well as assignment, assessment or test dates. This helps the student see the big picture of commitments and not simply a weekly or daily routine. Similarly, nutritious snacks and lunch will enable the student to remain more focused throughout the day.

- **FILING SYSTEMS**
  Master folders should be set up for each subject at home, so after each topic is completed the notes can be placed in appropriate categories. This also gives students somewhere to file completed tests and assignments. Most students carry their current notes to school each day, but naturally as the term and year progresses it’s impossible (and risky if misplaced) to have all work notes in one folder. Students may also need help organising the files on their computers and devices (although it is likely that many students know more about this than their parents!).

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
• **ROUNINES**  
Helping your student to establish routines can add an element of calm to each day. Simple routines such as having the school bag packed and uniform ready before going to bed each night, can eliminate unnecessary angst in the morning. A useful addition to the evening schedule is to determine the next afternoon’s program: when homework and daily revision will be done around co-curricular activities, dinner etc. This can give a clear direction when your student comes home each day. Some students find that having regular times set aside for schoolwork each day helps them to develop a routine of working. Other students will need to make a plan each afternoon as their schedule changes each day.

• **TIMETABLE**  
Know your student’s timetable, so it’s easy and relevant to ask “What were you doing in Science today?”. A specific question can often open a conversation where your student not only shares but, in doing so, reinforces what was learned which increases memory (and understanding) of the lesson.

• **SUBJECTS**  
Know your student’s subjects, and become aware of the topics covered each year in those subjects. ‘Improved educational outcomes result from a genuine interest and active engagement from parents’ (OECD 2011), so knowing the topics could allow parents to expose students to different dimensions of the subject through film, books, contemporary issues, the Internet, exhibitions, travel etc. Students appreciate, perhaps subconsciously, that the parent is truly interested in their learning and what they are learning. Some schools will give students a course outline and the state’s educational body will also have a website where parents should be able to access the syllabus (what will be taught) for each subject.

• **ASSIGNMENTS**  
A helpful strategy is to keep abreast of when assignments are given. Talking to your student about assignment expectations, drawing out their understanding of the topic, criteria and parts of the assignment can instil a deeper appreciation. It’s good to probe and ask more about the assignment topic with questions, as this could give your student other perspectives, and once more, help the student feel the parent has a real interest in learning. When planning the workload for an assignment, parents can help break the work into chunks or parts. This can reduce the sense of the overwhelming enormity of the task and the task can be broken into manageable parts, which are scheduled to be done into the calendar or diary.

• **TESTS**  
Similarly, parents can help students prepare for tests by quizzing them, asking for concepts to be explained or helping write practice tests. Explain to your student that memory and understanding can increase if the brain is using multiple processes to use information, such as writing, reading, speaking, drawing or singing! When tests are returned, focus on what was achieved and note concepts to revise. If students know parents are not solely focused on the grade, but also on the process, and that tests (and assignments) are tools to learn, intrinsic motivation can develop.

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
• CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
There comes a time in secondary school when some co-curricular activities need to be cut for a period of time, as academic demands increase or the student is juggling too much. It’s unlikely students will initiate severing an activity so it’s generally up to parents. Students, like adults, can give more to an activity when there is time, and academic work needs to be one of the main priorities during the school terms. Parents will often be the first to notice when their student is over-loaded (and it varies for each individual), when school work is rushed or dismissed, when their student is tired or out-of-sorts, when they have no “downtime” on weeknights. Everyone needs some downtime, even if it is only for an hour of escapist freedom.

• TECHNOLOGY
Parents need to be the “bad cop” when it comes to limiting computer games, or other digital device activity. It is advisable that devices are not in bedrooms when students go to bed. However, rather than dictating the rule, parents should talk about the need for solid, sufficient sleep for the brain to re-wire neural pathways to consolidate the day’s learning. Lack of sleep can lead to reduced concentration and attention span, delayed response time, and decreased short-term memory. Rules for technology (including TV viewing) should be developed together if possible so there is agreement about the approach.

• COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL
It’s now fully acknowledged that together, parents and teachers play a dual role in educating students, so it’s vital to maintain open communication with the school. It’s important for parents to keep abreast of school information conveyed to through newsletters, school portals, emails and so on, as it’s not uncommon for a student to miss information at school. This allows parents to flag or discuss with their student what the school is offering, advising or sharing. For example: a newsletter may alert parents to additional “maths tutorials” offered before school, or “homework help sessions” after school. This reinforces again that the parent is interested in their student’s learning. It is equally important for parents to advise the school of extraneous issues happening at home, as this would give teachers an understanding of atypical behaviour, work ethic, concentration etc. An illness or death in the family (including a family pet), parent absence for more than a fortnight, or challenging issues on the home front, are examples of when parents should contact the school. Moderated assignments, extensions on homework, or relaxed detentions could result, and allow the student to resume their learning journey without additional stress. However secondary school students also need to gain skills and strategies to deal with life’s variables, and to become independent, confident problem solvers. So it’s also important for parents to give students opportunities to manage issues at school themselves. Parents should not approach the school to “fix” every minor problem, such as a student missing a page in an exam which lowered his grade, or a student feeling they had been maligned by a peer. Both these instances are life-lessons to learn from or solve, so parents should encourage students to ask for approach teachers themselves when needed.

The strategies above should be developed with the child, and hopefully will be independently adopted by the student when they reach their final years at school. It’s worthwhile noting that each point is related to the child’s learning, as this sends a very positive message that the parent is engaged and interested in the learning process.


“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
News from the Music Department

As part of our ongoing support of Creative Arts, this year we will continue to offer music tuition within the school. It will feature experienced music tutors from the Liverpool Academy of Music. Today, the Liverpool Academy of Music in Sydney's South West, has grown to become one of the largest music schools in Australia. Since the Academy does teach from a graded syllabus, there is music written for every level - students are making and playing music almost from the very first lesson. And as they apply themselves, students simply move to play more difficult music.

At the moment we are offering tuition for guitar, piano and voice.

Tuition will take place at school. Students will be taken out of class for their lesson/s each week. Lessons are typically half an hour and will fall on a Tuesday. Tuition fees will be paid directly to the tutor ($30.00 per lesson). Students are taught in a one-on-one style, using innovative methods, as we believe and see proof that this achieves the best results. More information about the Academy can be seen on their web site at http://www.liverpoolacademyofmusic.com.au/

Please see one of the friendly music teachers or contact them via email to receive an enrolment form.

jennifer.koryzma@dow.catholic.edu.au
katrina.blunden@dow.catholic.edu.au

Thanks
Music Department
A LOVER'S VENGEANCE

'In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, let there be light; and there was light.'

The flame captured my eyes and my sight became a blur of fury. Turning back was not what one should do. How heavy could the heart get before the final release of emotion? Could it be that I, the one they call innocent, dare so much as to engender such rousing of panic? Yes. It would be so.

They would begin the ceremony at dawn, leaving me with just enough time to hide away and ward off gestures of condolence.

The flame, once so still, began to flicker with anxiety. No wind was blowing but the rush in my mind. In need of relief from the terrors, I closed my eyes.

Tightly... Slowly... Blackness.

You see, my eyes were shut so tensely that constellations of stars were whirling across my lids, allowing a scene of planets and visions of make believe to appear. Though stars did once glow and planets did once turn, the universe of my sanity - once materialised for my eyes to witness – had fallen to ashes.

When I opened my eyes to face that flicker once again, I could see her face come into sight. Sensing her presence caused my skin to crawl. Bugs poisoned with nostalgia and remorse and complete destruction of her once lively presence crossed my skin. I hung my head and felt my hair graze over my face, ridding me of vision and birthing a concealment of morals. The crowd's protests of our love burdened my thoughts; ringing in my ears, ridding me of solitary existence.

The oppression established in one's life is determined by the ignorance surrounding their presence, and God, I could feel their ignorance. Pounding on the gates of my patience was taking a toll on me.

It was strenuous and gruelling to be both civil and sane. But the soon-to-be outcome of today's events dawned on me once more, producing a new found sense of enlightenment. A slight chuckle rose from the depths of my abdomen. Oh! What a wonderful thought it was to imagine their awe at my work.

For the victim shall victimise; the pitiful shall weep.

Various pages of official reports yet the only phrase stuck in my mind was 'grievous murder'. Visions of her eyes being scooped out accompanied mental images of the hook around her spine, tugged out of her body.

Brain damage.

Swollen face.

Missing limbs.

Knife wounds from North to South; East to West.

Never a glimpse of release, never a sign of regret. Visions... Visions of her torment, crowding my head. Never allowing me to eat; never allowing me one night of bliss. They haunted my dreams throughout the investigation.

"Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just
Three weeks later, the prying had slowed, and with no complete body, the dissembled corpse had been burnt. *Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

Was it not enough to rip through the fulfilment of her smile, her laugh. She had once been that sixteen year old girl in the park discovering how her skin tingled with the touch of another akin; how she felt like her soul had enveloped a guard of dignity the moment she confessed her sins to the local community priest; how her mother and father - both who had lost more and more of their passion every year they celebrated another anniversary - told her that her love was nothing other than the possession of a demon. An unwanted intruder. Shunned and expected to be shunned. Was it not enough to carve the rigidity of your beliefs in her torso?

Alas, some found it quite uncanny to see a crisp, white coffin at the funeral. An empty, closed casket for a lifeless soul. I overlooked the company through the window and adjusted my dress one last time as I left the room and joined the service outside. I took my seat at the back, stirring whispers of both judgement and concern. My mind wandered to memories of the night before when authority notified me that the person responsible for this service had not been seen for days and that they were looking for the man who drove my lover to a place I cannot envision nor see.

I thought back to the prior night, as I unloaded the masculine body from the trunk of the Chevy, slipping quietly into the house. Such a simple slip of thought allowed me to pass by smoothly with no suspicion; the disposition they saw me with was not of my liking, but I played the card to my advantage.

The minister's voicing of my name snapped me out of my thoughts and in that moment, reality bore a hefty weight on my shoulders. I arose, walking between the aisles of chairs and stares of sorrowful ignorance, until I stood in front of the crowd awaiting my speech. 70 sets of gloomy eyes were on me. I could feel their hatred sinking into my veins. I could feel the two empty seats which should've been containing a mourning mother and a father too proud to admit defeat to the war we all have going on with one another. Although saddened I was with the grim, harsh, problematic reality of the situation, a growing pride was overshadowing any instinctive state of mind I was feeling in that moment. With an eerie smile I stared at the coffin, raising curiosity which could only be described as all the coroners of the earth, joining to admit their cluelessness of the situation.

My time was coming and I could feel the energy surrounding me; particles binding together to increase vitality; my aura blinding those present. Angelic voices rose from the grounds, spitting out cries, the cries of finally being free. Everything was glowing. Everything was seraphic. Everything was pure. And in that moment my last shred of sanity combusted and I was gone from the bounds that chained me to my demons.

It was an ultimate moment of glory; the epitome of retribution. As I opened the casket to reveal a dissembled body - eyes scooped out of his head, spine hooked out of his body - I cried out, "Fellow friends, do not mourn. Rejoice! For the deed has been returned!"

'*And God saw that it was good.*'
Too busy this morning to eat breakfast? Rushed out the door and forgot?
Come and join us for cereal, toast, fruit or yoghurt

When: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
Before school: 8.00 – 8.30am
Where: The kitchen area in the lower hall
Cost: A gold coin donation would be appreciated
Community Notices

Lions Youth Exchange Program – Leo Clubs:

The Lions Club Exchange Program gives Australian youth aged 16-21 years the opportunity to live with Lions families overseas during their end of year summer holidays. The Program does not involve tuition or school attendance but is rather a cultural holiday where students can immerse themselves in a new culture.

More information can be obtained by visiting The Lion Clubs Websites:  
www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye  
www.lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth.leos

Study and Assignment help

“Recta Sapere” To Know, Love and Relish what is Right and Just