



# Head Master's Bulletin

## LENT TERM - BULLETIN III - 1998 FROM THE HEAD MASTER

SOME MATTERS OF ROUTINE...

### The Record Book

The 1998 Student Record Book has been distributed to every student in the School. I encourage all parents to make full use of their son's Record Book as a means of communication between the home and the School. I emphasised at assembly this week that the Record Book is not a personal diary or some form of private photo album, but is an official School document needing to be properly looked after. A blank section on the right hand side of each opening enables parents and staff to record pertinent comments as to a boy's progress both in and out of the classroom. Parents regularly need to check their son's Record Book, reviewing it at least weekly basis and recording comments which they feel would be of assistance to their son's teacher or Housemaster. A routine checking of the Record Book is ideally on Friday evening, normally the day the Head Master's Bulletin is issued. Thus you may record in the appropriate section that you have received the Bulletin, an important communication link between home and School.

### School Rules

It is an appropriate time for me, at the beginning of the year, to highlight School policies on certain major issues, which are detailed in the Record Book, such as:

#### ● Liquor, Drugs, Cigarettes

At all times when they are the responsibility of the School, boys must conform to School regulations. This includes any occasion when a boy is coming to or from School or any social function, excursion, camp, dances, and so forth. To put it succinctly, liquor, drugs, and cigarettes are "out" and any boy found in possession of any of them is very likely to be removed from the School. Students in possession of smoking implements (matches, lighters, tobacco, etc.) will be deemed to have been smoking. Students involved with drugs (the seed or substance) at School or at any School function will be expelled.

#### ● Theft and Vandalism

Boys, particularly young boys, need frequent reminding that theft, like vandalism, is a most anti-social act. It destroys trust and it creates an atmosphere of unease and uncertainty. No School community can tolerate either of these activities and to protect itself it is likely to remove anyone found transgressing in this fashion. Also, for their own protection, boys are instructed not to leave valuables in accessible places such as changing rooms. Every student has his own locker which can secure valuable personal possessions.

#### ● Behaviour on Public Transport

Like all other Schools who have large numbers of pupils travelling by public transport, we are most concerned at any reports of unruly or inconsiderate behaviour by our students. The School's good name is brought into disrepute by such boys and prompt action will be taken against any students who are reported. Respect for personal property of others, including the School's, is mandatory. Such respect is not only necessary for the welfare of others but is also evidence of mature community behaviour. It is important that a boy's appearance be clean, neat and tidy at all times; his habits should be wholesome, too, not causing offence to others.

FRIDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 1998

#### ● Bullying

The School is aware that bullying includes long-standing violence, physical or psychological, conducted by an individual or group and directed against an individual unable to defend himself in the actual situation; when he is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more than one person; and an abuse of power in any relationship. There are many types of bullying: physical, verbal, gesture, extortion and exclusion.

Our POSITION STATEMENT, which incorporates its Mission Statement, is that bullying of any kind is unacceptable within the School community. Students who continue to behave in such an antisocial manner will forfeit their membership of the School community.

The Trinity community aims to create an environment of understanding and co-operation in which the victim of bullying will feel empowered to seek help and, by collaboration with staff and others, confront the influence of the bully.

More importantly, the attitude and active response of the School community will make the bully realise that his behaviour is antisocial and personally damaging. He will recognise the need to be guided towards more appropriate interpersonal skills.

The School Pastoral Care structure is sensitive to this issue and has an ongoing brief to monitor the situation within the School. It is important for the School community to be aware that a student who is bullied very rarely tells an adult (including parents). This may be because of a feeling of decreased self worth created during the bullying incident, the fear that reporting the incident will result in further harassment or that the nature of the victim is often such that he would not be assertive enough to report the incident.

Parents who observe a radical change in their son's behaviour should talk to their son and his Housemaster because such changes may be symptomatic of bullying. These changes may include lack of confidence, withdrawal from social activities, temper flare-ups, forgetfulness, distractibility, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, wanting to change the route to school, and avoidance of specific lessons.

The issue of bullying is discussed in our pastoral care programmes. If a student feels he is being bullied he is encouraged to talk to: his parents; a teacher; his Housemaster; the Chaplain; the School Counsellor; School Sister; Senior Master; or Head Master.

#### School Expectations Outside the Classroom

As members of the School, our boys have the privilege and responsibility of being able to support its activities and functions. Expectations in terms of student support need to be balanced and realistic. The following guidelines will prove beneficial in sustaining and maintaining the appropriate level of support our School deserves:

##### (i) Major Functions

All students are to attend the end of school functions as indicated below:

\* Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, Sunday 29 November at 7.30pm — Year 7 compulsory/ Years 8-12 voluntary.