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# ST PIUS X COLLEGE CHATSWOOD

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Established 1937

28 April 2010

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As you would be aware the NAPLAN tests will be conducted for Years 5, 7 and 9 from 12 May to 14 May at the College and later this year the results will once again be published on the My Schools website by ACARA. The College is very proud of its results in the 2008 and 2009 NAPLAN tests. We welcome the publication of Australian schools' data as an opportunity for open and transparent dialogue regarding school performance in the national context, even though the College shares concerns voiced by many educational leaders regarding the manner in which the statistics are compiled on the My Schools website. It is important for all users of this website to realise that every school's results will vary from year to year according to circumstances and candidature. Therefore it is better to view a school's performance over an extended period of time.

The College believes strongly that the best way to prepare students for the NAPLAN tests is through consistent and high quality teaching and learning in the classroom. Prior to the tests, all students are exposed to practice tests so that they can become familiar with the nature and style of the papers and are well prepared so that they can achieve their personal best. However, the College does not actively promote regular practice of test papers for their own sake or the approach of 'teaching to the test'.

The College will again closely analyse this year's NAPLAN results. The information obtained, along with data from internal and other external data sources, will be used to inform future planning to ensure that students' literacy and numeracy needs will continue to be met.

As a non-selective Catholic school, St Pius X College is conscious that the NAPLAN data is only one measure of student performance. We are a school that aims to provide relevant, authentic, dynamic and creative learning experiences attentive to the needs of each person; promoting the development of the whole person and feel it is important to acknowledge that there are many dimensions to Catholic education.

St Pius X College is proud of its reputation as being an academically successful school that provides rich learning opportunities for all students. All members of the community are encouraged to work to the best of their abilities, to realise their potential and to strive for excellence in a safe, healthy and supportive environment. It is our hope that every student will achieve their goals so that they may make a difference in this world beyond St Pius X. Each individual's gifts should be nurtured so that a confident and capable young man of conscience emerges with all of the necessary faculties of mind and heart at graduation.

Yours sincerely,

Br Michael Hoffman  
Principal