Get the balance right for boarding success

By DARREN ROYLETT, Director of Boarding

PRINCE Alfred College’s boarding community caters for 140 boys in Years 7 to 12. It provides an environment where boys can flourish academically and socially. This enables boys to be the best they can be, whether it is on the sports field or, more importantly, with their academic commitment.

A key component of all-round success is the academic program in boarding which supports the boys’ academic progress. It provides structure, access to academic support and helps develop positive learning habits.

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An essential ingredient to this formula is that each session is supervised by academic staff who work in the boarding program. Senior boys, in Year 11-12, study in their rooms with staff supervision.

New boys are guided on ways to develop their academic skills to adapt to the increased level of academic rigour at PAC. Specifically, there are programs which focus on organisation skills and planning as well as access to additional specialist tutorial assistance.

Given the significance of boarding to the college, all teaching staff are mindful of boarding students in their classes and provide extra support and clear communication with boarding families.

Authentic leadership also leads to authentic collaborative learning and the study groups established by the senior boys enable students to learn from each other and also provides important peer support.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2014 Year 12 boarding students who have achieved impressive results. They took advantage of the opportunities afforded them and are now enjoying the fruits of their success with many career paths open to them.

MORE INFORMATION

For information about enrolments, boarding and scholarships at Prince Alfred College, contact Matthew Rawes, Manager, Student Recruitment

08 8334 1275
or mrawes@pac.edu.au

Viewpoint

Jack Elsworth, Kadina

2012-14

After successfully completing the SACE last year, I am studying Clinical Exercise Physiology at the University of SA. Many people may be unfamiliar with this course as it is reasonably new and is the only one of its type in the state. At the completion of my degree, I intend going into private practice as an accredited clinical exercise physiologist, or undertaking honours and further specialisation into a specific area of exercise physiology.

I had the privilege of being a boarder at Prince Alfred College for the last three years of my schooling, and will be forever grateful to my parents for giving me the opportunity to board here. The lifelong friendships I forged as a boarder have already seen me move into a house in Adelaide with two other former boarders. My boarding experience significantly developed my independence and gave me the skills and knowledge to make a difference in life. My results in Year 12 are largely due to the incredible people at PAC who enabled me to learn and put the guidelines in place for me to work hard to ensure I can achieve the best I can.

I was able to form study groups with other boarders and get help from staff in the boarding house at all times while maintaining a busy sport schedule.

If I could offer any advice for country lads who might be considering boarding at PAC, it would be to take the opportunity with both hands and be prepared to work hard to achieve the very best you can in all aspects of your life. Your boarding experience will be something you will never forget.

Nelson Ellis, Kadina

2012-14

In 2012, I was lucky enough to begin boarding at Prince Alfred College. This would end up being an experience which sculptured who I am today, not only as a student, but more importantly as a person. As a student in the country I had under achieved and struggled through my studies. Therefore, it was important for me to be at a school which breeds development and success.

I found this rang true at the PAC Boarding House as staff provided an environment which cultivated, nurtured and complemented my studies.

This year, I have commenced a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice with Business (Marketing) at Flinders University. This course will help me enter into the corporate world and perhaps even politics. It would be hard to imagine getting entry into such a course if I had not attended PAC. It is a school which provided a holistic experience and one I am proud to say I graduated from. The memories extend far past the classroom and the camaraderie with my peers is something unrivalled and unmatched at any other institution.

Ned Murdoch, Warooka

2011-14

I arrived at PAC in 2011 and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities given to me, not just academically but also competing in highly competitive sports, exploring leadership and community roles, and especially engaging in the cheery barter of the boarding house. Since school has finished, it’s strange not seeing all the boys laughing in the dining hall or cramped in someone’s room discussing the weekend’s antics.

However, I am coaching sport at the school and often drop in to see Heather and Pam who are still helping me, whether it be printing university assignments or laying out my resume! PAC expects high standards of its boys and especially those in Year 12. Boys are expected to try their best in all of their subjects and support is given by teachers, boarding staff and other students, to help them get through the intimidating final year. I am studying a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Adelaide, and though undecided on a career, this degree will help me choose a career in the finance and business fields. I’d highly recommend going to PAC as it’s extremely helpful in developing academic, leadership and especially social skills. Leaving home to live with more than 130 other boys was not easy but I assure you that you will not regret the decision. It’s probably the best one I’ve made.