Your zoned Catholic secondary school is now accepting applications for admission to Year 7 in 2015. You are kindly requested to complete the accompanying application form for the enrolment of your son or daughter and return it **within a week** of receiving it. Increasingly, schools are finding difficulty in accepting all requests for enrolment, therefore early return of your application is important. If limits on class sizes have to be imposed, **late applications may, unfortunately, have to be added to the waiting list or declined.**

Completed applications are considered carefully and you will be informed as quickly as possible regarding acceptance. **Finalisation of school fee payments in previous diocesan schools is a condition of enrolment in another diocesan school.**

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle provides a high standard of secondary education. The schools are well staffed and their equipment and facilities are constantly being improved. Above all, they offer a comprehensive religious education program to help you with the continuing Christian foundation of your child. This program includes Religious Education classes, opportunities for Mass and the Sacraments, Christian living experiences and guidance in moral development.

**SCHOOL FEES**

Catholic primary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle provide an affordable option for parents seeking a faith perspective for their children's education.

Catholic schools collect school fees because there is a gap between the amount of government funding received and the cost of running a Catholic school. Although Catholic schools must charge tuition fees and levies to supplement government funding, fees and charges are kept at a level that is affordable for most families.

School fees in the Diocese are made up of a number of charges

**The Diocesan Tuition Fee** is set each year by the Bishop in consultation with the diocesan Finance Council, the Catholic Schools Council and the Federation of Parents & Friends Association. The school retains a portion of this fee to assist with operating costs. The balance is returned to the Catholic Schools Office to assist with the payment of salaries, workers compensation, public liability, student accident insurances and other operating costs.

A new family model for diocesan tuition fees commenced in 2013. This new model represents a significant financial saving for most families across their children’s K-12 Catholic school experience in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. In 2014, the **attracted family discount** for each child off the diocesan tuition fee full rate is:

- 1 child family 0% - full rate
- 2 child family 10% each child
- 3 child family 20% each child
- 4 child family 40% each child
- 5+ child family 50% each child
In 2014, the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rates are:

- Kinder to Year 6 $1,068
- Years 7 to 10 $1,470
- Years 11 to 12 $2,274

The Diocesan Family School Building Levy (DF&SBL) is a diocesan charge (per family) and is collected by the school at which the eldest student in the family attends. The income from the levy contributes to the capital and maintenance costs of the facilities as well as a range of pastoral ministries undertaken by the diocese. In 2014 a levy of $609 per family per annum is collected by schools.

The General Resource/Services Fee is a local school fee set by the Principal and school finance committee in consultation with staff, parents, parish priests and the CSO. This single consolidated fee is used to pay for school resources, educational activities, subject charges and amenities. Book Hire in secondary school is considered a service and a saving to parents; therefore, charges are an addition to fees. Other local school fees may apply for example an IT levy or specific subject fees. Your local zoned secondary school will be able to provide details.

The Enrolment Fee is payable upon confirmation for enrolment. This fee is generally non-refundable and is payable before the student commences school. The enrolment fee covers all administrative work involved in processing the application. When enrolled this fee is credited to the Term 1 school fees.

Payment Methods
Various options are available for payment of fees. These include periodic payments, BPAY, direct debit and credit card. Payments can be made over the telephone. Parents wishing to pay by periodic instalments are requested to nominate their payment method on the 1st account sent home at the beginning of the year.

All fees must be paid in full by the commencement of Term 4.

Billing Cycle
School fees are billed over the first three terms of the school year. However you may prefer to pay yearly. Other schedules of payment can be negotiated with the school principal or school finance officer.

CONCESSIONS
A genuine inability to meet tuition and other fees does not exclude access to a school within the Diocesan system for a child of a family genuinely committed to Catholic faith and practice. No child will be denied a Catholic education because of inability to pay fees. Many of our families receive fee concessions. Principals have wide discretionary powers to grant concessions in cases of genuine financial hardship. Each school gives parents an opportunity to apply for concessions and all applications are treated confidentially.

Health Care Card/ Pension Card Concessions
The Catholic Schools Office will discount tuition fees to 50% off the tuition fee charged for the first child at each year level for holders of a means tested Health Care Card. This fee is equivalent to the fee for the third child at each year level. The general resource fee and Diocesan family school building levy fees will be additional to this figure. To qualify for this subsidy parents must have a current means tested Health Care Card and complete the application form at the local school. Applications for the concession close before the end of Term 1.
ZONING

Each secondary school caters for students from a group of parishes in the Diocese. The zones are of particular importance in the Newcastle and Maitland areas where there are several secondary schools. Zoning in these two areas has enabled us to achieve equitable class loads in all schools and thus an improved educational situation.

In the past, parents have been most co-operative with regard to zoning. Requests for admission to a school outside the student’s zone must be accompanied by written details of the particular educational needs which can be best met by the out-of-zone school. Out-of-zone requests will be considered initially by the zoned school.

ST. JOSEPH’S HIGH SCHOOL, ABERDEEN
Accepts girls and boys, Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, from the parishes of Denman, Merriwa, Muswellbrook, Scone, Murrurundi.

ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL, ADAMSTOWN
Accepts girls and boys, Year 7, 8, 9 and 10, from the parishes of Adamstown, Broadmeadow, Hamilton, Kotara South, Lambton, Newcastle, New Lambton, Wallsend/Shortland.

ST. PAUL’S HIGH SCHOOL, BOORAGUL
Accepts girls and boys, Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 from the parishes of Boolaroo-Warners Bay, Cardiff, Glendale/West Wallsend, Morisset, Toronto, Booragul.

ST. MARY’S HIGH SCHOOL, GATESHEAD
Accepts girls and boys, Year 7, 8, 9 and 10, from the parishes of Belmont, Boolaroo-Warners Bay, Charlestown, Gateshead/Windale and Swansea.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER’S COLLEGE, HAMILTON
Accepts girls and boys, Year 11 and 12 from Year 10, St. Pius X High School, Adamstown, Year 10, St. Mary’s High School, Gateshead, and Year 10, San Clemente High School, Mayfield.

ALL SAINTS’ COLLEGE, ST. JOSEPH’S CAMPUS, LOCHINVAR
Accepts girls and boys, Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, from the parishes of Branxton, (where transport to Lochinvar is more convenient than it is to Singleton), Cessnock, Lochinvar and Rutherford.

ALL SAINTS’ COLLEGE, ST. MARY’S CAMPUS, MAITLAND
Accepts girls and boys, Year 11 and 12, from the parishes of Beresfield, Branxton, Cessnock, Dungog, Gresford, Lochinvar, East Maitland, Kurri Kurri, Maitland and Rutherford.

ST. CATHARINE’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE, SINGLETON
Accepts girls and boys, Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, from the parishes of Branxton (where transport to Singleton is more convenient than it is to Lochinvar) and Singleton.

ST. CLARE’S HIGH SCHOOL, TAREE
Accepts girls and boys, Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, from the parishes of Bulahdelah/Tea Gardens/ Karuah, Forster-Tuncurry, Gloucester/Krambach, Taree and Wingham.