20 February 2015

Dear Parents

Within Citipointe Secondary, the International Student Outreach Program [ISOP] is a vital, wide ranging student leadership program which aims to broaden our students’ vision and deepen their understanding of their potential. There are many facets of this program which has been in operation since 2006: ISOP @ home gives students opportunities to host or buddy our international student visitors and to learn about another culture when the world comes to Citipointe; ISOP abroad gives students supervised opportunities to visit other countries for academic, cultural, language or mission purposes. It is my aim through ISOP for our students to realise their potential and lift their sights to all the purposes that God has for them, to be people of influence in the future.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of these opportunities for the future, so that you may begin planning for your student to participate in one or more of these selected events. Year 7 students are not included in these tours: each year they participate in the Canberra trip. Over recent years, the Secondary School has developed partnership links with various top educational institutions here and overseas, to give our students the best opportunities for networking with international students and for pushing their personal best. These are:

Hwa Chong Institution SINGAPORE – one of the top 3 schools in Singapore: 2000 boys in Years 7 to 10, 2000 boys and girls in Years 11 & 12. Their students visit us every year; our students visit their school during the year, usually in September. We combine with this school for the Humanities Symposium.

Diocesan Girls School HONG KONG – one of the top schools in Hong Kong: Anglican and all girls. A homestay visit program is in operation for a small number of students each year from each school. We combine with this school for the Humanities Symposium.

Our school is also a Collegiate Partner of Bond University GOLD COAST; when we host the Humanities Symposium, Bond University is the preferred venue for our accommodation and all conference facilities. The tours on the following page will be open only to invited students and in the stated year levels. As well as these tours, other trips with cultural, language, subject specific or mission focus areas will be advertised generally and your students are most welcome to participate in these events also.

I commend this program wholeheartedly to you. I have investigated and experienced these tours personally and so can vouch for the excellent organisation and logistics managed by Mr Ric Guinane, our ISOP Coordinator, for the duty of care carried out by our supervising staff, and for the academic impact and benefit that is possible from this program for your student. Our students have found that an overseas experience with an academic focus can be advantageous when students apply for university entry.

When students are absent from school due to their participation in these tours, special arrangements are made with their teachers for their catchup lessons and any assessment tasks that will be missed. During the year, students will be invited to take part in these special events and information evenings will be held for all interested parents. I hope to see you at these meetings, and encourage you to plan for your student to attend at least one of these tours whilst in High school.

Yours sincerely
Helen Moore
HEAD OF SECONDARY