



WALK IN NEW LIFE

MATER MARIA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

LEADER OF EVANGELISATION AND CATHOLIC FORMATION

MICHAEL HALLIDAY

Year 7 Reflection Days 2021



During this month, our Year 7 students took part in their Year 7 Reflection Day. The Day was held at the Pittwater Uniting Church Centre in Warriewood.

The year group was split into two with the same programme being run over two days. Partly as a hangover from the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions and partly because of the large cohort number that we have this year.

The theme of the day was ***Caring for the Gift of God's Creation***, an obligation we are strongly reminded of in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. (2015) The Year 7 students engaged enthusiastically with the material presented to them on the Reflection Day. The material was both challenging and hope filled and aimed to heighten an awareness of the many small things each of us can do to make a difference in a world struggling with significant ecological challenges.

Following some reflection on our Christian understanding that the world and, all that is in it, is for us a gift of God which we are to care for, the students were provided with some simple information on our composting programme at the College and instructed on how they could play their part in this good work and thereby give practical and visible expression to their faith.

The students concluded the day by giving presentations, by way of drama, song or artwork that would reflect what they got from the day and what they hoped for their future. As we watched their presentations, it was the teachers turn to be inspired and moved by insight and commitment of these passionate young men and women.

We all had a couple of wonderful days and returned to school full of hope, confident that, as per the words of our final song at the end of Reflection Day Mass 'We can make a difference'!

A sincere thank you to all the teachers who attended the reflection days and helped to make them such a success for all the Year 7 students.

Michael Halliday
Leader of Evangelisation and Catholic Formation.