July 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

**International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**

Once again Saint Kentigern College will be participating in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). For over 20 years ICAS has taken place each year in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific region and South Africa. Entry is entirely optional. While it is anticipated that it will be more able students who will take advantage of this opportunity, we would like to give all students the chance to do so.

ICAS is an initiative of Educational Assessment Australia (EAA). EAA is a not for profit organisation owned by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

ICAS provides an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. It provides teachers, parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling, Writing and Computer Skills.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student report indicating which questions they answered correctly, their total score as well as their average compared with the rest of the students in New Zealand. The student report is also useful for highlighting student strengths and weaknesses in the skills and processes in the ICAS they participate in.

High quality UNSW certificates are awarded for each year level in New Zealand as follows:

* High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
* Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
* Credit to the next 20% of entrants
* Participation to all other participating students.

All students who achieve the highest score in New Zealand receive a UNSW medal. These medals may be presented at UNSW Medal Ceremonies or by arrangement at a school assembly.

ICAS assessments are once again online, which allows greater accessibility for students and faster delivery of results. There is a cost involved, however it must be emphasised that these tests are voluntary.

The entry fee per student is as follows: (please note Writing is not available in 2020)

[ ]  Science – 17 – 21 August (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  Digital Technologies – 24 – 28 August (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  English – 24 – 28 August (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  Mathematics – 31 August - 4 September (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  Spelling Bee – 31 August – 4 September (NZ $15.50)

Please return the permission slip to your child’s teacher by **Friday 31 July 2020**

We will make arrangements for the total to be charged to your College account, therefore no money needs to be brought to school.

To assist your child to prepare for the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), past ICAS booklets will be available in class. These booklets provide a good indication of the types of questions used and their difficulty and give children experience in the ICAS format. Sample practice questions can also be downloaded from the EAA website.

For more information please visit the EAA website at [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au) or email info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Hector Pearson Angee Robertson

**ICAS COMPETITION COORDINATOR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - CURRICULUM**

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**PERMISSION SLIP**

**2020 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)**

***Please return THIS section to your child’s teacher***

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the following 2020 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS):

[ ]  Science – 17 – 21 August (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  Digital Technologies – 24 – 28 August (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  English – 24 – 28 August (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  Mathematics – 31 August - 4 September (NZ $15.50)

[ ]  Spelling Bee – 31 August – 4 September (NZ $15.50)

Please charge $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entry fee to my College account.

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Name of Parent/Caregiver Date

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Signature of Parent/Caregiver