

NOVEMBER 2008

1. Commencing in 2009, parents will have the option to receive the parent portion of the EMA payment directly into their nominated bank account via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), **or** to receive their EMA payment by cheque according to the current arrangements.
2. A new EMA claim must be made at the beginning of **each year**.
3. The EMA for secondary students will be \$221.50 per student for 2009. The allowance will continue to be paid to the parent/guardian in two instalments (70% in First Semester and 30% in Second Semester). An equal amount (of \$221.50) will be paid to the College in two instalments (70% in First Semester and 30% in Second Semester). Pro rata payments for students turning 16 during 2009 are one twelfth of the allowance per month.
4. If you receive a new benefits card before the 21st November that expires after January 28th 2009 and you will be taking the parent portion of the EMA as a cheque, you will be able to **make an "early bird" 2009 claim in the week 17th November – 21st November this year** otherwise
5. **The College office will reopen next year on January 23rd** and you will be able to make EMA claims during that week plus in the first 4 weeks of Term One.
6. Because entitlement to the second half year EMA payment is not verified until July we cannot advance **your portion** of the 2009 **second half year EMA money** at the beginning of the year for booklist items and uniform as these have to be paid for in first term.
7. Please note that EMA credit notes for landmark (for booklist items) can only be redeemed at Rosebud Secondary College book selling days. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN THEY BE USED AT THEIR SHOP IN SEAFORD.**
8. The College's portion of the EMA will be put towards essential educational items, i.e. those items that you might otherwise have been asked to pay for or provide. Parents have the option of providing these items themselves. These items include: materials for electives where your student/s consumes or takes possession of the finalised articles (e.g. home economics), the difference between the basic materials/services and the higher cost alternatives, guest speakers, visiting artists, excursions that are integral to the curriculum etc. Any remaining balance will be put towards aspects of the School Supplied Requisites such as: ID cards, student insurance, student diaries, student computer printing outside subject costs etc (breakdowns of these items will be attached to your student's booklist).
9. **Please note** that even if the Centrelink Card you use to make your EMA claim expires after the 28th January 2009 it may not be valid. If Centrelink advises the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development of one of the following:
 1. The concession card you have provided to support your application was not current on the eligibility date of:
 - 28th January 2009 for the first EMA instalment
 - 13th July 2009 for the second EMA instalment
 2. You were not in receipt of an eligible payment type for EMA on:
 - 28th January 2009 for the first EMA instalment
 - 13th July 2009 for the second EMA instalment
 3. You have not provided your consent to Centrelink to allow relevant information to be provided to DEECD

then your claim will not be paid unless the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development receives a confirmation letter from Centrelink advising that you were eligible for a Centrelink pension, allowance, or benefit as at the eligibility date. **You will need to obtain this confirmation letter directly from Centrelink or pay back any monies advanced to you by the College.**
10. To reduce the costs of getting back to school please make use of the Uniform Shop's resale of second hand books and uniform. Please contact the Uniform Shop for details.
11. **Items of stationery can often be obtained cheaply from supermarkets and discount stores throughout the year, so watch out for and stock up on those specials to cut down on the costs of your booklist orders.**
12. **The bookseller does not send out slips to let you know the cost of your booklist order, so it is important that you fill out and keep the tear off slip provided for this purpose on the booklist or photo copy the original booklist before returning.**
13. The bookseller **does not accept** personal cheques as payment for booklist orders.

If you have any queries about the EMA please ring (5986 8595) or see Vicki Eva at the main office of the College.