17th February 2012

Dear Parent(s) and or Guardian(s)

RE: REGISTRATION EVENING FOR UMPIRING ACADEMY
WEDNESDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2012 @ 7PM IN THE COLLEGE DINING ROOM

Over the last six years St Bede’s College has been one of two founding schools in the metropolitan Melbourne, where the AFL Umpiring Department, set up an Umpiring Academy for novice and developing umpires in Australian Rules football. The College currently has a number of boys who regularly umpire each week in either the Moorabbin Saints Junior Football League, the Frankston Junior Football League, the Victorian Amateur Football Association, or the Southern Football League.

St Bede’s College has had many fine umpires emerge from its ranks in the past, including current AFL Umpires: Stephen McBurney, Simon Meredith and Chris Donlon. In 2007 another former student, Rob O’Gorman, received the “Young Umpire of the Year” Award for the VFL, and he is hoping to progress to the AFL in the near future.

These young men took up umpiring while still playing themselves. Fortunately, they discovered that they had a real talent for umpiring and this then became the focus for their football involvement. They get to see AFL players close up every week and know all of them by name. A bonus is they are well remunerated and are able to combine umpiring with their chosen careers.

All boys at the College are eligible to express an interest, even if they currently play football. I am sure that the knowledge gained will also benefit their playing of the game. As well, Umpiring appointments are rostered around the other commitments that boys have, so it is very “user friendly”.

Both Boundary and Goal Umpiring are also taught as part of the Academy and many boys find that they prefer this aspect of the game. An example of this is former student Dan Wilson, who goal umpires each week in the AFL. As well, when finals come around and there are less field umpiring appointments, boys are able to be goal or boundary umpires in these important games.

Any student who has an interest in the game, whether they are currently an umpire or not, is cordially invited to attend an Information and Sign-up Meeting along with one or both of their parents. Neville Nash from the AFL Umpiring Department will run the evening. At this meeting the aims, objectives and running of the Academy will be explained. This meeting will be held in the College Dining Room at 7.00pm on Wednesday 29th of February.

Students who register to be a part of the Umpiring Academy can purchase a $30 umpire sports pack – including: bag, shirt, whistle, cap, umpiring DVD. This can be purchased at the information evening.

I would ask that you fill out the reply slip below indicating your availability for catering purposes.

If your son has an interest in Australian Rules Football, please encourage him to consider joining the Academy and learning new skills and making friends along the way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the College at the phone number on this letter.

Yours sincerely

Michael Naughton
DIRECTOR OF SPORT
9582 5945

ATTACHED: Reply Form for Sign-up Information Evening
Reply Form

RE: SIGN-UP EVENING FOR UMPIRE ACADEMY
WEDNESDAY 29th FEBRUARY 2012 @ 7PM IN THE COLLEGE DINING ROOM

RSVP: Please return this form to Mr Michael Naughton

I/we will be attending the AFL Umpire Academy Information evening on Wednesday 29th at 7.00pm in the St Bede’s College Dining Room.

Student’s Name: ___________________________________________ Homeroom: Year _______ ● _______

Total number of people attending ________