



# RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wish to welcome you to Red Bend Catholic College and look forward to working with you.

Please find attached the following information to assist you in preparing your child/ren to commence classes in 2024:

- A list of general stationery and equipment required
- How to order textbooks - please ensure books are ordered and received prior to the school year starting
- Information about “Bring Your Own Device” and ordering options
- Ensure all exercise books are covered

Should you have any concerns or questions please contact the office on 6852 2000.

Please note that classes begin on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Tiff Nicholls | Enrolment Officer



## Equipment List

*Exercise books are to be covered and labelled prior to commencement of classes*

8 x A4 128-page exercise books

1 x A4 128-page grid book (for Maths)

2 x blue pens, 2 x red pens and 2 x black pens

Highlighters

1 set textas and 1 set coloured pencils

2 HB pencils

Geometry set

1 glue stick

1 pencil case

1 x 30cm ruler (not steel)

1 small pair of scissors

1 soft eraser

Pencil sharpener

Calculator: Casio scientific fx-82AU Plus II - available to purchase from the Student Service Office at the College

BYOD: Chromebook (Must be signed into with the student's RBCC account – See BYOD information page)



# Ordering Textbooks

To make the process of obtaining these vital learning materials as convenient as possible, we have partnered with Campion, a trusted supplier known for offering both physical and digital textbooks at competitive prices.

This initiative is designed to ensure that our students are fully equipped and prepared to embark on their Year 7 journey as classes commence in Term 1, starting on Tuesday, February 4th 2025.

To place order, please follow these simple steps:

- 1: Visit <https://order.campion.com.au>
- 2: Select Create new account or log in to existing account
- 3: Enter your email address and create new password -Please save login details somewhere secure
- 4: Enter resource access code for Red Bend: **G7RK**
- 5: Select Year 7 Booklist and select titles for your order.

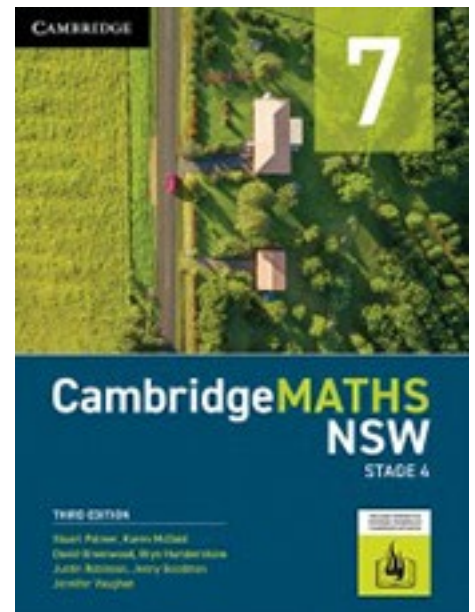
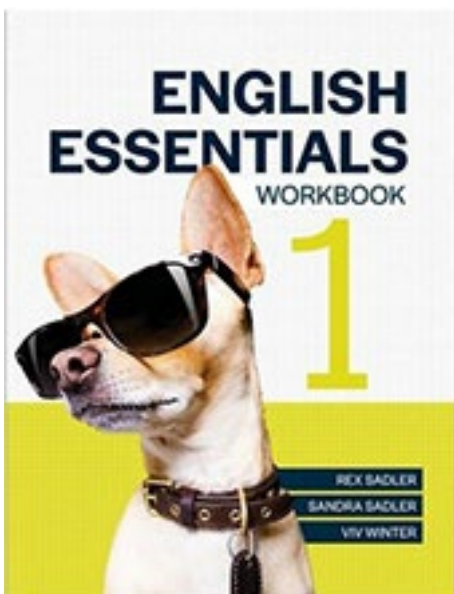
**English**-English Essentials AC Workbook 1

**Mathematics**-Camb NSW Maths Yr7 Stg4 3E Print & Digital

**Science**-NSW PearsonScience 7 /Book/eBook/Activity book

Students and parents should contact Campion Student Services on 02 8905 8691 with any queries relating to textbooks. **NOTE:** Digital or Ebooks are non-refundable please order carefully.

Textbooks will be packed and sent directly to your nominated address. If you have any queries or concerns please contact either Mahlah or Brooke in the Student Services Office on (02) 68511558.



(02) 6852 2000



College Rd Forbes NSW 2871



[www.redbendcc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.redbendcc.nsw.edu.au)

## Bring Your Own Device Information

RBCC is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) College. Students in Years 7 and 8 are expected to have a Chromebook (this can be the device they used at primary school as long as it is in good condition). Years 9–12 can have a Windows laptop if needed for their chosen electives, otherwise a Chromebook is recommended. Macs are not recommended. Please see the parent portal on the school website for more information regarding recommended specifications. It can be accessed through [redbend.cc/byod](http://redbend.cc/byod)

Please stick to the following when considering your child's laptop:

- no more than 3 years old
- it must support 5GHz Wi-Fi
- The device should not be managed at all and the student should be an administrator

*Please be aware that BYOD excludes tablets and phones.*

New students' parents or carers will be sent an email containing instructions on how to access their child's accounts and set their password etc. This must be done at home before the first day of school. For help please email [it@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:it@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au).

Once you have the device it must be enrolled into our management system. This will allow internet access at the College, as well as install anti-malware software and Microsoft Office, as well as applying some settings essential for network access. Please log into the student portal ([redbend.cc/stu](http://redbend.cc/stu)) for instructions on how to do this for each device type.

If your child already enrolled at the College gets a new device, it must also be enrolled before bringing it to the College for the first time.

For those students who need to purchase a device there are two options available:

1. You can purchase from a local retailer — you will be responsible for any repairs. Accidental damage insurance is strongly recommended.
2. You can purchase through our supplier ([redbend.cc/byod](http://redbend.cc/byod)). This includes a warranty that includes onsite repairs, and gives the option of including accidental damage repair.

Please ensure that you also purchase a protective bag for the device.

If you require any further advice, please feel free to contact our IT Department on 6852 2000 or email [it@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:it@redbendcc.nsw.edu.au).

For anyone requiring financial assistance with purchasing a BYOD for their child, please contact the college on 6852 2000.



## Making a smooth transition to Red Bend Catholic College

The end of the school year is exciting for most kids. Holidays to look forward to, long sleep-ins, and time with our friends and family. But not for everyone. All around Australia, there are Year 6 students who are feeling a bit excited but also a bit worried about the idea of secondary school next year.

This fear of a new school is normal, especially starting secondary school. Popular culture doesn't exactly paint high school as a friendly, inclusive environment. So how do we counter this perception and guide kids through this transition?

### **Talk about the new school positively**

Sometimes, with all the best intentions we make high school frightening for our kids. We say things like, "You'll need to work harder than that in secondary school" or "They won't put up with that in secondary school".

Secondary school is a natural progression in education. There isn't a sudden, unreasonable jump in expectations, academically or socially. In fact, to some degree, the beginning of Year 7 is a bit of a recap while teachers figure out where students are in their learning.

Tell stories about your secondary school days, emphasising the good things like friends and great teachers. Make it real for them. Don't list the benefits, kids know when you are selling an idea to them. Focus instead on sharing the positive emotions and stories you have when you reminisce about secondary school.

### **Make the school a familiar place**

When starting at a new school, it helps if the school is somewhat familiar. If there are school tours available, take kids with you to have a look. You may want to attend drama productions or fairs or any school events that allow access to the community. Of course, Orientation Day is a must.

### **Be organised**

Get uniforms and books sorted out early. There is so much about going to a new school that kids can't control. Help them control the elements they can. That said, maybe don't pull the trigger on the new uniform if there is a growth spurt in progress. One of my friends bought her daughter the new school uniform in December and it didn't fit on the first day. That caused a bit of stress!

### **Teach them to be organised**

One of the most daunting aspects of secondary school is moving from classroom to classroom and using a locker, instead of having one room for the whole day. Kids fear getting lost and not having the right books for the right class. There is also the complication of those combination locks that just never seem to play nicely.

In the lead up to secondary school, start to increase chores and tasks that require more planning and organisation. They should be packing their own equipment for after-school sports and activities and scheduling their own homework and project tasks. Family whiteboards or calendars where everybody is responsible for writing in their own commitments and events are also a good idea. Organisation skills will mean the change in school structure will be less confronting.



## Friends

Help kids recognise that they will find their tribe at high school. They need to be realistic and recognise that it takes a while to make good friends, but they will have lots of new acquaintances straight away. Orientation programs and camps at the beginning of the school year ensure they will get to know the other kids. A couple of hints to pass on to kids if they need them:

- It is easier to make friends with individuals than with a group, so often having a chat in class or on the bus is more productive than trying to sidle up cold to a group in the yard.
- Being friendly and interested and making eye contact is important. There's nothing worse than talking to someone who is scanning the room looking for someone more interesting or who has more status. Be present.
- People are attracted to people who are genuine. Don't try to be something you're not.
- It's not all about you. Listen when others speak. Find out about what other people like talking about and doing.
- Take a risk and make the first move. Say hello.

Parents can help by making your home a place where your child can invite their new or potential friends and feel comfortable.

## School is not the be-all and end-all

When kids are going through a big change like a new school, if possible, keep everything else fairly routine. Sports teams, hobbies, and favourite activities should all carry on as usual. Even if you have moved towns, rely on your family rituals and routines. These are the things that make kids feel secure and connected. They help us too.

Make time for kids to connect with their old friends from their old school. It will be reassuring, but also, when kids have friends in different groups and environments it takes the pressure off all their school relationships. School can be intense and with digital connectivity, kids can be too connected to what happens at school. It's nice for them to have friends away from school.

## Finally...

When I talk to anxious Year 6 students, I wonder whether they are afraid of the unknown or afraid of losing the comfort of what they know and love. Either way, it's uncomfortable. This discomfort is normal and kids don't need to push it down or ignore it. Encourage them to talk about it and be with it. Name it up... fear, frustration, grief, loss, loneliness. They are normal human feelings and they don't have to be chased away. Just acknowledge them and accept them as normal. Those feelings will pass. The good thing about change is that it also brings the possibility of growth and excitement and joy.

*(Linda Slade 2020)*

