Year 12 Student Leaders from Shalom College, Bundaberg; Chanel College, Gladstone; Marist College, Emerald; Holy Spirit College, Mackay; St Patrick’s College, Mackay; Emmaus College and The Cathedral College, Rockhampton; St Brendan’s and St Ursula’s Colleges, Yeppoon; gathered in Rockhampton on Sunday 26 July and Monday 27 July for the inaugural Year 12 Student Leaders Forum, hosted by Bishop Michael McCarthy and Catholic Education. The forum was held as part of the Catholic Education Week (26 July to 1 August) celebrations.

Following Mass at St Joseph’s Cathedral on Sunday night the students joined Bishop Michael and the Catholic Education Office Leadership Team for dinner followed on Monday with the opportunity to hear from Motivational Speaker, Sam Clear.

Over one year and 199 days, 30-year-old Catholic missionary Sam Clear walked the face of the earth, literally. Setting out on December 16, 2006, Sam walked from the easternmost point of Brazil, through South, Central and North America, across Siberia on the Trans-Siberian Railway and on foot again from Moscow to the westernmost point of Spain, all for the sake of Christian unity. The journey (15,500km on foot and 564 days of bone-jarring adventure) encompassed 20 countries and nine languages, thrusting Sam on to the front page of news services as he continued onwards despite major obstacles. Having to find food and water every day and relying on the hospitality of complete strangers, he was mugged at knifepoint, came face to face with dangerous animals and experienced extreme weather conditions. [http://www.walk4one.com/sam-clear/](http://www.walk4one.com/sam-clear/)

Sam’s time spent with the Year 12s was both inspirational and challenging and we sincerely thank Sam for being available for us during this week.