



STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of this academic year, I write to provide you with an update from the College Board and to extend a special welcome to those students and their families who will be joining us for the first time in 2022.

I take this opportunity to thank all students, parents and carers for the resilience and patience shown particularly over the past 18 months during remote teaching and learning, modified curricula activities, and restricted Star community events and celebrations. My gratitude also goes to the Star Principal, Ms O'Connor, her Leadership Team, and all Star staff, for keeping our community together and positive through the challenges and uncertainty in 2021.

The College is close to completing the Heritage Building Refurbishment, the first major project from our Master Plan. Despite unavoidable delays, mainly due to the pandemic, we anticipate this project will be handed over by the builder during Term One of 2022. We look forward to welcoming students and staff back into this historic building, and to the Board commencing planning for the next stage of our Master Plan, the creation of a STEAM precinct within the school.

Funding and costs

One of the key responsibilities of the Board of Directors is to ensure the strategic growth and financial sustainability of the College. This includes setting the annual budget, staffing and curriculum, master planning and provision of future facilities. This determines the most appropriate and equitable fee structure for families. We continue as a Board to be very focused on delivering a rich, vibrant Star education at a reasonable cost in the Presentation tradition.

The Catholic funding authority, CECV, receives a lump sum of federal and state funding for all Catholic schools, and then allocates that funding to individual schools. During 2021 the College experienced a further reduction in funding due to the government's direct measure of income mechanism employed in the distribution of grants on a 3-year rolling average. We continue to monitor our funding levels and where necessary advocate to obtain the best funding outcome for Star of the Sea College.

2022 Fees

Following the decision by the Board last year to absorb costs and hold fees flat in 2021 during COVID, we have given careful consideration to the difficulties and challenges that many families continue to experience within our community.

Although the College has absorbed cost increases during 2021, cost pressures on the College do need to be considered into 2022 and beyond. The Board has determined that a \$250 per student increase at each year level and a \$50 increase in the capital levy per family will be applied for 2022. This increase on current fees is below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) experienced in 2021 so far, and the College will need to continue to keep tight financial management over costs during 2022 with inflation expected to rise. We trust this small increase in fees will assist families as our community recovers from the impacts of COVID restrictions.

The Board is also conscious of the annual increasing capital costs, especially the necessity for the maintenance and upkeep of older buildings. The capital levy that is charged to each family supports this upkeep and investment in new innovative learning spaces.

Ensuring access to education

The College Bursary Committee continues to provide financial assistance through a tax-deductible fund awarded on a 'needs basis', to assist students and their families, otherwise unable to attend the College. We invite parents and the wider community to consider a tax deductible donation to this Fund, which is at the heart of the Presentation tradition of providing an education for those most in need. For further information, please contact the Finance Office for details on how you can contribute toward this fund.

We look forward to continuing to offer your daughters' an outstanding education, which enables them to be their best selves, in the richness of the Presentation tradition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'D'.

Ms Lisa Dwyer
Chair Star of the Sea College Board