



December 2022

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 2023.

It has been wonderful to have fully returned to school life after experiencing the challenges of remote learning and restricted Star community events. Together with Mary and the College Leadership Team, we oversaw the completion of the Heritage Building refurbishment earlier this year, with the creation of new and exciting learning spaces that have been embraced by both students and staff. Planning for the next stage of our Master Plan has begun for the creation of a Science and Art 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.

2023 Fees

The fees for 2023 reflect a range of increases across the education sector, including increased salary costs with the transition to a new enterprise agreement, stricter compliance requirements, and broader cost increases due to inflationary pressures, with the Consumer price Index rising 7.3% in the last 12 months, impacting all areas of the College. Sound financial management by the College has enabled us to keep recent fee increases low, with no increase in 2021 and 2.5% in 2022. Star fees are inclusive of camps and excursions, and the MAC book program ensures that every student is provided with a computer at no cost to families.

After careful consideration of the educational needs for 2023, and the operating costs of the College to deliver these, the Board has approved a 6.50% average fee increase in 2023. We believe this increase on current fees will ensure the College remains financially sustainable into the future, faced with the challenges that lie ahead.

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 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 an outstanding education in the richness of the Presentation tradition for all of our students,

Yours sincerely,

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

Ms Lisa Dwyer

Chair Star of the Sea College Board