

Integration Update

Mr John Weeks

Despite it being a cold night last Thursday, a number of parents and staff participated in a Parent Forum to listen to Mr John Weeks, the recently retired Headmaster of Knox Grammar School. John will be working with us on a continuing part-time basis over the next six months as a key member of the Integration Team. Feedback received has been particularly positive, and I encourage parents who were unable to attend the Forum to download the talk (unedited) from the below links:

Parent Forum Part 1: <https://youtu.be/1bjE7-dYRss>

Parent Forum Part 2: <https://youtu.be/B-y8mQJ7tXQ>

Parent Forum Part 3: <https://youtu.be/ca4rky-vNV0>

Parent Forum Part 4: <https://youtu.be/DsIGrjFPxEA>

His talk was inspiring as he spoke about the educational vision for the new school through the eyes of the teachers and their passion to teach and support every one of their students. As he explained to parents, he will:

- Assist in determining the structure and staffing of the new school;
- Chair the selection panel for all roles of responsibility determined for the new school;
- Assist the new Leadership team into their appointed roles;
- Meet with parents of the Education Excellence Committee to gather views and insights; and
- Work closely with the Headmaster, Mr David Gates, during the transition period.

He and his wife, Denise, are now enjoying a relaxing holiday overseas and will be returning to Bathurst in mid-June.

Questions and Answers

The two Parents and Friends Associations have developed a number of questions, to which we are preparing detailed answers for circulation to all. I expect this process may take another week or two to complete.

In the meantime, I would like to address three questions that a number of parents and community members have asked:

1. **Bus transport between campuses.** We are planning to provide regular bus transport between campuses. We are committed to make it as convenient as possible for parents to drop their children at either the Scots or All Saints' campus and for their children to be safely bussed to the other campus. This includes working with local bus companies bringing students from regional centres. We will be providing full information on this as the timetabling and relevant bus contracts are settled over the next few months.
2. **An inclusive culture.** The new school will be an inclusive school, as All Saints' College and The Scots School have always been. All children and their parents are, and will always be welcome to join, what we believe, will be an outstanding school of excellence in all respects, built on the values and traditions of two great schools coming together. This includes students and parents from different faiths, beliefs and backgrounds. Once enrolled, we have an educational and moral responsibility and obligation to care for all students in our schools. I can assure all current and potential future parents that we will do our utmost to ensure

that all students are valued, protected, supported and free from bullying and any form of alienation.

We have very clear board and school policies that have been very recently reviewed and approved by NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority), which underpin a fully inclusive school culture for all students.

As a Presbyterian school, the Headmaster and Senior Executive will be Christian in their faith and practice. Recruitment of new teachers is based on the applicant's qualifications and ability to do the job; although wherever possible and without compromising educational standards, priority will be given to applicants with a Christian faith. The mission for all our schools, and for the new school, is to develop the whole child, adolescent and young person within a Christian worldview.

- School Uniforms.** We are currently identifying a professional designer of school uniforms to work with us and the Uniform Committee to design the new school uniform. We are particularly sensitive to the time needed to design, approve and order new uniforms for the start of 2019, and are endeavouring to ensure that this timetable is met.

Having said this, we do not want to rush this design process. We are planning for a two year transition period for the new uniforms.

We will work on a solution for incoming students to the School in 2019 to make available a suitable uniform to start the school year. This may take the form of a 'clothing pool' to tie families over and save unnecessary costs to new parents and those who have outgrown and worn out uniforms.

Of course, we understand that sports uniforms will be needed by a number of sports teams by the beginning of Term 4 this year. We will be working with the designer and uniform manufacturer to ensure that these uniforms will be able to be ordered and delivered by that time. We will update parents as soon as more information comes to hand after speaking with the designer and determine production and manufacturing timelines.