

## **Integration Update #4 – 24 May 2018**

### **Preparing for the General Assembly**

Although not visible to parents, we have been very busy behind the scenes over the past few weeks preparing for our General Assembly during the week of 9<sup>th</sup> July.

This includes developing the report to the Assembly on the merger of the two schools; a new Constitution for the new school; and nominations to the new school's first Board. Thank you to all those parents and friends who have nominated from both schools to join the new School Board. Nominations have now closed. I will be advising those who missed out on their name going forward to the Assembly by the end of next week following next week's Trustees' meeting.

### **School Facilities**

#### **1. Boarding**

Plans and contracts are progressing well to upgrade the boarding facilities by the beginning of 2019. This will include the upgrading of Thompson House for girls, including single rooms for all Year 12 girls. It will also include upgrading some of the boys' facilities to provide individual rooms for all Year 12 boys.

#### **2. Senior School Learning Centre**

An architect is being commissioned to undertake the planning to renovate and upgrade the Library and Science facilities.

Renovating and expanding the Library will be a priority so that next year's Year 12 are provided available learning spaces in their Study Periods. We expect to have the plans for the Library finalised by the middle of term 3 and construction happening in Term 4 and over Christmas. The ASC Head of Library Services, Cate Mitchell, is extremely experienced in this area having planned the new library at St Edmund's College in Canberra. Cate was also instrumental in the early planning and design for the MLC Burwood Library before moving to All Saints' College. We look forward to her wise counsel in redesigning and expanding the Library on The Scots School Campus.

The plans and upgrading of the science facilities may take a little longer, and may indeed roll into 2019. We believe it is very important to ensure that the Science facilities are designed well, including engaging with those teachers most involved in using them.

As part of the Government's educational strategic focus on STEM/STEAM curriculum, government grants to assist the construction of the Science facilities may also be possible. As teachers and many parents would be aware, STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.

Our plan for the Senior School Learning Centre is to provide the best facilities possible, and we will be guided by our architect and teachers to ensure that we do it well.

#### **3. Junior and Middle School**

Our vision for the new Junior and Middle School includes reviewing the best way to fully utilise the available grounds, Library and classrooms that will be freed up by the move of Years 9-12 students from the All Saints' Campus. As part of this plan, we are looking at removing the current demountable buildings in Term 4 and landscaping the area with lawn, gardens and seating for students so that it will be ready for student use from Day 1 2019. We are also looking at installing a COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area), which will serve many purposes in terms of the learning space and educational experience of students.

The new Junior and Middle School will be a wonderful learning space for all students and teachers.

## **Teaching**

David Gates is progressing with the formation of the staff groups that were referred to by John Weeks at the combined parent forum last week:

- Staff Collegiality Group
- Student Integration Group
- Year 11/12 Focus Group

I would like to sincerely thank those staff members who have nominated for one or other of the groups, and we look forward to hearing how they progress.

## **Questions and Answers**

David and I continue to develop answers to all the questions sent to us from the two P&F Associations and from individual parents and friends, and will circulate those as soon as they are ready. Some questions have been the subject of past Integration Updates, but there are many more.

## **Over the next week**

- My wife, Jan, and I are looking forward to joining All Saints' College Year 11 students, teachers and parents at the Presentation Ball on Saturday night.
- I look forward to meeting with The Scots School parents next Wednesday night. This forum follows my meeting with the All Saints' College parents at the end of last term.
- We are continuing discussion with a uniform designer, and with local IT experts (who are also parents) to develop an Information Technology Strategic Plan for the new school.
- We are continuing discussion with the Executive teams of the two P&F Associations on the merger of the two associations, and with the proposed folding under the new P&F Association of some of the Integration Working Group Committees.
- I will provide a full update next week on the Integration Working Group Committees.

Kind regards,

Jeof Falls