

Integration Update #6 – 7 June 2018

New Uniform

We are very pleased to advise that we have commissioned a uniform designer to work with Australian Public Affairs (APA) and representatives from the two P&F Associations.

We very much appreciate the involvement, offer of assistance, and suggestions from a number of parents from both school communities over the past few months about the Uniform Committee. However, after discussion with the designer and APA, we realised that to achieve the tight deadlines for design and manufacture, we needed to reduce the number of people involved. As a result, the Presidents of the two P&F Associations and two other representatives from each school met with the designer and APA this week to begin the process. For those who missed out, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your enthusiasm and support, and seek your understanding for the process proceeding with reduced numbers.

I am advised that this working group collaborated very well on Tuesday and was able to create a list of the uniforms required and come to decisions quite easily. They believe that quite a lot of the uniform will be able to be stocked by current suppliers which hopefully will help with timeline and cost.

The working group was a little unsure on all the sporting uniforms, especially as All Saints' has a lot of different uniforms for each sport. As a result, the designer will meet with the Heads of Sport later this week to confirm needs and expectations.

The designer is very excited about the opportunity, and the feedback that I have received from those involved this week is one of optimism and pride for the design and colours. As the students are expected to join and collaborate with students from our other schools ("imagine a combined schools music spectacular with students from PLC Croydon and PLC Armidale"), the designer is ensuring that particularly the girls' uniforms, while distinctly different, will be seen as part of a one family.

Five New Sporting Houses

In consultation with APA and this working group, we have decided a different approach to Sporting Houses that we shared earlier this year. Consistent with our vision for a new school, all students will be intermingled into five new Sporting Houses in 2019, each with a new House name. Over the past two weeks, a committee of staff members from both schools reviewed 40 famous Australians as names for the new houses, and short listed 10 for further consideration. The following criteria is being applied to the decision on house names:

- The five Houses which will be continuous from Kindergarten to Year 12.
- Named after respected Australians with values we wish to develop and see reflected in our students and in the new school.
- Each will be Christian in their belief and service to humanity.
- At least two males and two females represented.
- The five House names to be representative of a range of fields of endeavour, for example - sport, education, the arts, service to humanity, Christian mission.
- None of the five Houses will have any direct link to either school, that is, not an old boy/girl or past Headmaster.

The final House names and colours will, together with the new School Board, school name, crest and uniform, be launched at a combined parent forum in early Term 3.

Question and Answer Sessions with Students

Mr David Gates is currently conducting Question and Answer sessions with all year groups from Year 7-11 separately at both schools. The session begins with an update on the integration process and key decisions for 10 minutes followed by 40 minutes to answer student questions. The sessions have been very positive and insightful and the students very positive in their approach. Mr Gates will do the same with Junior School students early next term.

Mr John Weeks and Staff Appointments

Mr Weeks will return from overseas next week and will chair the panel to interview and appoint the Senior Executive Staff. The following Senior Executive positions will be announced before the end of term:

- Head of Campus at the All Saints' Campus
- Head of Campus at the Scots Campus
- Director of Student Wellbeing
- Director of Co-curricular
- Director of Boarding

Further leadership appointments will be made early in Term 3 for Heads of Department and Heads of House or Year Groups along with other senior responsibility positions.

Mr David Gates Sabbatical Leave

Mr Gates will be taking a few weeks of sabbatical leave from 17 June until 13 July. During this time he will visit two schools in the Northern Territory including the Ti Tree School 195 kms north of Alice Springs and St Phillips College in Alice Springs. The Ti Tree School holds a special place for The Scots School due to a relationship built over the past six years, with three indigenous students enrolled from the community.

During the last week of this term, 11 students from Years 8-11 and two staff will visit Ti Tree to build relationships with the school and community, assist in the classroom, do community service and enjoy learning more about the aboriginal culture. Mr and Mrs Gates are looking forward to the break from the busy schedule this year and to seeing the beauty of the northern Territory before returning at the beginning of Term 3. We pray God's richest blessings on them and the students in their travels.

Kind regards,

Jeof Falls