



18 February 2021

Principal Report 2020

2020 was the 37th year of operation for John Paul College and continued 124 years of Catholic school teaching in the Goldfields, beginning with the Sisters of St John of God in 1896. 2020 was a very unusual year with the rampant Covid-19 virus erupting into a global pandemic and altering many facets of school life.

Week 8 of Term 1 was the start of the Covid-19 restrictions and the first day of online learning began on Thursday, 26th March 2020. Events on the school calendar and around the City were cancelled or postponed. It was only through the extra work done by staff in preparation for such a directive, that the process to move to online learning was achieved so smoothly. Students are also to be commended on the way in which they adapted to the challenge of online learning. Our Year 11 and 12 students continued with their timetabled classes in the Senior Learning Centre as per normal, or as normal as this time could be, with strict hygiene and social distancing measures in place.

The end of Term 1 finished one week early, excluding students whose parents were classified as essential workers, or too young to remain at home unsupervised, who were still able to come to school, but no classes were held. Term 2 commenced as scheduled on 28th April with classes for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 held online with a Remote Learning Timetable. Supervised Learning Hubs were set up at school for students unable to study online at home, however, these classes continued to be delivered online. Students in Year 11 and 12 attended school, resuming their classes and face to face learning with their teachers. Parents, guardians and other visitors were not permitted to enter school grounds during this period.

With the majority of students studying from home, the Canteen and Library closed, and the Administration and non-teaching staff took on different roles within the College; some supervising hubs while others embraced the continuous task of disinfecting surfaces and chairs in classrooms. With the added challenge of sourcing a supply of hand sanitizer and surface disinfectant, the State borders and regional intrastate borders closing on 10th April, cutting Kalgoorlie-Boulder off from the rest of Australia and Perth along with Esperance closing their own borders, the College faced a very challenging period with resolve and a positive attitude.

The Premier declared schools were exempt from the 1.5sqm rule of social distancing and students returned to the classrooms at John Paul College during Week 4 of Term 2, Monday, 18th May. There were still many changes in place including no assemblies, excursions, interschool activities or school based co-curricular activities until advice was received from the Department of Health.

Restrictions slowly eased at the College and calendar events had recommenced by Term 3. Staff and students could look forward to sporting games resuming, especially the JPC Athletics Carnival and an AFL football competition held between the local schools.

As 2020 progressed we had to change focus quite rapidly from our proposed 2020 School Improvement Plan.

Curriculum

2020's Covid-19 pandemic forced us to re-direct priorities early in the year. Our scheduled Corwin 'Evidence into Action Day' was cancelled and our focus was to ensure all staff could use Teams and One Note to continue teaching online if necessary. Towards the end of Term 1 it did become necessary and our 6 weeks of internal staff professional development sessions and workshops meant that when students stayed at home due to Covid-19, we could confidently stop face to face teaching one day and start online the next. Staff followed our online teaching model and no student was disadvantaged by missing a lesson (provided they 'joined'). Parents were informed of the model and feedback was requested. The model was adjusted during the online period of learning, in particular to better meet the needs of younger learners. SEQTA and Teams messages were continually sent if a student missed an online lesson and weekly check in phone calls were completed by Home Room teachers to monitor how students were handling their new learning routine.

In 2019 Pivot was trialled as a *student to teacher* feedback tool for staff and in 2020 it was opened to volunteer staff members. Pivot uses information from student surveys, providing feedback based on the AITSL standards. It was used across all learning areas and year levels. Initial data gave us pointers for improvement for individuals as well as learning areas. The data was examined by the Heads of each learning area and ultimately the whole staff. In 2021 Pivot will include all teaching staff and learning areas to give us comprehensive data. Our focus will be the in-depth analysis of this data which will inform our decisions as we continue to seek what is most effective in teaching methods for school improvement.

Walks and Talks continued in a limited manner but did cover all learning areas. Focus will be renewed and intensified in 2021. As new staff are inducted, they are introduced to the various school improvement initiatives including WOW Cards (Watching Others work), SMART Goals, 3B4T and the JPC Learning Model. This model includes non-negotiables such as WALT's and Success Criteria for every lesson.

JPC Vision for Learning

Our DISA Survey was cancelled, as was our 2020 Climate Survey due to Covid-19; both would give us feedback for the Vision for Learning. In 2021 we will use the Climate Survey data with additional input questions relevant to the Vision for Learning.

Catholic Identity

Our focus on expanding the Christian Service Program was interrupted temporarily due to Covid-19. Upon resumption, the programme actively engaged about 40% of the Year 7's, not unreasonable given the circumstances these students were facing. Many students went above and beyond the required five hours of Christian Service at home and engaged in the One Note component, documenting their service activities. The College Chaplain, Fr Stephen, was involved in the launch of the program and has regularly visited each of the Religion classes and several Home Rooms with a special focus on Christian Service. Feedback from parents and students has been very positive. The Christian Service Program in 2021 will expand to formally include Year 8, with eight hours of service focussed 'around the home.' There is also background material for Year 8 on One Note.

Father Stephen and Ms Manton, along with our Liturgy and Faith Formation Coordinator Adriane Markham, trained a new set of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, but it was to be some time until Mass returned. Fr. Stephen, with the support of Fr Brennan PP, Fr Jeffy and Fr Matthew has given us great assistance over the year, particularly in the early stages of the pandemic, a worrying time for all.

Aboriginal Education

In 2020 a new Aboriginal Teaching Assistant joined the College. Much of the focus during the Covid-19 period was ensuring outreach continued to Aboriginal students and families. Resources including laptops, internet dongles, hard copies of work and care packages were distributed from the school to families in need. When the Follow the Dream Tutoring resumed, our team ensured that students were participating. We continue to reach out to Aboriginal families in the Kalgoorlie Boulder community, including the provision of six scholarships assisting with tuition and amenities fees and in several cases laptops, books and uniforms.

Stewardship

Indigenous and Catholic Scholarships were expanded for distribution in 2021. Stage 15 of the Capital Development Plan was finished in October and the Stage 16 Capital Development Plan was finalised in August and accepted by CEWA at the December meeting. Stage 16A commenced in January with a \$7.5 million Performing Arts learning area and auditorium to be constructed by 2022.

Catholic Education WA became incorporated on January 1st, 2020. Incorporation meant little difference to teaching and learning, but huge changes in areas such as financial reporting, employer contracts (i.e., CEWA Inc became the employer) and School Boards became redundant, replaced by School Advisory Councils; an interim constitution exists, and a new constitution should be in place by 2022. The College continues to retain a balanced budget while providing capital resources for teaching and learning.

2020 was a year that challenged all staff and students but, through dedication and the guidance of our faith, we have been able to successfully continue high quality teaching and learning at the College and look forward to the growth of the school in 2021.



Mr Bradley Hall
Principal