

Principal's Report 2018

Once again, it has been a busy year of learning activities and other events that are important in the cycle of our school year.

Learning



In 2018 the College's focus for learning has been on student improvement based on the work of Professor John Hattie, Stephen Dinham and others. Our aim is to direct our teaching on what creates the best effect size improvement for each student. In particular this year we have worked on a common feedback model, that is reflective and challenges each student in regard to personal improvement. We have continued to refine our strategies from the Collaborative Learning Project, facilitated by Dr Lyn Sharratt. I wish to particularly thank Tess Krischock and the Student Improvement Team for their work over the year.

Our emphasis on literacy continues and in 2018 we increased the dedicated Literacy Support Classes, expanded the Aspire reading model and provided a greater alignment in literacy with Primary School strategies for our lower middle school students, providing a more seamless transition.



Our staff continue to provide rich learning opportunities with our Daily Tutorials, Homework Club, Year Seven Community Group.

Our extension activities have included the Tournament of the Minds, the Debating Competition, HASS Canberra excursion, Esperance, YOHFest Dance and Drama Festival, Arts Night and many sporting events including Lightning Carnivals for football (male and female), volleyball, cricket, swimming, cross country, athletics, Outdoor Education.





The Hospitality students once again efficiently and tastily proved their mettle in the kitchen and at front of house for their restaurant nights and function catering.



The Media and Certificate II Information and Digital Media, under Mr Withnell, have done an outstanding job in capturing Kalgoorlie-Boulder events and streaming to the digital world.

The College constantly evaluates courses for students to provide the breadth in education students require in the twenty-first century.



In 2019, the College will provide new courses in VET, including a Certificate in Metal Engineering and Certificate II Business.

Our ViSN online learning courses, introduced to Year Eleven in 2018 will be expanded with Year Twelve courses coming online in 2019. ViSN has given students extra choices for study pathways; the ViSN Programme will continue to grow as more schools, including Perth Metro schools, come aboard.

Our Education Support staff continue to expand and refine programmes for individual students with particular needs and, as the demand for places increases, the message is out there in our Community that our school and this team work hard and work effectively for students.

In 2018 the College established agreements with Edith Cowan College to create the JPC/ECC Pathway for graduating JPC students and Curtin University's Schools Consortium – which will support students in Years Seven to Twelve including a focus on Innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This Curtin agreement will assist us in delivering high quality learning experiences for students and also allow our Year Twelve graduating students to access alternative entry pathways to Curtin University.

Engagement

In 2018 the main focus of our Annual School Improvement Plan was Year Seven transition. Our incoming cohort's Orientation Day was re-designed, the Year Seven Well-being Programme was

amended, and a Year Seven Review Day was introduced. My particular thanks to staff that worked with Year Seven in 2018, especially to Bridget Staude for co-ordinating these programmes and improving the transition to high school for our students.

We residents of the region know it is a great place to live and raise a family. Part of our ongoing work is to get that message out into the wider state arena. We continue to work with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and others, such as the Education Department, to attract and retain staff. This is an ongoing project but a vital one for our school and our region's growth and stability.

Year Eleven is a time of big change and challenge for students as they begin new pathways of study that lead to life beyond school. One of the initiatives to support Year Eleven's at the beginning of the year was the introduction of the Year Eleven Transition Camp at Esperance.



This was a very successful event and I am extremely thankful to Mr Leeder and staff for their organisation and running of this camp.

The College's aim is always to work closely with our families and also to continue to have strong relationships in the wider community. We celebrate our parents with our Mother's/Father's Day Breakfast and activities.



The Music Department plays an outstanding role in community engagement with performances at community events, such as Remembrance Day, Esperance Music Festival, Kalgoorlie Eisteddfod, the College Arts Night, local Primary Schools and singing and music at College, House and Parish Masses.



Drama and Dance continues to be engaged in the Community and already preliminary work as begun for the 2019 Musical "Annie".

The College supports local ANZAC Day services, St Barbara's Day and other civic events.

Our senior RE classes and other students support East Kalgoorlie Primary School, O'Connor Primary Breakfast Club (MacKillop House) and the Red Cross Soup Van, by senior students and Mrs Markham.

Accountability

Last year I wrote about plans for the John Paul College Trade Training Centre. I am pleased to report that, although later than what I would have preferred, that building process is underway.

Our Stage 15 Capital Development Plan has been submitted to the Catholic Education Commission: this plan includes refurbishment of the current Design and Technology workshops to provide dedicated space for Art, Robotics, Textiles and Special Needs. It also includes refurbishment of the MacKillop Wing and the Canteen will be redesigned to become self-serve with cafeteria area.

I wish to particularly thank the Board for their planning and support: members Kelly-Anne Harris, Rob Miller, Ann Spence, Kayleen King (Treasurer), Sharon Henderson and particularly Sarah Fletcher, Chair.

I also wish to thank the P & F for their ongoing support, under Chair Sharon Henderson. The P & F make many contributions which often go unseen, however, the table tennis apparatus has been immensely popular, and the P & F will provide \$100 000 to assist with the new cafeteria build.

Discipleship



Fr Renald has been of immense support to our staff and students over the year. I also wish to express my support to Fr Brennan, Fr Hyginus and Fr Matthew who are always wishing to support us.

Our liturgical celebrations throughout the year emphasises that we are a Christian community, proud to celebrate our traditions; our House Eucharist and celebratory weeks, along with Founder's Day, remind us of the great work of our predecessors that allow us to get to where we are.

Staff

Our staff are very generous with their time given to our students because they want them to thrive in a good environment. I am very grateful to our staff for this constant giving, the College is a better place for it.

To staff moving from the College this year, we thank them and wish them well for the next stage of their journey.

I particularly wish to thank Troy Francesconi, Vice Principal, for his commitment to our students and staff and his support to me. Troy's second stint at John Paul College was eight years and he has contributed much to College life. Troy will be missed but it is time for him to move on and we know Mandurah Catholic College will benefit from his presence.



To our Year Twelve class of 2018, I wish you every blessing for the future and I thank you for your contribution to College life in your time here.



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