

College Principal's NEED TO KNOW 16 December 2021



Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Penola Friends,

In my final newsletter for 2021, I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the warmth, love and support you have extended to me during the last 5 years as Principal Leader. From the outset in 2016, there has been great trust and faith that you have placed in y in the work transforming the college. I have appreciated your sense of partnership as we have worked together to ensure your child has the right learning opportunities that will continue to build your child's capabilities along with the formation of our catholic values. The values that emerged as the college transformed into Penola Catholic College are those based on the key values of the Sisters of St Joseph, which is the order that St Mary Mackillop founded. I am very pleased that the values of courage, compassion, integrity and hope are the values which permeate the learning and faith culture every day at the college and form the moral compass for staff and students each and every day. I am confident that the strengthened learning culture and faith dimensions

will continue to grow and develop under the leadership of the new Principal Leader Mr Jim Fanning. I will not be far away as Principal of Caroline Chisholm College where I will be focusing on meeting the needs of an all girls education in a contemporary world. I hope that I will see you in the local area and I look forward to hearing about your child's ongoing successes into the future. Once again, I am eternally grateful for the wonderful opportunity to lead McCarthy now Penola as a college that models gospel values and ensures students attain and achieve their potential academically and hopefully exceed expectations. I could not be more proud to be leaving the college where the HSC results are the best in our Penrith regional area as a result of our HSC Strategic Plan, *LEARN2021* that has ensured optimal performance, as a direct result of the dedicated and professional teaching staff and HSC Learning coach support for all students. I am also thrilled that we are now offering an alternative learning pathway called the Diploma Pathway for students who wish to focus their senior learning on business, marketing, community services and legal studies. Our Business Partnerships Leader Mrs Samantha Berridge leads this outstanding pathway that enables entry into their second year of a university course through WSU, Notre Dame University or ACU. A unique opportunity available for students at Penola that is a cutting edge learning pathway that is personalised and supported through Learning Coaches. See you in the local area parents and students!

FAREWELL TO STAFF LEAVING AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

There are a number of staff who are leaving the college and we thank them sincerely for their dedication and commitment to the students during their time working at Penola Catholic College. We are grateful to all staff for the time they have spent at the college and the gifts they shared in abundance.

Mr Christopher Handel will be retiring after 35 years teaching science and undertaking a variety of extra curricular roles such as Sport Coordinator and college photographer. Mr Handel started here in the first year of the college in 1986 and has been here to see the college evolve from a senior college to a Year 7-12 college, and of course the rebranding of McCarthy to Penola. We thank Chris sincerely for his many years of dedicated service to the college and wish him well as he progresses into the next stage of his life journey.

Mr Damien McGuire has worked at Penola during the last 5 years as our IT Leader of Learning and will now be moving to CEDP School of Now to deliver online learning to our students across the Diocese. Best wishes for success in your new exciting role.

Mrs Patricia Murnane has worked at Penola during the last 2 years as the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer. Best wishes and thanks for your great support too !

Mr Noah Taylor has worked at Penola for the last 3 years in a variety of roles in the English and HSIE teaching teams. Best wishes in your new role as a teacher in DET.

Ms Rebecca Michel has worked at Penola for 2 years and will now move to St Columbas as an RE Teacher.

Ms Tamara Ross has worked at Penola this year as an English Re teacher. Ms Ross has accepted an appointment teaching English at Emmaus Catholic College.

Mrs Anne Moller joined the staff at Penola in 2021 and will now commence her retirement going forward. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Ms Judith Peters joined Penola this year and will move to Blackheath Christina school as she is relocating with her family.

Ms Marizza Medcalf commenced in 2021 as a Teaching Assistant. Marizza has worked with the Diversity team and will be missed.

Mr Ross Bourke has worked at Penola for the last 2 years as a general assistant and groundsmen. We have very much appreciated his electrical skills and expertise and hope to see him in the future assisting us in a variety of ways.

Mrs Anna Keogh: I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Anna in her role as Leader of Diversity and Innovation during the last 5 years. She has responded to the needs of students and families with diverse learning needs in a very timely and creative manner. Anna will remain at the college as a Visual Arts and diversity specialist teacher. We wish her well as she progresses her career further in 2022.

Welcome to our new staff

Ms Alison Billards: Diversity Leader of Learning

Mr Matt Young: IT Leader of Learning

Ms Brittany Azzopradi: HSIE and RE teacher

Ms Yasshen Manuel: Science and Math teacher

Ms Cassie Yang; LOTE and TAS Teacher

Mr John Drake: Mathematics Leader of Learning

Ms Olivia Dunn : English Teacher

Hannah Robinson: English and specialist intervention teacher

New staff leadership positions 2022

Nick Hall: Acting HSIE Leader of Learning

Martin Stein : Wellbeing and Attendance Project Leader

Lee Sullivan: P-TECH Leader

STAFF RETURNING FROM MATERNITY LEAVE:

Ms Annie Fuller and Mrs Shannon Matthews

STAFF ON LEAVE

Peta Lewin (Leave Terms 1-3): **Nick Hall** Acting Leader of Learning HSIE

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR STAFF FAITH FORMATION DAY 19 November

We would like to thank you for allowing the staff to engage further developing their faith and values of our Penola learning community through the Faith Formation day. The staff felt revitalised through this work led by Mr Robert Feeney, our Religious Education and Mission Leader of Learning. We understand that this has required you to organise childcare for students in younger year groups and appreciate your support and efforts in doing so.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS HUB

I would like to thank all parents who joined the Parents as Partners Hub and joined us for learning and wellbeing conversations that have helped provide constructive feedback to assist the next steps in strengthening all aspects of our school journey. As we were in lockdown and remote learning for an extensive period of time during 2021, it was difficult to meet at the college regularly. Having said that, I have greatly appreciated your ongoing commitment to the college and I know you will warmly welcome Mr Jim Fanning as the next Principal Leader. The Parents and Partners Hub will meet again each term and we also invite new parents and participants to this group.

UNIFORMS AND HIGH EXPECTATIONS

In returning to face to face learning this term, we have been a little less rigorous with uniforms. However, uniform standards and high expectations will be enforced and consequences issued for students who continue to breach uniform expectations for our Penola community. This includes uniform items, grooming expectations and haircuts/styles for both girls and boys. We ask that you bear this in mind when students are returning to school for the start of the year. All students need to have the correct uniform items (available at LOWES) and ensure girls skirts at knee length. Please check ALL uniform items during the holidays and purchase new items where necessary well in advance of the start of school year. Presenting well for the start of school enables your child to make a strong and positive start to their learning.

During the year, if your child has an issue with an uniform item, please write a note and sign this in your child's diary which should be presented to their Stage Leader of Learning for approval. Please ensure uniform issues are resolved as quickly as possible to allow your child to meet the college expectations and succeed.

Stage 4: Mrs Rachel Miller

Stage 5: Mr John McKnight

Stage 6: Mr Nathan Bryant

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

START OF YEAR SCHEDULE 2022

Friday 28 January 2022	Staff return for Professional Learning Day 1 (no students)
Monday 31 January 2022	Professional Learning Day 2 for staff (no students)
Tuesday 1 February 2022	Year 7 students only: Orientation Day
Wednesday 2 February 2022	Years 7, 11 and 12 students only
Thursday 3 February & Friday 4 February 2022 : All students are present at school Year 7-12.	

Staff Professional Learning Days for 2022 - Pupil Free

Term 1	28 and 31 January 2022
Term 2	10 June 2022
Term 3	18 July 2022
Term 4	18 November 2022 - Formation Day for Staff 19 and 20 December 2022

YEAR 12 HSC 2021

The HSC results will be released from NESA on 24 January 2022 and we look forward to receiving these results and commending our students.

On behalf of the college community we would like to extend our best wishes and prayers to our beautiful 2021 HSC students who are very capable students, who I'm sure will shine brightly! Remember you aren't defined by your result or your ATAR. The future ahead has many doors and opportunities as life unfolds for you. The future is bright and the college is there to support you, even after you get your result and are working out your next exciting steps!

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT DURING THE YEAR OF COVID

Thank you once again for your ongoing support during these challenging times. I am confident that together, we will be able to do the very best to support your child's learning and wellbeing needs. We are very excited about 2022 and hopefully a year of face to face learning and the opportunity to feel more connected with each other as a community, as we continue to build our relationships with each other and feel a renewed sense of wellbeing. This year has been extremely challenging, teaching us all that the gift of COVID is finding gratitude in our daily lives with families and friends. Thank you for your amazing support at every step of the journey during remote learning and then returning to school. Let's all pray and hope that in 2022 we will not experience this journey again.

FINAL NOTE

Please stay safe, positive and connected to our Penola community. Follow us on **Facebook Penola Catholic College Emu Plains** and the **Penola Parents Facebook page** by sending a request to join our group.

May the courage and compassion of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop be with you and your families, as you face the challenges that life presents to you all.

God Bless you and your family

Mrs Tania Cairns
Principal Leader