

College Board AGM 2023 Chairperson Report



St Francis de Sales
COLLEGE

The past 12 months has been an incredible testament to our resilience as a community, as we all returned to work and school, to what we now know as the new normal. Whilst dealing with the pandemic for three years, we continue to see enormous change and growth at the College including the upgrade to our Junior School with incredible new learning facilities, the inclusion of the Alive Catholic Early Learning Centre and significant increase in the volume of students and families at the College.

Our 2020-25 Strategy remains strong and the College continues to go from strength to strength, with a vision to “Be who you are and be that well” aspiring to be a leader in education, inspiring growth mindsets and enabling our students to achieve their best in all aspects of their lives and empowering them to be self-motivated, creative and courageous learners, we have created a community where we can “Belong for life”.

As we farewelled some long-standing Board members at last year’s AGM, David Kyriacou and Megan Woodward both six years, Anthony Werts five and Rosie Lillas three years, I would also like to thank our outgoing Board members from this year, Olivia Carter, Alana Martin and Mel England and wish them all well as they take on new challenges. We welcomed our new Board members, Mark Rogers, Thanuja Hiripitiyage and Olivier Sirop who are all extremely valuable members of the team as they all bring a wealth of experience, diversity and thought leadership to the Board.

Following the completion of the redeveloped Reception to Year 6 facilities and Alive Catholic Early Learning Centre, the College was named the national winner of the *Landscaping/Outdoor Learning Area* category at the 2022 Learning Environments Australasia (LEA) Awards for Excellence in Educational Facility Design. The LEA National Award follows those received at the State Awards in 2021, winning the two categories of *New Construction over \$8m and Best Overall Education Project*. The College are proud to have been the only school from any educational sector in South Australia to be nationally awarded, or receive commendation status, across the eight categories of the national awards.

We continue to grow and connect in different ways within our community to improve the services at the College including our new bus services affiliation with LinkSA, our new uniform association with Hills Schoolwear and our new canteen relationship with Rory’s School Lunches all of which are providing better services for our families and students.

The Fathering Project is another example of connecting communities. Providing an environment for fathers to connect, helping dads to be the best dads they can be, for themselves, their children and their families. The Fathering Project provides a place to connect, become more aware and mobilises fathers and families to create brighter futures for children. Guided by the needs of our community, we are encouraging and supporting fathers and father figures to put fathering first, get involved and be visible at the College. We’ve had a number of successful events over the past 12 months and will continue to into the future.

The College remains fiscally strong and with some financial uncertainty in the market it’s great to report that the fees for 2021 and 2022 have remained the same for all year levels, which I am sure is welcomed by all families as a result of Catholic Education South Australia’s continued work to make education more affordable.

With so much growth and change, comes the need for authentic and inspirational leadership and with that we welcomed our two new deputies, James Gill and Paul Wadsworth along with six Education Support Officers and 14 new teachers. I commend my fellow Board members, our Principal and the operations and teaching staff for their continuous guidance and support for our College, students and families. On behalf of the Board, we thank the staff for the significant effort and incredible outcomes they achieve each and every day, providing us all a place to “Belong for life”.

With an exciting year ahead, full of hope, growth and learning we can only look forward in anticipation of an incredible future as the College continues to deliver on the strategy. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their support and efforts throughout the past 12 months and acknowledge each of them for giving their time so freely to provide the leadership and governance in part toward what has been another successful year at St Francis de Sales College.

Nick Crowe

Chair of the College Board