

## St Bede's Principal's Newsletter 5: 6.4.17

After a long tendering process that included written submissions, referee checks and interviews by a panel, I am happy to announce that Williamson International have been appointed as the St Bede's Catholic College Uniform Provider. Williamson are a 100%, 45-year old Australian family owned business who service over 300 schools across Australia, including St Joseph's at Aberdeen. Following the Interim Uniform Committee Meeting last week, a design brief has been sent to them, which includes the objective to provide a flexible, stylish and practical uniform, suitable for the contemporary learning environment of a Catholic secondary school within the Hunter area to:

- Reflect the new visual identity and colour palette of the College.
- Encapsulate the culture of a Catholic education environment.
- Take into consideration the collaborative, team-based learning that St Bede's will offer within an engaging, contemporary building.
- Create a uniform that is stylish, smart and differentiates St Bede's from other schools in the Maitland area and within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.
- Ensure the uniform provides flexibility, diversity and combinations that cater for students of different shapes, sizes, genders and ethnicities.
- Take into consideration the comfort and practicality required for students undertaking different subjects and activities within the temperate Hunter climate.
- Ensure the durability and cost effectiveness of uniform items are taken into consideration.
- Ensure the students enjoy wearing their uniform, feel their best and in turn, invokes a sense of pride in their College.

The uniform considerations outlined in their brief are:

- Develop a senior and junior uniform that allows each group to be easily distinguished within the College environment, however, provides a united aesthetic to the broader community.
- Use a combination of items to create summer and winter uniforms that suit the climate.
- Incorporate more formal items such as blazers and ties.
- Where practical, make use of unisex styles e.g. blazers, sports uniform.
- Provide options for different lengths/cuts for blouses, shirts, pants, shorts and skirts.

Following a presentation by Williamson of their initial suggested designs at the next Interim Uniform Committee Meeting on Friday 28 April, consultation on some possible options of each garment will then occur with the aim of concluding the design and pricing process before the end of next term.

Outlined below are the survey results on the Parent Information Sessions that were held at the Easts Club East Maitland on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

- 100% endorsement of sessions being useful.
- 91% yes to a Term 2 Meeting.
- 87% happy with school colours.
- Strong endorsement of venue.

- Suggested future meeting topics: Uniforms, staffing, building up-date, curriculum design, timetable, classroom design, student devices, long-term employment plans of Mr. Murphy, student orientation program, learning support, public transport, sport, music-possible linking to conservatorium, subjects, parking, peer support, P&F, class sizes, teaching of classes during building works.
- Suggested future meeting locations: Pat Hughes Hall at Thornton, Church hall at Morpeth.

In response to this feedback, a Term 2 Student Orientation Day and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Information Session will now proceed. As per one of the parent recommendations, the **Student Orientation Day** will be held from **9.30am – 1.30pm on Wednesday 17 May at the Corcoran Church Hall in James Street Morpeth**, adjacent to Immaculate Conception Church which was the site of the original St Bede's Church. Bus transport will be arranged for pick up from the two feeder schools for all enrolled students. It is requested that parents of students from the non-feeder schools make arrangements for drop off and pick up from 39 Heritage Drive, Chisholm or the venue. This will be an opportunity for students from both feeder and non-feeder schools to mix with their future class friends, as well as being up-dated on the plans for next year. Further details, including permission forms will be sent out early next term.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> **Parent Information Session** is scheduled for **Wednesday 14 June at the Beresfield Bowling Club** which is on Anderson Drive Beresfield. There will again be the option for a morning (9.30 – 11.00am) and evening session (6.30 – 8.00pm). This meeting will be for parents who have already enrolled their child and for other interested parents who may be considering enrolling their child.

In continuing to share the good news of newly enrolled students from our non-feeder schools, I am delighted to welcome these students and their families who have accepted offers of enrolment in the last fortnight. The accompanying individual profiles confirms the quality of the families that will be part of the St Bede's community and the unique gifts that each student will bring in creating a Co-educational Catholic College that we can all be proud to acclaim as our own.



Molly Wilson is currently at St Joseph's Dungog. Molly loves running and writing and is looking forward to some new ways of learning in 2018.



Bella Sepos is currently at St Brigid's at Raymond Terrace. As well as being heavily involved in sport, Bella is a good public speaker and enjoys the academic side of school as well as playing the piano and sport.



Mackayla Jones is currently at St Joseph's Dungog. Mackayla is a Sports Captain and enjoys learning, horse riding and spending time with her family.



Hannah Papworth is currently at St Brigid's Raymond Terrace. Hannah is looking forward to coming to a new school and enjoys reading, cheer leading and soccer.



Sharlotte Mate is currently at Morpeth Public School. Sharlotte is a House Captain and enjoys Maths in particular. She loves sport, particularly touch football, cricket and swimming.



Nathan Rees is currently at Thornton Public school. Nathan is a bus monitor and enjoys martial arts and swimming and is looking forward to commencing Year 7.



Ada Jackson is currently at Seaham Public School. Ada is a House Vice-Captain and enjoys learning at school. She particularly likes cheer leading and running.



Keeva Collins is currently at Bishop Tyrell Anglican School. Keeva is a Fund Raising Organiser at school and loves cheer leading, swimming, running and walking her dogs.



Leila is currently at Clarence Town Public School. Leila is a School Captain and is on the debating team. She enjoys horse riding, piano, soccer and touch football.

Please note the following notice from Jenny Crichton, Principal at St Columban's Catholic Primary School: *"St Columban's Catholic Primary School Mayfield (also known as St Joseph's and St Columbanus) will celebrate 100 years this year. To mark this occasion, the school will celebrate with a Centenary Mass, officiated by the Bishop; open classrooms and a bring your own picnic on 12<sup>th</sup> August at 11am in the school hall. All ex- students, ex-teachers and families are welcome to come along and help us celebrate this fabulous event. Also there will be a blessing of the Centenary garden. You and your family may be forever remembered in this garden by purchasing a Paver with your name etched in it. The pavers are \$25 and if you contact the school office on 02 49683315 we will be able to arrange for you to purchase the paver. Come along and make this day one to remember."*

Please continue to remember in your prayers, Father Paul O'Neil – our local Parish Priest – who recently lost his father. Father Paul is a key member of our community and as we approach this Holy season of Easter, we remember him and his Dad and all those who either sick or have recently passed away in our prayers. I wish you all a happy and Holy Easter and remind that you that the local Parish Masses are available for everyone, irrespective of your religious denomination or faith level.

Kind regards,

**John Murphy**  
Principal

