



ST PIUS X COLLEGE BOARD

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1 November 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continuing support of the College for the education of your sons.

The College Board works collaboratively with the Principal and Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) to provide quality stewardship aimed at offering the best possible learning environment for the students at the College. It is responsible for governance of Mission & Vision, Strategic Planning & Review, Policy, Finance & Risk Management as well as support to the Principal and the College Leadership Team.

This year, the College celebrated its 80th anniversary and I hope you had an opportunity to attend one of the many events celebrating the occasion during the year. We especially thank the Principal, Mr. John Couani, and the College Staff for their enthusiastic commitment to providing a Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition, striving as they do to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural and physical growth of the boys. We wish the Year 12 boys all the best as they complete their HSC exams and we look forward to them going forward to make a positive difference in our world.

The College is very much dependent on Commonwealth and State Government funding to help keep fees affordable. Unfortunately, the outcome of the Commonwealth Government's decision in May for our College will be a significant decline in Commonwealth funding in both nominal and real terms over the next 10 years commencing from 2018 and continuing at an increasing rate through to 2027.

Taking the Government's funding cut into account coupled with our budget for increased educational costs, College sustainability and the operating costs of support programs, the Board has approved a tuition fee increase of 6.5% for 2018. Future tuition fee increases over the next 10 years are expected to be between 6.0% and 6.5% per annum based on our current inflation assumptions and reducing Government funding. Tuition fees will be reviewed by the Board each year to ensure they are as affordable as the College can sustainably maintain and will require EREA's approval. Overall, however, we believe that the College continues to compare very favourably with other independent Sydney metropolitan schools.

As this is my last year as Board Chair, I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Board and Committee members, EREA and the College community who have supported me over the last 6 years. It has been a personal honour and privilege for me, especially as I have special admiration for this wonderful College and its outstanding Principal, John Couani.

I would like to congratulate and offer my full support to the incoming Board Chair Mr. Brian Populin. Brian's involvement with the College commenced in 2005 and in a few weeks he will have had two boys complete their HSC at the College. Brian has been a member of the Board and a member or chair of number of the Board Committees over many years and is very familiar with the workings of the College.

The Board congratulates the College on a very successful year and we are very confident the College will continue to thrive and succeed into the future. Thank you again for supporting the College. On behalf of the Board, I wish you and your families all the very best for the rest of the year and, whilst I know I'm early, a happy and holy Christmas, safe holidays and a fulfilling year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hughes,
Board Chair