2015 College Report

College Principal

This year the College has undertaken the development of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The strategic areas of the plan are Catholic Identity, Community, Education and Stewardship. The cornerstones of a vibrant Catholic school community.

Whilst looking ahead, this year there have been many achievements by students, staff and the wider College community to recognise and celebrate.

This year we have been fortunate to again have strong support from the wider Catholic community. Fr Robert Carrillo, St Andrew’s Parish Priest and his assistants Fr Rainier, Fr Israel and Fr Jeffrey had a real presence, assisting with Mass, Retreats the Sacramental Program and generally being of spiritual support to staff and students. We congratulate the 15 students who received Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation this year. We thank all students and staff who represented the College at St Andrew’s Parish Masses during the year.

St Andrew’s Parish, along with St Andrew’s and Brighton Catholic Primary Schools offered Irene McCormack Catholic College Bursaries to members of their communities who will enter Year 7 in 2016. It is aimed that this will be an annual award.

A challenge for the College is playing a role with St Andrew’s Parish and Brighton Catholic Primary, as the most northern Catholic organisations in the metropolitan area to develop the presence of the Catholic community in the areas to the north. How that will be undertaken, is further to be investigated with the Perth Archdiocese and the WA Catholic Education Commission.

Our Christian Service Learning Program continues to expand. An initiative this year was for seven staff members to visit Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre, Billiluna, in the Kimberley Region. The school serves approximately 100 Aboriginal students and adults who are mainly the Walmajarri people, with members of the Kukatja, Jaru and Walpiri people. Our aim is to promote teacher exchange and secondment programs between the schools, and develop a student and staff immersion program.

2016 is the 25th anniversary of Irene McCormack’s death in Peru. The College, in collaboration with the Sisters of St Joseph, will develop an Irene McCormack Pilgrimage. This will focus on the places of importance in Irene’s formation that led her to make a commitment to serve the village community in Peru. The students in the Year 10 Social Justice elective will be the first group to experience the Pilgrimage.

To further develop our pastoral care for students, each Year Group is represented by a Dean of Year on the College Executive. Care Group Teachers will have the responsibility for one group of students entering Year 7 through to graduation in Year 12.

This year has been a transition year for aligning the academic year for all year groups. In recent years the academic program for Years 10, 11 and 12 commenced in October and the other year levels in February. Following a review of the arrangement it was decided that from 2016 Term 1 all year levels will have alignment with academic programs.

Our teaching staff have developed differentiated courses in Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences to cater for specific learning needs of students. From the first day of Year 7 the College has four levels: Academic Extension, Course 1, 2 and 3. Course 1 is a smaller class size to support students with special literacy and numeracy learning needs and along with Course 2 will provide students with a program towards achievement of literacy and numeracy requirements for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Academic Extension and Course 3 are focused towards the preparation of students for the rigours of ATAR courses in Years 11 and 12.
In the traditional elective areas we have extended the time devoted for the courses. Year 7 students experience a semester of each course and from Year 8 students are able to select year length courses. This is aimed to broaden the students’ skills, understandings and experience as they progress to the senior years. The College already provides an extensive range of courses for students wishing to pursue VET certificates. In 2016 the College will provide elective courses for Year 10 students who desire to better prepare for Year 11 and 12 ATAR courses in Religious Education, Science and Social Sciences. These electives will enhance the regular programs in these learning areas.

In the last year we have experienced significant capital development to provide for the College’s growing student population and the teaching and learning facilities. These projects include:

- The commencement of the new building with facilities for Physical and Outdoor Education, Music, Dance and Sport.
- The construction of five temporary classrooms.
- The Building and Construction workshop for Design and Technology.
- Extension of oval space particularly for Soccer, Rugby and additional space for Brighton Catholic Primary School students. We thank Brighton Catholic Primary School for the financial support for this project.
- Completion of the perimeter security fencing.
- Commencement of an access road for alternative access to the College.
- Transfer of the Uniform Shop to a more convenient location for access to the car park.
- Additional work preparation areas for teachers.

The College is thankful to the City of Wanneroo Mayor, councillors and staff for the support with the development of these projects.

Our College continues to strive to provide increased opportunities and level of care for the development of our students. For this to happen all members of the community share in the vision and selflessly contribute to the College. I extend sincere gratitude to all for the wonderful effort.

The College has joined the National School Chaplaincy Program funded by the Western Australian Government. The program is part of the College student well-being strategy.

The College Board members, with Chairperson Mr Chris Erikson, have been very supportive and thorough with the overseeing of the financial and capital programs of the College. The Parent Group, with Chairperson Mr Miles Wood, have given excellent support to students with many projects, especially with the funding of the new student honour boards in the College reception area.

The College is fortunate to have staff of high calibre. I thank Ms Nancy Bonfiglio, in her first year as Deputy Principal, for taking on the Principal's role when I was on leave during Term 3. With Ms Bonfiglio are the other members of the Executive who provide excellent leadership in the faith, pastoral and academic dimensions for students. The enlarged Executive this year will enable the College to continue to improve the service and support to students and families in the future. The College Executive is very ably supported by the Heads and Coordinators of Learning Areas, who this year have worked tirelessly to implement the new curriculum in Year 11 and other curriculum developments, the strategies to build the capacity of our teachers and utilisation of ICT.

Credit is given to all members of the Office, Accounts, Grounds and Maintenance, Canteen, Uniform Shop, Library and Teacher Assistants and Technicians for their wonderful support of our teachers and the development of facilities and service to make the students’ learning experiences the best quality possible.

The primary focus of our school is to enable our students to learn and realise their potential to become fully contributing members of the local and global community when they graduate from the College. In this regard we recognise the outstanding contribution of our teachers to
achieve this goal, whether it be in the class situation, extra-curricular programs or the casual conversations with students that take place each day.

This is year we recognise the efforts of two outstanding staff members who have contributed so much to the College for over a decade. Mr John Power who has been Deputy Principal will take up a promotional position at Servite College, Tuart Hill and Mr Liam Rafferty, who has been on the College Executive, will retire. Mr Power and Mr Rafferty have selflessly served the College primarily as teachers and in many other capacities giving time and effort that only they would know and with little recognition. We thank Mr Power and Mr Rafferty for their contribution, congratulate them for all their achievements and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives. They will forever be friends of the Irene McCormack Catholic College community.

I extend my gratitude to all members of the College staff, all students and their family members for their excellent commitment, through personal effort and in working partnership, to enable our College to be an outstanding Catholic learning community.

Mr Robert Marshall
Principal

College Board Chair

With approximately 960 students and 105 staff members associated with our school, Irene McCormack Catholic College is a large and complex organisation.

The College has an annual budget this year of $13 million and a capital budget of $1 million.

A position on the College Board is a wonderful way for parents to get involved and help shape their child’s school. I am privileged and honoured to represent the College and Community.

The Board, in representing the school community, actively promotes and supports the Catholic ethos of the College.

The general object for which the Board is constituted is to help the College fulfil its educational responsibilities in accordance with our Constitution, in accordance with the policies and practices prescribed or recommended by the West Australian Catholic Education Office (CEO), and in accordance with Diocesan guidelines and prescriptions for the Religious Education program.

The Board is responsible not only to the local College community, but also to the CEO for the financial administration of the College. It is also entrusted with the duty of planning, on behalf of the College community, with the staff (through the Principal) and with the CEO to meet the present and future needs of students, via the following functions:

1. Planning for the present and future operation of the College.
2. Providing membership on selection panels for the employment of staff to the College in accordance with CEO policy.
3. Providing membership on the panel which recommends the appointment of a Principal in accordance with CEO policy.
4. Liaising in all matters relating to the financial management of the College.
5. Advising the Principal with respect to College policy.

Over the past year, our College has experienced a number of challenges, some significant changes, and many accomplishments.

The most obvious challenge has been the Government funding realignment which interrupted a normal conclusion to the 2014 school year end for our team. Budget realignment was a challenge on everyone in our school system, and with the next election cycle promising further change we must all continue to work towards identifying future challenges and to minimise impact to our deliverables.
Despite these challenges, the past year is still noteworthy for many positive accomplishments.

In 2013 the Board approved as a component of the College’s Long-Term Facility Plan, a proposal to build a new gymnasium. The development will deliver to the College community advanced and state of the art sporting and performing arts facilities. Following a prompt, yet robust tender process we awarded the contract in early 2015 and one of the most enjoyable tasks of the day while delivering my children to school is witnessing the daily progress this project has enjoyed this year. The project remains on track for completion and commissioning mid-2016.

During 2015 the College embarked on a number of other activities and projects to improve our campus. Some of the highlights are; five new classrooms (with landscaping and new locker areas), re-location of the Uniform Shop, refurbishment of the former Uniform Shop as a Science teacher's preparation area, development of a Building and Construction building for Design and Technology, upgrade of the College IT network including the Wi-Fi capacity and significant grounds work clearing the south embankment and the land on the east side of the campus which now provides additional oval space and visually looks stunning.

Our students continue to excel in many areas. These include academics, sports, music and theatre. As an example, the Catholic Performing Arts Festival was officially opened late July. The Festival is an annual opportunity to showcase the many talents of our dance, drama and music students to a statewide audience. Once again this year our students and staff worked tirelessly representing our College passionately. Our Soccer Academy advanced to the top eight teams in the state, the AFL program entered finals across most year cohorts, and overall the College participated energetically across a number of sporting and cultural events advancing the learning skills and developing learning experiences of all involved.

None of these items we celebrate could have been accomplished without our teachers, support staff, administrators and senior leadership team, parents and community members. Many of our staff work behind the scenes: keeping our College grounds in a wonderful state, our facilities in good working order; steering our operational management; and even driving our school buses. Many of our staff members volunteer committing additional time to support our students in a variety of activities.

I also wish to thank our senior leadership group and all employees for the exceptional work they do on behalf of our students each and every day. I should particularly mention the three staff members I have worked with most closely: our Principal, Mr. Robert Marshal, Deputy Principal, Ms Nancy Bonfiglio and Executive Assistant Mrs Kim Boscarino.

Also, thank you to my fellow Board Members for their commitment to the governance and oversight of our College. Our College is served well by its Board membership which strives to have the best outcomes for the students and College community. You should be proud of your efforts on behalf of the students, parents, staff and community members of the Irene McCormack Catholic College family.

Finally to the Graduating class of 2015. Congratulations and thank you for representing our school with integrity, compassion and purpose. I had the opportunity to work with some of you presenting a leadership workshop late 2014. The theme of that workshop was to “Imagine the Future and getting there first” and to install the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Desire, dedication, and enthusiasm are the things that dominate life, whether it be sport, school or the business world. If you can maintain those three qualities, you can have the things that you want. You will have learnt a work ethic that will always make you employable and always sought. The challenge for you is to maintain these qualities. It’s not complex, others can help, but it will always be up to you to make the sacrifices, to supply the enthusiasm and desire to be the best that you can. If you get lost along the way, revisit our College mission and values to remind you of your purpose and always remember, we only fail because we give up trying.
As we move forward to 2016, I am looking forward to the College Production of Wonderland and the opening of our new Gymnasium. Thank you to all my fellow Board members for their service, and to Father Robert Carrillo for his guidance in matters both spiritual and administrative.

Mr Christopher Erikson  
College Board Chairperson

2015 School Performance Data

Irene McCormack Catholic College is a co-educational College accommodating approximately 970 students from Years 7 to 12. The College offers excellent learning opportunities that reflect a holistic education. Inspired by Irene McCormack, students are challenged to meet their spiritual, religious, intellectual, physical, cultural, social and emotional potential. College daily Life is modelled by a vision of Respect for Self, Care for Others, Skills for life. Students engage in an extensive range of Christian Service, music, dance, drama, debating and sporting opportunities. Academic programs reflect a 21st century approach to teaching and learning enabling students to work to their potential. Complemented by Vocational and Tertiary Entrance pathways, students are empowered to meet the challenges of the world.

In 2015, the College engaged in initiatives and events including:
- Planning and commencement of the construction of a gymnasium, music, dance and multipurpose facility.
- Developing and implementing the College (2016-2020) Strategic Plan.
- Extending the College website to include teaching and learning programs.

Staff
Irene McCormack Catholic College employs 69 teaching staff and 23 non-teaching staff. Professional qualifications of staff are listed on the College website at www.imcc.wa.edu.au

Student Attendance
Student attendance at Irene McCormack Catholic College is monitored by key staff including the Deans of Year. The attendance profile is as follows:
Year 7  94%
Year 8  94%
Year 9  92%
Year 10  93%
Year 11  92%
Year 12  93%

Parents are contacted for all unexplained absences. Chronic absences are referred to the Department of Education Services and/or the Participation Unit at the Western Australian District Education Office.

Senior Secondary Outcomes
In 2015, the Year 12 cohort achieved 100% Graduation.
61% of students studied for and received an ATAR result with 100% earning an offer for a place at an University.
- 39% of students studied a General Course and 15% went on to further training and 22% sought employment.
- 53% of students completed studies in a VET Certificate with at least 90% achieving a Certificate II or higher.
NAPLAN

The following table shows the percentage of students who achieved the minimum standard for each NAPLAN assessment.

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<th>2015</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
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<td>82%</td>
<td>93%</td>
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Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

Parents

At Irene McCormack Catholic College, our parents form an integral part of the College through their involvement on the College Board of Management and being involved in the Parent Auxiliary. They attend the many and varied activities organised by the College including College Masses and sporting events. Our parents have also been involved with the Strategic Planning and School Improvement process.

At enrolment interviews most parents state the reason for seeking enrolment at the College for their children is the excellent pastoral care and very positive feedback from other parents and students in the College community.

Students

Our students consistently reflect the College’s vision and mission by reflecting on Sr Irene McCormack’s ideals, in participating in camps, retreats, excursions, sport days and special celebrations. They are conscientious in their approach to their school work and respectful and dignified in their communication with their peers, teachers and families.

Exit Surveys reflect a high degree of satisfaction with the College. Of note are the degree of care of staff, staff willingness to assist and the provision of broad curriculum offerings.

Post school destinations

University 61%
TAFE/Training 30%
Employment/Deferral 6%
Travel 3%

School income 2015

Visit the My School Website
http://www.myschool.edu.au

Religious Education Learning Area

This year the Religious Education Program allowed for streaming of students in the middle school to maximise the opportunity for every student to achieve their potential with class sizes arranged so as to extend the capabilities of the students.

One staff member was responsible for the programming for each year group with class teachers adapting the program to adequately challenge the ability level of the students they taught. This strategy was assisted with professional development meetings run by the consultants from the Catholic Education Office, one session by video link. This uniform planning method is now consistent from Year 7 to Year 12 in Religious Education.
In 2016 the College will be offering an elective Religious Education unit in Year 10. This unit called ‘Justice Today’ will cover the topics of Philosophy, Ethics, Social Justice and Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage unit will study and then trace the journey of Irene McCormack in Western Australia. It is anticipated that this elective will become popular in following years.

The new Religious Education course for both ATAR and General will continue into Year 12 for next year with students being offered the choice that best suits their career pathway.

Without a dedicated staff at the College the level of excellence would not continue to grow. Our Bishop’s Literacy Test results improved for the second consecutive year. Thanks to the Deans of Year who all teach Religious Education in the year of their responsibility and the full time Religious Education staff Mr Swindells, Mr Spiteri, Miss Ierace and Miss Milne. Thanks go to Mr Byrne from the Catholic Education Office who has been a boundless resource for the learning area.

Mr Kevin O’Brien
Head of Religious Education

Campus Ministry

Irene McCormack Catholic College Community is challenged with the invitation, responsibility and commandment to respond to the Gospel values. We are to be God’s hands. We are to be people for others and our Patron, Irene McCormack’s own example serves as an inspiration and ongoing reminder of what that could look like. In 2015, our newly developed Prayer Garden, supported by our Class of 2015, serves as a reminder of the central place our faith has in our community.

In 2015, our links with St. Andrew’s Parish were expanded with regular contact with Father Robert Carrillo (our College Chaplain) and we welcomed Father Israel Quiirit. Weekly Masses and Staff prayer as well as more regular opportunity for Reconciliation strengthened the presence of our Priests and our ties to the Church. We are very grateful for their contribution and prayers.

Kym Krishnan, our Youth Minister was a driving force in inviting and walking with students as they prepared for various sacraments during the year. A record 30 new Sacraments were received in 2015 by a total of 15 students. This is evidence of evangelisation virtually unmatched in WA and a great credit to all involved.

Students were all involved in a Retreat experience in 2015. The purpose is to set aside time for some deliberate and explicit pause and reflection of God in our lives. This is often a highlight of the year, especially for Year 12 students who ventured to New Norcia for three days of removing themselves from the everyday rigour of life to be together, to share, reflect, laugh, prayer and transition towards life beyond the College.

Our Christian Service Program, led by Ms Cherie Milne, calls for continual response to need in our homes, in school, in the wider community and in the Parish of St Andrew’s. We raised considerable funds, clothing, food items, blankets and hampers for Caritas Agencies as well at the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Our students participated in various activities of service including manning the City to Surf Marathon Finish Line and Year 11 students gathering for our experiential Winter Sleep Out in support for the homeless in Perth. We filled the storeroom of Shop Front like no other school in Western Australia does! Our contributions to the Archbishops’ Caritas Appeal, through Project Compassion, Irene McCormack Day fundraising initiatives, the Nepal Earthquake Appeal and the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal were all generously supported which allowed us as a College to make a significant difference to those in need.

Mr John Swindells
Dean of Campus Ministry
Design & Technology Learning Area

Progress and achievements in the Design and Technology learning area have been extensive in 2015, due to a committed staff and support from executive in realising the goals set out in the 2014 College report, particularly the alterations to the workshop spaces. The Design and Technology Team comprising of Mr Trevor Bastow, Mr David Williams, Mr Patrick McHale and Mr Tim Warren have collectively contributed to provide quality education and facilities to our students. Mr Williams has done an outstanding job in the set up and layout of workshop facilities in the Wood and Metal labs. His contributions include the refurbishment of the tool rack in metalwork, installation of new machinery in the woodwork room, creation of jigs for student projects, construction of plastic coating equipment as well as working with the lab technician to install additional airlines throughout the workshop. Mr McHale has been instrumental in the setup of the recently purchased Laser cutting equipment and has taken up the role of resident expert on this machine. A large amount of his spare time has been locating suppliers for materials and constant communication with the supplier for training and technical advice. Mr Warren has done an excellent job running the Design Graphics course and this program remains as popular as ever. Mention to Mr Michael Spechley for his constant support and experience in teaching lower school graphics. The construction and fit out of the Building and Construction shed in term two was overseen by Mr Bastow. This has included communication with the manufacture and council at planning stage, coordination of site clearance and slab pouring, re-laying brick paving, erection of walls and fit out of tool racks and shelving.

The new layout of the workshops has proved effective in keeping track of tools and equipment as well as provided a better workable space for students. Class sizes for Years 10 to 12 are up to 20 students in Wood, Metal and Building and Construction. Upper school classes require the use of limited stationary machines such as Lathes, routers, mitre saws, welders etc. giving students an equal opportunity to access these machines. We aim to continue to upgrade machinery for Design and Fabrication to optimise student access to technology.

Goals for 2016 include: Applying Australian curriculum outcomes to programs as recently published by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority, further refurbishment of the Design and Technology laboratory to cater for courses in dimensional design courses, continuing to provide innovative and engaging curriculum for our students.

Please find below a more exhaustive list of goals and achievements that we have addressed as a learning area.

2015 Achievements include:
- Completion of refurbishing projects in Metal and Wood Labs to include new metal racks, benches, Cupboards and storage.
- Construction and Fit out of Building & Construction facilities.
- Refurbishment of DTL lab to include Laser cutting and 3D printing facilities.
- Revision of Safety Booklets as a progression through year groups.
- Revision and mapping of curriculum projects to create a progression of skills throughout the year groups.
- Establishment of a Dimensional design course in 2016

Other curriculum aims for 2016 include:
- Applying Australian Curriculum Design outcomes
- A focus on design skills using computer programs such as Adobe Illustrator and Sketchup Pro.
- Implementing and trialing new and exciting products which have been made possible through the use of laser cutters and 3D printers
- Incorporating Design engineering and advanced manufacturing techniques.
- Incorporating a progression of digital and manual drawing skills through Years 8 to 12.
- Providing opportunities for students to use a variety of timber species and products in their projects.
- Incorporating Animation projects in Graphic Design.
• Schedule year groups to use new facilities for bricklaying. This will involve having workshops or classrooms available during timetabling so that classes can use the space over extended periods and leave work set up.
• Focus on design & technology skills in Year 10 using a range of materials and processes including plan drawing, carpentry, fabrication and masonry activities.
• Educating students on career pathways in the construction industry were possible providing work placements for students during exam periods.
• Seek out small building projects around the College to allow students to leave a ‘legacy’ of their achievements. Projects could include: picnic tables, bench seating, picnic shelter, Barbeque areas, brick wall signage, brick paving.

The infrastructure improvements planned for 2016 include:
• Purchase of a variety of portable power tools including Battery tools to emulate industry practices.
• Furnish Design and Technology laboratory to provide storage for sheet materials, 3D plastic spools, and sticker cutting rolls.
• Allocate stations for the gradual purchase of additional and emerging technologies such as Laser cutting, 3D printers, 3D scanners and vinyl cutting machines.
• Set up additional computers to cater for a full class of students. This will be done in conjunction with the IT Department.
• Purchase of additional portable power tools to allow students to use current technologies and ensure that equipment to class sizes is well resourced.
• Sale of existing machinery such as wood lathes and radial arm saw to be replaced by future purchases such as CNC router and belt sander. This will create more space in the woodwork room.
• Purchase of a pedestal spot welder as a safe and effective option for lower school students to join metal.

Mr Trevor Bastow
Head of Design and Technology

English

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up the crew to gather the wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.”
~ Antoine de Saint Exupery

2015 has seen the English Learning area continuing to engage students in the wonders and enlightenment that literature can offer. Our focus on grammar and reading skills has yielded outstanding results, with notable improvements across all core literacy areas tested in this year’s NAPLAN tests. The Year 9 cohort demonstrated significant improvements in each of the four core areas, with our school averages rising above the national average.

Imagination and creativity are skills that we hope to foster in all students. Our English team was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the Write4Fun competition, which recognised the outstanding creative writing entries submitted by many of our eager students. Ten of our students made it past the initial stage of judging, placing our College in the top 10% of schools. Year 9 student, Shelby Rideout-Andrews was also honoured with the Gold Award in the Education Perfect English Championships, where she placed in the top 2% of 20,000 competitors who competed worldwide. Year 12 student, Anissa Abdennebi, was one of five students who made the State Finals of the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition for public speaking.

We are always seeking ways to engage students in the curriculum and to make the content relevant, so to compliment the Year 12 study of the expository text, *Broken Lives*, students had the chance to meet esteemed author, Estelle Blackburn, who spoke to students about the manslaughter conviction and eventual exoneration of John Button, who was wrongfully incarcerated for one of Eric Edgar Cooke’s murders. Year 11 students also had the chance to meet the charismatic author, Craig Silvey, during their study of his novel, *Jasper Jones*. 
This year, the English team worked tirelessly differentiating learning for our students, as the College moved to a four-stream model in Years 7 to 10. This allowed staff to better focus learning activities on the needs of individual students.

We thank Mrs Fiona Monger for the wonderful joy and knowledge she has brought to both students and staff at the College, and wish her all the very best in her new appointment in 2016.

The wonderful team of English teachers, whose passion and dedication for student learning is outstanding, work tirelessly to facilitate engaging, relevant and challenging lessons. On a daily basis, they inspire and impart knowledge, using literature to evoke in students a love of learning.

Ms Jessica Stylianou
Head of English

Home Economics

The Home Economics Learning area has had a very successful and rewarding year for 2015.

We introduced the Year 7 Food Technology subject to a whole semester where our students learnt many lifelong skills in promoting healthy living and preparing meals.

A highlight for the Year 12 Home Economic students was turning the College library into their “Restaurant” for the night and serving their loved ones the delicious meals they created. The Baby Think It Over Program was well received with the students becoming increasingly aware of the demands on parenting.

In 2016 we are very excited to be introducing two new courses into Home Economics. Year 7 Textiles where the students will be learning to design and create a variety of items using different technologies, and in Year 11-12 Community Services Certificate II, that will enable us in developing a partnership between our older students and the Brighton Catholic Primary School students.

Thank you to all of the staff within the Home Economics Learning area on a very positive and productive year, Rachael Thomson, Catherine Summers, Sally Bone and Felicity Kennedy.

Mrs Janet Flematti
Coordinator of Home Economics

Health and Physical Education

This year has been about anticipation for what is to come, with the commencement of the construction of the gymnasium and planning for handover in Term 2, 2016. The year has seen many successes but as always identification of areas for improvement.

The College is undertaking refinements of the timetable structure. There will be a re-organisation of our teaching and learning programs to enable students to develop skills for physical activities and then utilise these skills in structured game strategies.

Outdoor Education had the addition of a Year 9 program with the focus being on recreation in the outdoors in our local area. The skills they learnt throughout the year were put into practice during the Year 9 Camp. The success of this camp I believe was from the extra time Outdoor Education students had in gaining expedition skills.
This year saw us offer a Certificate III for the first time in Sport and Recreation, and us transferring to a new RTO improving the quality of assessments in both our certificate course. The ATAR Physical Education Studies program was closely reviewed with areas for improvement being identified. Links have been made with Melville SHS for sharing of resources and ideas. Next year I would like to see us continue to do this and expand to the Outdoor Education ATAR program.

The academies continue to grow with the Australian Rules Football Academy adding a Year 8 boys and girls class. The Soccer Academy is now running from Year 7-10, with new coordinator Damian Stefanoff taking over for 2015.

Reflecting on our goals for the year we saw that two staff members were involved in the Building Teacher Capacity program allowing for observation and reflection to help improve teaching and learning.

Next year we aim to implement extended programs, particularly in Years 7 to 10. An aim is to create new partnerships with other schools to share upper school programs and assessments and moderate our practical assessments. We aim to develop staff skills in areas that will help student learning, with Years 11 and 12 sport and activities taking the focus. We would also like to begin to implement the new HPE Western Australian Curriculum focusing on Years 7 and 8 in 2016 and Years 9 and 10 in 2017.

Mr Neil Bright
Head of Health and Physical Education

Information Technology and Business

The Information Technology and Business Learning area has enjoyed another very successful and exciting year with a huge number of opportunities for the students to explore both the academic and practical aspects of our courses.

The Year 7 course has not only prepared students for a safe and productive journey through our College using technology, it has also challenged students to manipulate that technology to best suit their needs.

Our Year 8 and 9 students have been engaged with a range of activities such as 2D and 3D modelling, robotics and animation, while our Year 10s, 11s and 12s have been working on a range of topics such as website design, mobile phone design, networking and JavaScript programming.

We were very proud to have our College represented by two teams in the ‘Just Start IT’ app making State Semi-Finals, with some now planning on-going IT businesses.

We look forward to 2016 and aim to build on the success of IT Club and start an IT mentoring program, whereby students will be trained to assist other students with their notebook and software needs. As a College we also continue to explore innovative ways to integrate ICT into each and every subject in order to provide a quality and contemporary education to our students.

We are so blessed to have friendly and professional staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fred Lafitte, Ned Bryant, Erin Gallen, Nancy Lo Biundo, Patrick McHale, David Williams and Amy Richardson for the passionate way in which they serve our Learning area and the College.

Mr Robert Blair
Head of Information Technology and Business
**Languages**

2015 saw the introduction of French at our College. French is the only foreign language and is compulsory for one semester in Year 7 and an option with a full year program in Year 8. 2016 will see the pioneering of the Year 9 Language class.

This year our College became a Centre for Excellence in Languages with the award of one of only three CEOWA grants of $23,000. This grant will be used to build up the French program, by 2019 we will have our first Year 12 French ATAR class.

Students have been exposed to the French language (spoken in over fifty countries on all five continents) in a variety of foreign cultures, allowing comparison with their own. This is in line with the incoming Western Australian Curriculum’s General Capability of Intercultural Understanding.

Students have been engaged in different ways, such as participating in not only State Languages competitions, but also competing on a national and international level with remarkable success. One of our Year 7 students, Emma Watson, finished in third place for French in the Language Perfect State Championship.

Staff and students celebrated their first Languages Week being introduced to not only the delights of French cuisine, but also to various other international foods at Irene’s Café for this special occasion.

We are passionate about creating meaningful assessments of a high standard. This will ensure the readiness of students to tackle French as an ATAR subject in Year 11 in 2018 and in Year 12 in 2019. These new WACE Curriculum courses will be implemented next year throughout the State.

As we are now a Centre for Excellence in Languages, a focus for the future will be to further develop a culture of academic excellence within Languages (French) at our College. The aim is to foster a passion for the French language and to share language expertise with not only students and staff but also with the broader community. By building relationships with feeder primary schools, the importance of Languages learning can be recognised and developed from an earlier age.

Ms Catherine Harrison  
Languages Coordinator

**Learning Support**

In 2015 students in the senior years have been given the opportunity to follow tailored programs that include supported work experience placements and opportunities for private study within the Learning Centre. The younger year groups have continued to have support both in and out of lessons. All Year 12 Learning Support students have graduated from the College. This support has been given both in class and in small group situations. The learning area has worked closely with Michelle Smith, Dean of Year 7 to support the transition of Year 7 students throughout this year. The learning area has also worked closely with all Deans of Year to support the students under their care and guidance.

The main aim for 2015 was to oversee the implementation of the Course 1 programs and work with all teachers to ensure the programs are accessible to all students. This has proven to be very successful and has continued to grow throughout the year. The Collaborative project that has been undertaken by the College this year has further developed and built collegial team of Course 1 teachers. Our goal is to improve the Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN results through support of both the English and Mathematics learning areas. This is a goal that we have made strides towards achieving.
In 2016 we will further develop the Course 1 structure throughout Years 7 to 10, finalise and implement a new structure for student education plans and work with the English and Mathematics learning area to ensure procedures are in place to highlight and support those students who have yet to achieve the WACE literacy and numeracy requirements.

The year has been one of change for the Learning Support department with Sandra Finn leaving and Cat Harrison joining and overseeing the fantastic work Sandra had started with ESL students. It has also seen Jane Cox support us and work with Year 7 students in Course 1.

We would like to thank our teaching assistants Tammy Johns, Tara Johnson and Sally Tabram who have continued to work tirelessly to support both students and staff. Without their hard work and dedication we would not be able to achieve the successes we have thus far. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dianne Bridge, our College Psychologist for working so closely with the department to help support those students and families who need our support.

Mr Andrew Billingsley
Head of Learning Support

Library

The Library has undertaken significant improvements in the last year with many print resources being redeployed to Learning Areas. Some resources have been donated to communities in the Philippines.

New furniture has been added to the Library to reflect the educational philosophy underpinning 21st Century Learning. The Library is a multipurpose facility catering to traditional Library roles but also Level One ICT Support, Year Group gatherings including Eucharistic celebrations, Staff Professional Learning, Information Evenings and official displays of Visual, Graphic and Performing Arts.

We have had visiting authors: Craig Silvey, Estelle Blackburn and Meg McKinlay visit to discuss their writing.

We thank Miss Julie Lawson for her assistance to the staff and students embracing the educational philosophy in library, information and E-learning practices.

There may be a requirement for us to reduce the number of desktop computers as each student will have an electronic device capable of working within the school network. Looking to 2016, we are aiming further to embrace 21st Century pedagogical practice with more dynamic learning spaces particularly in the Library Computer Room and Resource Room Two as breakout areas for Year 12 students.

Mr Edward Bryant
Head of Library

Mathematics

2015 saw a significant shift in the senior Mathematics curriculum at the College. The new WACE courses for Year 11 are different to the old courses including new structure, assessment types and content. With 144 students studying Mathematics across four new courses, there was significant time and effort required from staff.

As a learning area student numbers enrolled in Years 11 and 12 continue to increase each year. For ATAR courses, 2015 had 80 year 12 students studying stage 2 or 3 and 99 year 11 students. The non ATAR courses had 34 year 12 and 55 year 11 students.

The “Elementary Maths Mastery” program continued this year in both Years 7 and 8 with great success. This will continue in 2016.
We welcomed Michael Geddes and John Mirco to the learning area. Both men brought many years of experience with them to the College.

The September Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment results in Numeracy showed improvement since March. Approximately 87% of students in Years 11 & 12 have met the minimum Numeracy requirement. This will continue to be a focus for the teachers of Years 10, 11 and 12 for 2016 as we strive to help all our students to graduate.

Mrs Faye Ratajczak
Head of Mathematics

**Performing Arts**

This year saw the Performing Arts learning area go from strength to strength. Auditions were held for the 2016 College Production of Wonderland, with rehearsals starting shortly after. A cast of actors, dancers and musicians from Years 7 to 11 have put their best foot forward and taken on the responsibilities with great enthusiasm.

Dance is at an all-time high with the largest number of dance teams the College has ever had. The Junior Dance Team and Senior Dance Team performed at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival, Carnivale and the first ever Dance Night showcasing the strength of our dancers. Cheerleading made its debut at the College with the introduction of the IMCC Hurricanes. The Team competed in their first ever competition in November.

Drama Students performed Monologues and Group Scenes at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival and the College Drama Night. Earlier in the year Drama Club allowed students from all year groups to come together and create a number of quality performances.

The Music Learning area held a number of annual events throughout the year including Sounds at Sunset in Terms 1 and 4, Recital Night and Escape Festival, allowing our students to showcase their talents to both their peers and families. Performers included senior student solos as well as the College ensembles. Music Students supported each College Mass, assemblies, Graduation and Awards Night. Our attendance at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival was the biggest number of entries the College has ever had, particularly with solo performances.

The commitment and contribution of the Performing Arts staff has continued to be above and beyond what is expected of them. The time, effort and expertise they offer to the students is incredible. Many thanks to Ms Tamara Brankstone, Ms Francesca Christie, Ms Sinead Harte and Mrs Rosalie Richardson.

The College Dance, Drama and Music students are also recognised for their outstanding commitment to the learning area and their willingness to constantly step up when needed.

Mrs Kylie Malam
Head of Performing Arts

**Science**

2015 has been another big year in Science. Students across most year groups have had the opportunity to go excursions including trips to Perth Zoo, SciTech, Gravity Discovery Centre, WA Chemistry Centre, Adventure World and the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. These excursions are important in consolidating knowledge learnt in the classroom allowing students to interact with equipment and see real life applications that simply can’t be experienced on Campus.

Science week was celebrated with incursions for Year 7, Rocket Science made easy and Year 9 students, Birds of Prey, as well as quality lunchtime experiments and demonstrations carried out by our dedicated Science staff.
2016 promises to be another excellent year with the introduction of the Year 10 Biological and Physical Science electives. This will better prepare our students for the demands of Science ATAR subjects in Years 11 and 12. It will also allow students to explore some of the lower school Science topics in more detail, in order to build greater depth of knowledge. It is hoped the Biological Science elective encourages students to Choose ATAR Biology in Year 11, with the hope of running this subject for the first time at the College in 2017.

The introduction of new programs for Integrated Science will be introduced in 2016, leading to a more engaging course for students wishing to do Science as a general course. The aim with Integrated Science is to introduce a Certificate II in sampling and measurement, to be achieved over Years 11 and 12. This will hopefully begin with Year 11 students in 2017.

Mr Paul Woodhouse
Head of Science

Society and Environment

2015 has been a year of many new initiatives for the learning area with a new office, new staff and from next year, a new name – Social Sciences. However, despite the change, the learning area continues to enhance the study of History, Geography, Economics, Politics and Law.

We welcome and thank Mrs Katriese Wilder who has brought her passion for Politics and Law to students with the debut of two teams in the Mock Trials Competition at the Supreme Courts. Her development of the Year 9 Law program and excursion to the District Courts also engaged students in the subject.

We also welcome and thank Ms Nancy Lo Biundo who has brought her excellent knowledge of Economics and Business to the College. Student involvement in the ASX Stockmarket Game and the Smart Start workshops in Years 7 and 8 have provided students with real life applications.

In Geography, students continue to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to understand their world. Year 10 fieldwork examined coastal erosion on our own doorstep at Quinns Beach. Year 9 students had a taste of the effects of food inequality in a Hunger Banquet where they received a meal according to income status: High, Middle or Low. Those who received lettuce and rice as opposed to pizza certainly understood the injustices faced by many who have little access to food. Thank you to Mr Alan McLatchie for his dedicated work in developing these practical opportunities.

In History, we continue to provide opportunities for students to understand the past. The team from Archae-Aus assisted Year 7 students in examining artefacts and reconstructing the past. The Year 8 Medieval Feast saw a re-enactment of a Crusades-style melee to help students appreciate the dangers of Medieval warfare! Our Year 9 students presentations on Anzac soldiers honoured the sacrifice of our heroes in this 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign. Year 10 students studied “Schindlers List” while Year 11 students visited The Holocaust Centre in their studies of World War Two.

Thank you to Mrs Cheryl Viney, Miss Mery Babic and Miss Danielle Maher for all their efforts with our History programs.

Mrs Adele Baker
Head of Society and Environment
Sport

Several new initiatives were put into place in 2015 to enhance the sport offered at the College. The introduction of the electronic timing system that will be used over the three carnivals will see more accurate results being recorded. These results will also enable parents to access their child’s results through a web-based system and they can track the progress of their child throughout their time at the College.

This year we had over 50 sporting teams compete at various levels for the College. This enabled approximately 640 students to take part in some form of sport throughout the year. It was pleasing to see Rugby Union have an increase in student participation through a collaborative initiative with other northern corridor schools. Mr Julian Gugenheim should be congratulated for his commitment in building the competition and raising the profile of Rugby.

We selected 240 students to compete for the College in the ACC Swimming, ACC Athletics and ACC Cross Country Carnivals. We finished in 3rd place in both the Swimming and the Athletics Carnivals and we are looking to make advancements in the training and preparation phases for each Carnival.

Both the Soccer and the Football academies have achieved success at various levels throughout the year. We now have over 240 students involved in the academy programs and with many year levels experiencing success of various kinds.

Thank you to all the staff, parents and students at the College who have assisted the sporting program in 2015.

We are currently looking at ways in which to increase communication with parents and also to increase parent involvement in the sporting life of the College. As the sporting program continues to grow it is imperative that parent involvement is increased.

It is important to continue to build House spirit amongst the students in 2016. The sport department has several initiatives that we are looking at to build a more comprehensive House spirit around the Inter-House Carnivals.

Mr Devin Martin
Head of Sport

Visual Arts

2015 has been an extensively creative year for the Visual Art learning area. The year began with the introduction of a new staff member, Mr Craig Mecham, as well as the start of many exciting art projects.

The Arts staff introduced more contemporary tasks that were set to challenge and grow students across the board, such as the Year 9 ceramic stationery organisers and the Year 10 environmental etching prints. One Year 10 class was given the opportunity to design sets for the upcoming College production.

Students demonstrated a strong interest in the Years 8 to 10 Specialist Art program with this year’s applications being the greatest number submitted to date. These classes produced some brilliant work this year and had their work displayed in the annual College Art Exhibition in Term 3 along with students from the General Art classes, Certificate III Visual Art class and the Year 11 and 12 ATAR classes.

Several works from Years 8, 11 and 12 were submitted to the Angelico and St Georges Exhibitions in Term 2. These works showed a high level of skill and expertise in printmaking, drawing and etching.
Year 9 Specialist students adventured down to Cottesloe Beach in Term 1 to observe the works in the Sculptures by the Sea Exhibition. Students not only acquired an insight into the variety of sculptural techniques, but also learnt how to analyse a sculpture. A significant event on the Visual Arts calendar was the upper school camp that was run over three days in June. Students undertook a variety of workshops that saw them learn new skills, work with different media and begin developing ideas for their final artwork that was completed back at the College.

In 2016 the learning area will strive to continue extending and challenging the Specialist Arts Program, while developing a contemporary range of projects for all Visual Arts classes, that will suit the new WA curriculum when it is released next year. Our appreciation and thanks goes to the hardworking 2015 Visual Arts staff: Mr Michael Speechley, Mr Craig Mecham and Miss Bronte Reeves.

Mrs Amy Richardson  
Head of Visual Arts

**Vocational Education**

Vocational Education Learning Area combines an academic learning area and student support services and we continue to strengthen and develop programs and services.

2015 was the last year of the WACE course Workplace Learning in Year 12, and the introduction of the new Career and Enterprise General course (CAEG) in Year 11, along with the new Authority Developed Workplace Learning option (ADWPL). The Career and Enterprise course is now available for all senior school students in 2016 on a pathway of study to TAFE training, apprenticeship, traineeships, or employment. The course enables students to focus on their own personal career development while learning about the core skills for employment and skills to manage their life, learning and work in the 21st century and beyond.

Students also have the opportunity to take up the workplace learning option to experience real workplaces and this was a popular option in 2015 with students working in various areas including Electro Technology, Aged Care, Education, Nursing, Hospitality, Office Administration, Civil Construction and Beauty Therapy. Enrolments for 2016 continue to be strong.

Students have a wide selection of Vocational Education and Training (VET) opportunities on site at school in the various learning areas. The VET Coordinator can also explore offsite VET opportunities for students focused on specific trade pathway areas or seeking school based apprenticeships or traineeships. Mrs. Erin Gallen very competently stepped into the role of VET Coordinator in 2015 while Mrs. Cammy Lindsay is on maternity leave.

The Career Expo returned in 2015, and was a great success particularly as it coincided with Parent Teacher Meetings. We look forward to the Career Expo in the gymnasium in 2016 as well as to the Vocational Education Learning area moving to a new Student Services area. In 2016 career counselling will focus on developing the career services including the online career resources for students and parents, workshops, engaging students with excursions and incursions with the Universities, Training and Industry, as well as providing support and inspiration for teachers to connect student learning in the classroom to the real world of work.

Mrs Christine Tonkin  
Head of Vocational Education