

2016 College Report



IRENE MCCORMACK
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
PRAYER SERVICE JUSTICE

College Principal

2016 has been another very successful year for Irene McCormack Catholic College, as reflected by the achievements of students and for the additional facilities provided for students and staff that add quality to the learning experience and the pastoral care for students.

This year is the first year of the implementation of the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The strategic areas of the plan are Catholic Identity, Community, Education and Stewardship, which are the cornerstones of a vibrant Catholic school community.

Strategies undertaken in 2016 to nourish the Catholic Identity of the College included the focus on Sr Irene McCormack's anniversary year, increasing the College's presence at St Andrew's Parish Masses, enabling Year 10 students and staff to give service at the Wheelchairs for Kids Workshop in Malaga for Irene's Service Learning and providing the opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students to experience life and assist at 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 College also supported the Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre with two staff members undertaking a week's relief work and one staff member accepting a secondment to teach at the school in 2017.

In 2017 the College will investigate opportunities to support local soup kitchens and other programs for the homeless in the City of Wanneroo. In continuing to build the relationship with St Andrew's Parish, consideration will be given to the celebration of a weekend Parish Mass on the College campus.

Our College is blessed to have Sr Irene McCormack as our patron. This year commemorated the 25th Anniversary of Irene's death on 21st May. To mark this significant anniversary the College has promoted the unique narrative of Sister Irene McCormack by a number of initiatives. The Christian Service Program is now known as Irene's Service Learning. The development of the Sr Irene Pilgrimage, which focuses on the Western Australian locations significant to Irene's formation such as her birthplace, Kununoppin, Trayning where Irene lived with her family and attended St Joseph's Primary school and church, Santa Maria College, Applecross her boarding school, Busselton, Manjimup and New Norcia where she taught before going to Peru and the Sisters of Joseph of the Sacred Heart convent in South Perth. The pilgrimage was developed by the Year 10 Social Justice class.

Standing magnificently in the Paul Rafter Centre is 'Resurrected Irene II', the glass art of Irene McCormack, created by Ms Rose Reilly. Irene's icon reminds us of her zest for learning, love of sport and dancing and to enjoy and appreciate the good company of family and friends. Irene's educational focus was first to teach children to play. Irene's memory lives on in this building where sport, outdoor education, music and dance are a focus of learning.

Our College is blessed to have the continued presence and interest of the McCormack family and Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

On Thursday 30th June the College had the celebration of the Blessing and Opening of the Paul Rafter Centre, by Most Reverend Donald Sproxton VG, Auxiliary Bishop of Perth. Year 11 student, Tyra Haywood, gave a heartfelt and spiritual acknowledgement of country. Design and Technology students created crosses that were blessed for the rooms in the building, and as gifts to Bishop Sproxton and Mr Rafter. Mr Rafter reflected on the joys and challenges of establishing the College and the fond memories of student achievement even in times of hardship.

The Paul Rafter Centre will provide our students with greater opportunities to develop their talents, skills and their general wellbeing and give them learning opportunities that could lead to future careers. Our prayer is that current and future students and staff experience great joy from all activities, strive for excellence with their learning and are able to achieve way beyond what they could have imagined.

We extend our appreciation to architects Peter Carroll and Mike Savage of Parry and Rosenthal Architects, the Perkins Building team, and to Gavan Prunster and his staff at Broadtrans. Also to our staff who have contributed their expertise and experience to the design of the building, and to Paul Rafter and all past and present staff, Board members, parents and students we extend heartfelt gratitude for the excellent College we have both in school culture and with facilities.

In playing a role in the community, we have been heartened by the increased number of parents who are volunteering to assist with the Parent Group, Uniform Shop, Canteen, and with performing arts and sports events. A Volunteers Sundowner was held in appreciation of the efforts our volunteers. In the wider community the College is developing the relationship with business and industry to provide further workplace learning opportunities for our students.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the College's first Year 12 Class. Efforts were made to have a reunion this year, planning is proceeding for a reunion in early 2017.

Our College vision is "to liberate young people to become life-long learners and to live meaningful, selfless and spiritual lives". Central to this vision is students striving to reach their academic potential. The College continues to increase the number of Year 12 students achieving an ATAR score. There is almost 100% success rate with students studying VET courses. This year's NAPLAN results provided very pleasing with data showing excellent improvement, notably in numeracy, reading and grammar and punctuation. Another significant indicator of improvement with student performance is with the literacy and numeracy requirements for the Year 12 Western Australian Certificate of Education. This year 77% of Year 10 students have achieved the required standard. This compares to just over 50% for Year 10 students in the previous two years. The Year 9 Bishop Literacy Assessment for Religious Education was the best result achieved by students.

The 2017 College additions to the curriculum include Textiles in Years 8 and 9, Year 8 Literacy Focus and the Years 11 and 12 Sport and Recreation VET Certificate course will have classes specifically for Football and Soccer as an extension of the Years 7 to 10 Academy programs. In 2018 the Japanese language course will be available for Years 7 and 8.

Student effort in the extra-curricular areas such as performing and visual arts, sport and community academic competitions has reached new highs. College teams performed impressively in the Associated and Catholic Colleges' athletics, cross country and swimming carnivals. Likewise teams competed meritoriously in the Coastal Associated Schools weekly competitions. Instrumental, vocal, dance and drama students have been very successful in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival and other festivals and competitions. Many students have had work displayed in community exhibitions.

The College continues to have excellent support from the wider Catholic community. Fr Robert Carrillo, St Andrew's Parish Priest and his Assistant Priest, Fr Israel Quirit have a significant presence, assisting with Mass, Retreats the Sacramental Program and being of spiritual support to staff and students. We congratulate the 12 students who received Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and or 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 commenced in Year 7 this year. These Bursaries are established as annual awards.

The College is playing a role with St Andrew's Parish and Brighton and St Andrew's Catholic Primary Schools, as the most northern Catholic organisations in the metropolitan area. A working party has been formed with the Perth Archdiocese and Catholic Education Western Australia to build the contribution of the Catholic Church in the growing community to the north of the College.

The completion of the Paul Rafter Centre has enable the College to utilise space for the minor capital development works to provide for the College's growing student population with additional teaching and learning facilities. These projects include:

- The provision of the Students Services Area which includes offices for the College Psychologist, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Vocational Education Coordinator and Careers Counsellor.
- The MacKillop Centre as a reflection space and meeting room for Irene's Service Learning.
- A classroom for Home Economics with Fashion and Textiles and Children Family and the Community and a general purpose room.
- Individual office space for Deans of Year to enable better access for meetings with parents and students.
- Preparation areas for Religious Education, Mathematics, Science and Accounts staff.
- A larger staff room to accommodate our growing number.

The College will carry out minor alterations to the carparks to enable better traffic flow for the drop off and pick up of students.

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

The College Board members, with Chairperson Mr Chris Erikson, have been very supportive and thorough with the overseeing of the financial and capital projects of the College.

The Parent Group, with Chairperson Mrs Tania Whiting, has given excellent support to students with many projects. These include the funding of the 'Resurrected Irene II' artwork and providing for new drink fountains and landscaping in the undercroft area. College staff have appreciated the service of the Parent Group to assist with hospitality at events, including Parent Information Evenings, the Blessing and Opening of the Paul Rafter Centre and the Year 12 Graduation.

In endeavouring to provide further opportunities for parents to be involved with College life, a Q & A evening was held for Year 11 parents to give them the opportunity to ask staff about WACE Graduation Requirements, University and TAFE entrance, ATAR and VET courses and general information about student study habits and needs.

The College is fortunate to have staff of high calibre. The most important aspect of our College is the care for our students and their learning. We are fortunate to have excellent teachers, most of whom serve as Care Group Teachers to our students.

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. Our non-teaching staff are very mindful that the work they do is integral to student care and learning.

The College Heads and Coordinators of Learning Areas continue to lead ongoing improvement of teaching and learning with the implementation the new curriculum in Year 11 and 12, other curriculum developments, the strategies to build the capacity of our teachers and the utilisation of ICT.

The College Executive with Deputy Principal, Ms Nancy Bonfiglio, Dean of Campus Ministry, Mr John Swindells and Deans Of Year, Mr Andrew Billingsley, Mr Ryan Coutts, Mr Andrew

Donaldson, Ms Gillian Pearce, Mrs Michelle Smith, Mrs Deb White and Mr Peter Boylen who undertook the role in Term 3 when Mrs White was on long service leave, provide excellent leadership in the faith, pastoral and academic dimensions for students.

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

A position with the College Board is a wonderful way for parents to be involved and help shape their child's school. I am privileged and honoured to represent the College and community.

The College Board, in representing the school community, actively promotes and supports the Catholic ethos of the school. The general object for which the Board is constituted is to assist the College to fulfil its financial and capital development responsibilities in accordance with our Constitution and with the policies and practices prescribed by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.

During 2016 the College embarked on a number of activities to further improve our facilities. As an objective of the College's long-term Capital Development Plan 2016 we proudly opened the doors of the Paul Rafter Centre.

Our students continue to excel in many areas. These include academia, sports, music and theatre. Once again this year our students and our staff worked tirelessly on the production of Wonderland which is an outstanding example of this.

These items we celebrate could not have been accomplished without our teachers, support staff, administrators, senior leadership team, parents and community members. Many of our staff work behind the scenes keeping our school grounds in a wonderful condition, our facilities in good working order, steering our operational management and even driving our school buses. Many staff members volunteer additional time to support our students in a variety of different activities.

I also wish to thank our senior leadership team and all staff 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, Principal, Mr Marshall, Deputy Principal, Ms Bonfiglio and Executive Assistant, Mrs Boscarino.

Also, thank you to my fellow Board Members Fr Robert, Mr Higo, Mrs Platts, Mrs Russell, Mr Simms, Mr Welch and ex officio members Mr Marshall, Mr Mawby and Mrs Boscarino for your 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 community members of the Irene McCormack Catholic College family.

This year I would particularly like to thank our wonderful volunteers who have served in the Uniform Shop and Canteen and assisted with sporting teams and the performing arts. You are community builders, embracing our community and encouraging our community to subsequently embrace Catholic Education. Unsung heroes who silently go about the task at hand.

Finally, to the Graduating class of 2016. Congratulations and thank you for representing our College with integrity, compassion and purpose. 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.

Mr Christopher Erikson
College Board Chairperson

Campus Ministry

In 2016, Irene McCormack Catholic College acknowledged the 25th Anniversary of Sister Irene McCormack's murder. Commemoration of this corresponded with the opening of the Paul Rafter Centre. A focal point of the new facility is the glasswork 'Resurrected Irene II'. Irene is our model, for responding to the Gospel and living as a Catholic community. For this reason, in 2016 our Christian Service Learning Program was relaunched as 'Irene's Service Learning'.

Irene's Service Learning, led by Miss Cherie Milne, calls us to be more selfless and generous, responding to the need in our homes, College, Parish and wider community. Our College engaged Wheelchairs for Kids with regular service visits by staff and students. Through Irene's Service Learning, the College donated considerable funds, and goods, especially aiding Shopfront through our 'Winter Appeal' and the St. Vincent De Paul Society, through our 'Christmas Appeal'. The College also served in coordinating the Finish Line for the 'City to Surf Marathon' and our Irene McCormack Day fundraising again made a significant contribution to the Archbishops' 'LifeLink Day Appeal'.

Campus Ministry moved to our new location and opened the new MacKillop Centre. The MacKillop Centre is an important part of our College Evangelisation Plan and Catholic ethos, as it allows a space for quiet, reflection and prayer.

Campus Ministry farewelled Kym Krishnan, our Youth Minister. Kym led our Sacramental Program for over three years. In 2016, 14 students participated in formation classes prior to receiving Sacraments at St. Andrew's Parish.

Campus Ministry led our inaugural Kimberly Immersion in June. Seven students ventured with Mrs Janice Bell, Mr Ned Bryant and me to the Kimberley, and experienced the beauty and ruggedness of both the landscape and people. One week was spent at the Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre in Billiluna, teaching, feeding, playing games and sharing with the students and staff. We forged friendships which connect our two very different school communities. Miss Lauren Ierace's secondment to Billiluna for 2017 reflects her generous qualities as well as the potential benefits of an ongoing relationship between our schools.

Links between the College and St. Andrew's Parish continued to expand with weekly staff prayer and Masses led by Father Robert Carrillo and his Assistant Priest Father Israel Quirit. 2016 saw each year group participate in a Sunday Mass, further connecting our College Community to the Church.

Campus Ministry coordinated Retreats for all students and staff in 2016. These days are set apart, offering an encounter, through reflection, sharing, prayer and Mass, with the Divine in themselves, each other and the Sacraments.

Campus Ministry farewells Mr Stephen Spiteri, who has accepted a teaching position at Aquinas College, and Miss Lauren Ierace for her period of secondment to Billiluna. We will miss them both, for their contribution, professionalism and friendship.

Mr John Swindells
Dean of Campus Ministry

Religious Education Learning Area

During the 2016 academic year the Religious Education staff developed a structure that allows for a differentiated program to meet the needs of all students for both examinations and assessments.

Four of the College staff attended the National Catholic Education Conference held in Perth. The insights gained will benefit the development of our Catholic Identity including Religious Education at the College.

The introduction of the Justice Today course in Year 10 saw the completion of a pilgrimage retracing the steps of Irene McCormack in Western Australia. The students along with Ms Bonfiglio and Mr O'Brien visited Santa Maria College, South Perth Convent, Busselton, Manjimup, Kununoppin, Trayning and New Norcia. The Mass in the New Norcia Church on our final day was celebrated with those who had completed the Camino Salvado. The experience was a memorable one with one of the highlights being able to speak with people who lived and worked with Irene in Manjimup and meeting the McCormack family on their farm at Trayning.

There will be some changes to the Religious Education staff in 2017 as Mr Stephen Spiteri has accepted a position at Aquinas College and Miss Lauren Ierace has been selected for a secondment to our sister school, Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre, in Billiluna. We wish them both well and will benefit from Miss Ierace's experience on her return. We welcome Mrs Janice Bell who will assist with the Irene's Service Learning Program and teach Religious Education next year.

Our Year 9 students completed the Bishop's Literacy Test and as per their assessment schedule the results for this year will form part of their overall report. This year's results were the best the College has achieved when compared to other similar schools.

It is encouraging to note that a significant number of Year 12 students continue to use Religion and Life results as one of their four best ATAR subjects.

The Religious Education Office has relocated to what was the old dance room, where space for the return of the "MacKillop Centre" has been made available. This sacred space is available to conduct some Religious Education lessons that require a quiet more reverent location.

The Religious Education staff are to be congratulated for their willingness to assist students with all aspects of the course. At times this includes giving up their own time to work with students outside of lesson times.

We look forward to an exciting 2017 where we are optimistic about the further development of the Religious Education program.

Mr Kevin O'Brien
Head of Religious Education

Design & Technology Learning Area

In 2016 the Design and Technology team has provided students with educational programs across five different subject courses, Construction, Dimensional Design, Graphics, Metalwork and Woodwork. Within each course, senior school students have had a selection of General, ATAR and VET courses. The Learning Area has seven teaching staff and one workshop technician: Mr Trevor Bastow, Mr Fred Laffite, Mr Patrick McHale, Mr Craig Meecham, Mr Tony Richmond, Mr Michael Speechley, Mr Tim Warren and Mr David Williams.

Learning programs have undergone restructure following changes in timetabling and staff continue to evaluate and make improvements to cater for differences in student abilities. Work continues with incorporating Western Australia Technologies Curriculum due to be implemented in 2018 following Professional Development undertaken at the Regional Learning Communities meeting. The Year 12 Metalwork course completed a successful audit by SCSA. In Vocational Education Training courses, Mr Bastow, Mr Speechley and Mr Warren completed recognition of Prior Learning portfolios for Graphics and Construction courses to receive qualifications to teach at a Certificate II level. The Design & Technology Technician, Tony Richmond, successfully completed the OH&S qualifications and is now the appointed College OH&S representative.

The Learning Area has had two extracurricular activities run after school. Maker Space, an initiative of Mr McHale which has been open to all students in the College interested in 3D printing and laser cutting. The program runs every Monday afternoon and continues to gain momentum as the year goes on. The Electric Vehicle Challenge has been reinstated by Mr Williams. The current team of Year 10 students have begun planning for the production of a new EV to race against other schools next year.

Mr Trevor Bastow
Head of Design and Technology

English

*“You are always a student, never a master. You have to keep moving forward.”
~ Conrad Hall*

2016 has been a wonderful year for the English Learning Area and students. We continue to develop engaging and relevant learning experiences for students, and work on improving functional literacy skills. The NAPLAN results this year show that the Year 9 students have improved considerably since they were in Year 7 across all skills tested: Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar/Punctuation. Our Year 7 and Year 9 students are performing above the National average in three of these categories, which is testament to the literacy focus we have embedded in our programs.

We are always seeking ways to engage students in the curriculum to make the content relevant, so whilst studying Jack Davis' play, 'Honey Spot,' Year 7 students had the privilege of speaking to Ms Donella Brown, the College's Aboriginal Liaison Officer. Donella spoke to the students about her Aboriginal heritage, the traditions of indigenous Australians, and the challenges faced by her family.

The English Department and the Year 12 Prefects were instrumental in the revival and promotion of a Quiz Night this year. Over 140 students took part in the fun, the highest number of participants we have ever had. Students competed for prizes and shared in the excitement with their friends and teachers.

Once again, we had a novice team of eager Year 7 students compete in the West Australian Debating League, and students competing in the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition. It is wonderful to see students so eager to develop their public speaking skills.

In 2017, the English Learning Area will be implementing a new elective course titled Literacy Focus, which is available to students who feel they would benefit from additional tuition in functional literacy. By enrolling in this course, in addition to the usual English lessons, we hope that students who struggle with reading, writing and spelling will see considerable improvement over the year and therefore have a greater chance at success when sitting the NAPLAN and OLNA tests.

I thank the outstanding English team, whose passion for teaching, and commitment to excellent practice, provide students with learning experiences that are both challenging and rewarding.

Ms Jessica Stylianou
Head of English

Home Economics

The Home Economics Learning area has had a very positive and rewarding year for 2016.

We are delighted that the Year 7 students have embraced the new Textiles focus in Home Economics with each student bringing home a uniquely designed cushion of their choice. The Community Services Certificate II course was equally embraced by the Year 11 students. This involved learning how to care for others in the community, preparing meals and developing skills required to enter into the workforce. The Baby Think It Over Program was well received with the students becoming increasingly aware of the demands on parenting.

In 2017 we are very excited to be introducing three new courses into the Home Economics learning area. Years 8 and 9 Textiles, where the students will be learning to design and create a variety of items using different technologies, and a new Child Care course for Year 9 students which will offer the students an understanding of all the demands and responsibilities of babysitting.

Thank you to all of the staff, Mrs Sally Bone, Mrs Karen Lafitte, Miss Rachael Thomson and Mrs Catherine Summers and on a wonderful and successful year.

Mrs Janet Flematti
Coordinator of Home Economics

Information Technology and Business

The Information Technology and Business Learning Area has been very successful this year. Our Year 7 and 8 IT and Digital Media classes have been engaged in learning not only functional ICT skills but also challenged in areas such as Computational Thinking and Adobe Premiere video editing. Our Years 9 and 10 students have had their skills put to the test with C# programming in our Lego Robotics environment as well our brand new electronics unit, solving modern day problems with technological solutions.

Our Year 10 Business class again represented the College in the highly regarded Just Start IT competition with one of our teams making it to the Grand Final. Their idea is now attracting interest from investors, and we hope it may save the lives of teenagers in years to come. The Years 11 and 12 students continue to strive for excellence in Certificate Business and IT as well as ATAR Applied Information Technology.

The IT Club has grown and strengthened this year, engaging with students across all year groups. Our planning for a student-lead IT Mentoring program is well underway with a 2017 launch in sight. These mentors will assist other students and staff with their hardware and software needs in 2017, adding to the hard work put in by our IT Support Staff and giving students the opportunity to experience working in an authentic IT environment.

We are truly blessed to have such professional and caring staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Shawn Billam, Mr Ned Bryant, Ms Francesca Christie, Mr Fred Lafitte, Ms Danielle Maher, Mr Devan Martin, Mr Craig Meham, Mr Tim Warren and Mrs Katriese Wilder for the passionate way in which they serve our Learning Area and the College.

We now look to 2017 as we further engage and challenge our students in these exciting and ever-changing areas.

Mr Robert Blair
Head of Information Technology and Business

Languages

French is the only language other than English at our College and is compulsory for one semester in Year 7 and an option with a full year program in Years 8 and 9. In 2017 we will see the pioneering senior Language class with the introduction of Year 10.

Students have been exposed to the French language 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. This year, our students have achieved three Gold, one Bronze and many credit Awards in the Language Perfect World Championship.

Staff and students celebrated Languages Week with the traditional game of Pétanque, delights of French cuisine and various other international foods that were available at Irene's Café for this special occasion.

As we are a Centre for Excellence in Languages, our focus for the future will be to further develop a culture of academic excellence within languages at our College, fostering a passion for the French language and the introduction of the Japanese language in 2018.

Ms Catherine Harrison
Languages Coordinator

Learning Support

In 2016 the Learning Support team have continued to provide tailored support for students from Year 7 to Year 12 by providing them with study and learning opportunities in the classroom and in the Learning Support Centre. This year some support has also been extended beyond the classroom, where tailored programs have been developed to assist our senior students undertaking work experience placements.

The main focus for 2016 was to oversee the Collaborative Project and further develop specialised Course 1 programs. A new format of student Education Plans have been finalised and implemented. These outline individual accommodations that make the curriculum more accessible for our learning support students.

Throughout the year, Mrs Catherine Harrison has supported the literacy needs of our ESL students by implementing the English as a Second Language/Dialect course. Afterschool OLNAs tutorial sessions have also been running to provide assistance for our senior school students still needing to achieve WACE requirements. All these initiatives have proven to be successful and will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

In 2017 our aim is to continue to work with the English and Mathematics learning areas to ensure that appropriate procedures are put in place to further support the literacy and numeracy needs of our students. A Year 8 Literacy Focus class will be introduced and we hope to develop a paired reading group where students are able to work together to improve their reading and comprehension skills.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our teaching assistants, Mrs Tammy Johns, Ms Tara Johnson and Mrs Sally Tabram. Without their continued dedication and effort, we would not have been able to provide the support needed for our students to achieve success. I would

also like to thank Mrs Dianne Bridge, our College Psychologist for liaising with the Department to provide tailored plans that support our students and families at the College.

Mrs Nicole Pearce
Head of Learning Support

Library

The Library environment will change with both the small classroom and the Library Computer Lab being refurbished with booth seating to further develop the goals of 21st Century educational practice.

There has been an increase in the number of classes that have been able to use the space for reading, studying and collaborative learning during class time. We have increased the Library Fiction collection this year by approximately 400 titles.

Looking to 2017 we are developing the Library Computer Room into a silent study space.

I would like to thank Miss Julie Lawson for her diligent work to make the Library an engaging environment for working, reading and collaborating.

Mr Edward Bryant
Head of Library

Mathematics

2016 saw the first full implementation of the new senior Mathematics curriculum at the College across Years 11 and 12. With 235 students studying Mathematics across five 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, 2016 had 70 Year 12 students and 51 Year 11 students. The General courses had 67 Year 12 and 47 Year 11 students.

Students across Years 7, 8 and 9 competed in the 'Have Sum Fun' competitions this year and we will look to continuing and extending this participation in 2017.

NAPLAN results for Numeracy were very encouraging this year. The Year 9 students showed substantial gains since Year 7 with 49% of students achieving Band 8 or higher. The September OLNA results in Numeracy showed further improvement. There are approximately 9% of students in Year 11 and 18% of students in Year 10 who are yet to meet the minimum Numeracy requirement. This will continue to be a focus for the teachers of Years 10, 11 and 12 for 2017 as we strive to assist all our students to graduate.

We farewell Mr Peter Dymnicki, Mr Ray Metcalf and Mrs Debra Needham at the end of the year. We thank you for your contribution to the College during your time here and wish you every success and happiness in the future.

Mrs Faye Ratajczak
Head of Mathematics

Performing Arts

2016 was the most successful year to date in the Performing Arts Department. The College Production of Wonderland was held in May over three nights, with the inclusion of the first matinee performance. The performance showcased the amazing talents from students in all areas of the arts and received a well-deserved Certificate of Merit from the Catholic Performing Arts Festival committee.

The Catholic Performing Arts Festival was held again in Term 3 over an eight week period. This year a record number of applicants entered with more ensembles, bands, soloists and dance groups than ever before. A credit to the hours of extracurricular that the students contributed. Congratulations to Year 12 piano student, Kenrick Lakatani, who was the recipient of the Vera Chidlow Scholarship.

Performing Arts students entertained parents and staff at various successful events throughout the year including Sounds at Sunset in Terms 1 and 4, Soundscape Festival, Cheerleading Competitions and Dance Night. Recital Night and Drama Night were both held in the new Paul Rafter Centre. We were also a regular presence at many whole College events such as Graduation, Masses, Awards Night and various assemblies.

The success of the Performing Arts department comes down to the outstanding time and dedication that the students give to their work. Their professionalism is showcased each time they take to the stage.

A special mention must go to the Performing Arts staff who dedicate extraordinary hours of extracurricular work to allow students the many opportunities they have at the College. With thanks to Ms Tamara Brankstone, Ms Francesca Christie, Ms Sinead Harte and Mrs Rosalie Richardson.

Mrs Kylie Malam
Head of Performing Arts

Physical and Health Education

The Physical Education Learning Area once again had a successful year in 2016. The highlight of the year being the opening of the Paul Rafter Centre which has some of the most state of the art sporting and Outdoor Education facilities in the state. The opportunities it offers to students, staff and the community is invaluable in the development of Physical, Health, Outdoor Education and sport in the region.

Upper school numbers were once again high with Year 11 and 12 students being offered an ATAR and VET pathway in both Physical Education and Outdoor Education. Year 12 VET students received a Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation or a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation and some students both. The Soccer and Australian Rules Football Academies continue to be a strength of the learning area, not only for the skills that students learn but for the development of the students into responsible and mature young men and women. 2017 will provide students the opportunity to continue with the academies into Year 11 and 12 with the introduction of a Certificate II in Sport and Recreation in Soccer and Football.

The school-based results for last year's Year 12 Physical Education Studies and Outdoor Education ATAR group were pleasing. Most students achieved a satisfactory standard or better. School based practical performances in PES were more in line with the achievement of students practically examined sports, an area which has not been a strength in the last few years. The school based theory assessments were the same as previous years and the students achieved very well in these.

In Outdoor Education, we saw a significant difference between school-based marks and external performance, mainly from the student's higher practical tasks results. To tackle this in 2016 we have changed the weighting of practical performance, and increased the weighting for tasks including tests, and examinations.

We have made changes in the practical activities students participate in during the ATAR courses, and we have used a long term view of this, with students starting to learn this activity from Year 10, so it means they will have three years to develop the required skills to perform well in the practical examination. The Year 12 PES and OED course teachers worked with Prendiville Catholic College and Mater Dei College to share assessments, programs, and ideas to assist with their course delivery. Within our learning area we try to give every teacher the opportunity to work closely with a group of students over Years 11

and 12. We do this by allowing teachers to begin teaching a senior class in Year 10 then taking the students through to ATAR Year 11 and 12. This helps with upskilling each staff member and sharing the load and demands of upper school classes.

This year the focus within our learning area is to work collaboratively to effectively build teacher capacity, sharing ideas, resources, and expertise. Where possible we team teach especially helping those new to Physical Education/Outdoor Education teaching. We have informal observation occurring, focusing at the moment on the new staff members. In 2016 we began the implementation of the new Western Australian Curriculum, with next year seeing a boarder focus in Physical Education lessons, and delivering and assessing of Health Education.

We are recognised for helping to enrich the lives of young adults, through Health, Physical and Outdoor Education.

Mr Neil Bright
Head of Physical Education

Science

We welcomed three new members of staff to the Science department, Miss Vivian Bahbah, Mr John Mirco and Miss Merryl Thomas. They have been wonderful additions to our staff and have brought along a great balance of enthusiasm and experience that has really helped to strengthen the Science team.

Science week was celebrated with incursions, as well as quality lunchtime experiments and demonstrations carried out by our dedicated Science staff. We have had numerous incursions and excursions throughout the year.

This year we entered students from extension classes into the Big Science competition. This is a national competition and we had a number of outstanding results including 4 high distinctions in Year 10. We also had a number of Year 10 and 11 students enter the Chemistry and Physics Olympiads.

This year we introduced the Year 10 Biological and Physical Science electives. The drive and efforts of Miss Merryl Thomas coordinating the Biological Science and Miss Emily Bakker and Mr Tony Summers coordinating the Physical Science electives needs to be commended. These courses have been a tremendous success and will give our students excellent preparation for Science ATAR subjects offered in Years 11 and 12.

The Biological Science classes running in Year 10 have given us the opportunity to promote the Biology ATAR course. As a result, we will have one year 11 Biology class next year. The goal for 2017 is to consolidate these electives and grow numbers in ATAR Biology, whilst maintaining numbers in our other ATAR courses.

During 2017 we will investigate the viability of an appropriate Certificate II course to replace Integrated Science General.

Mr Paul Woodhouse
Head of Science

Social Sciences

The Social Sciences Learning Area has continued to consolidate the implementation of the Western Australian Curriculum in 2016. The differentiation of Years 7 to 10 classes into four streams has also been a new initiative, allowing students to achieve success at all levels. New ATAR courses for Year 12 History and Geography have been implemented and a new elective for students in Year 10 – Global Leadership – has been established.

The new Year 12 History ATAR course has seen our students study the rise of Communism in Russia in 1917 and its development as the Soviet Union to 1945 followed by a study of The Cold War in Europe from 1945 to 2001. The new Year 12 Geography ATAR course has seen our students study Global Environmental Change and the Planning of Sustainable Places. Both of these new courses are very relevant given the current state of world affairs and offer much to students embarking on life outside of school.

Global Leadership, the new Year 10 elective, has given students further depth studies in History, Geography, Politics and Law. Students began the year studying the development of Australian policies and the changes that emerged as a result of major world events with a focus on the Vietnam War. The success of Tia Berard in winning the essay competition for the Honouring Vietnam Veterans program led to her attending the 50th Anniversary Commemorations in Canberra during August. Students also embarked on a study of climate change and sustainable development.

The Geography fieldwork camp for Year 11 Geography ATAR students and Year 10 Global Leadership students was a great success. The Year 11 students visited Xanadu winery to understand the agricultural process involved in making wine and also completed fieldwork activities to understand the natural processes that lead to bushfires in the area. The Global Leadership students completed fieldwork in understanding the processes involved in sustaining our natural forests. The camp was a great success in engaging students in fieldwork and we look to continue this in the future.

2017 will see the establishment of another new elective for Year 10, Commerce and Law. It is hoped that students will engage in Commerce at a practical level by participating in the Just Start It business program and this could lead them to pursue Economics ATAR. For those interested in law, it is hoped that this elective will allow students to understand how the law works and develop their skills in understanding and interpreting the law through Mock Trials and case studies.

I wish to thank all members of the Social Sciences Learning Area for their passion, enthusiasm and hard work in creating the engaging programs and events run this year.

Mrs Adele Baker
Head of Society and Environment

Sport

In 2016 we have had entered over 40 teams in various competitions. The majority of these competitions have been in the Coastal Associated Schools (CAS) sporting competitions.

Over 640 students competed for the College in some form in 2016.

We participated in three Interschool carnivals, the ACC Swimming, where we placed 2nd, ACC Cross Country and the ACC Athletics Carnival, where we placed 4th. This year we selected over 240 students from Year 7s to 12 to compete for the College in our Interschool or ACC Carnivals. This is a significant commitment from our students as they commit themselves to training leading up to the event and they compete with pride and dedication on the day of the Carnivals.

Over 250 students participated in afterschool sports in School Sport WA and West Perth competitions in the AFL and Soccer Academies. These students learn the practical skills of the game as well as game play skills which they are able to showcase against other schools on game days. We are looking at strengthening these Academies in the coming years by increasing their accessibility to students from Years 7 to 12.

This year we introduced electronic timing for our three major House carnivals, enabling accurate and instant results to be available to all students and parents within seconds of the

races being held. This system assists staff with student selection into our College ACC representative teams.

Thank you to all the staff who volunteer their time to help coach or manage a team. Thanks also to the Physical Education, Maintenance and Grounds and Office staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make Sport a success at the College.

Karolina Lewy
Head of Sport

Visual Arts

2016 has brought many new project opportunities, variety and external participation for the Visual Arts. One of our goals for 2016 was to continue to build an expansive repertoire of programs that are contemporary, reflect the new Western Australian Curriculum and increase student interest in our subject. We are proud to see this reflected in the works exhibited at the annual College Exhibition.

The developing breadth and depth of our programs is thanks to the responsibility each staff member takes to introduce new techniques and skills, ensuring that the work produced is ever evolving to give our students expertise in a number of studio areas, in preparation for senior school Visual Art.

Students were given the opportunity to exhibit their work at the College Exhibition in Term 3, or externally at Angelico, St Georges, Meta or the Mindarie Festival. Not only did all students have their work displayed, but one of our Year 11 students claimed first prize in the 3D category at Meta. Other annual events that were popular amongst students were the Year 9 Sculpture by the Sea excursion, the Years 10 to 12 Art Camp and the Year 11 Art Workshop Excursion at North Metropolitan TAFE.

In 2017, Visual Arts will continue to develop programs to reflect contemporary works and interests while engaging students in a variety of different skills. We aim to commence an extracurricular option of Art Club and will look at the possibility of establishing Photography as a standalone subject.

My utmost thanks goes to Mr Craig Mecham, Miss Bronte Reeves, Mr Tony Richmond and Mr Michael Speechley for the exemplary work and teaching they bring to the Learning Area.

Mrs Amy Richardson
Head of Visual Arts

Vocational Education

The Vocational Education Learning Area includes the delivery of the Career and Enterprise General Course in Years 11 and 12 as well as providing student support services in the area of Vocation Education and Training and career counselling.

2016 saw the introduction of the Career and Enterprise General (CAEG) course in Year 12. The Career and Enterprise General course is now available for all senior school students in 2017 on a pathway of study to TAFE training, apprenticeship, traineeship and/or employment.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Workplace Learning Program, when enrolled in CAEG, to gain work experience in an industry of choice. This year our students attended work experience in several industry areas including aged care, electro-technology, plumbing, civil construction, building and construction, beauty therapy, childcare and engineering. In 2017 we will commence a new partnership with a third party provider, Onsite, to assist with our Workplace Learning Program. We thank CareerLink for their service and support to the College and our students over the years.

Students have a wide selection of Vocational Education and Training (VET) opportunities on site at school in various learning areas. The VET Coordinator can also explore offsite VET opportunities for students focused on specific trade pathway areas or those seeking school based apprenticeships or traineeships.

The Career Expo returned in 2016, and was a great success particularly as it coincided with Parent Teacher Meetings and was held in the Paul Rafter Centre foyer. In 2017, 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 Erin Gallen
Vocational Education Coordinator