



# 2018 College Board Chairman Report



Reflecting on 2018 it is clear that we have had a year of consolidation and change.

Last year saw the commencement of some substantial capital works with the upgrading of B and C blocks, the Administration Centre and the College entrance upgrade and beautification. These works were completed in the early stages of this year with final landscaping occurring at the onset of winter. However, with funding being very tight across the education sector it was not possible to continue the program of works in 2018. With the Federal Government funding model for the next few years still emerging from the draft policy stage, it is likely that capital works will not be committed in the coming year. In this sense, there is a period of consolidation occurring with the focus being on optimising services both within, and into, the College.

To this end, the College has elected to focus on the Light of Excellence through the appointment of a Learning Excellence Co-ordinator. This new appointment brings with it great excitement for a targeted focus on learning methods and strategies. It is with much anticipation that we await the impact of this appointment on the range of new and renewed programs to help foster that culture of excellence and rich learning within the College. I look forward to reporting to the College community on this aspect next year.

Similarly, the College continues to reach out to those Students that need additional support in their learning. The College offers a remarkably inclusive model that speaks much about being a Light of Welcome. Furthermore, the College Outreach Program emphasises this assistance through its generous support of many local and international agencies and organisations. This embodies the College commitment to being Lights of Example.

This year, the students have continued to display their commitment to the Light of Excellence. Once again, the coding and robotics groups have performed strongly with three out of five projects achieving a place in this State-wide competition. The ongoing strong performance in this space will see the creation of a new Coding and Robotics Elective, demonstrating the growing focus on STEM subjects. Further to this, students performed strongly in a number of national competitions including The Australian National Chemistry Quiz hosted by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI); and the National Science Olympiad incorporating both physics and chemistry. The GATS showcase also catalysed the students' inner innovator with a range of interesting projects such as water powered rockets, nanotechnology, a smart home energy efficient Arduino circuit and some air-powered racing cars. These students set wonderful standards and are a Light of Welcome within our community.

The arts are also alive and well in the College, showcasing the Light of Creativity in our community. The College production of High School Musical was wonderful and a sell-out performance, further emphasising the sense that the quality of the performances steadily increases each year. Similarly, the Dance Showcase also demonstrated its resilience, eclipsing all expectations once again. The Art Exhibition and Lumen Live provided a genuine opportunity to appreciate the breadth of skills within the College and the students continue to impress with their skills and enthusiasm.

With its continued commitment to being a Light of Faith this year saw the development of the College's new Evangelisation Plan. This plan formulated through feedback and contributions of staff, students, parents and the wider community, will lead the College into an exciting future of Catholic Identity.

The flavour of 2018 will also be that of great change. Our Principal, Mr Darren O'Neill, will take up a new role as Headmaster of Trinity College from the end of this year. Darren has provided tremendous stewardship over the last six years, guiding the College through a challenging growth phase and consolidating a strong sense of community spirit. Darren has presided over the formation of our newly espoused values, being the Five Guiding Lights. These provide a means of calibrating thoughts and behaviours around a common, Christ-centred philosophy and will provide an enduring legacy for our students as their perceptions and understandings are challenged and matured throughout their College experience.

We will also welcome Mrs Karen Prendergast as our new Principal commencing from next year. Karen is a faith-filled Catholic leader who has worked tirelessly in Catholic Education in both the UK and Australia for over 30 years. In that time, she has formulated her philosophy of developing the whole person across all levels of the College offering everyone the opportunity to reach their full potential. I am very excited about Karen's passion and commitment to excellence and I look forward to her impact on our College.

Further to my note to fellow parents last year, I would like to thank all parents and guardians for stretching hard and providing timely payment of fees this year. Funding remains tough for schools and I would urge parents and guardians to continue with this commitment. The Board is composed of many current and former parents of students and the sacrifice that is made for students to have the best possible opportunities is known and valued. I do believe that the changes which are afoot within the College will continue to develop the spirit and culture of achievement at Lumen Christi and I look forward to the exciting year of change that awaits us.

God bless, and may the Light of Christ shine on all that we do.

**Linc Morton**

**Chairman College Board**