



## AGM PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

23 November 2022

### INTRODUCTION:

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM), and the Parent Voice Annual Community Meeting (ACM). As always, writing this report has provided an opportunity for me to pause for a while and consider the events and experiences of the past year. Incredibly, this is the third year, in which the Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on college life and the third report in which the pandemic has been mentioned.

Although we are now learning to live with the effects of Covid19, Terms One and Two were significantly affected by large numbers of staff and students being absent from the College due to sickness and isolation requirements. In fact, I would say that the greatest impacts on education of the entire pandemic were experienced during Terms One and Two of this year. Staff and students were required to isolate for up to fourteen days, while many college staff spent significant time each day contact tracing to try and reduce the spread of the virus. Thankfully, that situation has now passed and, although infections still occur, the numbers are much lower than earlier in the year and the requirements around isolation have reduced leading to a more settled environment, which is more conducive to learning.

Although there have been some challenges this year as always, we have been blessed to experience many opportunities. Once again, staff and students responded well to the dynamic situation we experienced earlier in the year, with flexibility and hard work enabling us to navigate the ever-changing environment. We continued to learn and adapt quickly, reviewing our practice to cater for the fluid situation in which we found ourselves.

As well as responding to the global pandemic, we continue to focus on some of our key areas for development. In particular, we have continued to embed the College Vision for Learning, "Discover Together" and the schoolwide pedagogies of Connect, Empower, Explore. The IDEAS (Innovative Designs for Enhancing Achievements in Schools) Team, through the leadership of Daisy Coma, our

Director of Pedagogy, continue to guide the College community through this process. We are looking forward to continuing to embed our Vision for Learning in all aspects of student learning next year.

As I've said often, our most significant resource is our staff. This year we continued to have a clear and deliberate focus on supporting the professional learning of all staff. As always, the aim of professional development opportunities is to further enhance student outcomes. Our professional learning programs develop the skillset of all staff, teaching and non-teaching, with a variety of professional learning opportunities enabling staff to access the support they need to achieve their professional goals while focusing on their areas for development.

The ongoing development of Catholic identity is central to our core mission as a Catholic school. As such, Christ remains at the centre of all decisions we make. As a community we pray regularly and celebrate Mass together, including the Community Mass each Friday, and special liturgies throughout the year. This year, the Emmaus Retreat program has been reviewed and now takes place at different times throughout the year for individual year groups. We will continue with this model moving forward, as it allows us to provide a retreat experience at a time best suited to the needs of specific year groups and feedback indicates that this has been a positive change for students.

Staff faith formation is also an important focus of professional learning each year. This year, staff completed a "Pilgrimage through the Pandemic", which provided an opportunity to reflect on the effects that the pandemic has had on both individuals and communities. This professional learning day recognised the effects of the pandemic on individuals as well as the collective response by schools to 'keep the show on the road'. Through individual pilgrimage, each member of staff engaged with material presented by national and international presenters and shared their experience with their colleagues through a variety of digital medium. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback for the level of choice provided, the learning experienced and the authentic and individual focus of the pilgrimage.

The Catholic Schools Advisory Council continues to support the College Executive Leadership Team (ELT) particularly with regards to the financial management of the College. I would like to thank the Advisory Council members for their support this year, and pay particular thanks to Jackie Vogels, the Chair of the Advisory Council, who concludes her time on the Advisory Council at the end of the year. Jackie has been a member of the Advisory Council, and previously the College Board, for the past five years. Throughout this time, she has made a valuable contribution, with her calm manner and unwavering commitment to the College. Jackie has also been a regular and committed member of the Parent Voice group. I would like to thank Jackie for all she has done to support the College in these different roles and wish her and her family all the very best as they bid farewell to the College.

I would like to thank to my PA, Deserea Bush, for facilitating the work of the Advisory Council and for her ongoing support of me.

I would also like to thank the Parent Voice group, chaired by Tanya Friedlos, for supporting the Lumen community again this year. The Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) new Terms of reference for Parent and Friend groups come into existence next year, and so the structure of the Parent Voice will alter to reflect these changes. As Tanya completes her time as chair of the Parent Voice, I would like to thank her for her commitment to this group and for the support she and the Parent Voice have given to our students.

As the primary educators of their children, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the importance of the partnership we have with parents and caregivers. We have the privilege of assisting them in the formation and development of their children. I thank them for entrusting us with their children's education and for their willingness to support the College in this endeavour.

I take this opportunity to thank college staff for their commitment and hard work this year. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of staff who display genuine care and commitment to our students. The welfare of each student, and the desire to deliver the best possible educational outcomes for all, remains at the heart of all we do. The ability to make meaningful connections with students is a reminder that the 'Light Of Christ' is very evident within our college.

While overall responsibility for leading the College rests with me, this task would not be possible without the commitment and expertise of a supportive and highly competent ELT. I would like to acknowledge and thank ELT for their contribution and hard work and look forward to working with an unchanged team next year, the first time this has happened during my time as Principal at the College.

As we approach the end of another eventful and rewarding year, I would like to conclude my report by wishing you all a blessed, happy, and safe Christmas and New Year shared with family and friends.

May the light of Christ continue to shine brightly on our Lumen community.

Karen Prendergast  
Principal