



28 October 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support of St Paul's School during this unique and confronting year. We were prepared for change with our Year 12 students facing the new QCE assessment path, however COVID-19 altered our year in ways for which we could never plan.

A sincere thank you to all families for the way in which you worked with the 'new reality' to deliver another memorable year at St Paul's. There were outstanding achievements at a school-wide level as well as an individual student level. For the third consecutive year, St Paul's is a finalist at the National Education Awards for Primary School of the Year (non-government) and, for the first time, we are a finalist for Secondary School of the Year (non-government). The winners will be announced in late November.

We have begun looking towards next year despite the COVID-19 uncertainty. All Australian schools have been impacted by the pandemic, but, as an independent school, we have also needed to begin preparing for the introduction of a new Commonwealth School Funding model in 2022. The Direct Measure of Income (DMI) Methodology analyses each family's personal income tax data to determine their capacity to contribute to their child's education. The strong expectation is that St Paul's will receive lower annual increases in our government funding due to the new DMI system.

Additionally, St Paul's has faced financial impacts from our inability to enrol new international students and the cancellation of international study tours.

Throughout this year, we have sought to support families wherever possible through the creation of our COVID-19 bursary and offering flexible payment plans for school fees. Incredibly, a number of current families and staff also donated funds to assist with the cost of the COVID bursaries. This was a sign of the remarkable community spirit at St Paul's and we greatly appreciate this support. A number of families receiving the COVID-19 Bursary will continue to do so into 2021 because their workplaces remain affected by the border closures. The School is determined to support all affected families through this difficult time.

Lastly, with the School's building loans almost paid in full we have been planning for the next stage of capital works and development (our last major capital work, the Walker Centre, was completed in 2017). We have been working with our architects to design a new education innovation precinct that will replace the ageing Blocks 1 and 2 (constructed in the 1960s). This facility will house new hospitality classrooms and kitchens as well as spaces for our IST and entrepreneurial programs, with

a new resource (library) facility integrated throughout. We had hoped to commence construction in January 2021 but have delayed the proposed start until August 2021 to give us more time to assess the continuing economic impact of the pandemic.

With all this in mind, the School Council has considered the fees for the 2021 school year. This was a challenging process as we balanced the pressures of costs and revenue declines with the financial strain confronting the nation as a result of COVID-19. We have made the decision to increase fees by a similar rate to last year, which represented the lowest fee increase in recent years. In 2021 the fees will increase by \$40 per term for Part Time Pre-Prep, \$80 per term for Full Time Pre-Prep, \$75 per term in the Junior School and \$95 per term in Secondary School.

The 2021 domestic fees per student per annum will be:

Pre-Prep – Part Time (5 days per fortnight)	\$6,420
Pre-Prep – Full Time (5 days per week)	\$12,840
Junior School (Prep – Year 6)	\$12,080
Secondary School (Years 7-12)	\$15,300

Thank you to all members of the St Paul's community. Your support and goodwill this year has been uplifting. Thank you also to my fellow School Council members for their ongoing support through this year, and for freely offering their time and expertise to help ensure St Paul's truly offers an education worth having.

As I conclude my term on Council after 12 years, I give thanks to God for the privilege of seeing the change and development over that time, and look forward to hearing great things for many years to come.

Blessings to you and your family for a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Rev Lynda Johnson
Acting Chair, School Council