



26 October 2021

Dear Parents

As I approach the end of my first year as Chair of the St Paul's School Council, I have been reflecting on how blessed we are to have such a wonderful and supportive School community. We have faced the continuing challenges of COVID-19, and have together worked our way through lockdowns and other restrictions to ensure our students have remained resilient and able to achieve their best in difficult times. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families who are still suffering financial hardship because of the pandemic, and also with the students in other States who have had to work from home for extended periods this year. It has not been an easy time for many, but I think we are finally beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Despite the continuing pandemic, we've been able to continue with most of our scheduled sporting fixtures, excursions and camps. We even managed to stage the wonderful High School Musical Jr production earlier in the year, and I'd like to acknowledge the exceptional work of the dedicated staff and students who were involved in this joyful undertaking.

Our first "ATAR" cohort of Year 12 students were very successful last year, and we have similar aspirations for this year's cohort. Both cohorts have shown remarkable resilience, managing various disappointments and adapting quickly to the ever-changing landscape that has been COVID. They are, indeed, the best prepared group of young men and women to enter a world of accelerating change.

I'm sure you will be well aware of the large 'gap' in the middle of the School where Blocks 1 and 2 were demolished in the June/July holidays. Construction of the new Innovation Centre is due to commence next month and will continue for most of next year, with the building expected to be ready for the start of the 2023 school year. We thank those of you who have generously contributed to the School's Building Fund to assist with the cost of this project. If you are keen to support this project, all donations to the Building Fund are tax deductible and would be greatly appreciated. You can learn more about the new building and see what it will look like here – <https://www.stpauls.qld.edu.au/innovation-precinct/>.

At this time of the year the School Council always considers the fees for the coming year. As flagged in Rev Lynda Johnson's letter to you last year, the new Commonwealth School Funding model will commence in 2022 for non-government schools. This model uses the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) methodology to analyse each family's personal income tax data in order to determine the ability of the school's families as a whole to contribute to their children's education. In common

with many other non-government schools, we are expecting this funding model to result in a reduction in our funding in real terms. The Commonwealth is providing some Transition Support Funding to assist schools and we are very thankful for this support, but it will unfortunately not fully cover the shortfall in funding that we would have otherwise expected to receive. The School has also continued to suffer a shortfall in income because of the border closures and our continuing inability to enrol new on-site international students or welcome study tour groups from international schools. After considering these and many other factors, the School Council has determined that the tuition fees for 2022 will need to increase by \$65 per term for Part Time Pre-Prep, \$130 per term for Full Time Pre-Prep, \$122.50 per term in the Junior School and \$155 per term in Secondary School.

The 2022 domestic fees per student per annum will be:

Pre-Prep – Part Time (5 days per fortnight)	\$6,680
Pre-Prep – Full Time (5 days per week)	\$13,360
Junior School (Prep – Year 6)	\$12,570
Secondary School (Years 7-12)	\$15,920

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Rev Lynda Johnson, for her dedication and tireless work over 12 years as Deputy Chair and then Acting Chair of the School Council. I would also like to thank my fellow volunteer School Council members who give so generously of their time and expertise for the benefit of the School. Our Headmaster and the School staff must also be acknowledged for their commitment to providing the best possible education and high level of pastoral care for our students. Finally, thank you to you, the members of our broader School community, for your unstinting support of the School. Without all of us working together, St Paul's School would not be the place it is today.

God's Blessings to you and your family for the rest of the 2021 school year and for a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Rev David Ruthven  
Chair, School Council