



25 October 2022

Dear Parents

Another unusual year is nearly at an end – I suppose we should be well used to it by now! We began the 2022 School year with a couple of weeks of remote learning due to COVID, and then launched into another stint of remote learning following the extreme weather event in late February that resulted in widespread flooding and excessive damage to the upper level of Strathpine Road. I continue to be amazed by and grateful for the resilience and versatility of both our staff and students, with everyone doing whatever is necessary to keep the School running smoothly regardless of the circumstance. I think we were all relieved to fall into a fairly “normal” school year after that, albeit with regular COVID testing and the related absences.

We were unfortunately not able to send any groups on overseas tours this year, but are hoping some Tours will be able to resume next year. Our International School has resumed hosting tour groups from overseas this year, and are expecting more groups next year; and of course our long-term international students have been able to enter the country and are now participating in class in person rather than on-line.

The Innovation Centre building project is well advanced and due for completion before Christmas. It is an enormous and very striking structure, and I think we are all keen to see what it looks like on the inside, and for the students to start using it. I have no doubt that it will be an amazing facility and hope many of you will be able to join us for the official opening on 25 January next year.

Our Year 12 students were again very successful last year, with 35 students scoring ATARs above 90 and three topping the State for their subject. We congratulate the entire cohort on their wonderful achievements.

As a parent of St Paul's you will be very familiar with Realms of Thinking, which has been developed here at the School and is used as the foundation for our education. Realms of Thinking aims to teach students to think creatively, and is a crucial component in our goal of preparing our students for an uncertain future. We are excited to be working with Melbourne University to credential Realms of Thinking so it will carry more weight when we begin issuing your students with a Learner Profile in the future. As well as highlighting their academic achievements, the Learner Profile will highlight their characteristics; and with the Melbourne University accreditation it will carry credibility with future employers who may be seeking particular skills and abilities rather than just an academic grade. The Melbourne University project is not due for completion until the end of next year, and I'm sure the Headmaster will provide an update as it nears its conclusion.

At this time of the year the School Council considers the fees for the coming year, and with inflation and interest rates both increasing our task has not been easy. Coupled with these factors, the School's Commonwealth Funding will reduce in real terms under the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) methodology, which analyses 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. The Commonwealth is providing Transition Support Funding over the coming years to assist schools that are experiencing a reduction in their funding 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.

After considering these and many other factors, the School Council has determined that the domestic tuition fees for 2023 will need to increase by \$77.50 per term for Part Time Pre-Prep, \$155 per term for Full Time Pre-Prep, \$142.50 per term in the Junior School and \$180 per term in Secondary School.

The 2023 domestic fees per student per annum will be:

Pre-Prep – Part Time (5 days per fortnight)	\$6,990
Pre-Prep – Full Time (5 days per week)	\$13,980
Junior School (Prep – Year 6)	\$13,140
Secondary School (Years 7-12)	\$16,640

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow volunteer School Council members who give so generously of their time and expertise for the benefit of the School; and to our Headmaster and the School staff for their commitment to providing the best possible education and high level of pastoral care for our students.

God's Blessings to you and your family for the rest of the 2022 school year and for a happy, safe and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Rev David Ruthven
Chair, School Council