



2020 Annual Report to School Community

2020 has certainly been a year like no other. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all our lives has been profound. This time last year, many of us had never heard of phrases such as ‘flattening the curve’ or ‘social distancing’ nor realised that, by April, we would struggle to find many basic necessities at our local shops. Certainly, many in our community have experienced significant difficulty and hardship as a direct result of the pandemic. Whilst this has certainly been a challenging year, it is still important to take the opportunity to reflect on how we, as individuals and a community, have grown and celebrate our many achievements, amongst the challenge and adversity.

It seems quite ironic that the College has focused on the value of ‘Audacity’ this year. The idea that we behave audaciously challenges and encourages us to think laterally as we strive to improve outcomes and create a culture of care. During the early days of the pandemic, the College needed to rapidly formulate a response and quickly generate a remote learning model to support our students. I was genuinely inspired by the way our staff responded in seeking to support the educational needs of our students during this difficult period. Reflecting on this time now, I realise that I have never been prouder to call myself a teacher, as I observed staff rapidly plan, develop and then instigate a remote learning platform. I sincerely thank all of our staff for their willingness to quickly embrace remote learning in challenging circumstances, to support our students and their education. Not just their academic needs but also their social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs. I was truly in awe of the kindness and support that people provided each other, and I will never take for granted the benefit of working in a faith based community, sharing common Gospel values of compassion, courage and respect. The switch the College made to a remote learning model would normally have taken months or even years to develop, built upon feedback, review and reflection. Faced with the essential need to support our students, our staff developed and implemented a plan in less than one week. As a College, we learned an awful lot about ourselves and what it means to be part of this wonderful community.

As many of you know, this is my first year at the College as Principal. Whilst, no doubt, 2020 has had its challenges, my family and I are all pleased to be back in Geraldton after six years away. This is a special school and, even during my absence, it remained close to my heart. I am proud and humbled to now be able to call myself the Nagle Catholic College Principal.

One of my first objectives this year was to become reacquainted with the culture and context of the College. I met with key staff and spent time talking to many students about what they wanted from their school experience. After all, we are ultimately here to serve the needs of our students as best we can. As a result of these discussions, changes have already been implemented at the College and we will continue to do so into 2021 and beyond. Schools are in a continuous cycle of improvement with the primary objective being to meet the needs of the students we are here to serve, an everchanging challenge. I am pleased to be part of this vision and look forward to helping shape the direction of the College over the years to come.

Any organisation is only as good as its people and I am pleased to say I have been most impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the staff serving the Nagle Catholic College community. Our teaching staff have a genuine passion for teaching and learning. However, above this is their strong sense of care for the students they teach. Their commitment to the holistic development of the whole child; social, emotional, academic, physical and spiritual; is evident and compliments our Mission as a Catholic community.



I would like to personally thank our dedicated teaching staff who strive to support our students in a myriad of different ways to achieve to their full potential. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Similarly, the importance of support staff in a school should never be underestimated. They are the foundation of the College and work tirelessly to ensure the school operates smoothly and efficiently, quite often hidden behind the scenes. To all our non-teaching staff, I thank you for the significant contribution you make to the College and the support you have afforded me this year, whether that be in education, administration, library services, canteen services, cleaning, information technology or grounds and maintenance.

I would also like to acknowledge the College Executive. This is a group of committed and dedicated individuals who work tirelessly in the best interests of the College. To Mrs Robyn Gummery, Mrs Susan Seaward, Ms Marie Masotto, Mr Daniel Bowen, Mr Damian Ramos during Term 1, along with my Personal Assistant, Mrs Sarah Boyle. I thank you for your commitment to the College and the support you have provided me in 2020, especially in my first year as Principal.

I would finally like to recognise both the College Board and our Parents' and Friends' Association for their hard work this year. In this busy world, it can be especially challenging to find people who are willing and able to give up their spare time to support schools in this capacity. To Mrs Jo Luxton, our Board Chair, and the hard working members of both groups, I sincerely thank you on behalf of the College for your support and guidance this year.

I would like to acknowledge the significant efforts of several staff members. The 'Morrissey Medal' is awarded to staff who have completed 20 years of service at Nagle Catholic College. This award recognises their dedication, their passion and their outstanding contribution to the College community over a significant period of time. Each recipient is presented with a medallion and a gift from the College.

Our first recipient of the 'Morrissey Medal' is Mr Trevor Harkup, who works in Grounds and Maintenance.

Our second recipient of the 'Morrissey Medal' is Mrs Susan Seaward, our Deputy Principal of Students.

Our third recipient of the 'Morrissey Medal' is Mrs Linda Thuijs. Linda is resigning at the end of the year from permanent work at the College. However, we will still see Linda as a relief teacher in the future. My sincere thanks on behalf of the College to Linda for her dedication and service over the past two decades.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some other members of staff at this time. The first is Mrs Christine McIlldowie, who has recently retired after more than 20 years of service to the College. My thanks goes to Christine for her commitment and hard work and we wish her the very best in her retirement.

The second person I would like to acknowledge is Mrs Robyn Gummery, our Vice Principal. This year, Robyn was recognised by Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) for her 30 years of service to Catholic Education. There is no finer example of servant leadership than Robyn. She is wonderful example of living our College motto 'For Others'. I consider myself fortunate to work along such a committed and experienced school leader. On behalf of the College, I congratulate Robyn on her 30 years of service. This is a truly wonderful achievement.

I would also like to acknowledge our Regional Support Officer, Mrs Leanne Hodge, who is on leave for 12 months next year. Many of you would not know Leanne, however, she works tirelessly behind the scenes



supporting all Principals in Catholic schools across the region. Leanne has been a great support to me and the College over this year and I wish her all the best for 2021.

Finally, to the staff who are leaving the College at the end of the year, I thank you for your dedication and support during your time at Nagle. I trust you have enjoyed your experiences here and that you are leaving with many happy memories of your time at the College. I wish you all the very best in the next phase of your life.

To all of our families, I thank you for your ongoing support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you and God bless.

Mr Michael Williams
Principal