



NAGLE
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE
EST 1994

Good evening and welcome,

Our focus this year on the College value 'Love of Work' has invited our community to explore our purpose and our passion. Our Founders, Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice, believed that their purpose was to make a difference in the lives of young girls and boys in Ireland. They were passionate about education and its importance and we know that their passion has a direct link to the creation of Nagle Catholic College.

In 2020, the College will focus on the value of 'Audacity.' Our artwork for audacity reflects our Irish heritage and Catholic symbolism. It highlights inner strength, courage and boldness. At Nagle, audacity challenges and encourages us to think differently as we strive to improve outcomes and create a culture of care.

Tonight, we take the opportunity 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. I ask that they come forward as they are announced.

Our first recipient of the 'Morrissey Medal' tonight is Ms Sheila McCrae. Congratulations Sheila!

Our second recipient of the 'Morrissey Medal' is Mrs Christine McIlldowie. Congratulations Christine!

I would also like to acknowledge Mrs Espie Edwardes, who will retire at the end of this year. Espie has been a dedicated member of the staff for over 18 years and the College is a richer place as a result of her involvement and contribution. Thank you, Espie! We wish you all the best for the future!

Bishop Michael Morrissey recently informed me that newly ordained Priest, Father Dominic Hoang, will commence as College Chaplain next year. We warmly welcome Father Dominic to our College and look forward to him becoming an integral part of our community.

The College's Strategic Plan articulates an aspiration statement related to teaching and learning: "Nagle Catholic College aspires to be a learning community that applies the best theory, practice and evidence about contemporary learning."

The College was keen to move from "aspiration to practice" and work commenced on a detailed Vision for Learning. Visits to other leading schools combined with our academic research helped to identify the work of Michael Fullan and the concepts of "Deep Learning" as being extremely beneficial in achieving our aspirations.

If we want learners who can thrive in turbulent, complex times, apply thinking to new situations, and change the world, we must reimagine learning: what is important to be learned, how learning is fostered, where learning happens and how we measure success. We call this new conceptualisation of the learning process, "Deep Learning."

Six global competencies describe the skills and attributes needed for learners to flourish as citizens of the world. Often referred to as the "6 Cs", these global competencies are identified as Character,



NAGLE
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE
EST 1994

Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking. Deep learning occurs when we use these competencies to engage in issues and tasks of value to students and the world. This deep learning focus will ensure that Nagle students are well placed to successfully engage in an ever changing local and global work environment.

Nagle students continue to excel at State, National and International levels.

India Newman was recently announced as the 2019 Western Australian Junior Champion for the United Nations' Voice Competition and will compete in the National finals in 2020.

Ryan Carter travelled to Canberra to be named as the National winner of the Australian Tax Office, Tax and Super Competition. Ryan used his knowledge gained through his study of economics to create a rap song about the importance of tax and superannuation.

Nagle students featured prominently in the Vocational Educational & Training Awards. Shannon Cook was recognised as the Employment Based Training Student of the Year and Corey Smith was recognised as the Trade Based Training Student of the Year.

In the area of Faith and Life, Nagle students participated in the recent Catholic Youth Festival and the Endeavour immersion in Timor Leste. Whilst contributing to the development of English-speaking skills at the orphanage, our students benefitted from the life experiences and disposition of other young people whose living circumstances are markedly different to theirs.

Nagle students continue to be actively engaged at a practical level in caring for those less fortunate. This year, they have managed to raise in excess of \$30,000 and made a significant contribution to improving the lives of others.

This year, support for student wellbeing was underpinned through a growth mindset that focused upon using a "strengths based" approach. Helping students to know their strengths and how to use them in working through challenges assist students to develop greater resilience. The College's proactive approach to wellbeing is seen as an important step in helping students to maximise their opportunities.

Nagle continues to invest in projects to maintain and improve the College environment and facilities.

The vehicle fleet was updated this Semester with the purchase of a new bus. This vehicle will be decorated in an eye-catching manner and advertise the College and the various activities in which the College engages.

New bores and pumps were installed to maintain the College grounds and were designed to minimise the environmental impact of accessing ground water supplies.

With the assistance of the Parents' & Friends' Committee, the College undertook a complete renovation of the Study Hall including the purchase of new desks and chairs and large television display units. This upgraded facility has been enthusiastically appreciated by both students and teachers and utilised for a range of learning experiences and functions.



A construction contract in excess of \$1.6 million has recently been finalised to upgrade the building that faces Maitland Street. In addition to upgrading the tired façade, these works will importantly see the removal of all the windows identified with asbestos containing material. Works are set to commence in the imminent future and result in the removal of the windows and the asbestos containing material before the commencement of the school year.

I am particularly pleased to advise that the student initiated “Nagle Warrior Course” has been purchased and will be installed following the completion of the works on the Maitland Street façade. The initiative of the students involved in the conceptualisation and design phase of this project has been recognised on a National scale with our students placing second in a student design competition. This outstanding achievement added a further \$15,000 dollars to the project and compliments a \$25,000 donation from the St Pat’s Football Club following their finalisation.

Preparing to conclude my time as Principal of Nagle Catholic College has naturally led me to reflect upon the last six years. As I was welcomed to Nagle in 2014, I recall being pleasantly surprised by the standing of the College within the community and the level of pride and sense of satisfaction which resonated amongst the students, families and staff. My early mantra of “Working in Partnership” sought to consolidate this foundation and build upon the strengths of the community. “Respect” was a key term used in enhancing personal relationships and broadening interactions with Catholic Primary schools and the wider Catholic community. I am pleased that a family fee discount system has been able to be established this year through the collective collaboration of the Catholic schools in Geraldton.

A key concern when I arrived was the unknown future for families who required boarding facilities. This resulted from an earlier decision to close the outdated and unviable boarding facilities at St Pat’s. Whilst this matter has been difficult and ongoing, I am pleased to advise that it has been resolved late this year. From 2020, boarding families will now be able to access facilities at the Geraldton Residential College at a discount of approximately 33% to previous years reflecting an annual saving in the order of \$6,500 per child.

During my time, Nagle has opened and closed a campus in Carnarvon. The College responded to the Carnarvon community’s desire to access Catholic education in Years 11 and 12. Nagle’s contribution has helped to bring this dream to fruition whilst positively impacting upon the lives of local students. In addition, the Virtual Schools Network known as ViSN grew from this experience. ViSN is acclaimed on a global perspective delivering teaching and learning programs to over 200 students in Perth and throughout Western Australia. At the final Assembly in Carnarvon last month, I felt extremely proud of the effort and manner of response demonstrated by Nagle. The appreciation of the Carnarvon community was clearly evident.

I have always been keen to “hear the voice of the community” and in particular, to “hear the voice of the students.” In my first years, the community provided me with valuable insights and clarity concerning restructuring of the academic year and then hair and grooming regulations. Last year, over 1000 respondents provided their views in relation to our Reconciliation Action Plan, Sustainability, the Learning Environment and Student Wellbeing. Most recently, the community engaged in providing detailed responses to the uniform survey resulting in the phase in period being extended to minimise financial impact upon families.



I take with me this strong sense of community spirit which I have discovered in Geraldton. I take with me a greater sense of connection, to the everyday people who live in the country, to the land and to the ocean. I take with me a much deeper appreciation of the Aboriginal people and their culture, and of the challenges they face and the important role that education plays as part of those solutions. My life, and that of my family, has been enriched through this time spent in Geraldton. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your community.

In closing my address tonight, I extend my thanks to all of the staff at Nagle. In particular, I wish to recognise the support and advice of the Executive and the Senior Leadership Team who have worked so closely with me over the years. Everyone works so hard and gives so generously of themselves. Each and every one of them is greatly valued.

I also extend my thanks and appreciation to the Board and the Parents' & Friends' Committee for their support, advice and contribution, all of which I find to be so valuable. I take this opportunity to wish everyone all the very best for the future.

Mr Rob Crothers
Principal