

9 April, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENT TO COMMUNITY

Dear Parents, Members and Friends of Loreto College Ballarat

I would like to reassure you that as we continue to respond to the changes and challenges posed by the Coronavirus global pandemic, our priority remains ensuring the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and the Loreto College community.

I'm writing to provide you with an update regarding the leadership of the school for the remainder of the year.

I am pleased to inform you that our Principal, Judith Potter, is returning from sick leave to resume her role and lead the school for Term 2.

Further to this, and as you are aware, Judith was due to retire as Principal at the end of this school year, however Judith has now decided to bring forward her retirement and will therefore be concluding her term as Principal at the end of Term 2.

At this stage, I'd like to thank our interim Principal, Sandra Diafas who has done an outstanding job to provide leadership and keep the school running in Judith's absence. Thank you Sandra.

In regards to the appointment of a new Principal, the Board has made good progress and we will be sharing an update with you soon. Judith has generously offered to assist with the transition to new leadership at this important time.

Judith asked me to convey to you that she extends her deep gratitude for the many cards, messages, prayers, flowers, gifts of food and other items from current and former staff, families and the broader Loreto, Catholic education and Ballarat secondary education communities. These have certainly supported her at a difficult time. Judith would also like to share that her joy since she joined Loreto College in 2006 has been in witnessing students flourish through their embracing of opportunities, supported by staff, and the commitment of staff in contributing to an education that values the uniqueness of each student. She extends every good wish and looks forward to witnessing the school continue to flourish under the leadership of her successor.

On behalf of the Board, Loreto Ministries Limited and the Loreto Sisters, I would like to again acknowledge Judith's contribution for her 14 years of service. We intend to celebrate Judith's legacy towards the end of Term 2. However, if the current social distancing measures remain in place at that time, we will defer the celebration to later in the year.

I would like to thank Judith for her warmth, faith, joy, generosity, endeavour, vision, resolve, and unflinching devotion to the staff, students and parents of the College community.

One of Judith's early tasks was to consolidate the College from two campuses to one site, which she accomplished in a seamless fashion.

There have been many other significant milestone achievements during Judith's time as Principal. Our major building projects stand as physical reminders of Judith's strategic leadership. These include the planning and construction of the Mary's Mount Performing Arts Centre, the opening of the Province Archives Centre, the completion of the Mulhall Centre, the upgrades to the Gonzaga Barry Centre and the refurbishment of the Canteen, Food Technology, Art and Administration Facilities, the heating of the Chapel and the upgrade of the school oval.

There is a much larger volume of less visible accomplishments, including adding an additional stream of students; developing risk management frameworks; adapting to ever-increasing compliance and reporting requirements; and implementing the Felicitous Life Program. Judith is excited about the strategic vision for our school, to which she has made a strong contribution; in particular to the establishment of the new campus which will enable many more students to access a Loreto education. Rowing was also introduced during Judith's term, developing into a sustainable and popular extra-curricular activity.

Perhaps the greatest testament to Judith's impact is the exemplary qualities of the Loreto women who have passed through these College gates. Every one of them has in some way been touched and influenced by her educational vision.

I invite you to please join us in wishing Judith every blessing for her return and providing her with all the necessary support for the coming Term 2.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to all of you who may be struggling at this time, and know that the spirit and strength of our community, that is shared by both our Loreto community and our Ballarat community, will see us safely able to navigate these times.

Yours sincerely



Mr Luke Dunne
Board Chair