



Saint Ignatius College Geelong

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15th October 2020

Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Friends of the Saint Ignatius College community,

I write to inform you of some exciting news for our College.

With Mrs Annette Chidzey retiring at the end of this year, I advertised mid-last term for a new Deputy Principal (Teaching & Learning) to commence from the beginning of the 2021 school year. I was delighted to receive a strong response to the advertisement with many impressive applications. I was grateful we were able to assemble a very experienced selection panel to discern the best candidate. Thank you to Mr Tony Frizza (SICG Board Chairperson), Ms Jan Hayes (Education Consultant) and Ms Fran Kealey (SICG Board member) for joining me on the selection panel. I appreciate their advice and wisdom to ensure the best decision for our College at this point.



On behalf of the President of the Canonical Administrators, Father James Puppady, I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Ms Bernadette Donnelly**.

I congratulate Ms Donnelly on her appointment and look forward to her joining the College's Executive Team. Bernadette is very committed to Catholic education and very enthusiastic about helping lead the College into a new phase of development. She is well-positioned to join the College's leadership team with over 16 years of executive-level experience in three schools. Bernadette held the position Head of Senior School at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, Warragul for four years before moving to Loyola College Watsonia (a Jesuit Companion School) where she held the Director of Curriculum position for five years before being appointed Deputy Principal (Teaching & Learning) for three years. Then Bernadette moved to Siena College Camberwell, where she has been Deputy Principal (Teaching & Learning) for the last five years.

Bernadette has a strong Catholic faith; she is an active member of her local parish. Bernadette is a highly respected educator who is passionate about quality teaching and learning to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for students. Over the years she has taught English, History and Religious Education. She will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, energy, drive, optimism and a collaborative approach to leadership. I am very confident that her contribution to the College Leadership Team will assist in further building a stronger school with positive outcomes for our students.

I trust you will give Bernadette your support and warmly welcome her into her new role when she joins our vibrant learning and faith community next year.

In announcing Mrs Chidzey's replacement, I also acknowledge that this will be Annette's final term as Deputy Principal after six years. I wish Annette a rewarding and smooth finish-up to the year. We will express our gratitude, acknowledge this 'milestone' and extend our best wishes to Annette later in the year.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Exton
Principal

Competence

Conscience

Compassion

A Jesuit Companion School