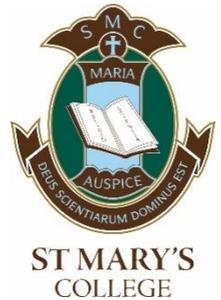


## MEDIA RELEASE

6 June 2016



### St Mary's College musical *Hairspray* sells out

St Mary's College is in the final stages of rehearsing for its production of the hilariously entertaining musical, *Hairspray*, which is on show at the Playhouse Theatre this week.

The talented cast is made up of 29 St Mary's College students and nine St Virgil's College students; all in Year 7 to 11. They were selected from auditions for their dancing, singing or acting talent, with many of them members of Hobart dance academies, Musical Theatre Crew, React Drama School and Coopers Screen Academy. A further 20 students and staff are involved in the band and backstage crew.

Director of *Hairspray* and St Mary's College Drama Teacher, Mrs Leah Smith, says that the cast and crew have a wonderful opportunity to be working at the Playhouse Theatre.

"We are fortunate to be working in such a beautiful theatre and learning from industry professionals," Mrs Smith said.

"Countless hours of rehearsals and preparation have gone into making the show a success, which have led to the students building lasting relationships with each other."

St Mary's College Principal, Helen Spencer, said that musicals provide a focus for the community and the capacity for us to suspend belief and enter into a magical world where people break into song at the drop of a hat.

"More and more we are hearing from higher education and workplaces that our alumni should be well placed to work collaboratively and think creatively," Ms Spencer said.

"Hairspray is a musical that conveys themes of equality and activism and challenging the dominant paradigm. Our young people are singing and dancing their way through a humanitarian roadmap!"

This is just one of the many co-curricular activities the College offers its students.

*Hairspray* is showing at The Playhouse Theatre, 106 Bathurst St, Hobart, at 7.00pm on June 9, 10 and 11, and at 12.30pm on June 11, 2016.

**-Ends-**

*Photo and interview opportunities with the director and cast are available at the dress rehearsal at the Playhouse Theatre on Bathurst St, on Monday 6 June, from 1.00pm – 1.30pm.*

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