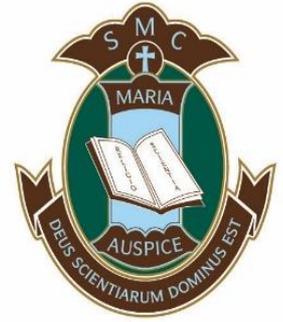


11th November 2020



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

Dear Parents & Carers,

2021 SCHOOL FEES

I'm writing to you now to forecast an increase in school fees next year. Fees have remained constant for three years, but next year, we will need to increase them. On average, fees will rise by 2.17%. We are following Catholic Education Tasmania's direction on fees from next year onwards and I am letting you know now so you can factor the increase into your budgeting.

In case you don't know, Catholic schools in Tasmania are funded through *Catholic Education Tasmania*. Funds come, in the most part from the Federal Government, and then the State Government. Even though funding has increased substantially over the last 20 years, the cost of educating a student has also increased. With the funding received for each student and the fees contribution from families, we are still delivering education in Catholic schools for less than the funding each student receives in a government school.

Sometimes in the news, particularly the national news, there are stories of Catholic schools being in the elite category. There are Catholic schools on the mainland that charge exorbitant fees. St Mary's College, however, and all Catholic schools in Tasmania, are considered "low fee paying" Catholic schools.

All money that comes into the College is spent on the College. We are required to maintain a degree of savings, in order to be financially prudent, which we do. At various times we might also save for a building project. Mostly, however, the money that comes into the College each year, is spent each year, as it should be.

Regardless of the rhetoric, I realise that your school fees are coming from your family finances. Please know we recognise that this is a conscious choice you are making and sometimes or always, this is not an easy financial choice.

It is a principle of Catholic education, that no child should forgo a place in a Catholic school due to an inability to pay. At any time please feel comfortable to contact either me directly, our Accounts Receivable Officer, Louise Graves or our Director of Business and Operations, Stuart Calvert if you need to discuss your fees. We will always work with you.

Yours sincerely

Helen Spencer
Principal