

1 December 2016

St Bede's Catholic College
Heritage Drive
CHISHOLM NSW 2322

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

For those who have not yet met me, I would like to introduce myself as the Foundation Principal of St Bede's Catholic College at Chisholm. Thank you to the parents and students I have already met for your warm welcome and hospitality. I am currently Acting Principal at St Patrick's College Strathfield, a Catholic 5-12 Boys Independent College in Sydney and I will commence in the role of Principal at St Bede's Catholic College on 23 January 2017, a year before the College opens its doors to students in January 2018. With a long history of leadership in both Systematic and Independent Schools, I am looking forward to the unique opportunity of leading the first newly established Catholic Secondary School in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese for a number of decades.

Set within the new and growing suburb of Chisholm, the College will initially open with Year 7 Co-educational Students in 2018, before expanding one year group for each of the following five years. Initially St Bede's will open with one large multipurpose building and that will be strategically placed next to St Aloysius Catholic Primary School. An additional three interconnected contemporary designed buildings will open in subsequent years as the student population increases to its projected number of up to 1,100 in 2023. Access to the nearby Council playing fields and the open design of the College will allow students to enjoy generous outdoor facilities. Physically, the College will be recognisable as a faith-based Catholic school; representing the story and traditions of the Catholic faith; and interpersonally reflecting the core Catholic values of love, justice, reconciliation and truth. In offering a quality Catholic education, St Bede's will be providing the opportunity for staff and students to further deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

St Bede's Catholic College will offer students a unique opportunity to be part of a faith-filled Catholic community committed to high standards, personal best, and service to others. The three key components that will drive the development of the School will be Faith and Identity, Learning, and Community. These three components align to the *Four Pillars of Learning* of the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), namely 'Learning to Know', 'Learning to Do', 'Learning to be', and 'Learning to Live Together'. As an inclusive community open to students of Christian denominations, there will be a clear expectation that all students will engage in all aspects of the College life, including timetabled religious education classes, Masses, prayer and retreats. Whilst respecting the likely diverse religious and cultural composition of the College student body, a positive engagement in and support of the Catholic faith tradition and values will be a clear enrolment expectation.

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A planning group has been meeting for more than two years to plan for the establishment of a new College in your community. The decision to name the College St Bede's Catholic College came after great deliberation and significant time has already been spent clarifying the mission and vision for this exciting new community Catholic College.

For those parents and parishioners from local feeder schools and parishes who would like to contribute to the strategic planning process, I extend an invitation for you to attend one of the community consultation sessions. The meetings will not focus on specifics such as uniforms, but rather will be an opportunity for sharing your hopes and aspirations for the College as we shape a shared vision for St Bede's Catholic College. At each session I will briefly share my hopes and dreams for the College as its first Principal.

Below is a draft schedule of these meetings:

Monday 20 February

- **9.00 – 10.30am** at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Anderson Drive, Tarro: Parents from students of Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro.
- **7.00 – 8.30pm** at St Aloysius Primary School, 24 Heritage Drive, Chisholm: Other interested Parents who do not attend the morning sessions at St Aloysius Chisholm or Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro.

• **Tuesday 21 February**

- **9.00 – 10.30am** at St Aloysius Primary, 24 Heritage Drive, Chisholm: Parents of students at St Aloysius Chisholm.
- **7.00 – 8.30pm** in the Corcoran Centre of the Morpeth Parish, corner of George and James Street Morpeth: Parishioners of local parishes.

Please note that attendance at these meetings will not be linked in any way to the enrolment process. If you would like to attend one of these meetings, please email me an initial intention to attend on john.murphy@mn.catholic.edu.au. I will then confirm the details with you a couple of weeks before your scheduled meeting.

For details of the story so far and for up-to-date reports on the progress of St Bede's Catholic College, click on <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/region-map/all-saints/chisholm-st-bedes-catholic-college/>

A College website and regular communication will be forthcoming early in the new year.

I look forward to meeting you all next year.

Yours sincerely,



John Murphy
St Bede's Catholic College Foundation Principal