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Dear Parents and Guardians

WELCOME

Welcome to another very exciting year at Servite. A very special welcome to those families joining our community for the first time in 2020.

We are looking forward to continuing to provide rich and rewarding educational opportunities for our students within our caring Catholic community in 2020. In striving towards our College vision of inspiring students 'to become all that they were created to be', our mission remains to establish a genuinely personalised learning environment where students feel safe, well and supported, so that they can confidently explore their God-given talents to the full.

We want to engage students in their own learning and give them the underpinning attributes, embedded values and modern learning skills to develop as whole persons.

For centuries the Servite Order has embodied the charism of community. The Friars are terrific role models for us as a Servite school to promote a genuine sense of openness and hospitality to others. We therefore encourage our families to be fully immersed in the life of our school. We are strong believers that we work in partnership with parents/guardians in the development of their sons and daughters.

OUR FOCUS

As always at this time of year, I like to provide families with an overview of our planned strategic initiatives under the four key College domains of Community, Learning, Ministry and Stewardship.

Our **Community** vision is for our students to thrive. We acknowledge the individual character strengths of our students and encourage them to utilise these to full effect in their own learning. We aim to build student capacity to self-regulate, to manage their anxieties and to build positive relationships with those around them. In developing key personalised attributes and a positive growth mindset within students, we aim to improve their capacity to learn.

In working toward this vision, last year we began the long-term implementation of the Berry Street Educational Model which overtly targets student strengths and the adoption of positive educational and growth mindset initiatives. The programme is now firmly embedded across the College, including within our newly developed Pastoral Care Programme being launched this year. We look forward to the ongoing growth and development of these strategies this year, along with the provision of rich and rewarding Priory activities aimed at developing quality relationships and genuine support networks.

Our College Parents and Friends has long been a major contributor to the growth and development of the school. This year we welcome a new team of parents who will lead the

P&F. We warmly welcome Mrs Jacqui Gilchrist, Mr Greg Gilchrist and Mr Sam Wijethunga to the team and welcome back Mrs Margaret Diodato. We look forward to the many exciting initiatives in store for this year.

In welcoming our new team, we must acknowledge the wonderful contribution of our departing P&F Executive in Mrs Tania Cleverly and Mrs Maria Carlino. We are most grateful for their many years of dedication and support.

In liaison with the P&F, we look forward to announcing a range of key events and parent forum events over the year. The first suite of activities and key events are listed later in this letter.

As a community based organisation, we work in partnership with you in the growth of your children and encourage you to become fully involved in the life of the school. We also encourage you to take advantage of the many communication avenues available to you including direct connection to teachers via SEQTA. SEQTA, of course, also provides parents with the opportunity to regularly monitor the academic and pastoral progress of students and therefore supports a proactive approach to any emerging concerns.

Our **Learning** vision is to develop innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs. We understand that all students think and learn differently, so we focus on the integration of key contemporary, higher order thinking skills that can be applied to a range of contexts. We aim to engage students in their own learning through an innovative and contemporary curriculum that develops the researchers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Our key learning focus this year is the continued differentiation and personalisation of our curriculum, along with the deeper integration of higher order thinking and collaboration skills. We are thrilled to have our new Learning Diversity structure now in place, including a new physical space by the end of Semester 1 which will support improved opportunities for students across the educational spectrum. We remain agile to the development of pathways to meet the individualised needs of each student and are excited at the suite of Gifted and Talented, Acceleration, Literacy and Numeracy programmes now available at the College.

We will also focus on the continued development of partnerships with external tertiary and workplace institutions in support of our students' transition through the College and into the pathway of their choice upon departing school. We remain a part of the Curtin University's Innovative Schools Consortium and look forward to offering additional opportunities this year to students from a STEM and curriculum acceleration perspective.

In reflecting on our learning outcomes from last year, we are very pleased to note the outstanding performance of our 2019 graduating cohort. We acknowledge the hard work of this our largest cohort to ever graduate from the College, in achieving results that will allow them to effectively transition into their chosen pathways. We also recognise their mature approach in selecting a Year 12 pathway commensurate to their interests and strengths that will set them up for future success.

Some key achievements of the cohort are highlighted below:

- Achievement of a Median ATAR of 83.6 which placed Servite at position 28 in the top 50 schools. This continues the recent trend of the College achieving an ATAR well above the State Median ATAR
- Improved WACE achievement level of 97.7% of the cohort (compared to the State achievement of 91.3%)
- 21 School Curriculum and Standards Authority Awards were achieved (including two Subject Certificates of Excellence, four Certificates of Distinction and fifteen Certificates of Merit).

- 93% and 100% of UniReady and FlexiTrack students achieved direct access to their preferred course at Curtin and Murdoch respectively. In addition, nine of the students in the Curtin pathway were the recipients of a Curtin SHAPE scholarship in recognition of their excellent achievement and high-level capacity and engagement in the course.
- The shift toward offering higher level certificates continues to have a very positive impact on students' transition into work and ongoing tertiary studies. Our strong Vocational achievement this year included:
 - Cert II = 47
 - Cert III = 37
 - Cert IV = 20
- We also acknowledge the achievement of 174 WACE unit equivalents achieved through our Endorsed Unit programme.
- This year we have continued our recent trend of strong improvement in literacy and numeracy levels from Year 9 to Year 12.
- We also acknowledge some outstanding individual performances for the 2019 cohort. Congratulations to our College Dux, Dathan Tran on achieving the highest school ATAR result of 99.85.
- We also recognise the terrific efforts of those students who achieved an ATAR of 95+, including: Alexandra Trimboli (98.80); Emily Nguyen (98.50); Thomas Pham (98.25); Eric Luong (95.70); Joel Paton (95.60); and Stefan Christou (95.55).
- In recognition of their considerable efforts, a number of our students were also the recipients of a Certificate of Distinction which acknowledges outstanding academic performance across Years 11 and 12. We congratulate the following students on this significant achievement: Emily Nguyen; Thomas Pham; Dathan Tran; and Alexandra Trimboli.
- We also acknowledge Dathan Tran and Alexandra Trimboli on achieving a Subject Certificate of Excellence for Chemistry and Italian: Second Language, respectively.

We acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our high performing ATAR, FlexiTrack and Vocational Education students. They are wonderful role models for all students at the College and demonstrate what can be achieved through self-regulation, commitment, resilience and strong levels of application.

Our **Ministry** vision is faith in action. We aim to connect students to their own personal faith journey. Through our Retreat, Liturgical and individualised Christian Service Learning programmes, we support students to develop as compassionate, respectful and just individuals with the drive to make a positive difference.

This year, we aim to encourage stronger student involvement in the different Ministry opportunities at the school, including of course our 24/7 SERVE programme. We aim to highlight, through a focus on Saint Peregrine, the importance of our College value of respect. We will also strive to formalise our Pilgrimage, International Servite Schools Network, Aboriginal Education and Justice Education programmes.

Our **Stewardship** vision is to continue our Servite story. We have a very clear vision for personalised, contemporary and innovative learning and are very excited at the ongoing development of our campus as a catalyst in achieving this vision. Our core focus in the development of the Servite campus is always to ensure that we have the needs of the child at the centre so we can create the best possible learning environment for them.

As mentioned at last year's Awards Night, we have recently commenced the next significant stage of the Master Plan which is due for completion toward the end of Semester 1 this year. This stage includes the redevelopment of the western courtyard into a social learning space for students which will also provide better access into the Shanahan classrooms, Student

Reception and the newly developed Learning Diversity Centre which will accommodate the ongoing development of formalised intervention, support, gifted and talented and accelerated strategies. Upgraded professional learning spaces for staff are also included in this phase of the plan.

We are very grateful for our community's understanding of the difficulties in constructing within such a confined space and are appreciative of everyone's support in the temporary access strategies and room adjustments we have put in place. We know that the final results will most definitely be worth the short-term inconvenience. We will continue to update our community via the regular communication channels as to any further necessary adjustments.

At the conclusion of the current Master Plan stage, our focus will shift to the refurbishment of selected Shanahan classrooms and the continued redevelopment of the external campus to provide improved social and active spaces for students.

The longer-term focus of the plan will then involve the refurbishment of the Seven Holy Founders building into a genuine Servite-style space, incorporating the visual and performing arts, design and technologies and a College chapel.

As you know we are currently working through a refreshment process of our College uniform. The aim is to encourage students to wear their uniform with great pride but also allow them to feel comfortable and confident, ready to become involved in activities and stretch the boundaries of their learning. The Sports and Priory uniform refreshment process is now complete, including a full update to our ACC and NAS sporting team uniforms. We are excited to inform you that our focus will now shift to the formal wardrobe this year. We look forward to input from all students, families and staff in this process.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are very pleased to warmly welcome the arrival of a number of new staff to the College in 2020.

- **Ms Kara Beatty** joins us from Perth College for 2020 and will be teaching in our Performing Arts Department as a Dance Teacher.
- **Ms Carol Berlinger** joined Servite in Term 3 2019 and will be continuing in the role of Assistant to Technology and Enterprise and The Arts.
- **Mr Riley Burrows** joined Servite in Term 4 2019 and will continue in our Performing Arts Department as a Music Teacher.
- **Ms Georgia Coombs** joined us in Term 3 2019 and will return for 2020 to teach in the English Learning Area.
- **Mr Patrick McHale** will be joining our Technology and Design Department as an Engineering Teacher. Mr McHale joins us from Irene McCormack Catholic College.
- **Mr Mark Muscat** commenced in Term 4 2019 in a new role as Compliance and Risk Officer.
- **Ms Alexa Pagnoni** recently completed her Bachelor of Education with the University of Notre Dame and will be teaching Religious Education and Italian for Semester One 2020.
- **Ms Laraine Reason** will be commencing at Servite mid-Term 1 and joining our English Department. Ms Reason joins us from Ellenbrook Secondary College.
- **Ms Kirsty Sloan** will assume the position of Special Needs Coordinator. Ms Sloan joins us from Bullsbrook College.
- **Mrs Anne Young** will join the College this year to teach in the Religious Education Learning Area. Mrs Young has previously fulfilled a variety of leadership and teaching roles at other Catholic schools.

I would also like to outline other staffing adjustments for 2020:

- **Mrs Angie Di Marco** will be away on LSL for Semester One.
- **Mr Trevor Galbraith** returns to the College after a year's leave. He will continue in his role of Director of Research and Innovation.
- **Ms Kirsty Greenland** will fulfil the role of Acting Performing Arts Coordinator for this year whilst Mrs Jessica Fitzsimmons is away on leave.
- **Ms Vanessa Hollis** continues in the role of Acting Head of Learning Area, English for this year whilst Ms Bree Marsh is away on leave.
- **Mr Simon Jones** returns to the College after being away on leave.
- **Mrs Monica Maxwell** will assume the role of Acting Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning this year as we work through the appointment process for the position left vacant with Ms Roseanne Madden's impending departure at the end of the term. Ms Madden has made a significant contribution to our school and we will celebrate her efforts later this term.
- **Ms Melissa Plant** will continue in her role Acting Head of Learning Area, Religious Education for Term 1, whilst Mrs Monica Maxwell fulfils a role on the College Executive team.
- **Ms Katie Thiveos** returns to the College after being away on leave.

KEY EVENTS

For your information, below are listed a number of important upcoming key events:

Wednesday 29 January:

- New Staff Induction and Leadership Day

Thursday 30 January:

- College Staff Professional Development Day 1
 - Reception will be open from 8.00am to 4.00pm
- Year 12 College Ball
 - Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park
 - 6.30pm to 11.00pm

Friday 31 January:

- College Staff Professional Development Day 2
 - Reception will be open from 8.00am to 4.00pm

Monday 3 February:

- Year 7, 11 and 12 students will commence and attend for the full day 8.40am to 3.20pm.
- Only **New** Year 8-10 students will commence and attend for the half day 8.40am to 11.10am.
- All parents of newly commencing students are warmly invited to our Pop-Up Coffee Bar at St Juliana Square from 8.00am.

Tuesday 4 February:

- All Year 7-12 students will attend for the full day.

Wednesday 5 February:

- Meet Your Teachers
 - Commencing at 3.30pm, all parents and students are welcome to share in light refreshments in the Alexis building and meet homeroom and subject teachers.

Friday 6 March:

- Servite Community Festival
 - All current and former students, families and staff are warmly invited to join in the fun at our Servite Community Festival, from 5.30pm to 8.00pm.

We are very excited at the year ahead and look forward to working with you in the development of your sons and daughters as whole persons. Our mission remains to build a school to enable the growth of every person within our community, and to instil in them a sense of genuine humble service and consideration of those around them.

Best wishes for the remainder of the holiday break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Allen', written in a cursive style.

Mr Jeff Allen
PRINCIPAL