



**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S
COLLEGE**
Hamilton

KEEPING CONNECTED

UPDATES AS WE TRANSITION TO
YEARS 7 TO 12



A message from the Principal

Dear Year 6 parents, carers and students

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our Year 7 2024 Newsletter - Keeping Connected. We have created this as a source of regular information and updates about our planning and developments for the exciting year that awaits.

Thank you for your interest in being part of the future of our College.

Since the 2022 Diocesan announcement of a transition to a 7-12 educational structure for our College, we have had a significant focus on developing facilities, resources and pedagogy to ensure that we are ready to welcome you to this new phase of our journey. Some of this work is outlined in this newsletter, while other areas will be explored during our initial information evening.

However, amidst this period of change, what remains intact at St Francis Xavier's College is a simple commitment to the relationships that are at the core of all that we do. Our College motto, 'Christus Lux Mea' (Christ My Light), reminds us of our calling by Jesus to nurture and develop meaningful relationships with each of our families now and into the future.

A Marist tradition

St Francis Xavier's College is steeped in a Marist tradition which invites young people to know the love of Christ, and to learn deeply from the humility and service of Mary in becoming aware of our duty to others. As College educators, it is our ambition that we might produce young women and men who will meet the challenge of becoming active and hope-filled citizens who will make our world a better place for their presence in it.

A Diocesan change and commitment

Upon making the determination to renew the structure of our inner-city schools, the Diocese has made an important commitment to support all our schools in the preparations for change, through the work of a Diocesan Transition Committee. This committee has sought to ensure that each school can grow and flourish in the years ahead through effective planning and resourcing.

To this end, the Diocese has commenced work on a master plan to develop each school site with a coherent long-term vision. The early discussions in this space, certainly promise some exciting times ahead.



L-R Mr Paul Dan, Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement, Mr Greg Ptolemy, Principal and Mr Daniel Mitchell, College Transition Co-ordinator.

Momentum within the College

At a local College level, it has been important from the time of the announcement to act with prudent haste. Our timeframe for change is shorter than our fellow schools, so it has been essential that we quickly gained momentum and support from our staff.

Our initial focus in the early phase of the transition was to employ some key figures in crucial roles. To that end, Mr Daniel Mitchell was appointed as our College Transition Co-ordinator and Mr Paul Dan was announced as our first Year 7 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement. These two teachers joined the College Executive and other staff representatives in forming our local College Transition Committee.

This group has then narrowed our focus to some of the key aspects that would need to be in place for the commencement of Year 7 in 2024. With staff support, and through the formation of a series of sub-committees, we have made significant progress on designing a uniform that extends from our current tradition, developed new links with our pathway primary schools, and commenced structuring facilities that embrace a pedagogy for our younger students.

Currently, our Local Transition Committee is now turning its focus toward planning upcoming visits by our staff to Year 6 classrooms so that we can meet your children in their learning environments, the renewal of our faith and mission statements, canteen updates, and transportation solutions.

Anticipation

While change can often be confronting, the restructure of our College has led to a real sense of excitement in our hallways as our staff are envisioning the possibilities that await. While we know that there is still plenty of work to do throughout the remainder of 2023, the energy and commitment of our staff leaves me in no doubt that this is going to be one of the most exciting phases in the history of our College. We are delighted that you are going to embrace this change with us. We look forward to supporting you in the transition to becoming part of our College in 2024.

Kind regards,

Greg Ptolemy

Principal – St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton



Meet the team

Mr Dan

Dear parents and students,

My name is Paul Dan and I am the Stage 4 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement at St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton. Our community here at SFX is excitedly preparing ourselves for the first cohort of Year 7s starting here next year. As part of this process, we thought we might start to introduce some of the teachers and staff who will be part of the community you are joining next year. The students and staff here at SFX are really looking forward to welcoming you and your families into our community and hope that you are all as excited as we are for what next year and the future holds.



Q & A with Mr Dan:

What subject do you teach?

PDHPE and Community and Family Studies

How long have you taught at SFX?

10 years

If you had to choose takeaway what are you getting?

Woodfired pizza

What are your favourite sports?

Rugby union, cricket and surfing

Who are you listening to at the moment?

The Killers, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Post Malone and Elton John

Where is your favourite holiday destination?

South West Rocks or Fiji

What is your favourite movie(s)?

Cars 2 or Matilda (watching it with my son Ollie 8yrs and daughter Charlotte 6yrs)

You are stuck on a deserted island, what is the one thing you are taking with you?

A way to get off the island! Haha.

No just kidding, my family for sure.

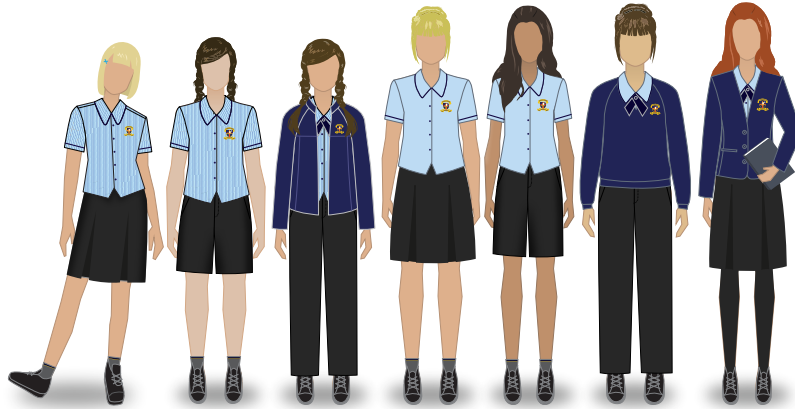


Assistant Principal Leader Wellbeing and Engagement Kathryn Johnstone, Principal Greg Ptolemy, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning Colin Mulhearn.



Our Uniform

 **ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S** Formal Girls Uniform Yr 7-12



 **ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S** Formal Boys Uniform Yr7-12



 **ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S** Sport Uniform Yr7-12

