



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Welcome to the start of 2015 academic year.

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to the many families who are joining our system for the very first time.

In 2015 we are witnessing exciting signs of continued growth and renewal within the Catholic Education system. Two new schools have opened in term 1, taking the total number of Catholic Schools in WA to 163. I wish the students, parents, principals and staff of St John Bosco College in Piara Waters, St Francis' School in Maddington and the new Bunbury Catholic College Mercy Campus at Australind all the very best as they open their doors for the very first time. These new facilities are a tangible reminder of the value that the community continues to place on a Catholic Education right across the state.

To all who are returning to Catholic schools, welcome back. In 2015 all Year 7 students will be located within secondary settings right across the state. This important shift has already been in place in metropolitan settings for a number of years and regional schools have been planning for this transition for an extended period. I am certain that the students will find this new chapter in their schooling lives an exciting time with many opportunities for personal growth.

To our Year 11 and 12 students who are embarking on this important phase of your secondary schooling, I wish you all the best and encourage you to work hard and make the most of every opportunity presented to you.

Last year our system achieved our best WACE results of the last five years. Whilst we are very pleased with that performance, there is no room for complacency as continuous improvement requires an ongoing effort at all levels of the system and remains my clear priority for 2015 and beyond.

We are all part of a dynamic Catholic education community that promotes the mission of the Church with Jesus Christ at its heart. All 163 of our schools rely on the contribution of the parish, staff, students and parents working in partnership to build a successful Catholic community. Within the limits of your busy family and working lives, I encourage you to share your time and talents with your school community. You can contribute by nominating to become a member of the Board, joining the P&F, volunteering to be a class representative, helping out at the annual sports carnival, doing a shift at the canteen or helping with school reading rosters. Every contribution makes a difference to your child's education.

I once again wish to acknowledge the critical role that you as parents and caregivers play in the education of your children. Your involvement combined with the efforts of more than 10,000 dedicated school staff and principals, means that children educated in Catholic schools have the very best chance of reaching their potential.

I wish you all the best for 2015.

Regards

Tim McDonald
Executive Director