

26 April 2022

Dear Colleagues,

During Term I this year, Marist Schools Australia invited suitably qualified applicants for the newly created position of Director of School Improvement. A nationwide recruitment process was undertaken, and I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr John Finneran** to this position, commencing in 2023.

John is currently the Principal of Newman College in Perth, a position he has held for the past 7 years. Since 2016, John has consistently demonstrated his considerable leadership capacity in a variety of ways. The collaborative development of an explicit school wide vision for learning and pedagogical framework has been key to successful outcomes achieved by students at Newman College during this time. John's strategic leadership has been clearly evident in the productive work initiated with the tertiary sector, and in particular the University of Southern Queensland. His meticulous stewardship of resources has resulted in significant enhancements to the learning environment for the students, with further major capital works approved and soon to commence. Most outstanding has been John's religious leadership. A valued member of the Perth Catholic education community, John has ensured prayer and the Eucharist have been the heart of the College. He has creatively fostered many opportunities for faith development among staff and students including formation initiatives and the promotion of youth ministry.

Prior to his current role, John has had a variety of leadership experiences in Catholic education and Marist Schools, as well as senior positions with other Catholic ministries. These include: Principal of Marist College Penshurst in Sydney; Sydney Catholic Schools as a Professional Officer for Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood Project; Assistant Principal Marist College Kogarah; Religious Education Coordinator Marcellin College Randwick; Director of Community Engagement Caritas Australia; Trustee for Saint Vincent de Paul for the Archdiocese of Sydney; National Education Officer Edmund Rice Australia; Member of the Australia Marist Mission Council; Lecturer in Religious Education Australian Catholic University; and as a teacher at Saint Gregory's College Campbelltown and Saint Patrick's College Strathfield.

John has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney, a Diploma of Education, Certificate of Religious Education, Master of Religious Education, and a Master of Educational Leadership from the Australian Catholic University. He is currently undertaking Doctoral research in school leadership and governance with the University of Southern Queensland.

In making this announcement, the contributions of those who joined me on the selection panel are noted with appreciation:

Ms Julie Ryan OAM: MSA Regional Director Victoria/ South Australia/ Western Australia

Dr Paul Rijken: Principal Cardijn College Adelaide and MSA Regional Council member.

Dr Mark Turkington: Director Emeritus Sydney Catholic Schools

Dr Michael Bezzina: MSA Ltd Board Member

Marist Schools Australia will soon commence the consultation, recruitment, and selection process for the next Principal of Newman College under the guidance of Ms Julie Ryan.

May Mary our Good Mother and Saint Marcellin pray to our loving God for John, his family and the whole Newman College community during these coming months of transition.

Yours sincerely



Dr Frank Malloy
National Director

Address

Suite 5.01, 247 Coward Street
Mascot NSW 2020
PO Box 1247 Mascot NSW 1460

Phone

02 9218 4000

www.msa.edu.au

ABN 76 654 014 794