



August 2020

## Education & Property News

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*I can do all things  
through him who  
strengthens me*

*Philippians 14:3*

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### **Term 3 School Visits**

*In an effort to build positive connections I have set the goals of visiting all of our schools twice a year. These visits provide me the chance to see the great things happening in our schools and to provide support and guidance as and when needed.*

*Of particular note I am hoping to use this visit to share a couple of new initiatives around attestations and attendance dues, as well as building a picture of what our schools are doing in the staff and student wellbeing space.*

*We are also hoping to build a register of potential leaders and to identify how we can support them to be the future leaders in our schools.*

### **Kavanagh College Student Wellbeing Support**

The prefects of 2020 decided to focus on wellbeing and look at ways that they can raise awareness of this important aspect of young people's lives. Pastoral prefects have used full school assemblies as a forum to share these messages. However, in order to put action behind the words, the prefects have focused on the wellbeing elements of being active, having interests, being socially connected, and giving time to others.



Head girl, Emily Kerr-Bell explains, "Every Wednesday morning before school starts, we have two of our awesome student-led clubs running! 7:30 am sharp, 'Kav Fun Fitness' starts up in the gym led by the Sports Prefects, and some of our awesome Year 13's. Students from all levels come together to play games, get active, and have fun! Around 8am, Breakfast Club then starts up too; students from the fitness club come down and join us for some food after all their running around. Breakfast Club is run by our generous year 13's, and



provides a yummy free breakfast, games and activities, and the company of a senior buddy to younger students. All students are welcome to come and join, and every Wednesday our crowd gets bigger and bigger! Seniors and juniors alike always look forward to Breakfast Club as a highlight in their school week!"

### **Strategic Planning**

One of the key tasks this year so far has been to develop a strategic plan for the Education Office so that we have a clear and measurable pathway to follow. The purpose of the document is to bring our vision together in an easy to understand and transparent manner that can be shared with all of our stakeholders

This plan will be reviewed at the end of the year and will morph and change I am sure as new challenges and opportunities arise. If anyone would like a copy please feel to let us know and we can email one to you.

## ***Principal Induction a Success***

*It was great to be able to welcome the three new principals in our Diocese, Julie Flannery (St Gerard's Alexandra), Andrew Pozniak (St Brigid's Tainui) & Tara Quinney (St Peter's Gore) to the Pastoral Centre for our inaugural Principal Induction Day last month.*

*It was a great chance for them to meet the people in our office and to gain a greater understanding of the ways in which we can support them in their roles back at the coal face.*

*They also had a tour of the Pastoral Centre and we finished the day off by wondering down the hill to share a meal together at the Speight's Ale House*

**All in all, it was a positive day and an initiative that we will look to build on for the next wave of new leaders in our schools**

## ***Planning for Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) Spaces Advances***

*Most schools and colleges in tranche 1 of the LSC project will now have received a visit by Bill or Craig in the company of either Regan Hall or Niko Young from our architectural consultants, McCoy & Wixon.*

*The design team in consultation with respective Principals continues to will work through planning issues as we look forward to confirming funding and commencing actual construction works.*

## **Back to the Chalk Face – or is it?**

As we try to get back into business as usual in our schools it is hard to comprehend the term we have just had. The lockdown, with its learning from home, and subsequent reintegration of children back into our schools has been a mammoth task. For schools it really was 22 weeks back to back and much of it was new ground. It is a credit to our schools and those that work in them that the transition back has been so smooth. We are hoping for a much more settled term's three and four.

It did however provide us with some new learning as well as reinforcing some old truths. In terms of new learning it was amazing to see the power of technology and the way in which our teachers and children were able to connect and learn in an entirely new manner. Although some children struggled with this new paradigm, others found it really rewarding and it has challenged us to rethink the way in which we can teach and learn.

In terms of old truths however it does hammer home the fact that teaching is a vocation based in human connection. The warmth of good human relationships is at the heart of what we do, and this is still best done kanohi ki te kanohi – face to face.

## **Farewell and Thank You**

As a Diocese we have been very lucky over the last few years to have had the services of Phil O'Connell-Cooper as the lead reviewer for our Special Character Catholic reviews. Phil had recently come out of Principalship in Takapuna before taking on this role and her wisdom and guidance in the role has been really appreciated by the schools and the Diocese alike.

Her encouraging demeanour and strengths-based approach in the role meant the schools were both, able to share the great things they were doing, but also to be open to new learning. She said the most rewarding part of the role was, witnessing the wonderful mahi happening in our schools.

I was also lucky enough to be able to sit down last week and discuss what we liked about the current review structure and what we might look to improve on moving forward. Hopefully this will see a more streamlined model, which will benefit everyone in our schooling space. On behalf of the Diocese we want to thank Phil for her wisdom, her kindness and excellent job she has done. We wish her a long and happy retirement 😊



## North Otago Schooling Options Investigated

*One of the Major projects for 2020 is to investigate the options for Catholic Schooling in North Otago. A consultation process is underway with St Joseph's School, St Kevin's College, the Parish and the wider Catholic community to determine whether to redevelop the current St Joseph's school site or to relocate the school to St Kevin's. The initial scoping and review, is being led by Anna Coleman from Global Leisure Group. This process is being supported by Father Gerard, with the assistance of Education and Property managers, the aforementioned schools and their Boards, the Parish, The College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Committee.*

*This is a once in a generation project and either way it will really enhance the Catholic schooling landscape in Oamaru and the surrounding area. A final decision on the best option will be made later in the year, once full consultation with the community and feasibility studies have been completed.*

## News & Updates from the Diocesan Property Team

Kia ora koutou from the Property Team - Check out the update on a selection of School and Parish projects below.

### Project Near Completion at St Joseph's School, Balclutha

Following resumption of works after lock-down our Contractor, Calder Stewart has made excellent progress as this project nears completion. Work includes Parish funded refurbishment of part of their current accommodation space alongside the Schools co-joined classroom spaces.



*St Joseph's School Balclutha: Contractors busy themselves installing pavers under the new verandah whilst new windows and sliding door units receive final trim fit-out.*

### Main Block Stripped Out at St Thomas's, Winton

The main block at St Thomas's has not received significant modernisation since it was originally built in 1963. And get this – the draughting of the *original* construction drawings was Bill Haydon's (our incumbent Property Manager) first project when he started his career as an architectural technician. The project will include significant rebuild of and extension to classrooms, as well as refurbishment of toilets and administration spaces.



*Main Block Stripped Out prior to reconfiguration.*



*New Foundations to Classroom Extension.*

### Collared

The Boys in Blue have charged individuals with illegal entry and deliberate property damage arising from the Dunedin Priory break in earlier this year. In the meantime, works to repair the damage and secure the building are largely complete.

## Scholarship Scheme Worth Investigation

*With an aging teacher workforce and the under promotion of teaching both in the media and throughout our own networks we are in danger of not having a viable Teacher/DRS/Principal workforce for our Catholic schools in the future. We are proposing introducing a teacher training scholarship scheme within our Diocese to encourage our school leavers and university graduates to consider teaching in our Catholic network. A full proposal is being developed and will be shared later in the year. We will be looking for potential funders, so keep an eye out for this exciting opportunity to be involved.*

## Development Funding Will Assist in the Priory's Future



The working group investigating the Priory's future are pleased to have received a grant from Lotteries. This modest injection of funds will allow further investigation into planning and structural requirements to get under way.

## Small Steps at St Joseph's Cathedral

A programme to undertake small but progressive improvements to St Joseph's Cathedral and surrounding environment is underway. Each project will however be subject to limited funding availability, but it is hoped in time additional radiance is added to an already impressive building. First-up is the refurbishment of the confessional spaces.



*One of three confessional spaces ready for refurbishment.*

## Removal of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) Main Aim at St Mary's Milton

Removal of asbestos containing external wall cladding materials (ACM's) and its replacement with cedar weatherboards in conjunction with new windows and door joinery has reinvigorated the classroom and administration buildings. The 'back lit' cross is particularly uplifting.



*The recently completed re-clad project at St Mary's Milton.*

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He konā mai – Bill Haydon, Craig Paterson & Callan Goodall