

5 May 2022

RE: Early amalgamation of St Agnes' and Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Primary Schools

Dear Parents

Thank you to parents who joined us last night either in person at St Agnes' School Hall or via the livestream to discuss the accelerated amalgamation of St Agnes' and Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Primary Schools which has moved forward to occur at the start of Term 1, 2023.

This is the beginning of an exciting journey for our school communities and along with Sydney Catholic Schools' Director of System Performance, Dr Edmond Maher, and school principal Rosemary Andre, it was wonderful to meet with you and to discuss the future opportunities available for our students and their families.

We are pleased to announce that the new school will be called Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Matraville. This name celebrates the founding religious order for both primary schools, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Why has the amalgamation been moved to 2023?

COVID, construction timelines and site availability have all had an impact on the construction and delivery schedule that was first shared with you in 2020. As in all our endeavours, the safety of students and excellence in teaching and learning are our primary considerations.

The great news is that the first significant construction milestone for Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is the delivery of the new two-storey building on the Matraville site. This building will contain 12 classrooms and a canteen, and is scheduled for completion during Term 4 this year. By accelerating the amalgamation to 2023, we have the opportunity to commence operations of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School at the start of the school year in 2023 as one school, with one identity, one school uniform and equal access to the new facilities.

We recognise that some of our older students will be sad to leave their old school grounds earlier than expected, but trust they will enjoy the adventure of new facilities, students, teachers and experiences. Events are being planned for later in the year to commemorate both primary schools, celebrate their history and culture and ease the transition.

OLA's buildings will not disappear immediately. Students from Champagnat Catholic College will use the current primary school buildings for classes as the secondary school continues its transformational building program.



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Our wonderful new school will offer contemporary, flexible, multi-use spaces to support modern learning practices. Students will have the opportunity to transition seamlessly between larger learning common areas, small groups and personalised settings.

This is just the beginning and by 2025, beautiful outdoor spaces, shared parish and school facilities, and an Early Learning Centre will be features of our new school grounds.

Uniforms

A new uniform is currently under development to meet production deadlines. Parents of continuing students at both St Agnes and Our Lady of the Annunciation will be given a \$300 uniform voucher/allowance per child for 2023 to alleviate the cost associated with the acceleration in the timeline.

We know some of you saw samples of the uniform at last night's presentation and we will also have them set up in the office of the school if you would like to have a look.

How you can get involved

In the coming months there will be a range of opportunities to be involved in integration activities and celebrations, such as commemoration events and site tours of the new building once completed. Rose Andre will work with the Class Parents over the coming months to organise these events and we encourage all to participate.

How to find out more

We understand that our communities are keen to understand more about the transition. The Masterplan Website <https://pmm.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/> is a central repository of information. On this you will find the video we shared with parents during the information session, bringing to life our exciting plans for Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. Links to the masterplan website are also on the individual school websites.

Your feedback is important to us. A survey is currently live on the Master Plan website, and includes an opportunity for you to provide open-ended feedback. We encourage you to participate, registering your comments by 13 May 2022. Feel free also to contact the project team at pmmenquiries@syd.catholic.edu.au.

God bless

Tony Farley

Executive Director, Sydney Catholic Schools