

### **What will be the leadership structure after the amalgamation?**

The College will be one school (St Bede's College) with two campuses. There will be one College Board with appropriate representation and expertise reflective of the amalgamation. As has been the past practice, expressions of interest will continue to be sought for directors and committee members of the Board.

The Principal of the College will be Mr John Finn.

Mr Stephen Pooley will be a Deputy Principal of the College and will be Campus Director of St Bede's College, Bently East (the current St James College site).

### **What year levels will be on each campus?**

St Bede's, Mentone will have Years 7-12 and St Bede's, Bently East will have Years 7-10 when the Colleges are amalgamated. Any change to that arrangement would only come from a strong recommendation around future curriculum provision and as approved by the College Board.

### **Who do I contact to enrol my other son/sons for 2021 and beyond?**

All enrolments will be centralised and based at the Mentone site. The enrolment application for 2021 and beyond will have all the necessary information contained within it.

### **I understand that the current priority Parish system remains in place. What if my son attends one of the four Parishes that currently has access to both St Bede's College and St James College?**

You will be able to nominate your order of preference for the campus you would like your son to attend.

### **I am a parent at St James College. What parts of the uniform will be supplied?**

St James College students who are in Years 7, 8 and 9 2020 will be supplied with a summer uniform, a winter uniform, College tee-shirt, shorts, a tracksuit and a school bag.

### **Who is coordinating the whole process for this amalgamation?**

The St Bede's College Board has overall responsibility. The Board has created a Steering Committee with representation from both Colleges. This Steering Committee will commission a number of sub-committees comprised of representatives from both Colleges. The Steering Committee will make recommendations to the St Bede's College Board.

We have appointed someone to assist us with the many aspects of the amalgamation.

Ms Liz Gleeson has been appointed as a Project Manager and will report to the Steering Committee.

Liz is an independent consultant who has worked extensively with both Colleges over the past few years.

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### **Will my son be required to travel to the campus he is not based on?**

We envisage that there will only be travel required for whole school events, of which we would have several per year. Travel may also occur to take part in co-curricular events such as sport, as is already the case.

### **Will both campuses offer the same subjects, programs and co-curricular opportunities?**

Each campus follows the Victorian curriculum. Some specific programs do currently operate on each campus. Over time, we will work towards ensuring that all students are able to equitably access the curricular and co-curricular programs.

### **What will happen to the current transition programs from the primary schools to Year 7 and from Year 10 to Year 11 for St James students?**

All transition programs are currently very effective and will remain in place

### **Why are the Colleges amalgamating?**

St James and St Bede's have had a very long and fruitful connection over a significant number of years. Not only do they have a natural affinity through their shared Lasallian tradition, but they essentially service and support the same learning community, with the majority of boys from St James transitioning into their final two years at St Bede's.

Following extensive consultation between the governing bodies of both schools, we have in-principle agreed to amalgamate, to more formally reflect the strong synergies of both schools and to expand the learning opportunities for boys across south east Melbourne. Both schools are steeped in the educational and spiritual traditions of St. John Baptist De La Salle. This merger will ensure that our Lasallian educational experience can grow and flourish further into the 21st century.

### **Will I be able to choose which campus I send my son to?**

The current enrolment criteria will apply, consistent with the guidelines provided by Catholic Education Melbourne. Each campus will continue to enrol students from their priority parishes.

Nor will there be a need to choose the alternative campus. We are committed to delivering a shared educational experience for over 2,000 young men in the South-East of Melbourne.

### **How will the fees change when the Colleges amalgamate?**

The fees for both Colleges are already very close to parity. Over the next twelve months, we will be working towards an equitable fee structure that is fair to everyone.

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### **Will the school uniform change to reflect the amalgamation?**

In 2020, all St James College students will continue to wear the St James uniform

From 2021, all Year 7 students will be required to purchase the St Bede's College uniform.

From 2021, Years 8, 9 and 10 students at St James College, East Bentleigh, will be financially assisted to ensure that all students are in the St Bede's College uniform.

### **How will St James College be recognised in the new combined St Bede's?**

This is a great question, and one both the Canonical Administrators of St James College, and the St Bede's College Board are keen to get the community's advice. We anticipate that each campus will be known by its region, that is, St Bede's College Mentone and St Bede's College Bentleigh East.

Both Colleges are committed to ensuring St James College's history is recognised in a tangible way by the new combined school community. We expect it to have lasting impact on both campuses for the future.

### **Will there be any changes to the Curriculum or the timetable at either of the campuses?**

Like all schools in Victoria, both colleges current follow the Victorian Curriculum with respect to Core subjects and Elective offerings, and will continue to do so as distinct campuses of St Bede's College, underpinned by the Lasallian tradition.

Staff from both campuses will work together to ensure that at each year level, subject courses are similar and elective subjects are comparable. This will ensure that all students are able to access suitable pathways and opportunities, especially in preparation of the senior school years.

Each campus will continue to run its own timetable. Ongoing reviews of campus and college processes may indicate benefits for changes to the timetable structure to allow for periodic whole staff and school meetings, and combined staff professional learning sessions.

### **What will the extracurricular program look like – will my son still have opportunities to represent the College in sport and cultural activities?**

There will be the same choice of sports teams and cultural activities for the students at each campus. Each campus will compete in weekly interschool activities and competitions with separate teams. There will be opportunities for students to be involved in whole school representative teams comprised of students from both campuses for major interschool sporting carnivals.

We expect that the current choices will broaden as the staff work together to explore other opportunities and consider the options possible with the combined cohort of students from both campuses – for example, cultural opportunities with combined music ensembles, orchestras and choirs, etc. and sporting opportunities through more specialised sporting pursuits and team events.

### **Will there be whole school events that will require my son to travel further?**

From time to time, the whole school community will gather on important occasions like feast days and some College assemblies. On these days, instructions and transport arrangements will be in place for those students who may be required to travel further.

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### **How will the House System operate across the campuses?**

Both Colleges already have a similar House system in place. It is anticipated that with some adjustment at St James, students commencing in Year 7 at both campuses will remain in their House as they progress through all the year levels, 7 to 12.

This creates further opportunities for combined campus House activities, competitions and social justice actions.

### **Will the transition processes be affected?**

No, the current transition process for Year 6 boys moving to Year 7 at each campus will remain in place. We hope to draw from the experiences currently occurring at both Colleges to further develop an overall 'best practice' transition program for all Year 7 students, and for students new to the College.

For students transitioning from Bentleigh East to Mentone at the completion of Year 10, we already have a very comprehensive and smooth transition program already in place. This will be further strengthened as staff become more familiar with the operations occurring at each campus, and our junior students share in common experiences.

### **What will the consultation process look like?**

Over the coming months, both Colleges will host a range of consultations with parents, staff, Old Collegians, and, most importantly, students, to find out how to best serve the new, combined learning community. We will be seeking suggestions for the direction and scope for the larger College far beyond the administrative and structural changes this amalgamation will bring.

Parents will be invited to these consultations with notices in College newsletters and by communications via normal College processes such as Caremonkey.

Information about these consultations and ongoing updates will be shared with the College community via our website and in the College newsletter

### **Will the teachers currently educating boys at each College remain at their respective campuses?**

Beyond regular year-on-year movement in staffing, it is intended that teachers will remain at their respective campuses.