



St Bede's College



Dear members of the St Bede's College Community

Amalgamation of St. James College East Bentleigh into the operations of St. Bede's College Mentone

We are very excited to announce the recent agreement between St. Bede's and St. James of intent to amalgamate both Colleges, under the overall operations of St. Bede's College, with effect from the start of 2021.

This is the result of considerable discussions over the past 18 months involving the St. Bede's College Board, the St. James College Canonical Administrators, the De La Salle Brothers, Catholic Education Melbourne and the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

We believe this partnership will deliver greater educational benefits to the young men currently in our care, and to future students of both colleges, by providing them with an expanded range of opportunities and experiences across both campuses.

Over the next twelve months, we will undertake a significant consultation process with parents, teachers, alumni, and importantly, our students, as we work towards a binding agreement that details the transfer of St. James' administrative operations to St. Bede's.

A long-standing partnership

St. Bede's College and St. James College have had a very long and fruitful connection over a significant number of years, with the majority of St James' Year 10 students moving on to St Bede's to complete their senior years.

Likewise, the staff from both Colleges have come to know each other through the numerous faith-focused and educational activities that St Bede's and St James share in, for the benefit of the young men in our care.

A shared heritage and charism

When St. James College was first established in 1970, the Archdiocese of Melbourne invited the De La Salle Brothers to oversee the College and to educate the students in the Lasallian tradition. St James College, like St. Bede's, is fully immersed in Lasallian ethos and history, and is actively involved in a network of Lasallian schools throughout Australia. Both schools share and promote the five Guiding Principles that all Lasallian schools adopt throughout the world.

It is the intention of both the Canonical Administrators and the College Board to respect the history of St James College and to formally recognise that history in a tangible way.

Expanding educational opportunities

This amalgamation continues the opportunity to allow a significant number of families in South Eastern Melbourne to be immersed in a high-quality, outward-looking, Lasallian education. **In the foreseeable future, students will continue to be educated at their current campus. All students will wear the St Bede's College uniform.**

The consultation process with stakeholders will explore the future of education provision at both campuses to ensure a shared, and enhanced experience. This enhanced experience will allow the combined college to offer a broader range of subjects and more diverse learning pathways for all students.

Looking forward

This is an exciting opportunity, where we will all be part of the work to cement this partnership between these two Lasallian schools for the benefit of the young men in our care.

We will now move into the detailed planning phase, which will involve significant consultation with parents, staff, students and the community, to enable us to deliver an incredible educational experience for boys in our region.

We remain committed to keeping you informed on our consultation process in the months ahead, and a set of **Frequently Asked Questions** about the amalgamation of the Colleges has been placed on the College website. This will be regularly updated with any frequently asked questions the College communities raise.

If you have any questions, please contact John Finn, St Bede's College principal, on (03) 9582 5701 or via email at principal@stbedes.catholic.edu.au.

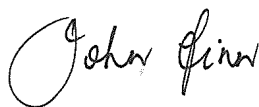
Per Vias Rectas



Mr Anthony Brinkley
Board Chair, St Bede's College



Fr Raju Jacob
President, St James Canonical Administrators



Mr John Finn
Principal, St Bede's College



Mr Stephen Pooley
Principal, St James College