

11 April 2024

Dear members of the De La Salle Malvern community,

Re: College Master Plan update

As you are aware, the College and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) have been working together closely to deliver a revitalised Master Plan for our College.

To complement this work, we conducted an online survey, in-depth interviews and focus groups with many members of our school community on a range of matters regarding the College and its educational offering, including consideration of a co-educational model.

We greatly appreciate your participation and heard from many of you that the College's sense of community and focus on student wellbeing is a clear positive point of difference from other schools. We also heard that parents are confident in the delivery of their son's education and firmly believe the College is headed in the right direction. Our excellent VCE results last year justify that confidence.

Further, we know that many families send their sons to our College because of our strong faith values and our student wellbeing programs which guide the spiritual, emotional, ethical and moral development of our students.

Next steps

We are now in a position to inform you of exciting changes ahead to enhance the future of our College and advance our Vision of enabling young men to discover their potential and mission in a community of faith.

Since we began over a century ago with just 54 boys in a parish hall, De La Salle has continued to evolve in response to the changing educational needs of our community. Today, we occupy a special position in the wider Catholic school ecosystem in Melbourne's south-east, an area that now includes eight Catholic girls' secondary schools and over 20 Catholic primary schools.

Continuing to build on more than a century of tradition and innovation, we are pleased to announce that from 2027, our education offering will evolve to focus purely on secondary boys' education. Next year, 2025, will be our final intake of Year 5 students.

While this carefully considered decision does signal the end of a 112 year tradition, more importantly it represents a strategic shift which empowers the College for growth and enables us to focus on building an innovative secondary student experience.

Importantly, we will be establishing active partnerships with the many parish primary schools that MACS operates in the south-east to embed the reputation of De La Salle as the school of choice for primary boys' transition. Through these partnerships, primary students will experience our College environment, connect with our students and engage with our specialist teachers.

We will also invest in extending the strong partnerships the College currently enjoys with four Catholic girls' colleges, to enhance the educational experience for both secondary boys and girls.



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Excitingly, a variety of initial and time-sensitive capital works will be undertaken in coming months, ahead of a major works program expected to commence as soon as possible thereafter. The College will of course keep you informed of these developments and updates as they occur.

True to the spirit of De La Salle, we are excited by the benefits this new model will realise for the community in Melbourne's south-east, whilst also enabling the strong future growth of our wonderful College.

Your commitment to your son's education and the future of our College is truly commendable and, together, we look forward to creating an even more enriching and dynamic learning environment.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Houlihan
Principal
De La Salle College

Dr Edward Simons
Executive Director
Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools