



12 November 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

## 2021 School Updates

It is with much enthusiasm that I advise you of a number of important updates at Delany College for the 2021 school year. As you would be aware, we have worked diligently this year to ensure, amidst the global pandemic, that students had the best opportunity to learn and be safe at school. A number of important initiatives that continue this work into 2021 are outlined below.

### Pastoral Structure

The introduction of a House-based pastoral structure to support all students through their journey at the College will occur from the start of next year. I am pleased to announce the inaugural House Coordinators for 2021 are:

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Campion   | Ms Sarah Guillaume     |
| Chisholm  | Mr Alex Peronace       |
| MacKillop | Ms Michelle Mutabdzija |
| Tierney   | Ms Tayla Whitfield     |

This is a substantial change to the pastoral structures at the College and I congratulate each of the coordinators on their appointment. They will be responsible for the day to day management of student issues and will liaise with you on matters of importance as and when they arise.

Students will be allocated to houses and mentor classes and advised of this at the beginning of the 2021 school year. Vertical mentor classes will be organised by house groups although these are currently subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

### Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8)

In 2021, students in Years 7 and 8 will be working in a composite learning structure referred to as 'Stage not Age'. This means students will work together across age groups based on their proximity of learning in different subject areas. This will provide better learning opportunities and support for students at all levels. Students will be allocated to a core class in English, Religious Education and HSIE where they work consistently with the same team of teachers. This will provide greater clarity for both learners and teachers.

### Uniform

There are some minor changes to the uniform for 2021. The first of these is the College blazer will be optional for students in Years 7 to 9. Instead of the blazer, students in Years 7 to 9

may wear the soft-shell sports jacket available from the uniform shop. This may be worn with the College uniform as well as the sports uniform on Thursdays. The College blazer remains compulsory for students in Years 10 to 12 and must be worn as part of the school uniform in Terms 2 and 3.

This year we trialled the option for female students to wear pants during winter instead of the College skirt. This option has now been formalised for 2021 and females may either wear the official grey College slacks or the College skirt with stockings as part of their full winter uniform.

We also introduced a College beanie and new scarf for students this year. These items are available from the uniform shop and are the only variations of a beanie and scarf that can be worn at school. We understand that it is important for students to be warm and well protected from the cold during the winter months. Consequently, we have made sure that the above changes to the college uniform provide adequately for this. Other variations of clothing are not to be worn to or from school.

At all times we ask students and families to be conscience that the uniform plays an important part in the life of the College and expression of College standards. Students should leave home each morning appropriately groomed and in the correct uniform.

### **Chewing Gum**

While this should be a relatively minor issue, it continues to be a cause of problems at the College. Chewing gum is not permitted at the College. Hygiene, cleaning and disposal issues are a cause of concern, so it is necessary to ensure the ban on chewing is followed. We have recently appointed new cleaners and they will be passing the cost of removing gum from carpets, desks and other surfaces on to us. Accordingly, we will need to pass these costs on and will be implementing a fine system in 2021 of \$25 for each offence of a student chewing gum. An option for community service may be available in some cases in lieu of the \$25 fine.

### **2021 College Fees**

At this stage we are awaiting final clarification from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta as to changes for the 2021 Diocesan fees and levies. The Delany College resource fee for 2021 will remain the same however there are some small changes to the activity fees which will be averaged out over the different stages of learning. Additionally, an activity fee to cover the reintroduction of sports on Thursdays for 2021 has been included.

I take this time to remind families that may find themselves in financial distress to please contact the College if you need to discuss assistance. There are options available to support families with fees, uniforms and devices as circumstances require. It is important that all members of our community are supported and can access a Catholic education at Delany College regardless of their financial circumstances.

Your sincerely



Paul Easton  
Principal