from the principal

Reflection... As I write I am conscious that the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Saint John Baptist de La Salle today, Wednesday 15 May. De La Salle was proclaimed the Patron of all teachers and student teachers. On this day in 2005, Brother Alvaro, Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers wrote:

“John Baptist de La Salle, a man of great holiness and natural gifts, not only educated young people himself but continued to do so through the excellent principles and practices he established in the society he founded.”

Our College community is most fortunate to have Br Ignatius, who many parents might remember, working with staff and students in reflecting on the life and contribution De La Salle has made to education. As lay partners, we are called on to continue this wonderful ministry, working with the Brothers, together, and by association.

It is with enthusiasm we welcome “Br Iggy”, and our St. Aloysius Parish priests Father Tom and Father Sam, in this role of “visiting scholars” to help our community members, staff and students, to deepen their Faith life.

In this spirit, I remind all families that we celebrate our Founder’s Day on Friday 7 June. The day commences with Mass in the College Hall, followed by activities that enable us to live out our charism of Faith, Community, and Service. This is a very special occasion and all students must attend. Please do not ask for requests to extend your long weekend holiday as the students will complete the day’s activities generally by 2.00 pm.

Enrolment for Year 11 – 2014... I am acutely aware of the great work happening in our local Catholic schools, and of the ever-increasing enrolment applications for students wishing to complete their HSC at De La Salle Cronulla. At our Information Night on May 6, I emphasised two key criteria for families and students seeking enrolment at this College. Clearly, students from our Feeder schools are given priority, however, all students and their families must be able to demonstrate:

- Their support for our Catholic Faith
- A commitment to give of their best.

The pathway of high quality Catholic education from K – 12 is very clear for families in the Eastern Shire and is evident in the outstanding HSC results achieved by our students. Enrolment applications close on Friday May 24.

Contract Renewal for our Assistant Principal... As per CEO policy, in her second year in the role Mrs Michelle Morrison will undergo a Contract Renewal process on June 12. This is an extensive process and a significant part of this will be collecting information and feedback from staff, students and parents. On May 22 you will receive an email from the College with an online survey link. I encourage you to complete the survey - it will only take a few minutes of your time. Your feedback is vital in helping Mrs Morrison to develop her work in this very demanding role.
from the assistant principal

As we begin the term the weather is getting colder and it is a requirement of the College that students are to be wearing their full winter uniform. The appearance of our students both at College and traveling to and from the College has a great impact on how we are received by our local community. For boys this includes shirts tuck in and buttoned to the top with the school tie and a black belt. For the girls this includes black opaque stockings and blazers with their skirts to knee length. I ask parents to ensure their sons and/or daughters are correctly attired for the winter terms.

Year 11 have received their timetables for the Half Yearly exams which begin Monday 20th May and conclude on Thursday 28th May however there will be normal classes on Wednesday 29th May for all Year 11 students except those completing their First Aid training for PDHPE. Students in the courses Studies of Religion 1 & 2 will be sitting their final exam on Thursday morning and then move back to normal classes once more. During exam time students only attend when they have an exam. They must be here promptly 20 minutes prior to the start of their exam and may leave between exams. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of their timetable for exams and not reading it properly is not an excuse for missing or being late. If a student suffers illness or misadventure follow the procedures set out in the assessment handbook including informing the school immediately and collecting the appropriate documentation to support your petition. Student’s who do not follow the procedures will be awarded a zero mark for the task. They are to be attired in full school uniform. The library will be open for them to study before and after each exam session as well as its normal operating hours of 8am – 4pm. We encourage students to study in this environment as individuals, tutoring as a small group or working with a teachers support to increase their chances of success over the exam period.

Yr 12 students have been receiving feedback on their Half Yearly exams from the end of last term. This is a time to celebrate the successes and learning gained as well as to identify the areas requiring improvement. An organized and regular study program as well as homework will help to build their knowledge and skills in preparation for the tasks to be completed this term as well as the HSC trial exams in August. We will be opening the library for extended hours in June to support Year 12 in their studies and staff will be available to help individuals or small groups. Any keen Yr 11 students wishing to achieve their personal best by getting a little extra supported study time can also attend. Details on days and times will be published later in the term.

Mrs Michelle Morrison
Assistant Principal

from re department

The Path of Peter Pilgrimage... During the holidays Byron Hurst, Geoff Wright and I were able be part of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome, which traced the path of St Peter enabling us to gain a deeper understanding of the history and context of Christianity from its earliest times.

Our first stop was Mt Nebo in Jordan where Moses viewed the holy Land before his death. We then spent two days in Galilee where Jesus lived during his public ministry. Here we spent time on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and visited many of these significant sites.

We travelled to Jerusalem and spent time in the Garden of Gethsemane and a number of very significant landmarks so often cited in the Gospels. One highlight was at dawn walking the Stations of the Cross as Jesus did. We went to Bethlehem and witnessed the segregation that is a product of the walling in of Palestinians. Here we went to the Bethlehem University which is administered by the De la Salle Brothers.

Our final destination was to Rome where we were fortunate to see Pope Francis and the Vatican. A detailed description of the pilgrimage is included on the CEO website: http://www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au/Parents/Religion/Pages/PathPeterPilgrimage.aspx
Brother Ignatius... has recently joined the community at Cronulla. Brother has spent the last years working with the Lasallian communities in New Guinea, to be strongly contrasted with Cronulla. We are very fortunate to have a man of such vast and varied experiences in our midst. Brother Ignatius is working with our Year 11 Religion classes, sharing a contemporary understanding of the founder St John Baptist De la Salle. He will also work with the staff leading weekly prayer and present at our Spirituality Day in June.

Father Tom... our Parish Priest has also been working with the Year 11 Catholic Studies students as they explore the topic Being Catholic. Father brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the classroom, challenging and guiding our students in meeting the challenges they are presented with. This initiative, that also involves Father Sam Lynch, complements the valued work of the Catholic Studies teachers.

Community Day... Last week we celebrated our annual Community Day. This developed as a way to support our community and those in need. During Lent students entered a talent quest and the whole school community supported our students and made donations that would go to Caritas as part of Project Compassion. On Community Day we came together in prayer to remember our obligation to help those in need. Our Lasallian Youth Leaders generously led this presentation. We shared a BBQ lunch and watched the finals of our talent quest ‘De La’s got talent.’ I commend all members of our community for the many ways they contributed to this day.

Mercy Mission... is an initiative of St Aloysius Parish. This involves discussion group concerning works of mercy within the parish and within the school communities in the parish. On Friday the 17th Ruby Crowe, our Lasallian Youth Minister and ex-student and College Captains, Bailey Neate and Amber Bowles will speak at the 10.15 and 7pm session. They will explain how they have been inspired to take on roles of leadership and work to help others. During the evening session we have ex-students who will also speak about what motivates them to be faces of mercy. All are invited to attend.

Mrs Maree Cullen
RE Coordinator

from capa department

Community Day-De La Salle’s got talent... On Wednesday May 7 the College held the annual Grand Finale of De La Salle’s Got Talent. We had a large number of talented students audition at the lunchtime heats that were held during term one. Our finalists were selected on their technical skill, musicality and their ability to engage the audience.

The day was divided into two sections where our talented Instrumentalists- Christian Guerreiro, Matthew Brunker, Sarah Cross; and our Instrumental Vocal Soloists- Maddison Nusdorfer, Olivia Billic and Jessica Melchert entertained us in the first half. After an action packed lunch break the audience returned to be entertained by our Vocal Soloists- Courtney McCrohon, Bianca Vitale, Isabelle Hanley; and three of our school Instrumental ensembles.

Our judges Mrs. Maree Cullen, Mr. Matthew Manahan and Mrs. Courtney Fraser selected a winner from each category and an overall winner who will continue on to represent the school at the regional ‘Have You Got Talent’ semi-finals being held at the Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College on Thursday 6 June.

Mr. Gane presented the following winners in each category:

Instrumental Solo: Christian Guerreiro Year 12
Vocal Solo: Isabelle Hanley Year 11
Instrumental Vocalist: Jessica Melchert Year 11
Group Instrumental: YEAR 11 BAND- Jaiden Connell, Carter Quinn, Maximillion Burns, Nicole Lenton, Rory McDonnell.

Our Overall Winner: Bianca Vitale Year 12 (pictured)

We wish Bianca Vitale all the best in representing the college at the regional semi-finals in June.

Mrs D Fuller
from the year 11 coordinator

**YEAR 11 EXAMS...** Half Yearly Exams for Year 11 commence this coming Monday. Students must ensure that they have read their timetables correctly. Students need to be punctual and must wear the winter College uniform to all their exams. Smaller bags may be substituted for the College backpack.

I am always encouraging students to take advantage of our wonderful Library facilities. Students can access the Library in the morning prior to exams, between exams and after exams. The Library is open until 4pm each afternoon.

Josie Raftery  
Year 11 Coordinator

**FOUNDER’S DAY...** The College will be celebrating Founder’s Day on Friday June 7th. On this day we commemorate the life of our patron, St John Baptist de la Salle, the founder of the De La Salle Brothers. The day begins with a Mass in the College's Carmody Hall. Following Mass, students and Staff will perform acts of community service. In the next few days students will be able to access a Founder’s Day Activities list and make their selections.

Founder’s Day is a day of selfless giving to others, a day where we forget our own wants and needs, a day whereby we make a small difference to the lives of many.

Josie Raftery  
Founder’s Day Co-ordinator

**YEAR 11 YOUTH FORUM...** Last Friday four Year 11 students, Nick Palamara, Rachel Read, Gabrielle Riordan and William Stratford attended the "Elevate Young Leaders' Forum" down at Wollongong University. The day's theme was "Challenge the Process." Challenging the Process enabled students to think of ways whereby they can challenge areas in which they don't usually have an opinion on, for example, politics.

Over the day we were able to interact with other schools, have group discussions, team challenges and listen to some inspirational guest speakers. The day was inspiring and enabled us to receive a better understanding of how we can reach our full leadership potential.

Gabrielle Riordan  
Student

from the curriculum coordinator

**Year 11...** Student have been issued with their Half Yearly Examination timetables. Please read the information on this document carefully as misreading the timetable is not a valid reason for missing an examination.

Ensure that you are at school in preparation for your examination with ample time to spare, and that you are well prepared. You should be finalising your study notes and ensuring that all your class work is up to date. Use the rest of the week to clarify any areas of concern with your teachers. Students should familiarise themselves with the College Assessment Policy in relation to examinations. This information, contained in the College Assessment Handbook was issued to students earlier in the year and can be found on the College website. An abridged version is also contained in the College student diary.

Failure to abide by the College Examination Policy may result in a zero notification being issued.

**Year 12...** Board of Studies Confirmation of entry forms have been finalised. Please check that all information is accurate by logging on to schools online. Should you require any amendments see Mr Ginestra asap.

With Year 12 Half Yearly exams marked, KLA Coordinators are currently in the process of finalising assessment marks and course ranks. Staff will use this information to assist in the writing of Half Yearly reports, which will be issued in a few weeks. It is expected that all students maintain the strong work ethic that was evident in the lead up to the examination. A number of courses will have assessment tasks due in the upcoming weeks so students need to be well organised and prepared for these.

Mr Peter Geaney  
Year 12 Coordinator

Mr Ginestra  
Curriculum Coordinator

It's only week 3 of the Term and yet Year 12 have had a busy start. The presentation from Brent Sanders was fabulous. He spoke to the boys about making good choices while his address to the girls focused on staying safe. I would encourage you to chat to your children about these presentations if you haven't already done so. The Community Day was a great success and the staff was thrilled with the co-operation of all the students. I emailed all Year 12 students tips from Elevate Education which will be essential reading prior to the Trial Examinations. Our Pastoral focus for the future will be in preparation for 'White Ribbon Day' which campaigns against violence towards women. More information will be given in later newsletters.

Mr Peter Geaney  
Year 12 Coordinator
Congratulations… Kane Currie and Adriana Maras on being selected into the Southern Sydney Soccer teams.

Coming up… Netball Gala day Wednesday 19th June, Southern Sydney Athletics Carnival Monday 22nd July at Campbelltown, CCC Netball Championships Wednesday 14th August. Students will need to listen out in homeroom for announcements about these events.

First Aid Course… As part of the Preliminary PDHPE course, Year 11 PDHPE students are completing their St John Ambulance First Aid Course. This will be held on Tuesday 28th May and Wednesday 29th May, both days are 8am – 5pm approx. They will do their assessment for first aid on Tuesday 4th June 1.30 – 5pm approx. Students are required to be present at all sessions. This is a great qualification to have and is valid for 3 years and is a great certificate for a resume.

Mrs Belinda Westwood
PDHPE Coordinator

Rugby League - Great start to the season… De La Salle College Cronulla’s start to the rugby league season has been a positive one, defeating Woolooware High School in the final of the Sutherland Shire region of the NSW GIO Schoolboy Trophy competition recently.

The first game, in the gala day format held at Endeavour Fields adjacent to Shark Park, was against St Patrick’s College Sutherland. The boys ground out a 20-8 win after a slow start to the game. Defence was strong throughout but silly mistakes in the first half saw De La leading only 4-0 at the break.

Some strong runs up the middle busted open the St. Pat’s defence in the second half and the boys capitalised, scoring three more tries in a tough, no nonsense display. Outside back Bronson Mannix bagged three of the four tries, while Matt Crealy snuck over for one from dummy-half.

Next up was the final game of the day against cross-town rivals Woolooware High School who had defeated De La in a nail-biter in this corresponding match last year. De La’s first try came off a Joey Chisholm cross field kick after some great ‘go forward’ from our big men up front to get us out of our half. Joey also turned on the second try when he put Josh Longmuir through a gap before Josh off-loaded to Bronson.

De La put on three quick unanswered tries in the first ten minutes of the second half and led 28-6.

Pat Driscoll sliced through the Woolooware defence for the first of the second half tries before Bronson bagged another two, taking his total to six tries in two games.

Woolooware clawed back two late tries but time was on our side. The final score was 28-14. De La Salle Captain, Josh Hammon was guarded in his assessment of the team’s efforts on the day. “We demonstrated what we could do early in that second half against Woolooware. We just need to continue to show patience and cut down on silly mistakes.”

“When we hold the ball we can put points on the board,” he said.

This year’s squad includes: Josh Hammon (Captain), Joey Chisolm (vice-captain), Matt Crealy, Pat Driscoll, Mitch Finnegan, Jesse Galea, Alex Haangana, Samuel Hudson, Toby Keene, Ben Kennedy, Alex Langmack, Josh Longmuir, Bronson Mannix, Josh McKeon, Bill Pescud, Jansen Pocklington, Liam Ryan, Josh Vaughan, Kurt Vella, Andrew Faddy.

Mr David Callander

NSWCCC SWIMMING CARNIVAL REPORT

On 30th April, 10 students from DLS College went to Homebush Aquatic Centre where they competed at the NSWCCC Swimming Carnival. The students involved were Sam Vardy, Mitchell Rofe, Sam Fowler, Lachlan Stacker, Jack Ford, Michaela Sargeant, Rachel Read, Elyssa Pierce, Lara Moses and Madeleine Taper.

There were some exceptional swims with DLS College Open Boys team coming in second place (Sam Vardy, Mitchell Rofe, Same Fowler and Lachlan Stacker), first place in the All Age Relay (U17 swimmer was Sam Fowler) and Sam Fowler was placed second in 100m butterfly.

The above swimmers went on to represent NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools Swimming Carnival on 9th May. Well done to the Open Boys Freestyle relay team who finished in 6th place overall. Unfortunately due to illness, Sam Fowler was unable to compete in his events. We would like to thank Luke Hickel for stepping up into the Boys relay team. Well done to all of our swimmers.

Mrs Kennedy
Marine Studies complete practical hours to gain boat license... Our students are completing their boat license in Marine Studies. As part of this, they are required to complete practical boating hours. We were fortunate enough to tally up our hours on a beautiful, sunny day with glassy waters. Students were responsible for launching the boat, rowing and capsizing tenders, followed by driving the boat safely around Gunamatta Bay. All students successfully completed this part of the license, they now have to put their heads down to pass their theory tests.

We would like to thank Woolooware Royal Motor Yatch club and The Marine Association for hosting a most enjoyable day.

Mrs Degnan

Congratulations... to the following Year 11 students who recently represented the College in the Southern Sydney Cross-Country Championships at Sutherland: Lachlan Stacker-Galea; Will Stratford; Lara Moses and Maddy Taper.

Lachlan, Lara and Maddy will now progress to the N.S.W. Combined Catholic Cross-Country Championships at Eastern Creek on June 14th. Congratulations to all our Distance runners.

Congratulations... to the large group of College students who competed in the "Aussies" during the last school holidays at Kirra Beach on the Gold Coast. These fine athletes competed against the best in Australia!

YEAR 11 STUDENTS:

Brooke Streater-U/17 Surfing (7th) and Open Surfing (8th). Maggie Mahoney-U/17 Surf team and U/19 Taplin team. Maddie Fitzgerald-U/19 Rescue Tube Rescue Final (8th). Lachlan Stacker-Galea-U/17 Surf Swim (Semi and Ironman (Quarter). Jack Ford-U/17 Surf Swim team (4th) and Surf Swim semi. Rachel Read-U/19 Taplin (6th); U/17 Taplin (8th) and Swim team. Madeleine Taper-U19 Board relay (6th); Taplin (8th) and Swim team. Ebony Lane-U/17 Beach Sprint (11th); Beach relay (Opens and U/19's).

Lauren Rofe -1st (belt line for brother Mitchell); U/19 Rescue Tube Rescue. Special congratulations to Lara Moses who competed in the Board, Taplin and swim teams and won a courageous Bronze medal in the U/17 Iron woman event. Sam Fowler had a successful Carnival, reaching the final of the Surf Swim, 4th in the Surf Swim teams and a magnificent GOLD medal to become the Australian U/17 Ironman Champion! Elyssa Pierce also had a wonderful Carnival: 5th in U/19 Board relay; 3rd in the U/17 Taplin; 2nd in the U/19 Board Rescue and GOLD in the U/19 Taplin team.

YEAR 12 STUDENTS... Micaela Sargeant: competed in the Board Rescue, the Surf Swim, the Double Ski and reached the semi-finals of the individual Ski race. Ryan Markey: participated in the individual Ski race (semis); 6th in the Ski Relay and 5th in the Belt final. Special congratulations to Mitchell Rofe, who competed in Australian finals in the U19 Swim team, Ski, Board and Ironman events. His best result was GOLD in the U/19 Belt race.

Well done to all these competitors who represented their Bate Bay Surf Clubs and the Sutherland Shire with distinction, displaying wonderful determination, dedication and sportsmanship.

Greg Breen
from the careers advisor

Recently, a large group of our Yr. 12 students attended the University Information Day excursion at Sutherland where all students had the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from most of the major universities and other tertiary colleges and institutions. This annual event is a valuable research opportunity for Yr. 12 students considering study at university level after their HSC.

Reminder, for Yr. 12 students interested in study or work pathways other than Uni -- the next event, The Careers Expo will be held later in June. Like the Uni one, this excursion is a valuable research occasion allowing students to speak directly with representatives from TAFE, RTO’s (groups who can connect students wanting Apprenticeships in various industries), Private Colleges, some large Employers, the Defence Force and more. Students should watch the Careers Noticeboard (in the Library) and Daily Notices for updates about this event.

Whilst these two events are aimed directly at our Yr. 12’s, various upcoming information sessions such as those listed below frequently welcome Yr. 11 students and their Parents who wish to begin their own “What happens after MY HSC?” enquiries and attending could prove very helpful. Having a clearer goal or direction - knowing what you are aiming for - is a good motivator during the two HSC years of study.

Some Upcoming Events include:

(more info available on individual websites for each)

Engineering Cadetship Applications - now open - go to - etcad.com.au
Business Cadetship Applications - now open - go to - businesscadetships.com.au
UNSW Co-Op Scholarships Information Evening - Tue.14/5
Inst. Chartered Accountants Aust. Cadetship Evening - Wed. 15/5
UNSW Law School Student/Parent Information Evening - Thu. 16/5
USyd Student/Parent Information Evening - Wed. 22/5
CSU Become a Teacher (sessions on K-12, E/Childhood, PDHPE) at Bathurst - Tue. 4/6
UNSW Scholarships (other than co-op) Information Evening - Thu. 6/6
Careers in Medical Research Information Session at P’house Museum - Thu. 6/6
UND Parent Information Evening - Thu. 18/6
ACN Nursing & Health Expo at Syd.Town Hall - Sun. 23/6 - go to acn.edu.au
Meet the Business Leader (for Yr. 11’s) - Sun 30/7 - go to - charteredaccountants.com
UOW and USyd 2014 Course Guides - I have extra copies, see me in the Library if you would like one.
UND Early Entry Applications - now open - go to und.edu.au or see Ms. Brown.
also, helpful - HSC Workshops/Sessions will run e.g. UND and UOW in July, Sutherland Shire Council (at the Library) dates in May & June (these are usually ‘subject or topic specific’ - go to websites for more info)

The most up-to-date hard copies ofCourse Guides are available to look at in the Library, as well as the 2013 UAC Guide (new one out in Aug), the Job guide, etc. Whilst these stay in the Library, I am happy to photocopy relevant information for students to assist with their career/course research and enquiries. This information will of course be found at the individual website of the institution/business of interest too.

To clarify -- Early or Selective Entry is available at some Universities for some courses - each University decides what they will offer and what the selection criteria will be. The idea is to give individual students who are focused on a particular course at a particular university the opportunity to literally apply early. They will often have set scholastic standards and want well rounded students for consideration. Each University will have its own Application process and deadlines. Students should note, an Offer via Early/Selective Entry give you the advantage of knowing that provided you reach the required levels in your HSC exam, you will have a firm placement Offer in the course of most interest to you -- before the HSC exams. Students should source the specific application information from the Uni of interest as soon as possible. If a student is either unsure of a course/uni preference at this point they are not disadvantaged by not applying early.

***Normal round Application entry to all major Universities is via UAC in late September. (Exception is UND, use the Application Form in the back of their Prospectus)***

It is critical that students know What is on offer? How? and When? to apply, is a portfolio, interview, test session required? You should also consider, Scholarships, Cadetships, Traineeships, the facilities/technology available, opportunities for study overseas, internships (pracs)-where and when? fees and fee help, etc., etc. Be informed and you will make the best choices.

This is not an ‘easy’ task -- but it is where things get really interesting, YOU get to choose what and where you study and work. Begin your enquiries NOW and work through the available information and options, and through this process, your preferences will begin to unfold. You can then confidently know the application process, dates etc., freeing your mind to concentrate on your studies at school and to achieve the best HSC you can. (Leaving making these choices till later is risky as it simply leaves you less time to do it!)

I am available to discuss options and help with course/application enquiries in the Library.

Cheryl Brown
Careers Adviser
from student services

Reminder to parents & students to please label jumpers & blazers with name, these are expensive items & this will make it easier to identify owners of lost property. We also have a few sets of keys that have been handed in. Thankyou

Thursday 23rd May 2013
De La Salle Cronulla will be holding morning tea during recess at the College.
Help support this worthy cause.

ST CATHERINE LABOURE EVENING MARKET:
Friday 31 May 6pm - 9.30pm in the St Catherine Laboure School Hall, 123 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. Bring a friend along and browse ladies & children’s fashion, jewellery & accessories, candles, gourmet chocolates, skin & hair care and lots more, while sipping a glass of wine or coffee and indulging in a sweet treat. Great bargains, raffles and prizes all night long!

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Australia's BIGGEST MORNING TEA

COME ALONG TO HELP US MAKE THIS YEAR OUR BIGGEST!

When Friday 24th May 2013
Time 8.30am-1.00pm
Where St. Aloysius Church Hall, Giddings Ave, Cronulla
Entry $10 per person ($5 for pensioners) for bottomless cuppa and lots of cakes and slices
Julie: 0417 469 823
Julie@jfolkmob@hotmail.com
Mirella: 0407 126 469
mirelascarbon@hotmail.com

www.biggestmorningtea.com.au

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Dear Parents/Carers

As you would be aware, the Federal Government has now released details of its new school funding policy that will take effect from 2014. This policy was developed after the release of a major report in late 2011 (the Gonski Report) which recommended a new way of allocating government funding to all Australian schools.

The State Government is also a major player in the funding of schools. How much money each school or school system will now receive under this new model will depend on what each state is prepared to contribute.

NSW has been the first state to sign up to the new model. This means that there is now an agreement between the NSW Government and the Federal Government on how much money NSW will contribute to the new model, and how much the Federal Government will contribute.

What does this mean for our Catholic schools?

While the Catholic education community cautiously welcomes an agreement that will give some funding certainty for the next six years, there are still aspects of the agreement that are still not clear.

We welcome...

- the news that Catholic schools will still be able to operate as a system and allocate funds and resources to where the needs are greatest;
- the assurance given by the Prime Minister that our Catholic system of schools will not lose funding in real terms over the life of the agreement;
- the focus on providing additional resources to support students with special needs, Indigenous students and students from low socio-economic areas.

We remain concerned that...

- some of the key parts of the new funding arrangements have still not been clearly spelt out;
- there could be duplication with accountability arrangements under the new model. For example, the rollout of the National Plan for School Improvement (NPSI) which is part of the new arrangements, could impact on processes that already operate in Sydney Catholic schools. These processes have been acknowledged as best practice.

It is important that we never lose sight of the fact that...

- Catholic schools operate, on average, at around 90% of the funding of Government schools, even when parent contributions are included. We do not want this gap to widen;
- contributions from Catholic school parents save governments billions of dollars every year;
- Catholic systemic schools are high-performing and efficient, and deserve fair funding.

I will continue to keep you informed as more details of these new funding arrangements are made clear.

With warm wishes

DR DAN WHITE
Executive Director of Catholic Schools
MAGnet High Tea

Please join Our Lady of Mercy College, Burraneer and De La Salle College, Cronulla to raise money and awareness for Maure Homestead and La Sallian Youth Foundation.

Saturday, June 15th
3pm to 5pm

$30 for High Tea
Additional fundraising activities available on the day.

Our Lady of Mercy College, Cronulla Mercy Centre: 62-66 Dominic Street, Cronulla NSW 2230

RSVP by June 10th
Maria Awad: 9525 5883