

## St Michael's College offering primary Co-education from Reception 2021

The St Michael's College, Adelaide Board and College Leadership Team, with the endorsement of the De La Salle Brothers, South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools and Catholic Education South Australia, are delighted to formally announce that St Michael's College will now be offering Primary co-education, beginning with Reception from 2021.

This decision builds on the evolving history of co-education at the College, which began sixty-five years ago, when the De La Salle Brothers were invited by the Archbishop of Adelaide to provide an additional, quality Catholic education option in the Western suburbs, to meet the needs of the growing population. Taking action, the Brothers, with the support of the local parish, formed the St Michael's College Beverley campus as a Catholic school in the Lasallian tradition.

St Michael's College opened in 1954 with the enrolment of 29 boys, and with numbers increasing steadily, a second campus at Henley Beach was established in 1967. In 1972, the first girls were enrolled to undertake studies in their final year of schooling. Along with new families, many had existing connections to the St Michael's community. That shift to co-education was notable, not just as a change to the College structure, but as a symbol of the inclusive culture of St Michael's. In 1985, girls and boys were enrolled in Years 11 and 12 and in 2008 the Year 8 cohort became co-educational. This year, the College welcomed 272 Year 7 students to a secondary education that completed a fully co-educational profile at the campus.

The next logical progression of this story is the development of a Reception to Year 12 co-educational model that enhances the College's vision of *Community, Challenge and Choice* and reflects a world in which women and men collaborate, work, live, lead and succeed as equals.

Coinciding with this change, a significant investment into the facilities of the Primary campus is underway, catering for increased enrolments and the ongoing enrichment of a quality learning environment that is innovative and adaptable to the current and future educational needs of our students. This development will create further opportunities for our youngest community members to explore their curiosities, flourish and fully realise their potential.

Deputy Principal - Primary, Damian Patton, explains that the *"new facilities will reflect the contemporary curriculum development over a number of years where students have opportunities to explore, research, design, collaborate, make and test with integrated learning technologies."*

Principal, John Foley, is excited to lead this progression at the College and shares the following:

*"This is an exciting initiative, designed to meet the needs of current and future families and to enhance the strong sense of community engagement across the College. We believe this decision will have long-term benefits for St Michael's College, Catholic Education South Australia and the families of the Western suburbs. We are committed to ensuring the smooth transition of co-education across R-12 by 2027. Planning and implementation processes are ongoing and further information will be communicated on a regular basis. This will include opportunities for community discussion."*

To register your interest in enrolling your son or daughter in Reception from 2021, please contact Primary Enrolments Officer, Mrs Annie Cliff on 8346 6548 or [smcprimary@smc.sa.edu.au](mailto:smcprimary@smc.sa.edu.au).

For more information, please contact Olivia Peressin, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator on 0411 795 826 or [Olivia.Peressin@smc.sa.edu.au](mailto:Olivia.Peressin@smc.sa.edu.au)