

# St Thomas More School



## **Principal's Report**

2019 School Performance Report

AGM

Monday 16 March 2020



# St Thomas More School Context

---

St Thomas More is a Reception to Year 6 Catholic primary school founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1960. With its neighbouring Catholic schools, St Thomas More employs a community worker to help nurture and develop courses and support for the parent members of the community, which it is hoped, in turn, will help the students. The three Mercy schools in the Elizabeth Parish work closely together. Teachers program using the Australian Curriculum. The school has specialist teachers for Physical Education, The Art and Languages (Italian). Currently there is a whole school focus on STEM and Student Wellbeing. The Student Wellbeing focus has resulted in the introduction of a mentoring program, the use of Circle Time, the use of Restorative Practices and the highlighting of the Mercy Education Values and the School Norms. There are whole school Reading Agreed Practices and Mathematics Agreed Practices which are used to support effective teaching and learning.

Specialist programs include What's the Buzz?, Geckos, Buddies, Sporting Schools program and a Breakfast Club. The school also has a Playgroup and an Early Learning Years (ELY) Program. Students are expected to exercise leadership skills, with senior students being involved on a number of committees. The embedding of the Walker Learning Approach throughout the school has been highly successful in building a culture that strives to cater for all children, personalising learning and creating an environment conducive to quality student learning and wellbeing.

## Vision and Mission

### **Vision**

At St Thomas More School we create an innovative and contemporary educational environment which resonates with students and their families and leads to a love of lifelong learning. We seek to nurture people to take their place in the world as happy balanced and productive citizens by striving to build the capacity of our families. In partnership with our Parish we teach the Catholic faith and provide an invitation to encounter the love of God.

### **Mission**

Inspired by our Catholic Faith and in partnership with families and our wider community St Thomas More School creates an environment that invites engagement in life to the full in all its personal, religious, civic, ecological and cultural richness.

## Values

# Mercy Education Values

## Compassion

Mercy receives and pardons again and again even the ungrateful.  
Limerick Manuscript, Sisters of Mercy

As God's chosen ones, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.  
First Letter of Paul to the Colossians 3:12



COMPASSION

## Courage

Speak as your mind directs and always act with courage.

Letter Catherine McAuley to Mary Ann Doyle, July 1841

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.  
First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 16:13



COURAGE

## Hospitality

A good beginning is of great importance. You must waste some time with visitors.  
Letter Catherine McAuley to Elizabeth Moore, December 1838

Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
Letter of Paul to the Romans 15:7



HOSPITALITY

## Justice

The poor need help today, not next week.

Familiar Instructions of Catherine McAuley p.140

Walk in the way of righteousness, along the path of justice.  
Proverbs 8:20



JUSTICE

## Respect

Three things the poor prize more highly than gold... the kind word, the gentle compassionate look and the patient hearing of their sorrows.

Familiar Instructions of Catherine McAuley p.138

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those (who labour) among you.

First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5:12



RESPECT

## Service

It is for God we serve the poor, not for thanks.

Familiar Instructions of Catherine McAuley p.140

Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

First Letter of Peter 4:10

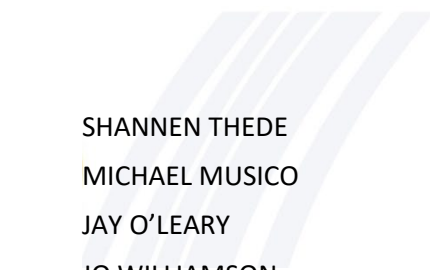


SERVICE

# Staffing

---

CHRIS PLATTEN	PRINCIPAL
SONIA KILMISTER	DEPUTY PRINCIPAL/INCLUSIVE ED COORDINATOR
LEAH WILLIAMS	APRIM (0.6) + LITERACY TEACHER (0.4)
CONNIE CARTER	RECEPTION/YEAR 1 TEACHER
ASHLEE STANLEY	RECEPTION/YEAR 1 TEACHER
LISA CROSSLEY	YEAR 1/2 TEACHER
ANNE MANNELLA	YEAR 2 TEACHER (0.5)
MARIE D'OCCHIO	YEAR 2 TEACHER (0.5)
JANIE GOSLING	YEAR 3/4 TEACHER
MOLLY JEFFERYS	YEAR 4 TEACHER (0.6)
FABIAN CHEVALIER	PE (0.4) + YEAR 5/6 TEACHER (0.6)
JESS JENKINS	YEAR 5/6 (0.8) + EAL TEACHER (0.2)
SARAH BORASO	YEAR 5/6 TEACHER (0.6)
MEGAN POLLARD	THE ARTS + ITALIAN TEACHER (0.5)
JANE WELLS	CANTEEN
SUE DIXON	BURSAR
KERRY OATES	PA/ADMIN ESO (TERM 1)
LEEANNE FISHER	ADMIN ESO
LESLEY SWANN	LIBRARY ESO/CURRICULUM ESO
LINDA MARSH	CURRICULUM ESO
LISA DANIELE	WHS COORDINATOR (0.2 – TERMS 1 & 2)
MICHAEL HIGGIE	WHS COORDINATOR (0.2 – TERMS 3 & 4)
MICHELLE BLACK	ADMIN ESO (0.2)
PAUL CLIFT	GROUNDSMAN (0.4)
RAELENE SMITH	CURRICULUM ESO
SANDRA SHEPHARD	CURRICULUM ESO
TRISH OLIVE	CURRICULUM ESO
MARILYN KENNEDY	CURRICULUM ESO
SANDY AHEARN	COUNSELLOR (0.6)
KATE THEDE	OSHC DIRECTOR
CHERYL BIELBY	OSHC
SHANNON BROOKES	OSHC
REBECCA MUSICO	OSHC/CURRICULUM ESO
ASHLEE DEER	OSHC/CURRICULUM ESO



SHANNEN THEDE  
MICHAEL MUSICO  
JAY O'LEARY  
JO WILLIAMSON

OSHC  
OSHC/CURRICULUM ESO  
OSHC  
ECC COORDINATOR





# Staffing

---

2 Male FTE Teachers

7 Female FTE Teachers

5 Part Time Teachers

**Total of 12.3 FTE**

2.88 FTE Female Educational Support Officers

0.5 FTE Male Educational Support Officers

**Total of 3.38 FTE**

## Staff Attendance

---

The staff attendance for 2019 was 90%.

# Staff Professional Learning

---

Behaviour Inquiry

Catholic Schools Primary PE Conference

Literacy Network

Children's Spirituality and Play

First Years of Schooling Literacy PD

7 Steps to Writing

Learning Difficulties Seminar

EAL Moderation and Training

Supporting Students in the Emerging Phases of English  
Language Learning

Contact Officer Refresher Training

ATSI Focus Day

Multisport PD

R-12 Deputy Day: Catholic Identity

Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People

Aspiring Leaders Program

Graduate Certificate in Catholic Studies

Senior First Aid

Walker Learning Conference

Employee Relations Seminars

SACPPA Conference

ReLaT Information Session

Early Career Teacher Professional Learning Day

EYA Training Day

Choir Training Day

NAPLAN Supervision Training

PLC Planning Days

PRIMA Day



# School Events – Value Added

---

Catholic Schools Year 4/5 Soccer Carnival

SAPSASA Winter Carnival

Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival

Catholic Schools Year 5/6 Soccer Carnival

Catholic Schools Year 4-6 Netball Carnival

Catholic Schools Years 4-6 Football Carnival

Central Districts Football Club Clinics Years R-6

SAPSASA District Swimming Carnival

T20 Blast Cricket Competition

SAPSASA Basketball Carnival

SAPSASA District Summer Carnival

Catholic Schools Touch Carnival

Catholic Schools Year 4/5 T-Ball Carnival

Sports Day

Sporting Schools (6 Sports over 3 Terms)

Whole School Mission Day

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Celebration

Whole School Carnevale Parade

Little Choir

Poco Magico Choir

Kick Start for Kids Breakfast Program

Class Excursions

Class and School Liturgies and Masses

St Thomas More Feast Day Celebrations

Project Compassion Activities

St Patrick's Day Fundraiser

Remembrance Day Liturgies

Sacramental Workshops

Buddies Programs

Year 5/6 Leadership Days

Year 6 Graduation Liturgy

Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Year 6 Leadership Top

Year 5/6 Camp

Year 5/6 Road Traffic Crossing Training

R-4 Responsible Pet Owner Education Program

Playgroup

Early Learning Years Program

Book Week Parade

New Reception Transition Program

SAPOL Visits

School Disco

School Counsellor

Elizabeth Community Connections

Geckos Fine Motor Program

Thanksgiving Volunteers Morning Tea

Parent Coffee Morning

Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet Times

New Reception Families Information Meeting

ATSI Annual Community Celebration Dinner

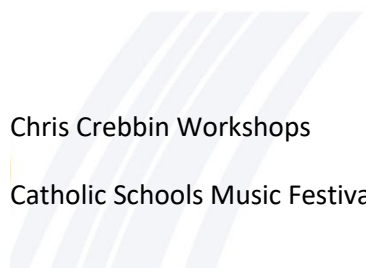
The NED Show

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

Walk a Mile in my Boots Day

Write a Book in a Day Competition (Year 5/6)





Chris Crebbin Workshops

Catholic Schools Music Festival

Whole School End of Year Concert

# Teacher Standards & Qualifications

---

Diplomas	21%
Bachelors	79%
Graduate Certificates	64%
Masters	14%
Other Graduate Certificates	7%

# School Information

---

## St Thomas More School

50 Yorktown Road

Elizabeth Park South Australia 5113

<b>School Type</b>	Primary
<b>School Sector</b>	Catholic – Non-Government
<b>ICSEA value</b>	942
<b>Total Enrolments</b>	August 171
<b>% Indigenous enrolments</b>	10.5%
<b>% Students with disabilities</b>	11%

## Enrolments by Year Level

---

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Reception</b>	14	13	27
<b>Year 1</b>	12	11	23
<b>Year 2</b>	21	9	30
<b>Year 3</b>	8	8	16
<b>Year 4</b>	13	18	31
<b>Year 5</b>	9	13	22
<b>Year 6</b>	10	12	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>171</b>

# Student Attendance

Year Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Reception	91.31%	90.08%	90.94%	91.13%
Year 1	87.72%	86.94%	83.53%	88.4%
Year 2	91.76%	90.8%	89.10%	90.79%
Year 3	87.76%	87.63%	81.85%	87.54%
Year 4	92.69%	90.05%	90.72%	90.10%
Year 5	89.8%	90.64%	91.14%	89.31%
Year 6	89.97%	89.58%	87.79%	80.66%
Averages	90.14%	89.39%	87.87%	88.28%

## School Management of Student Non-Attendance

Parents are required to notify the school if students will be absent for any reason. This can be done in person, via phone, email or by leaving a message on the school answering machine. If the school has not been advised of a student absence by 9:30am, an SMS message is sent to parents by Administration Staff to ascertain reasons for the absence. For longer term absences, the school requests that parents advise, in writing, the length and details of the extended absence.

Unsatisfactory reasons for absences are referred to the Principal who will follow up with families as required.

# School Income 2019

---

State Government Grant	\$593,167
Commonwealth Government Grant	\$1,872,119
Commonwealth Government Grant Other	\$84,777
Total Government Grants	\$2,550,064
School Fees (inclusive of levies)	\$266,076
Other Income	\$272,734
Total Income	\$3,088,873



# Post School Destinations

---

St Columba College

Thomas More College

Xavier College

Gawler College

St Aloysius' College

Elizabeth Grove Primary School

Munno Para Primary School

Elizabeth East Primary School

# NAPLAN 2019

## Year 3

	2018 % who achieved the National Minimum Standard	2019 % who achieved the National Minimum Standard	Mean Score 2018	Mean Score 2019
Reading	97%	94%	399.1	384.2
Writing	97%	94%	369	370.4
Spelling	88%	75%	375.5	366.9
Grammar and Punctuation	100%	94%	402.7	393.5
Numeracy	100%	100%	389.4	379.1



# NAPLAN 2019

Year 5

	2018 % who achieved the National Minimum Standard	2019 % who achieved the National Minimum Standard	Mean Score 2018	Mean Score 2019
Reading	100%	86%	464.5	470.6
Writing	67%	90%	411.6	439.3
Spelling	95%	91%	459.6	471.9
Grammar and Punctuation	85%	86%	445.2	451.7
Numeracy	86%	86%	443.2	447.8

Progress 2017-2019	Reading		Numeracy	
	School	All students	School	All students
Low	35%	25%	20%	25%
Medium	45%	50%	70%	50%
Upper	20%	25%	10%	25%

# ReLAT Results 2019



## 2019 RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT - YEAR 4

### St Thomas More's Parish School ELIZABETH PARK

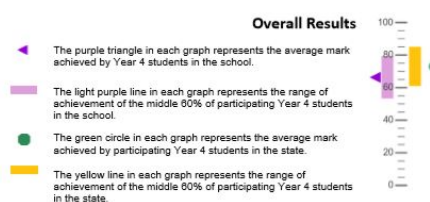
#### School Summary

The average total for all Year 4's in this school is **23.2 out of 35** or **66.3%**

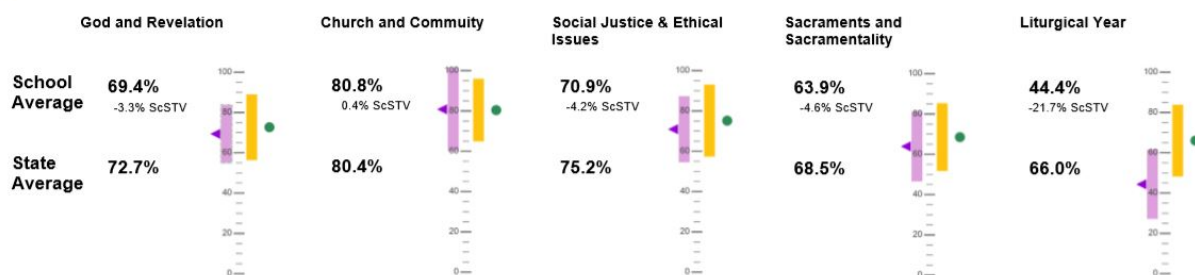
The average total for all Year 4's in South Australia is **25.5 out of 35** or **73.0%**

This school's average is -6.7% below the state average

#### Overall Results



### KEY IDEAS



ScSTV the difference between the school and the state average is the **School State Variance**

# School Satisfaction

	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My teachers expect me to do my best	52	45	3	0	0
My teachers provide me with useful feedback about my school	30	51	19	0	0
Teachers at my school treat students fairly	42	36	18	3	1
My school is well maintained	30	34	23	9	4
I feel safe at my school	34	38	23	5	0
I can talk to my teachers about my concerns	25	46	25	3	1
Student behaviour is well managed at my school	13	32	42	12	1
I like being at my school	32	32	26	9	1
My school looks for ways to improve	43	38	16	3	0
My school takes students' opinions seriously	26	39	29	5	1
My teacher motivate me to learn	52	39	8	1	0
My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things	46	30	19	5	0
Is there anything you'd like to add to your answers?					

Results are percentages

## St. Thomas More School, Elizabeth Park

### STAFF FEEDBACK/CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE 2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Each year staff feedback for school satisfaction is sought. As part of the consultative process being undertaken through the community, I seek feedback from you regarding your experience of St. Thomas More School (STM).

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>I feel like I am making a positive difference to the lives of the young people I am working with</b>	43	52	5	0	0
<b>I am continuing to grow as a professional at STM</b>	29	52	14	5	0
<b>I feel safe at STM</b>	25	28	28	19	0
<b>I enjoy my role at STM</b>	38	52	10	0	0
<b>I am kept informed about decisions that are made in the school</b>	10	21	5	40	24
<b>I feel comfortable approaching my colleagues with questions or problems</b>	33	52	10	5	0
<b>The school leadership team listens to the views of students, parents and staff and takes suggestions into account</b>	24	33	10	28	5
<b>I feel valued and supported by the students and parents in the school community</b>	29	71	0	0	0
<b>Staff have access to a range of Professional Learning opportunities</b>	33	48	14	5	0
<b>The facilities at STM are well maintained and presented</b>	14	57	24	5	0
<b>I feel like a valued member of the school community</b>	29	38	14	19	0
<b>I feel my overall workload and what is expected of me, is manageable</b>	19	48	14	19	0
<b>Is there anything you'd like to add to your answers?</b>					

**Results are percentages**

# St. Thomas More School Elizabeth Park

## 2019 FAMILY/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP SURVEY

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Each year parent feedback for school satisfaction is sought. As part of the consultative process being undertaken through the community, I seek feedback from you regarding your experience of St. Thomas More School, Elizabeth Park (STM).

	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Satisfaction with Pastoral Care</b>					
STM gives daily witness to Christian values	60	25	15	0	0
There is an atmosphere of open communication at STM	60	30	5	5	0
As a parent, I feel welcomed and respected at STM	75	20		5	0
I know the teachers will call me if there is a concern	70	20	5	5	0
The staff welcomes comments, suggestions and are responsive to the concerns of parents and the community	65	25	5	0	5
<b>Satisfaction with service</b>					
As a parent, I am satisfied in the way in which my child is looked after and supported by the school	55	35	10	0	0
The school addresses my enquiries promptly	60	30	5	5	0
As a parent, I would recommend the school to new parents or friends	70	25	5	0	0
<b>Satisfaction with Teaching and Learning</b>					
The school is offering the right type of learning for my child	55	35	10	0	0
Do you feel that your child is sufficiently challenged by the school to encourage maximum learning and development?	45	50	5	0	0
STM looks for ways to improve	60	30	10	0	0
I can talk to my child's teacher about my concerns	80	15	0	0	5
Teachers at STM motivate my child to learn	65	35	0	0	0
My child is making good progress at STM	65	35	0	0	0
My child's learning needs are being met at STM	60	35	5	0	0
STM works with me to support my child's learning	70	20	5	5	0
I like the overall direction the school is heading in	60	30	10	0	0
Is there anything you'd like to add to your answers?					

Results are percentages

## **ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 – 2020**

<b>STRATEGIC INTENTIONS:</b>	<b>1.Catholic Identity (Domain 1)</b>	<b>2.High Expectations of All (Domain 4)</b>	<b>3.High Quality Teaching and Learning (Domain 5)</b>	<b>4.Orderly and Safe Learning Environments (Domain 7)</b>	<b>5.Strong Home/ School/ Community Engagement (Domain 8)</b>
<b>GOALS</b>	1.1. Develop an action plan committed to ecological conversion and sustainability.	2.1. Identify and implement specific EAL goals and strategies that will accelerate EAL student's English language learning.	3.1. To build a common and agreed understanding of effective teaching, learning, assessment and pedagogical practices.	4.1. Deepen the school communities' understanding of restorative justice principles and support staff to implement restorative practices in their daily interactions with children.	5.1 Encourage greater parental engagement in school life and support parents/ carers to play a more active role in their child's education.
	1.2. Identify and engage in practices which support staff in their spiritual wellbeing, deepening appreciation of Catholic faith and their growing capacity for witness to the Gospel.	2.2. Families receive effective and timely feedback on their children's learning progress.	3.2. Increase student engagement & achievement in and across the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	4.2. Identify clear strategies that promote positive behaviours and provides safe, supportive and engaging learning spaces that are conducive to effective teaching for learning.	5.2. Develop and implement a St. Thomas More School Reconciliation Action Plan.

### **Process of writing the St. Thomas More School Strategic Plan 2018-2020**

Staff used CESA's continuous improvement framework for catholic schools to review the 2015-2017 St. Thomas More Strategic Plan. Staff analysed the nine domains within this framework and assessed our school's rating using the self-assessment tool. Within their PLCs teachers determined priorities for the next strategic plan. The following 5 Domains were identified by teachers; Catholic Identity, High Expectations of All, High Quality Teaching and Learning, Orderly and Safe Learning Environments and Strong Home/School/Community Engagements.

These 5 domains then became the 5 strategic intentions as part of the 2018-2020 St. Thomas More Strategic Plan.

Two goals were identified for each domain in the following way:



**1.1. Develop an action plan committed to ecological conversion and sustainability** – PLCs stated the need for a whole school approach to the environment.

**1.2. Identify and engage in practices which support staff in their spiritual wellbeing, deepening appreciation of Catholic faith and their growing capacity for witness to the Gospel** – this is a CESA strategic intention derived from the document, “A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education” (National Catholic Education Commission)

**2.1. Identify and implement specific EAL goals and strategies that will accelerate EAL student’s English language learning** – EAL funding from CESA requires us to include learning outcomes for EAL students within our strategic plan.

**2.2. Families receive effective and timely feedback on their children’s learning progress** – in the 2017 Parent Satisfaction Survey, concepts related to this, scored the lowest overall rating. “The instructions for assessment tasks are clear to my child” scored 3.77/5.0 & “I understand how the teacher judges his/her work scored 3.55/5.0

**3.1. To build a common and agreed understanding of effective teaching, learning, assessment and pedagogical practices** – this is a school leadership derived goal which will have a direct impact on improving student learning outcomes.

**3.2. Increase student engagement & achievement in and across the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** – teachers overwhelmingly were in favour of participating in a CESA STEM project, over other CESA project opportunities. STM will be part of a two year STEM School Based Project working with staff from UniSA and CESA.

**4.1. Deepen the school communities’ understanding of restorative justice principles and support staff to implement restorative practices in their daily interactions with children** – based on teacher feedback in the School Organisation Climate Survey (SOCS).

**4.2. Identify clear strategies that promote positive behaviours and provides safe, supportive and engaging learning spaces that are conducive to effective teaching for learning** – directly related to CESA’s continuous improvement framework for catholic schools and our school’s engagement with the Curtin University’s Learning Instrument Tools.

**5.1 Encourage greater parental engagement in school life and support parents/carers to play a more active role in their child’s education** – a main priority stated by each PLC and the school leadership team.

**5.2. Develop and implement a St. Thomas More School Reconciliation Action Plan** – this plan is currently under review and supports our school’s continued focus on Indigenous Education.



# Annual Improvement Plan – 2019

## ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOL - ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019

<b>Strategic Intention 3: High Quality Teaching and Learning (CIF Domain 5)</b>				<b>Targets By the end of 2019</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase student's understanding, engagement and enjoyment of STEM disciplines.</li> <li>Develop teacher's capacities to use contemporary pedagogies in planning, teaching and assessing STEM disciplines across the curriculum</li> </ul>		
<b>Goals:</b> (What are we trying to achieve?)	<b>Actions:</b> (What actions will we take to achieve our goals and targets?)	<b>Responsibility:</b> (Who will lead this?)	<b>By When?</b>	<b>Resources:</b> (What human and financial resources will we need?)	<b>Success Indicators:</b> (How will we know we have been successful?)	<b>Evidence:</b> What data will we need to measure achievement of our goals?)
3.2 Increase student engagement and achievement in and across the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)	St. Thomas More staff to actively engage in CESA's and UniSA's STEM School Based Project	CESA UniSA	Two year project 2018-2019	CESA consultants and UniSA staff CESA/UniSA grant \$5,000 Resources related to STEM planning and programming	STEM units of work Evidence of contemporary pedagogies within class teacher programs Sharing of ideas, practices and resources within and across PLCs	Pre & Post student engagement surveys Teachers programs PLC meeting minutes
	Leaders & teachers to attend professional learning opportunities offered by CESA & UniSA	CESA UniSA	Two year project 2018-2019	Release time to attend professional development opportunities TRTs	Teacher's willingness to transfer learning into their STEM units of work and into their teaching practices	Teachers programs Teacher anecdotal feedback

	School Leadership team to disseminate/ share learning with whole staff	Leadership team	Term 1, 2019	Staff meeting times Staff mtgs allocated	Evidence of contemporary pedagogies within class teacher programs	Teachers programs Teacher anecdotal feedback
	Establish a STEM Lead Learner's team	Principal	Term 1, 2019 Sarah/Janie	One staff member from each of our PLCs Leadership team Meeting times	Observation of support networks established between Lead Learners and teaching staff	Minutes of Lead Learner's meetings Staff feedback
	Develop a whole school STEM inquiry question (design of School's Nature Play)	CESA UniSA Leadership team	Term 1, 2019	Professional development offered by CESA & UniSA Teaching resources Leadership team sharing STEM project information	Involvement, input and general consensus from all teachers	Achievable whole school inquiry question which can be shared with all stakeholders
	Develop STEM curriculum R-6	Teachers Lead Learners	Semester 1, 2019	Professional development offered by CESA & UniSA Professional readings STEM resources PLC planning time	STEM scope and sequence, programs, lesson plans, rubrics Staff engagement Digital photos	Growth in student engagement and learning outcomes Teacher programs
	Develop student's learning, engagement and enjoyment of STEM disciplines	Teachers	2019	Professional development offered by CESA & UniSA Professional readings STEM resource PLC planning time	STEM scope and sequence, programs, lesson plans, rubrics Staff engagement Digital photos	Pre and post student surveys
	Audit current school resources and increase STEM related resources R-6	Teachers Lead Learners Leadership team	Terms 1 & 2, 2019	School STEM budget CESA & UniSA STEM grant	New resources purchased R-6 Resources being accessible and used by all children R-6	Staff feedback on effectiveness of resources in meeting goals Student feedback

# Acknowledgments

---

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the children, staff, families, parish and wider school community for helping to make St Thomas More School a place of great learning in 2019. A school community does not flourish without the support given from all of these groups. The efforts of each individual and group is both appreciated and deeply valued.

I would like to especially acknowledge the work of the School Board; Alison Duke (Chairperson) Fiona Porter, Tamika Campbell, Jess Cooper, Hayley Sterry, Jan-Marie Lamb, Yunis Noori, Lydia Aguis Sonia Kilmister and Molly Jefferys. Thank you also to Sue Dixon for her guidance and sound financial management of the school.

We are extremely fortunate to have Fr Pat Woods as our Parish Priest. He always has the best interests of our children at heart. This is especially evident during all of his liturgies where he focuses on supporting children's understanding of our rich Catholic Tradition and making such celebrations meaningful and relevant to them.

I would like to acknowledge the work of our school leadership team; Sonia Kilmister (Deputy Principal) and Leah Williams (APRIM: Assistant Principal) for their ongoing support of me, staff, students and the wider community. They are outstanding leaders whom I feel privileged to work alongside.

I thank all staff leaving St Joseph's for their dedication and commitment to our children and community and wish them well in their future endeavours. We thank and farewell **Mrs Jess Jenkins and Ms Ashlee Stanley**. Jess and Ashlee have been members of the St Thomas More School community over the years in various roles. Both Jess and Ashlee have each won a teaching position at St Pius X School, Windsor Gardens. On behalf of the St Thomas More School community, I would like to extend our congratulations and gratitude to Jess and Ashlee. The passion, dedication and talents of these wonderful teachers have enriched the staff, students and families at St Thomas More School. We wish them and their family ever blessing as they begin their 'new' journey.

**We farewell and give thanks for our Year 6 students.** We ask that you remember the graduating students in your prayers and we ask God to bless them as they take the light of Christ to others on their life journey. I would like to thank them for their enthusiastic and commitment to Servant Leadership. Their leadership to make a difference within the school and with students is inspiring. May they always remember this school community and keep St Thomas More School, their experiences here and the friendships that they have made, in their minds and hearts.

**To all children and parents leaving St Thomas More School to go to new schools,** thank you for your contribution to our school and community. Without family support, so much of what we are able to offer students, would be diminished or not happen at all.

Every teacher, staff member, child and family who comes into contact with our school, leaves a 'footprint' – albeit some bigger than others - on the lives of members of our community and the school itself. Similarly your contact with this community will have touched your lives in some way. I hope that you have enjoyed the time that you have spent at St Thomas More School, that you have made lasting friendships and found this to be a welcoming and vibrant Christian Community.

I look forward to being a part of the St Thomas More School Community in 2020. I have great hope and enthusiasm that 2020 will be a rewarding and productive year of educational excellence. I am also particularly excited about the redevelopment of our main school courtyard and the creation of a new Nature Play/communal area for our children, staff, parents and Parish community.

**Chris Platten  
Principal**