

BOARD TALK 29 August 2011

The upsetting news that we will not return to our North Parade home next year provides another major test for the whole Marian College community. However, with no other options we have begun to rally again, as we continue to pursue the board of trustees' ambitious vision: to make *Marian College a world-renowned centre for excellence for girls' Catholic education*.

We are supporting our marvellous staff as they continue to guide our daughters' learning, and also prepare to move to the new location. The teachers are being asked foremost to continue maintaining high quality educational outcomes for our girls.

Meanwhile the board is working hard with the senior leadership team to make the transition a good one. The board has already had four full meetings within the month, alongside our regular committee work.

We have established a special project committee charged with overseeing the relocation to Barbadoes Street. It includes a co-opted member of the PPTA. This committee will liaise with other stakeholders such as the Catholic Education Office, Catholic Cathedral College, Opus International, the Ministry of Education, CPIT, and our parents and caregivers. It will be concerned for logistics, land and buildings, communications and pastoral care, and educational provision.

Our board and senior staff meet shortly with our counterparts at Catholic Cathedral College to establish a sound working relationship, and no doubt share relocation stories.

We have received a genuine and practical offer of support from Villa Maria College board chairperson and principal of our sister Mercy school, especially over how to manage enrolments, which must continue as before according to both enrolment schemes. We are both keen to maintain the provision of Catholic education, acknowledging our different geographical catchments.

We will continue to advise the Marian Community through regular updates and welcome your feedback and suggestions, especially during the next few months.

The board's purpose is to make the time sharing the Barbadoes Street site with our new neighbour a positive chapter in our history. It offers a chance to strengthen our identity and culture – that famous “Marian Magic” – and become even better with Mary in faith.

Gerard Duignan
Chairperson