

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

14 November 2011

Can we help with the school move from St Bede's and from Marian North Parade to Barbadoes St?

The board of trustees has engaged a company that specialises in moving schools to carry out this work. There are areas such as moving science chemicals, lots of delicate IT equipment etc that are best left to them. As most of the final move will be late January when families may still be away on holidays, it is best to leave it with the moving company.

At a later stage the school will no doubt be calling on families to help with various matters through working bees or other means.

How are the demolitions going for Barbadoes St site?

The rear of the Basilica demolition is complete and the Cathedral House garages are gone. Red Bus depot buildings are down. CERA is working with the religious order which owns the music school and associated buildings about its demolition, which is expected to be very soon. We have no information at present about what is happening to Cathedral House.

What is happening at the Barbadoes St site at present?

The site continues to be used for classes each day by Catholic Cathedral College who have been unable to access their two main blocks until very recently and these need some repair. Nevertheless, the following has or is occurring for Marian College:

- Weekly onsite property meetings are overseeing practicalities.
- Final plans have been approved by the proprietor.
- Right now the piles are in for those re-locatable classrooms that begin to be moved from St Bede's on 19 November.
- The piles and joists are in for the science, foods rooms and administration building being manufactured offsite. These rooms are likely to be ready to move into mid to late January.
- Earthquake repairs to the B block that backs onto Moorhouse Ave are at plastering stage, following earthquake strengthening. The Moorhouse Ave exterior is being re-clad in an alternative to brick. B block is likely to be ready by Christmas.
- Xavier Hall is having some renovations to prepare it for gym/hall use by Marian College: floor sanded and lines marked; painting; refreshment of change room; refitting of a kitchen to become our Marian canteen etc.
- IT wiring and phone systems are being worked on.
- Orders are in, with the help of our colour consultant, for blinds, paint, pinboards, and in some cases carpet renewal.
- Staff are working at Marian at St Bede's on ways to make our classrooms next year very 'Marian College' so the girls will feel at home there.

This is a huge team effort by all concerned to get us functional as a school by 7 February next year. We are grateful for all this work.

What progress has been made with bus transport to Barbadoes St for Marian College students?

At the parent community meeting on 3 October the Ministry of Education advised us that CERA and the bus company were working to streamline bus routes generally and for Marian College in particular. The bus depot is now a 5 minute walk from our site at Barbadoes St too. Families in Rangiora and Kaiapoi for instance are likely to have a single bus to catch from home to the depot or the Moorhouse bus hub or the CPIT bus stop. Likewise families in Belfast, Northwood, Regents Park and Redwood need to check the new routes, and those in Burwood and Parklands also. See the website www.metroinfo.co.nz or ring 3 66 88 55 for more details. Please send any further transport queries to deputy principal, Mrs Foulds, who oversees this area (lynf@mariancollege.school.nz) and liaises with the Ministry of Education around our transport needs.

What about students busing from Spencerville?

We are still working on suitable arrangements for students from Spencerville.

Can I bike to Marian North Parade and catch the special bus to Marian Barbadoes St from there?

The board has approved the building of a secure fenced bike compound at Marian North Parade where students can lock their bikes and then catch the bus to Barbadoes St.

When is the open day for current families so we can come and look at the Barbadoes St site?

We had hoped to have the open day in December this year. Marian staff have not yet been on site either because of its use as a school every day by Catholic Cathedral College. We hope to have the open day for families in February as there is much work to be completed in this year and in January.

When does school start for students next year?

Most staff are in unpacking and sorting their classrooms and resource areas from 30 January. Students commence school from Tuesday 7 February. Some Year 13 may be required the week before for leadership training. We will advise you of all the particular details as soon as they are confirmed, hopefully before Christmas. It is intended that a copy of the first week timetable will be available for seniors on book return day and juniors will be given a copy before they leave this year.

How are you going with parking matters for the school next year?

The board has tentatively secured parking on the Red Bus depot site (corner Moorhouse and Fitzgerald Aves) and is now confirming contracts with them.

Where are you up to with timetable and the school day for 2012?

At present the school day will be 8.30am to 3.05pm. It is important to have a 'normal' school day in 2012 after the constraints of being a short shift afternoon school in 2011. Although a small number of mostly boys' schools are adjusting their times for 2012, we want to maintain time in the day for student groups to meet, for practices and other activities. We want to have optimum learning time each lesson for teaching and learning that reflects research about how students learn, sufficient time for reinforcement and so on.

We have consulted with Catholic Cathedral College about the best bell times each day to have two separate schools but also be able to share some senior classes if needed. For this reason we will have separate lunch times for each school but the same interval. At interval students will be supervised by staff to remain on their own school site.

Our timetablers are working on developing option subject groupings that best reflect our changing student needs for various subjects. We will advise you of the outcome in the near future.

Has there been any further clarification regarding shared senior classes with Catholic Cathedral College for the next 2 years? If so what subjects are these likely to be and who will teach them?

At this stage any shared classes are yet to be confirmed. Students and parents will be informed as usual before students attend any classes at our neighbouring CCC, as used to happen for Shirley Boys' High School classes.

Who will be using some of the buildings at Marian North Parade?

The proprietor has leased the common room and F block to CERA to use as a base for a period of time for its work in the east of Christchurch from 12 December 2011. As there is no sewerage a short term arrangement with a septic tank will be put in place.

What other news is there from the North Parade site?

Marian North Parade gardens and grounds have been kept in very good condition all year thanks to the work of our caretaker and his assistant.

Our staff will be at Marian North Parade the week of 5 December sorting resources, bundling them and in some cases overseeing them being moved elsewhere on that site ready for removal at the end of January.

According to Landcheck, our North Parade neighbours have mostly gone green-blue.

Will the St Bede's and Marian sister brother school relationship continue from next year?

This will definitely be the case. In fact our bonds are even stronger after this year of site sharing in Redwood. We have had shared fairs and productions for many years and will continue to do so. We have many Marian families with brothers at St Bede's (about 80 in 2011) so it is a natural and positive relationship between the two schools.

Will Marian costs and contributions be increased in 2012?

This question was answered in the November 2011 newsletter available on the school website (www.mariancollege.school.nz). The overview of costs and contributions is on the menu under 'enrolment' on the website homepage. A hard copy of this information is available by phoning the school office on 03 385 8449.

What news is there for Marian College post the time at Barbadoes St?

At this stage the Marian College Board of Trustees and management have no official information about our situation post the 2 to 4 years at Barbadoes St. The Catholic Education Office has said we will be informed and consulted when there is information to hand about our next steps. Bishop Barry has assured us in writing (letter 10 August 2011) that we are to retain and grow our separate school culture and identity as one of his two Catholic colleges in Christchurch city.