



**WITH MARY IN FAITH
TĀTOU KO MERE E
WHAKAPONO ANA**

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE 5 August 2011

Dear current and prospective parents and caregivers

This update is to assure you of the situation during recent announcements from the Marian College senior leadership team and the management perspective.

As the board chair has communicated, Marian College is not being amalgamated with Catholic Cathedral College. Each school will remain as a separate school community with its own unique culture and identity. Mike Nolan, the Bishop's manager of the Catholic Education Office has provided "assurance from the proprietor that the two diocesan schools have a long term future as two diocesan schools."

The Marian College school community will be situated on a new site however. The move to Barbadoes St is for an interim time until a permanent arrangement can be sorted. We have been advised by the Bishop that the school will be fully resourced for teaching spaces and able to operate as a separate entity.

In terms of the safety of the site, the dome end of the cathedral is due to be demolished by late October. We have been assured by the diocese that the safety of students is paramount. Removal of various buildings from near our Barbadoes St site will greatly assist in this regard.

The Marian College staff is very used to working effectively with other secondary schools in managing all aspects of school life. We have over 30 years experience with Shirley Boys' High School and the 2011 experience with St Bede's College, and look forward to working with Catholic Cathedral College staff for the same positive outcomes.

Meetings are being arranged between the boards, senior leadership teams and Year 12 students from both schools, to begin preparations for our future life operating as close, but independent, neighbours.

There is a possibility that we may share some classes at the Year 12 and 13 level as done previously with Shirley Boys' High School and St Bede's. We are highly likely to have separate break and lunch times to enable suitable access to specialist classroom facilities.

You will be pleased to know that the Ministry of Education has agreed to fund return buses from North Parade to Barbadoes St each day as part of this change.

Any issues or concerns that you may have, such as car parking for students or availability of a canteen, will be looked at by the relevant parties in preparation for next year. You can also bring them to the Marian College community meeting on **Wednesday 10 August at 7.30pm in Chanel Hall** at St Bede's. It would be helpful if you could email in your issues or concerns to exec@mariancollege.school.nz by Tuesday 6pm if possible so that we can prepare well for that meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need to about this significant change for the college. A member of the senior leadership team will ensure that we respond to your issues or concerns and note them for forward planning.

Walking in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop and Catherine McAuley,

Every blessing

Anna Heffernan (Ms)

Principal