



MEDIA STATEMENT

November 24 2016

Catholic Education SA announces new vision for schools in the South West

Catholic Education South Australia has announced new plans to strengthen education pathways in the south west of Adelaide.

The development plan aims to ensure that children and families in the region have access to:

- a Catholic early years centre
- clear Catholic educational pathways from early years through to secondary schooling
- programs and facilities that develop capabilities in critical thinking, research, and problem solving through new technology.

The plan includes:

- the development of a new co-educational middle school campus (at Mitchell Park) from the amalgamation of Sacred Heart College and Marymount College
- the development of a new early years to Year 6 school at Hove for families in the South West with a focus on early years education and innovative learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) studies
- students at St Teresa's School, Brighton, having first option to transfer to the new early years to Year 6 school.

"This is about ensuring the best opportunities for our students to flourish. The purpose-built co-educational middle school and new primary school will give families in the region enhanced access to futures-focused learning and facilities," explains Helen O'Brien, Director, Catholic Education South Australia.

During 2017, Marymount College and Sacred Heart College will undertake significant community consultation about the redevelopment of the Mitchell Park campus to meet the learning needs of both girls and boys.

From Term 2 2017, a new educational leader will lead Marymount and prepare students and staff to transfer to the new middle school campus in Term 1 2019.

“We know that 95% of Marymount students continue on to Sacred Heart College at senior level. We believe this move will further enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Planning will begin in 2017 for the new early years to Year 6 school at the Hove site. It is expected to open in 2020.

“We’re very excited about the focus that this school will have on contemporary learning and STEM education,” said Mrs O’Brien.

“Students, school families and staff in all schools will be supported and consulted through the transition period. The care of our students, staff and families is of the utmost importance.”

Community forums will be held at each school in the coming weeks so that parents can learn more about the proposed developments.

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