



## Rosebank College Principal Report to Board

November 2015

**I. Overview of past month:** The College newsletter is packed full of learning activities that have filled the lives of students, staff and parents over the past 4 weeks.

### **I.1. Past and Current Events and Developments**

**I.1.1 HSC:** The HSC exams have proceeded smoothly with the returning officer stating how polite our students have been and how well the organization of the space and students was conducted. The College now awaits the results in early December, while the students sign out and enjoy their Formal.

**I.1.2 Exceptional Student Work:** The Board of Studies has selected three Major Works from our Yr 12 students to be highlighted among the major works in 2015 across the State. There is one from each of the three CAPA courses: Visual Arts, Dance and Drama.

**I.1.3 Welcoming Graduating Class of 2021:** Last Wednesday we welcomed the 216 members of the graduating class of 2021. This is a full day of orientation and induction. The College has received numerous affirmations as the children returned home tired but excited.

- *"Congratulations to Rosebank on running a wonderful day. Natalia Papadakis is from Five Dock Public School. Mum said that Natalia could not stop talking about her day at Rosebank and all the positives."*
- *"Just wanted to say, thank you for having all the correct accommodation in place for Piaras yesterday, and making him feel so comfortable during his tests. He was so happy when he came home last night, he didn't have any negative comments regarding the day, which is a first when there is tests involved. So thank you so much, Piaras is now very happy and excited about starting year 7 and is counting the days down. Lewis and I are very grateful. Looking forward to six great years"*
- *"Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend Rosebank in 2016. I am pleased to confirm with you that Peter had a great day at orientation which is a testament to you, the staff and students at the school. I am accepting the placement in writing as requested by Mr Galea. Would you kindly inform Mr Galea that his interview with Peter certainly left a wonderful imprint on us and more importantly on Peter who has, upon his advice, begun a bedtime routine of reading! I am pleased to say Peter understands the privilege of having the opportunity to attend Rosebank and looks forward to attending."*

**I.1.4 Grateful Parents:** While there are always issues that families need to have sorted, we often receive notes of gratitude from parents outlining the impact the College is having on their children. This is a sample: *"Hi Mr. Galea, I've been meaning to send you this email for some time now, I apologize it is so late in the year. Daniel and I just want to say how thrilled we are with Rosebank and Jacinta's first year at high school. It's always a nervous wait to see how your child settles into high school but this year has just been great. Jacinta just loves attending Rosebank and has made some lovely new friends. There has not been a minute*

when we have had to worry about her, apart from getting out of bed on time in the mornings! So thank you and your wonderful staff for making her so welcome into the Rosebank community - we feel she is so lucky as both Daniel and I weren't that lucky with our high schools many years ago. We are also very excited for our son, Kaide, to start there in 2017. May God bless you and all the best for the end of this school year."

**1.1.5 Naplan 2016 (Yr 7 and Yr 9):** A brief summative report is attached for your consideration. Mr. Matthew White (Coordinator of Learning Support), will be attending the Board meeting to review the high lights and answer any questions you might have

## 1.2 Upcoming events include:

**1.2.1 Presentation Night 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** This is the evening when we celebrate academic achievements of students in years 7 to 11. All are welcome!

**1.3 Enrolment Trends and Projected Numbers:** Current enrolment applications continue to flood the College. Interviews for 2017 are continuing for families other than alumni and current families.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Girls</b>	174	202	133	83	60	32	27	18	8
<b>Boys</b>	224	234	217	141	96	54	27	28	14
<b>Of These:</b>									
<b>Current Families</b>	90	120	62	24	11	3	4	1	1
<b>Alumni</b>	20	24	11	5	9	2	3		
<b>Current Capacity</b>	<b>216</b>								

## 2. Current Significant Issues:

### 2.1 Significant Educational Updates:

#### 2.1.1 School Improvement Plans

The Commonwealth Government recently extended (until 1st January 2017), the date by which a school must have a School Improvement Framework and a School Improvement Plan in place, that meet Australian Government criteria. The instrument used by the Federal Minister for Education and Training to extend this, is *The Australian Education (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) (School Improvement Framework and Plans) Specification 2015* (the Specification), which enables approved authorities and schools to continue to manage their improvement processes at the local level. This provides further regulatory certainty to schools, while also reducing duplication with existing state and territory school improvement requirements.

#### 2.1.2 Launch of the AISNSW Institute

The AISNSW Institute was launched on Thursday 29th October. The New South Wales Minister for Education officially launched the Institute and the new Federal Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, delivered the keynote speech. This was Minister Birmingham's first address to the schools sector, where he outlined his key priorities for schooling.

The Institute is a think tank which has been established to provide advice to the AIS on strategies to assist independent Schools in NSW to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing educational environment, and to continue providing high quality schooling in a rapidly changing social, political, economic, demographic and technological environment. In providing this advice, the Institute will:

- identify and consider the challenges facing the independent school sector
- commission and access research
- undertake data analysis
- consult widely with people who have a particular interest in school education
- actively engage with influential forward thinkers.

### **3 Significant Industrial Issues:**

**3.1 Award Negotiations:** The finalization of the Enterprise Agreement process is near at hand. All materials and briefings have occurred with teachers and support staff and voting will be completed by 13 November. The College is expecting a one off payment to be issued in early December if the proposal is approved.

**3.2 ICT Manager:** An ICT Manager (currently working at Kambala) has been appointed. He commences early in December.

### **3.3 New Regulatory Framework for Approval of Teacher Accreditation**

#### **Authorities**

During November, BOSTES will be holding a series of three-hour briefings for independent schools about its new regulatory framework for the approval of Teacher Accreditation Authorities (TAAs).

### **4. Risk and Compliance Update:**

**4.1 Complispace Workshop:** The workshop was well received and appreciated by all. A user group of GSE schools has been formed and a forum has been created so that all stay in close contact with each other. For further information and updates see the HR Risk Committee meeting report.

#### **4.2 Support for NSW Government Efforts to build Community Cohesion:**

*“The Association of Independent Schools of NSW (AISNSW), supported the suite of measures announced by NSW Premier Mike Baird today in response to the threat of violent extremism. The AISNSW Executive Director, Dr Geoff Newcombe, said the NSW Government had the association’s full support and that it would continue to work closely with the government and education authorities. Through the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, the independent schools sector has been working closely with the government and Catholic school sectors to ensure a unified approach to this problem, and we will continue to work with the government and with our member schools in any way necessary to help make our community safer, Dr Newcombe said.”*

Among the measures announced by Premier Baird to help prevent the exploitation and radicalisation of vulnerable young people are: the development of additional resources for teachers and parents that will enable them to identify and manage students who may be influenced by extremist ideologies; enhancement of the case management framework for supporting students at risk; development of a range of community cohesion programs; and the establishment of online and telephone support services for the community and family members to seek advice and information on programs and support services.

**4.3 Relocation of main electrical supply and other adjustments in preparation for stage 4 construction:** All work on the relocation of cables was completed prior to the start of term 4. The student northern access to Harris Road and Queen St has been diverted to a new access point. The bus stop on the eastern boundary (Harris Road) has been moved away from the construction zone. A new entrance into the car park from Harris Street dedicated to staff and visitors has been approved and constructed. This ensures that

construction traffic and community traffic are completely separated and the construction zone can be completely quarantined.

## **5. Other:**

### **5.1 Board Meeting on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

The College appreciates the valuable time and effort the Board and executive invested on Saturday to progress the issues related to future rezoning and development of the neighbouring site. A briefing paper resulting from this work and subsequent efforts will be circulated prior to the Board meeting. A big thank you to Andrew Elder and Marea Nicholson for their assistance in preparing this report.

**5.2 Further Clarification of Governance Roles and Responsibilities:** Following the October Board Meeting, I sought on behalf of the Board, further clarification through the Executive Director (GSE) with respect to items raised regarding GSE and Rosebank Company Governance, Training, Constitution and engagement of Directors. Kay responded quickly. This response has been provided in an attachment.

**5.3 Thank you:** The College community and I personally want to express our gratitude for the leadership, skill and wise counsel the Directors, under the chair of Marea Nicholson, have provided the College in the past 12 months. We are greatly enriched by your gift of self and your commitment to the wellbeing of the College community. May you all have a holy Christmas period and restful summer break.

**Tom Galea**  
**Principal**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015**