

Advisory Council Chair's Report 2022

And so we draw to the end of another year, one characterised by challenging times, change and finally as always, efficiency and commitment of all members of the school leadership team and the College Advisory Council (CAC).

The school year commenced with challenging times as Covid-19 finally reached WA with a vengeance. As the school leadership team, under Mrs Carmen Cox, worked extremely hard to keep the school open while both students and teachers fell prey to COVID-19, the CAC along with other members of the community were kept informed at all times regarding the progress of the pandemic across our College. Being informed in this way assisted all in the community to navigate the challenge together and to provide support wherever needed.

In the early part of the year the CAC were informed by Mrs Cox of her decision to retire. Whilst a surprise for many initially, Mrs Cox's desire to spend more time with her family, and in particular her expanding number of grandchildren was completely understandable. COVID-19 has given all of us reason to reassess the important things in life. Family and close friends emerged for many as being at the top of their lists and the CAC warmly supported Mrs Cox in her decision to make her family a priority.

As I speak of family, I remember Sr Joan Buckham who passed to her eternal rest in June this year. As a much respected and loved Mercy Sister, St Joan was totally committed to the education of young people and in particular those who attend St Brigid's College where she served as Principal between 1972 – 1974. Sr Joan, amongst her many roles, was a committed and proactive member of the College Advisory Council for 10 years prior to her passing. As members of the CAC mulled over her passing, it seemed that the advice she gave to each one of us as we joined the Council was the same - "listen carefully and challenge professionally a conversation that does not sit comfortably with you". Her desire to enhance the capacity of all members of the CAC in order to best serve St Brigid's College, will be remembered gratefully by those of us who follow in her footsteps.

I would like at this stage to sincerely thank Mr Gerard Tonks who retires from the CAC this year. I thank Gerard for his commitment to the work of the Council and wish him the very best in the future.

As is oftentimes the case, sad news is often followed by good. The CAC were delighted to be advised of the acceptance by Ms Veronica Parker of the position of Principal of the College for the commencement of semester 2. Veronica came to St Brigid's with a plethora of leadership experience and a particular love of the Mercy charism. Veronica has joined the CAC for all meetings in the second semester of the year, and her enthusiasm and immediate engagement in our wonderful community inspires us all to move forward together with great excitement and anticipation.

Siobhan Allen
Advisory Council Chair 2022