



## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Families of St Paul's International College,

May this find you all coming to the end of valuable time together over Christmas, refreshed and ready for the school year ahead.

Stepping into the role of Principal, it is important that you all know a little bit about me and my thoughts on education, and why I joined you here at St Paul's. I also want to welcome you and provide you with a brief outline of some important steps the College is taking.

Like our local students, I grew up in regional New South Wales, on a farm near Wagga Wagga. Like our international students, I too attended a boarding school, and experienced the highs and lows of living away from family and friends. I am a husband, a father, a history geek, an economics teacher, and a sports tragic. My love of sport led me to coaching, and it was coaching that led to me becoming a teacher. There is something deeply rewarding about helping others develop and achieve their goals. At its heart, this is what education is. We are not here to simply impart knowledge. Rather, we are here to engage, inspire and guide.

My own education was at big schools and I'm not sure I was ever really known. My teaching experience has been at big schools, and while big schools can offer many children a wonderful experience, many others are not receiving what they need.

Visiting St Paul's for the first time in 2023, I saw a school doing things differently... proving that bigger is not always better. The Sisters of St Paul have established a school that manages to balance the competing forces of individualism and collectivism. There is a strong sense of community here, that celebrates our shared humanity. There is also a strong sense of diversity and a desire to know and value each and every individual.

The size of this school is a great strength. Every student is known by every other student and every staff member. Small classes ensure that students are really known: strengths, weaknesses, interests, learning styles. Teachers can focus their energies on getting to know their students, engaging them and supporting their learning.

While small, we are big on experience.

2025 will see additional subjects and activities on the timetable, as well as the return of our Athletics Carnival in Term 2 and a new Music Carnival in Term 3.



Year 7-10 students will also see a fortnightly class titled CORE on their timetable. This will be an active and practical lesson aimed at our students becoming more Confident, Open-minded, Resilient and Empathetic as they work towards their senior studies. To support their approach to school, all students from Years 7-12 will be provided with a student diary and explicit instruction on using it and improving their organisation. You will also see a revised reporting system this year, with a greater emphasis on, and celebration of, student effort and participation.

Behind the scenes, the College has embarked on a program of investment that will support student learning and experience. The College has employed a new Head of Teaching & Learning, a new full-time Business Manager and College Administrator, and appointed a Boarding Co-ordinator. 2025 will also see continued investment in the Kitchen & Dining Room, renovations and improvements in the Boarding Houses and across our already beautiful campus, and investment in our teachers, with increased access to funding to support their professional development.

All of this combined will contribute to our students continuing to enjoy a broad and pleasing experience of school inside and out of the classroom.

With this in mind, as the school year starts, you are encouraged to talk about the year ahead - your goals as students and your desires as parents. 2025 is going to be a big year for St Paul's, and no doubt you are all looking forward to what it will offer and what you can contribute.

For that, you have my very best wishes.

Alexander Sumpter  
**College Principal**  
**St Paul's International College**