



18 February 2021

Principal Report 2020

2020 was the 37<sup>th</sup> year of operation for John Paul College and continued 124 years of Catholic school teaching in the Goldfields, beginning with the Sisters of St John of God in 1896. 2020 was a very unusual year with the rampant Covid-19 virus erupting into a global pandemic and altering many facets of school life.

Week 8 of Term 1 was the start of the Covid-19 restrictions and the first day of online learning began on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Events on the school calendar and around the City were cancelled or postponed. It was only through the extra work done by staff in preparation for such a directive, that the process to move to online learning was achieved so smoothly. Students are also to be commended on the way in which they adapted to the challenge of online learning. Our Year 11 and 12 students continued with their timetabled classes in the Senior Learning Centre as per normal, or as normal as this time could be, with strict hygiene and social distancing measures in place.

The end of Term 1 finished one week early, excluding students whose parents were classified as essential workers, or too young to remain at home unsupervised, who were still able to come to

With the majority of students studying from home, the Canteen and Library closed, and the Administration and non-teaching staff took on different roles within the College; some supervising hubs while others embraced the continuous task of disinfecting surfaces and chairs in classrooms. With the added challenge of sourcing a supply of hand sanitizer and surface7(s.)6( )] TJ ET Q q b.13(r)-25(s)

rest of Australia and Perth along with Esperance closing their own borders, the College faced a very challenging period with resolve and a positive attitude.

The Premier declared schools were exempt from the 1.5sqm rule of social distancing and students returned to the classrooms at John Paul College during Week 4 of Term 2, Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. There were still many changes in place including no assemblies, excursions, interschool activities or school based co-curricular activities until advice was received from the Department of Health.

Restrictions slowly eased at the College and calendar events had recommenced by Term 3. Staff and students could look forward to sporting games resuming, especially the JPC Athletics Carnival and an AFL football competition held between the local schools.

As 2020 progressed we had to change focus quite rapidly from our proposed 2020 School Improvement Plan.

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### Aboriginal Education

In 2020 a new Aboriginal Teaching Assistant joined the College. Much of the focus during the Covid-19 period was ensuring outreach continued to Aboriginal students and families. Resources including laptops, internet dongles, hard copies of work and care packages were distributed from the school to families in need. When the Follow the Dream Tutoring resumed, our team ensured that students were participating. We continue to reach out to Aboriginal families in the Kalgoorlie Boulder community, including the provision of six scholarships assisting with tuition and amenities fees and in several cases laptops, books and uniforms.

### Stewardship

Indigenous and Catholic Scholarships were expanded for distribution in 2021. Stage 15 of the Capital Development Plan was finished in October and the Stage 16 Capital Development Plan was finalised in August and accepted by CEWA at the December meeting. Stage 16A commenced in January with A \$7.5 million Performing Arts learning area and auditorium to be constructed by 2022.

Catholic Education WA became incorporated on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Incorporation meant little difference to teaching and learning, but huge changes in areas such as financial reporting, employer contracts (i.e., CEWA Inc became the employer) and School Boards became redundant, replaced by School Advisory Councils; an interim constitution exists, and a new constitution should be in place by 2022. The College continues to retain a balanced budget while providing capital resources for teaching and learning.

2020 was a year that challenged all staff and students but, through dedication and the guidance of our faith, we have been able to successfully continue high quality teaching and learning at the College and look forward to the growth of the school in 2021.