



26 June 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the St Mary's community

RE: Stage 1 Construction

This Friday, Reitsma Construction move on-site to commence construction of the Stage 1 building program. We are very excited about the upcoming works and the facilities that it will deliver our students and teachers. Countless hours have gone into carefully planning not only the design and construction of these facilities but also into planning how the unavoidable disruption to the campus will be managed.

Stage 1 construction and refurbishment will take place to grounds and roadways at the front of campus and to the northern wing of the college. This will impact on a number of classrooms which will be relocated for the remainder of 2017. Construction will continue for the duration of the year with work on the learning spaces being completed for Term 1 2018 and associated civil work soon thereafter.

Of the multiple stages of construction that have been announced it is anticipated that this first stage will be the most disruptive to the school community. In 2018 a new administration block will be constructed and later a refurbished Learning Centre, while these are major projects we do not believe that they will have a significant direct impact on students or members of our community. As Stage 1 works are focused on classroom upgrades and major refurbishments it will naturally result in currently occupied areas of the college coming *offline*.

To manage these disruptions a number of steps have been taken:

- This week, students and staff commenced using modern demountable classrooms which have been installed on the field adjacent to the Roger Kennedy centre.
- A demountable canteen facility has been installed next to the COLA and is already fully operational.
- The Uniform Shop has been temporarily relocated to the mezzanine level of the Roger Kennedy Centre
- Demountable toilet facilities have been installed in the quadrangle for girls
- As much as is possible classes close to the construction of the new facility have been timetabled into other areas of the college.
- The building contractors are aware of our examination periods and strict noise restriction have been put in place during these times.

The most significant impact to parents and carers will be the need to severely limit traffic on the college campus. Due to major civil works being undertaken at the front of the school (including a new roadway) it is necessary to close the existing entry and exit to the school to all but staff and deliveries. Parents and carers who drop off and/or collect their children each day, by driving onto campus, will not be able to do this from the commencement of Term 3 and alternate arrangements will need to be made. Please DO NOT park in the grounds of St Paul's Primary School Gateshead when dropping off or collecting your child. Parents and carers with appointments at the College will need to park off campus. Parents/carers will be able to access the College grounds to collect sick children.

We are confident that, after an initial period of adjustment, the college will continue to run in the same smooth and consistent manner that it does today. We believe it is important that you are made aware of these changes and understand the College's commitment to ensuring that student safety is not compromised and that student learning is not impacted by this period of construction. As always the wellbeing of our students and their learning is our first priority and we will address any issue that we believe will impact on this.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Yours faithfully

Peter Antcliff
Assistant Principal Wellbeing

Larry Keating
Principal

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