

Family and Community Engagement Forum (FACE Forum)



Wednesday 19 November 2025

Venue: Online

Time: 6.00pm – 7.00pm

AGENDA AREAS and NOTES:

Item	Focus
Presentation Ben Frize and Katrina Smith	Ben Frize (Assistant Principal – Wellbeing and Engagement) and Katrina Smith (Year 11 Leader of Wellbeing and Engagement) shared an update on the ongoing work within our Positive Behaviour for Learning framework. Their presentation outlined our Tier 1 (minor), Tier 2 (moderate) and Tier 3 (major) behaviour responses and the strategies that support each level. They highlighted the continued focus on strengthening Tier 2 approaches, with further implementation planned for 2027. A review of our affirmation and awards processes will also take place to ensure we are appropriately recognising and celebrating student success across the College. The presentation reinforced the importance of positive relationships and the use of restorative practices to support growth, repair harm, and build a respectful and inclusive school culture.
Consultation and feedback	Parents responded positively to the presentation. We reiterated that a key priority for all teachers is genuinely knowing their students, and that student profiles are carefully reviewed and understood by staff. We also highlighted the essential role of consultation with Learning Support, Leaders of Wellbeing, the Indigenous Education Team, and other relevant staff in identifying student needs. This collaborative approach remains central to how we support students and respond to any behaviour concerns.
Federation Delegate Report Peter Skeen	Social Media Age Restrictions A national ban on social media access for children under a specified age is scheduled to commence in December 2025. Parents are encouraged to begin family discussions now to prepare for this change. The effective monitoring and implementation of this policy will be essential.

	Bullying Prevention & Online Safety & Cyberbullying Early intervention is critical, stating that "unkind behaviour" must be addressed before it escalates into systemic bullying. Council of Catholic School Parents Website has useful online webinars to assist parents with strategies. • The LISTEN Model for Parents: ○ Listen calmly to your child. ○ Acknowledge and validate their hurt. ○ Talk through options, encouraging their problem-solving rather than taking over. ○ End with encouragement and give them permission to revisit the conversation. Online Safety & Cyberbullying • Identified Challenges: Key challenges include children's developmental readiness for online interaction, the inherent limits of parental control software, and a lack of parental confidence with technology. • Practical Parent Strategies: ○ Model safe online behaviour (e.g., treat passwords like toothbrushes – don't share them and change them regularly). ○ Avoid sharing personally identifiable details online. ○ Teach the legal and social consequences of non-consensual image sharing. ○ Encourage awareness of digital footprints and the influence of online advertising. Diverse Learning Needs An ongoing review and discussion on this topic was noted. This will be followed up with the Maitland-Newcastle representative, Cheryl Murphy. • The council of catholic school parents website contains a useful guide for supporting Diverse Learning. Guide includes tips for preparing diverse learning students for primary, secondary and success post schooling years. Update on upcoming parent webinars Social Media Age Restrictions Explained • Thursday 20/11/25 – 12:30 • Additional session times available. Teen mental health matters • Thursday 27/11/25 – 7.00pm • Additional session times available.
Principal Report Brett Donohoe	Cathy O’Gorman (Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning) will be on leave from the beginning of next year until 12 June. During this time, Daniel Mitchell has been appointed Acting Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning).

	Daniel joins us from St Francis Xavier, bringing extensive leadership experience. He is currently the Transition Coordinator and has previously served as Acting Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning), Leader of Learning, and Leader of Wellbeing across both McCarthy Catholic College in Tamworth and SFX. Update on our School Improvement Plan - The House System, launching in 2026, has been developed through consultation with students, staff, and our Indigenous community. - The College has now confirmed the House names, values, patrons, and Indigenous totems (flora and fauna). Beginning next year, rollcall classes will transition to Homerooms, with students remaining in year-based groups but allocated to their House. - Student leadership will be aligned with the new House structure, with House Leaders taking on a significantly enhanced role. - Work on House iconography will follow as the next stage of development. Building update - Air-conditioning for the upper levels of both the northern and southern classroom wings is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. - Renovation and expansion works on the lower-level toilet block in the southern wing will commence in the coming weeks. - Installation of five new demountable classrooms near the St Paul's carpark will also begin shortly. - Two existing demountables will be converted into a dedicated STEM space, and an additional timber workshop will be established as part of the same works period. - Over the holiday break, the Learning Support area will be expanded to include three additional rooms to enhance support for students. - An additional counsellor office will also be installed in the main building during the holiday period.
Child Safeguarding	eSafety Commissioner Social Media Age Restrictions Club The College is closely monitoring the use of e-bikes and storage of these bikes on the college. E-Bikes
Questions on Notice Leadership Team	It was clarified that senior students do not need to wear the full uniform in summer. Blazers and long pants are only required in winter.

To read more about the FACE Forum nature and purpose, please visit the Catholic Schools' [website](#).