



WHITEFRIARS
CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR BOYS

9 May 2017

Dear Member of Whitefriars Community

On behalf of the Whitefriars College Board, I wish to advise that Mr John Finn will be concluding as Principal of the College at the end of Term 4, 2017. John has been appointed as the first lay Principal of St Bede's College, Mentone for 2018.

It is very clear that John has a great affection for Whitefriars College and our wider community. His decision has come about after much discernment. It allows John to better accommodate the needs of his family.

Since its beginning in 1961, Whitefriars College has been very fortunate in having outstanding educational leaders. Fr Frank Shortis was the inaugural Principal and Fr Paul Cahill, who led the College for 16 years, was the last Carmelite Principal. John was the College's first lay Principal.

Whitefriars College has been privileged to enjoy John's leadership. He is an exceptional leader who has embraced the Carmelite charism and modelled the values inherent in our Carmelite tradition.

John's leadership has been a major contributor to the College meeting all of its Mission and Vision goals over the past 5 years. I have attached to this correspondence a recent letter from Fr Paul, the Carmelite Provincial, to John, acknowledging John's very significant contributions to the College in his time as Principal. The Board fully endorses the sentiments expressed in this letter and sincerely congratulates John on his untiring and visionary leadership.

There will be opportunities throughout 2017 for members of the College community to thank John for his contribution to the growth and vitality of the community.

Whitefriars College is an incorporated entity whose Board, in consultation with the Provincial Council, appoints the preferred candidate. The Board has commenced this process and we are hopeful of making an announcement early in Term 3. The Board will keep you posted on our progress over the coming months.

We ask for your prayers and support at this important time in the life of the College.

Yours sincerely

Peter Duffy
Chair
Whitefriars Board

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The Carmelites
Australia and East Timor
community • prayer • action

CARMELITE PROVINCIAL OFFICE

26 April 2017

Mr John Finn, Principal
Whitefriars College
156 Park Road
Donvale Vic 3111

Dear John,

I write to acknowledge your letter of 19 April 2017 in which you formally tender your resignation as Principal of Whitefriars College as of Friday 26 January 2018.

As I said when we met recently and you told me of your decision, I accept it with a very heavy heart, but also with a feeling of great gratitude – and admiration - for the wonderful contribution you have made over the five years of your Principalship of Whitefriars. I appreciate that your decision is motivated by an attempt to achieve a balance between your professional and family life and I respect you for that.

The transition from a history of Religious Principals of an Order's school to a Lay Principal has long been regarded as a very sensitive moment in the life of the school. The Carmelites and the Board were especially aware of this in respect of Whitefriars. However, from the outset, the Board and the Carmelites believed that we were very fortunate to have recruited you as the first Lay Principal and our faith has been abundantly rewarded. It is obvious that both the whole College community (staff, parents, students, Old Collegians and others) and the broader Catholic and general educational community have also come to appreciate that Whitefriars has been led superbly by you. You have committed yourself wholeheartedly to knowing, developing, implementing and spreading the Mission and Values of the School and to encouraging the staff, in particular, to collaborate with you in this endeavour. You have been visionary in very many ways in ensuring that Whitefriars is a place where boys can learn well and take their place as young men, steeped in Christian, Catholic and Carmelite values in 21st century society and make an important contribution to it.

Even though we had hoped that you could lead Whitefriars for some years yet, we acknowledge that you have made a remarkable contribution in a relatively short time. You have enhanced a rich tradition and leave your successor a legacy on which to build. I believe that you came to a good school in Whitefriars; you will leave it an even better school. We could not have asked for more. We thank you for it.

We pray God's blessing on you and your family as you embark on the next phase of your life and professional career and wish you all the very best.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Cahill, O.Carm
Provincial

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