

St. Bernard's College

Te Kura Tuarua o Hato Perenara



21 December 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Government Donation Scheme.

At a meeting earlier this year, the Board again considered re-entry into the scheme. The Board is concerned that the Pandemic has created extra financial stress for some of our community and it is not certain when that pressure will ease. The Board has again considered the financial impact of entering the scheme and is assured that the College will be able to continue to offer a broad and full curriculum under its rules. For that reason, and in recognising the financial situation caused by the continuing Pandemic, the Board has agreed to enter the Government Donation Scheme for 2022. The commitment is for one year only and will be reassessed for 2023.

This means that in 2022 families will not be asked to contribute a donation towards any curriculum related course costs. There are some exceptions. If an event is an overnight event, you will be asked to contribute towards accommodation and food costs. If you agree to take possession of whatever your son produces as part of a course (such as a chair made in woodwork or a painting/sculpture made in art) you will be asked to contribute towards the cost of materials.

Charges for non-compulsory related activities such as sports or music tuition for Year 7/8 students will remain.

In the past, you have been asked for a donation of \$150 per student or \$200 per family, which goes to the Marist Community Development Trust (MCDT). The College collects that donation on behalf of the Trust and passes it on directly to the Trust. The Trust is independent of the Board but the College is the sole beneficiary. The money received back from the Trust is used to fund hardship (uniform, lunches, travel, sports fees etc) for students whose families cannot afford this. It is also used to fund Special Character resources and activities such as Year level Retreats and the Youth Minister salary. Over the last 5 years, the Trust also contributed around \$150,000 to buildings around the college. The Trust is still able to request this donation from you under the scheme. The Board asks that you continue to support them and therefore the College by paying this donation if you are able.

If you have any questions of matters raised in this letter, please direct them to the Principal or College Business Manager.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for your on-going support of the College and look forward to what 2021 holds for us all.

Sincerely

Ray McMillan
Chair, St Bernard's Board of Trustees

We develop faith, learning and culture

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