

27 August 2018

Dear School Community

This note provides an update on School Council's progress on some of the current activities.

New School Councillor

We are delighted to let you know that Simon Gipson will join School Council before the end of this month as the Archbishop's nominee. At the end of 2017, Simon concluded his tenure as the Head of St Michael's Grammar School, St Kilda after 18 years in the role where he planned and managed the strategic direction of the school into an innovative and creative learning community. Simon is currently the CEO of The Song Room, a national not-for-profit organisation that brings arts learning to some of Australia's most disadvantaged children. He is a highly respected educator and will be a valuable addition to Council.

Parent Forums

Thank you to all who attended the parent forums in Week 2 of this term. We are extremely grateful for your time, interest and questions. The key themes we heard from these forums were:

Staff support, retention and attraction – this is Phil De Young's top priority

The School's approach to academic, co-curricular and pastoral care – while being a strongly academic school, TGS continues to value a well-rounded education where students receive personal development and co-curricular learning and are supported by an outstanding pastoral care team.

Student numbers – this was also a key concern identified in the earlier 'issues grab' survey during Term 1. School Council will be undertaking a survey during Term 4 to better understand the community's thoughts on school size.

Additional support for Year 12s – a range of measures have been put in place to ensure the current Year 12 students are well supported and their final year is a great success. One of these measures is a very popular program of tutoring led by recently graduated OTGs.

Advisory Panels

Advisory Panels for both the Engagement and Governance Committees have been put together to bring a wide range of views to and help support the work of these committees. Thank you to the following people who are bringing their expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm to the tasks at hand.

Engagement Committee: Nichola Lefroy (Chair), John Gillam, Donald Campbell, Lisa Williams, Tom Hudson, Phil De Young and Brett McGeorge.

Engagement Committee Advisory Panel: (parents) Rob Teal, Diana Nelson, Kate Inverarity, (OTGs) Denis Curnow, Eddie Gibbons and (TGS staff) Sue Felton.

Governance Committee: Chris Braithwaite (Chair), John Gillam, Jane Kupsch, Mat Browning, Donald Campbell and Phil De Young.

Governance Committee Advisory Panel: (parents) Steve Black, Andrew Barraah, (OTGs) Tim Kelly and Rod De Boos.

A Conversation with Council

During the remainder of Term 3, Council will be available for conversations with any member of the community. There is no pre-set agenda for these conversations. The dates and times are:

Wednesday 29 August from 4-5.30pm in Hudson House

Wednesday 5 September from 7-8.30pm in Hudson House

Tuesday 11 September from 4-5.30pm in Hudson House

Several Council members will be present at each session. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely



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