Year 7 to Secondary in South Australian Catholic Schools

As you might be aware, Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) has been working for some time on a strategy to move Year 7 to Secondary schooling contexts. Recently, the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) endorsed a set of recommendations such that CESA has now advised it will be formally moving ahead with the strategy. Essentially this means that for most South Australian Catholic schools, from 2019 Year 6 will become the final year of Primary schooling and Year 7 the first year of Secondary schooling.

St Michael’s College

After much internal planning and in line with the CESA decision above, we are now pleased to announce that St Michael’s College will be implementing the move of Year 7 to the SMC Secondary campus as follows:

- Two SMC Year 7 classes relocate to the Secondary campus commencing 2018
- A full Year 7 cohort (as per current Year 8 model) will be enrolled to commence in 2019

In regard to enrolment and start dates, this means that:

- Students currently enrolled in Year 5 at St Michael’s College will commence Year 7 at the Secondary campus in 2018. A parent forum will be scheduled for early in Term 4 to discuss the details of this move.
- Students currently in Year 4 (excluding current St Michael’s College students) can now enrol to commence Year 7 at St Michael’s College in 2019. Enrolments will close in April 2017, with interviews held shortly after.
- Students currently in Year 5 (excluding current St Michael’s College students) can now enrol to commence Year 8 at St Michael’s College in 2019. Enrolments will close in April 2017, with interviews held shortly after.

Planning and Implementation

As you can appreciate, there is considerable local and system planning required for such a move. Fortunately, in 2015, the St Michael’s College, Adelaide Board gave approval to undertake a planning exercise in collaboration with CESA and local Catholic schools, which would enable capacity for a full Year 7 cohort intake in 2019. Subsequently, this has been an ongoing focus at both College Board and Leadership team level for some time, with significant planning already underway. While the timeline below is a working document, it might assist in answering some of the initial questions community members have.
This is an exciting and significant initiative that the College is embracing and it will surely generate much discussion and numerous questions throughout the community. Please be assured that following this initial announcement, we will continue to keep you informed as we undertake further planning and enter implementation phases. Both the Board and the College Leadership Teams are committed to working with the current and future St Michael’s College community to make this transition smooth and effective.

Yours sincerely

John Foley
Principal

Marie Dorrington
Board Chair, St Michael’s College, Adelaide