



## A LETTER TO OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES

Dear Friends

As we consider the enrolment of your child/ren, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you into the St Agnes' Catholic Parish School Family. Our parish seeks to meet the needs of every child, and those needs can be many and varied. That is why our Parish School Family has Early Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education and Vocational Education, through which we support you and your child every step of the way.

We are acutely aware that the children you entrust into our schools family are not just students. For us, every child is sacred, and every member of our school staff is a guardian angel. We are also acutely aware that the great challenge of being human is to become the best person each of us can be, and the years of schooling are crucial for the growth of each child towards that goal.

There is a famous marble statue by Michelangelo of David, the towering warrior king we read about in the Bible. If we had visited his workshop in Florence at the time he produced this work, we would have seen a great big block of marble, no different from any such piece of marble. But Michelangelo saw something else - he saw David in that marble and set to work to bring him out of that raw material. I often think that is a good paradigm for education. From that raw material that is a child, parents and teachers seek to bring out the potential person that each child can be. This requires that the child develops many and varied skills which the schools will seek to provide in order to achieve the child's full potential as an adult.

In the end, however, this responsibility of parents and teachers needs a clear vision of what that person should be like. It is not about being something, but someone. Therefore our Catholic Parish School Family puts before its students the person of Jesus Christ as a model to aspire to and follow. Who Jesus is, what he did in his life, the values and teachings he lived out and the church he established will part of and central to your child's experience in our schools.

In our schools the children will have standards of conduct put before them and in doing so the school will simply be reinforcing your work as parents. It cannot, however, replace the profound influence that parents have on their children.

I trust that this partnership between parents and the school will achieve the result that you sought when you enrolled your children in the schools of St Agnes' Catholic Parish.

Fr Paul Gooley  
Parish Priest