

Report from the Board of Proprietors, June 2022

New Board Members

I would like to welcome our two new Proprietors. Fleur Milne will be known to many as she is a parent and has two children at the school and works in a management role in Childcare. Alex Summerlee attended St Mark's in the early 2000s and is a litigation lawyer with Parry Fields. We welcome them and the contributions they have made and will continue to make.

Playground Improvements

At a recent meeting of the BOP, we agreed to the idea of redesigning the front of the junior block playground but link in with the proposed PA funded new playground, so we are not working on these initiatives separately. To this end we have had meetings and received concept designs with F3 Design and met or informed other stakeholders in the school.

We know it will not be cheap! Our vision is to clear that area of the trees (which are causing issues with the asphalt court), and perhaps replace the permanent seating and metal posts with a more user-friendly play area with rubber matting or similar, alongside awnings for sun protection. The aim would be to complete it in the Christmas holidays, subject to supply chains, COVID and available contractors!

We will have completed repairing and painting the fencing along Locarno St on the western side of the school. The BOP have also approved the expenditure to install 'Gutterguard' in our roof guttering to prevent leaves building up and roof top flooding.

School Uniforms

We are thankful for continuing feedback over uniforms. It includes but is not limited to the practicality of girls' kilts, trouser/pants options for girls, why white shirts for girls worn daily, and by boys on special occasions, as well as cardigans, and wearing hoodies on site.

The uniform is part of the special character, but that does not prevent change so we will be seeking feedback from staff, parents and children. We will look at adding alternatives rather than changing uniforms completely, in the short term. To this end our Board through board members Fleur Milne and Raewyn Cole, will draw up a survey for parents to obtain feedback. Essentially, we are looking for more practical alternatives allowing for comfort and warmth, whilst retaining an appropriate formality.

Refurbished Church at last!

Congratulations to Rev'd Ben and his team for the fundraising, finishing and opening of a strengthened and refurbished St Mark's Church. It is sad to think that a whole generation of children who attended St Mark's School did not attend a service in the church. But that is all about to change. We wish the parish all the best with the refurbished building and of course the addition of St Anne's Chapel. It is perhaps a timely reminder of the school's purpose. Part of the agreement with MOE, in fact the central part of the agreement, is a commitment to the Anglican Church and the Christian faith. Attending church and a commitment to a faith is a choice but I hope parents and children make a choice to attend services now that the Church has been

completed either as part of the school services or on Sundays at 10am. You are all welcome.

God bless

Nigel Georgieff
Chair, BOP