



Principal Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes Monday 17 March 2025

Meeting Participants:

- Phil Thuaux
- Sarah El-Moselhi
- Joel van Bentum – Principal
- Ben Ricardo
- Andrew Macken
- Kirsty Young
- Simon Thomas
- Dianne Cannone

Apologies:

- Marie-Jean Richmond
- Kelly Gillen

Key Discussion Points:

1. Learning and Teaching Framework

- The framework has been in development for about 18 months.
- It aligns with the college's purpose statement and graduate learner profile, ensuring a Christ-centred approach to education.
- The goal is to provide direction in decision-making rather than attempting to cover all educational approaches.
- Emphasis on creating a structured approach to learning that connects directly with the college's mission and values.
- The framework seeks to integrate biblical principles into teaching practices, fostering spiritual growth alongside academic success.
- Ensuring that all learning aligns with a Christian worldview and prepares students for a life of redemptive action.

2. Parent and Student Engagement

- Discussion on student check-ins and family engagement in school decisions.
- Concerns raised about ensuring parents are well-informed and able to access important school information.
- Noted the importance of two-way communication between the school and families to foster a strong Christian community.
- Plans to increase transparency regarding student progress and well-being through regular updates.
- Addressed concerns from families regarding the transition to digital communication platforms and ensuring they are accessible to all parents.

3. HSC Discussion and Academic Progress

- Reviewed the status of HSC preparations and student performance.
- Emphasised the need for strong support systems for students approaching final exams, including prayer support and pastoral care.
- Discussed strategies to improve student outcomes.
- Noted that data-driven decision-making will be used to identify areas where students may need extra assistance.

- Encouraged collaboration between teachers, parents, and students to ensure a holistic approach to academic success rooted in Christian values.
- Highlighted upcoming HSC-related work occurring and resources available for students and families.

4. Christian Community

- **Vaping:** The growing concern around vaping among students was acknowledged, and strategies to address it were discussed. The need for clear education and consistent pastoral care was emphasised.
- **Bullying and Investigations:** The importance of a robust approach to addressing bullying was highlighted. The group stressed the need to support victims, investigate thoroughly, and ensure the school environment is one of care and respect.
- **Citizenship**
 - Addressed issues related to multicultural perspectives in education and how they intersect with biblical values.
 - Discussed how global events (e.g., Ukraine conflict) may impact students and families.
 - Recognised the challenge of maintaining neutrality while ensuring students are well-informed about world events from a biblical perspective.
 - Acknowledged the importance of creating a respectful environment where diverse perspectives can be discussed safely within a Christ-centred framework.
 - Encouraged students to approach global issues with a biblical lens, focusing on compassion, justice, and truth.

5. Communication and Access to School Platforms

- Challenges with parents accessing school information through the new School Box system.
- Ongoing efforts to improve communication and provide user support, ensuring accessibility for all families.
- Acknowledgement of transition difficulties but belief in long-term benefits for both academic and community engagement.
- Noted that while some parents struggle with login and navigation issues, overall engagement has increased.
- Plans to provide additional support and training to ensure parents can access necessary information, reinforcing the partnership between home, church, and school.

6. PAG Membership and Term Limits

- Discussion on structuring terms for PAG members (e.g., two to three-year terms).
 - Concern about maintaining momentum if membership changes too frequently.
 - Agreement that structured term limits can provide continuity.
 - Proposed a staggered approach to term limits to ensure ongoing leadership and experience within the group.
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