

Thursday 17 November, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to take the opportunity to update you on planning for 2012 across our junior and senior campuses, particularly some of the exciting changes we will be introducing to further enrich each child's learning experience at Preshil.

Arlington

- **More teachers:** We have recently advertised three teaching positions to cater for increasing enrolments. In 2012, there will be three home teachers in the 10s and 11s and two in the 5s. These appointments will preserve Arlington's high ratio of teachers to students and will enable us to team experienced Preshil teachers with new staff members. This in turn will facilitate mentoring, and ensure we preserve the long held traditions of the junior school while facilitating a healthy mix of different styles and individual teacher passions and strengths.
- **Support for senior school transition:** Links between the 10s and 11s and the senior school will be strengthened to support the children in their transition into secondary education. Andrew Kohane, head of campus at Blackhall Kalimna, will lead a focused transition program in maths and literacy and will be a regular presence in the 10s and 11s room next year.
- **More opportunity to pursue individual interests:** In 2012 we will be providing more opportunity for Arlington students to express their passions in fields such as science, drama, construction and physical activity - while continuing to provide rich opportunities for creativity in music and art.

Blackhall Kalimna

- **New eLibrary resource:** The opening of the eLibrary will provide new learning spaces and opportunities for all senior students. We look forward to exploring its potential of this exciting new facility over the course of the year.
- **More tailored learning:** Individual learning plans will be developed for all students in 2012, and access to new computer and digital technologies will enable students and staff to further tailor and extend their learning. The use of web based subject sites by VCE teachers and students this year will be widened to include Years 7-10 classes.
- **More support and mentoring:** We will develop and extend the best aspects of our 'Tracker' and 'Mentor' program across Years 7-12. 'Tracker' groups will include 10-12 students from a range of year levels, to foster supportive learning communities involving students and their teacher / mentor. We will also continue to develop the Year 9 Program to better meet the needs of students on

the threshold of young adulthood.

- **Empowering students:** Building on the success of the 2011 Student Voice Conference, a number of initiatives will be launched to give students more opportunities to express themselves and shape their own environment. Regular forums and school meetings will continue to be a feature of life on the senior campus.

- While we will embrace change and new ideas in 2012 – consistent with Preshil’s culture of inquiry and discovery – I want to stress that we will continue to nurture and protect the things that make our school unique. Most fundamentally, respect for the individual child, recognising that human relationships are the basis of all learning, will be our guiding principle in 2012 and beyond. I would also like to thank the dedicated team of teachers and support staff at Preshil whose initiative and ideas have been so important in developing these robust and exciting plans for the New Year.

I look forward to providing more detail on arrangements for 2012 in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Warm Regards,



Marilyn Smith
Principal