The world is a very different place compared with what Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, experienced almost two centuries ago, when these beautiful yet challenging words were penned. But it also highlights how contemporary Catherine McAuley’s thoughts and mission remain today. It is therefore most appropriate that in the College’s 130th anniversary, our theme is “Compassion ... From the Heart”.

As I write to all members of the Sacred Heart College community, five months into my appointment as Principal, I reflect on the warm and heartfelt welcome which my family, and I have received.

I recognise that the appointment of a new College Principal is a significant event in the life of a school, and have had as a goal this year to introduce myself to as many parts of our school and local communities as possible. Hence, I see this issue of ‘At the Heart’ as an opportunity to speak a little about myself and my family and our hopes for a future based in the Macedon Ranges.

I have been married for 16 years to Freya, who is a Performing Arts, Religious Education and Science teacher. We have two gorgeous daughters, D’Arcy, who began her secondary education this year with 130 other SHC Year 7 students, and Stella, who is in Grade 3 at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School here in Kyneton. I have taught at five other schools across Victoria, most of which have strong connections to Mercy education, and most recently was Principal of Mercy Regional College, Camperdown. Although my key responsibility is as Principal, I remain a passionate teacher and have enjoyed many years teaching Chemistry, Religious Education, Science and Mathematics.

My family is my greatest joy and, as Principal, I believe that supporting and nourishing the fundamental responsibility that parents have as first educators of their children is foundational to our identity as a Catholic school. So I encourage all parents and carers to be involved in your child(ren)’s education, seek out all the avenues that the College offers for parent engagement, and continue to be supportive but firm partners over their six years at Sacred Heart.

As a family that has recently experienced the major challenges that changes to family circumstances can bring, I applaud the robust and comprehensive Transition program offered by Sacred Heart College. Whether a student is coming from one of our feeder parish primary schools with plenty of close friends or, conversely, from a small or distant primary school and knows no-one, the combined efforts of our Year 7 teaching team, Wellbeing Centre, Student Support and Student Cabinets, are directed towards making this journey positive, fun and well-informed for them.

In conclusion, I return to the thoughts of Catherine McAuley on compassion - it is a virtue that her life exemplified. It describes the powerful and unconditional love that a mother has for her newborn child, a ‘gut-love’ that sits deep inside us. To me, it describes the profound love that many in the Sacred Heart College community have for the College and what SHC has given generations of students, staff and families from across the Macedon Ranges.

It is a privilege to begin this journey of compassion with you.

Yours in Mercy,

Dr Darren Egberts
As part of our ongoing commitment to continual improvement and development of communication strategies with our families, Sacred Heart College has taken as its major Wellbeing theme for 2019, ‘Know your Students’. This focus has enhanced our transition processes, as well as further empowering our homeroom and classroom teachers to understand the strengths and challenges of their students. Building strong relationships with parents and families can be a more difficult process at times in a secondary setting, but one we acknowledge as being vitally important. Our ‘Meet and Greet’ evenings for all year levels were well received and attended, allowing parents to meet homeroom teachers and discuss areas of importance with them. Our Year 7 Commissioning Mass was a lovely introduction to the College year for both new and existing parents. Each event was accompanied by either a barbeque or extensive afternoon tea, an example of how the Mercy value of Hospitality is enacted at Sacred Heart College.

Our Parent Engagement Evenings for Semester One were incredibly successful with presenters Andrew Fuller and Leonie Smith. Our aim with these evenings is to provide parents in more rural areas with access to top presenters on a variety of topics, enabling a more common language and open conversation to occur between home and school around areas such as: Resilience, Cyber Awareness, Coping with Anxiety and Depression and Looking After Your Teen – Safe Partying. We will continue to offer these opportunities as we see them as valuable for both staff and parents.

Introducing our 2019 Student Leaders

Student Leadership has continued to develop this year. The College Cabinets, both Junior and Senior have taken on more independence and are running their own meetings with their individual representatives. Adding to the Leaders who represent various aspects of College life, this year has seen the exciting introduction of the Culture Leader, an addition that provides a vehicle for Student Voice. This cabinet will focus on how we continue to develop and maintain a cohesive and positive school culture.

2019 Student Leaders
Back Row: Samuel Gordon, Summer Meadows, Scarlett Orritt, Imogen Hewitt, Lani Gallagher, Molly Consiglio, Seth Close
Middle Row: Lily Davidson, Keeley Rankin (College Captain), Georgia Old, Olivia Coleman, Patrick Byrne, Chantelle Takos
Front Row: Jordan Savoia, Hannah Cooper, Jack Hassett, Ned Dowling (College Captain), Jack Buchanan, Luka Michalczak, Dr Darren Egberts (Principal)
As well as providing our students with a supportive environment, we also encourage students to strive for excellence in their academic and vocational studies. In doing so, students will have many opportunities available to pursue, allowing them to follow the pathway that best suits them.

Our VCE results in recent years have been outstanding. Our students have achieved a median VCE study score of 31 for the past two years. 34% of our students achieved an ATAR over 80, and 15% achieved an ATAR over 90, with 7.4% over 95 in 2018.

The following data was collated at the beginning of 2019 regarding our 2018 Year 12 students’ pathways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destinations Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Destination Achieved – Higher Education (VTAC)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination Achieved – Employment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination Achieved – Higher Education (non VTAC)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination Achieved – Apprenticeship</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking Employment Opportunities</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>119</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finding the pathways that best meet the needs of our students will always be our aim. We are pleased that the subjects taught with the support of teachers at Sacred Heart allow them to pursue their dreams.
130th Celebration Mass

The Beginning of the Year Mass was a wonderful way to begin the year as we celebrated our 130th year of the Sisters of Mercy in Kyneton. Bishop Terry Curtin and our College Chaplains presided over the Mass. So many of our students did our College proud as they took on many roles such as reading, choir, band and senior and junior leadership. Another highlight within the Mass was the Commissioning of our new Principal, Dr Darren Egberts. We had a number of guests from Mercy Education, Sisters of Mercy, our feeder primary schools and past students and boarders from years gone by. As you can imagine, Quambi was full and despite the warm and humid weather, the Mass was truly a wonderful celebration.

Year 7 Commissioning Mass

It is so important that we welcome our new Year 7 families to Sacred Heart. This occurred on 27 February with a barbeque to begin and then the Mass followed. This was the first time that the Year 7 students gathered as one cohort with the expectation that they will all travel the road to Year 12 in years to come. Quambi looked beautiful with our choir, band and the table laid with candles; one for each student. In our Catholic tradition, this symbolises the light of Christ in our world. A great celebration to welcome our new families.

Year 12 Retreat

The Year 12 Retreat was an opportunity for students and staff to step away from the College for three days and enter into a place where the focus is on relationships with each other and with God. We were fortunate that our wonderful speakers, Fr Constantine and Michelle Newland, spoke to our students and shared a piece of their lives. Our students really enjoyed these sessions and felt inspired and grateful for the life they have. Another highlight was the Op Shop Formal, free time and the table tennis competition a hit, as always!

Year 11 Retreat

This year the Retreat focused on Service to Others. The students spent two days volunteering; one day in Melbourne and one day doing Landcare in the Macedon Ranges. The students experienced firsthand the good work of the many organisations in Melbourne who really make a difference to the lives of the homeless, marginalised, unemployed and people down on their luck. It was also important that the students looked carefully at the environmental issues facing the landscape and waterways in our own backyard.
‘A Vibrant Life’ describes the activities of the Music Department to a T! SHC has nine Instrumental Music teachers who teach over 100 lessons each week, and students are moving mountains! With an emphasis on passion and proficiency, our students are becoming excellent young musicians. The Instrumental Music Program comprises three chief elements:

- Musicianship (the time in the lessons with the teachers);
- Ensembles (making Music with others);
- Performance (making music in front of an audience).

These are three independent skillsets and we believe that they are equally valuable.

So far this year, students have performed in several environments: Masses, local School Fairs, Mothers’ Day Breakfast, ANZAC Day and our Instrumental Music Recital Evening. A number of students have also performed in local venues.

The College supports and embraces its Music Department, acknowledging that Music is an excellent academic learning tool, wonderful for good mental health, and an important social connector. We are proud of our Music students and love seeing their faces as they overcome musical challenges!

Students don’t have to wait to enrol in the Music program - enrolments can be made online at any time, either on the College website under Learning then Co-curricular Activities, or through this link: https://goo.gl/forms/neFZ3WMvFoHDjvcO2

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**Music News**

**Mr Terry Carrick, Music Performance Coordinator**

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**Grade 5 Transition Visits**

**Mrs Joanne Holmes, Director of Transition and Curriculum**

On Monday 4 and Thursday 7 March, 180 Grade 5 students from our local feeder schools attended our Transition Day. The aim of the day was to help the Grade 5 students become familiar with a secondary school environment. These days make transition from primary to secondary school smoother and a little less daunting.

The students experienced a range of activities and subjects that they may undertake when attending their secondary school. These included: creating flying devices and seeing the elephant toothpaste demonstration in science; creating Lego robots in the Applied Learning Space; undertaking art and visual communication classes creating self-portraits in our studios; learning about languages (French and Japanese); engaging in our Learning Commons Space; studying geography via mapping and drones; creating apricot coconut balls in our Frayne Hospitality Centre; and learning about the Mercy tradition while taking part in the Amazing Race activity.

The Grade 5 students participated enthusiastically and confidently, asking questions of both the teachers facilitating the activities and their wonderful Year 8 and 9 student mentors. Lunch was provided in the Atrium from a range of tasty options, and it was a great success. We enjoyed being able to share this transition opportunity. Every chance to experience life in secondary school makes it easier, more exciting and less scary, so that when the time comes to begin the next stage of the education journey, our young people are ready.
For me Year 7 has been a really good experience. I have been welcomed into the Sacred Heart College community, and have really enjoyed the love and support that goes around within the school. I have been able to make new friends easily, and everyone is so nice.

I was also privileged to have been the student who was awarded the scholarship for my Primary School, St Mary’s Lancefield. I was very thankful that I was chosen, as this means so much to both me and my family. I couldn’t have been more surprised!

In Term 1 we attended the Year 7 camp at Kinglake Forest Adventure Camp. I especially enjoyed this, getting to know everyone, and working on team bonding. I thought Year 7 would be a lot more stressful and difficult, but I have had lots of help and lots of encouragement throughout my time so far.

The subject I enjoy the most is Digital Technologies. I have found learning about computer systems and how they work is so interesting. I am surprised at how much more enjoyable Mathematics is now because the teacher takes her time and listens.

Another love of mine is basketball and I look forward to representing SHC in the College interschool sports in Term 3. I am super glad I chose to come to Sacred Heart.
Sport is such an important part of life, and I can confidently say that this applies to a number of students at Sacred Heart. For many, sport is the well-needed distraction from the busyness of homework and school life in general. Sport brings the pleasures of participating and growing in a team to become a well-ordered, confident group, willing to take on any competition. Sacred Heart College has given everybody limitless opportunities to be involved in sports, and students who have taken this on have been able to exhibit some of their finest skills. There have been many sporting successes in Term 1 alone, including Sacred Heart’s swim squad and tennis teams, all reaching high levels of competition. The annual Swimming and Athletics Carnivals provided students with the opportunity to have fun, and we applaud all students who were willing to participate, because for some, it involved taking that extra step out of their comfort zone.

There are so many valuable qualities gained through sport: qualities that can be shown through many aspects of everyday life. Our integrity towards sport is incredible and as a school we should be proud of the opportunities we have developed. Showing kindness and compassion are such essential parts of life, both on and off the field and it is these amazing qualities that enable sports teams to reach the highest levels. It is wonderful to see our Mercy value for 2019, Compassion, being played out so well in sport and I highly encourage students to get involved and give any opportunity a crack! It is definitely worth it!

With the cross-country and Mercy Day colour run coming up, I hope many people take the opportunity to be involved. Both are fantastic, fun-filled events and we look forward to seeing the house spirit soar! What an extraordinary start we have seen in sport this year!
The ‘Old House’ or ‘Darby House’, as it is known by many of the students from the mid 50s through to the mid 90s, was previously owned by three Darby sisters, who sold the house to the College in 1995. The house was built circa 1850, and is believed to have been a two storey residence. Around this time, the building was a school for boys called Prospect House Academy and at one stage housed 20 boarders and 30 day students.

Over the years, the ‘Old House’ has been used for a number of purposes, including the uniform shop and the Counsellors’ House. However, it now has a new purpose, and that is to house the College archives and memorabilia. It is a dedicated space for past pupils to visit, look at the memorabilia and research College and family history, organise a reunion, or just drop in for a chat and a cuppa to advise what they have been doing since leaving the College. The collection tracks the 130 year history of SHC, and includes displays on the Sisters of Mercy College, as well as more recent history since the 1980s.

On 7 February, our 130th celebration Mass concluded with the official blessing and opening of the newly renamed Chisholm Cottage by Bishop Terry Curtin. The wonderful displays have been meticulously put together by our College archivist, Sharon Lanteri. A number of Mercy Sisters, past students and boarders, friends, students and College Chaplains attended the Blessing.
Inspiring Student Achievements

Students selected for inaugural medical program
Cassandra Hocking and Bridget Fallon

Two members of the Class of 2018 – Cassandra Hocking and Bridget Fallon – were accepted into the Murray-Darling Medical Program, which will train doctors in regional Victoria and NSW. These two students were part of just 15 in the first intake of the new regional medical degree being offered jointly by the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. The course commences with a three-year undergraduate bachelor of biomedical science at La Trobe University (Bendigo or Albury-Wodonga campus). Once completed students are guaranteed entry into the University of Melbourne’s four-year postgraduate medical program at its Shepparton Campus. The program has been developed with an aim of easing the doctor shortage in regional Australia.

Persistence pays off ..... all the way to Portland, Oregon, USA!
Flynn Mazza

For many years Flynn Mazza (Year 11) has been interested in film making and has collaborated with friend, Kale McQuade (Gisborne Secondary College), under the banner of Mindwood Studios, to create short films. On 26 October 2018, the boys placed first at the Victorian Regionals (one of only two regions in Australia) of the International Youth Silent Film Festival, which took place at the beautiful Astor Theatre in Melbourne.

Fitting the judging criteria perfectly, the film Suspected (noir genre) will now go on to be shown at the Global International Awards Festival and Ceremony in June 2019 in Portland, Oregon at the historic Hollywood Theatre. The film will be up against other regional winners from around the world. Such festivals and competitions aim to give budding young film makers a platform to show their skill and creativity to the world. Last year Flynn also helped create a film that won the Audience Choice award at the same Victorian final. With other film festivals in their sights, the boys look set to have a busy year ahead. Good luck in Portland Flynn, and keep on being creative!

Prize winning creativity on show at Next Gen Exhibition
Hannah Cooper

Congratulations to Hannah Cooper for having her artwork selected for inclusion in the Next Gen Exhibition, on display at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Hannah completed Studio Arts (Units 3 and 4) as a Year 11 student in 2018, and is currently completing Year 12. At the recent exhibition opening she was further recognised, receiving the Award for Outstanding Work by a Female Artist, sponsored by Soroptimist International Ballarat Inc.

Hannah’s hand-printed lino cuts on paper titled ‘Chaos and Harmony’ examine her personal interest in human connections... “Ultimately, I was inspired to make something that reflected the chaos and harmony of our world as I constantly saw references in the media to war zones, discrimination, climate change, relationship breakdown, displaced people and refugees. Conceptually I wanted to show how people face these challenges amid the constant murmur of everything around them” said Hannah.
Sacred Heart College Kyneton

Closing Dates for Enrolments
Year 7 - 2021: 26 July 2019
Year 7 - 2022: 31 July 2020

College Tours
16 July 2019
14 August 2019
10 September 2019

Tour bookings and further details via the College website: www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

Twilight Open Evening
Thursday 17 October 2019 from 4.30pm - 8.30pm

Discover a range of exciting opportunities at our annual Twilight Open Evening.

Information Session  College Tours
Year 9 Expo  Learning Area Displays
VCE Media Screenings

Further Enquiries Contact:
College Registrar & Development Officer
T: 5421 1200   E: dlawrence@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au
W: www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

A Vibrant Life
Opportunities to Flourish

94 High Street Kyneton 3444
PO Box 191
Tel 03 5421 1200
Fax 03 5422 3525
Enrolment Enquiries Tel 03 5421 1238
principal@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au
www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

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