



25 June 2021

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to announce Mr Jon Franzin has been appointed to the position of Principal of St Virgil's College effective from the commencement of the 2022 school year.

Jon is a very experienced leader in Catholic education. He is currently the Principal of Edmund Rice Special Education Services (ERSES), Sydney. ERSES is comprised of two schools: St Gabriel's in Castle Hill and St Edmund's Wahroonga. Jon has previously held leadership positions as Deputy Principal at St Patrick's College Ballarat and Acting Principal, Deputy Principal, Head of Middle School and Head of Special Education at St Paul's College Gillies Plains.

Jon complements his leadership experience with a sound academic record. His qualifications include a Master of Educational Leadership from Australian Catholic University, a Master of Special Education from Flinders University, a Bachelor of Education from Flinders University, a Bachelor of Special Education from Flinders University and a Graduate Certificate in Religious Education from the University of South Australia.

Jon is an active member of the Holy Name Parish, Wahroonga. He is married to Nikki and they have two children, Isobella and Luca. Jon writes about his appointment:

I feel privileged to be appointed to lead St Virgil's College from 2022 and thank Edmund Rice Education Australia and the school community for the trust they have placed in me. The College has a long and proud history in Tasmania of Catholic education and academic excellence in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. I am excited about working closely with the school community and the Archdiocese in supporting the College as it extends its educational provision to a K-12 school by 2024 and expanding the opportunities for our young men. I also value the opportunity of being closer to my extended family who live in Hobart and Northern Tasmania. Later this year I look forward to meeting and getting to know the students, staff, parents and supporters of St Virgil's College.

I also take the opportunity to thank Damian Messar for his two decades of outstanding service to the College. His engagement with the community, promotion of the Catholic ethos and his preparation work for the expansion of St Virgil's College are just some of the many areas he has led the community so well. Later this year the community will have the opportunity to formally thank Damian for his magnificent contribution.

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On behalf of all members of the Edmund Rice Education Australia community, I warmly congratulate Jon on this appointment and wish him well in the exercise of this important leadership role.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Craig Wattam
Executive Director
Edmund Rice Education Australia**

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