



20 September 2022

Dear EREA Community

A NEW PRINCIPAL FOR ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

It is with much pleasure that I announce that Mr Simon Abernethy has been appointed as the new Principal of St Dominic's College, Penrith effective from the commencement of the 2023 school year.

Simon is an experienced leader in Catholic education and has a deep commitment to the values of an Edmund Rice education. He is currently the Principal at St Francis Catholic College, Edmondson Park where he has demonstrated exemplary leadership for the past seven years. Simon is the Foundation Principal at St Francis Catholic College, a school that was established in partnership between Edmund Rice Education Australia and the Diocese of Wollongong. Prior to this Simon served in a number of Assistant Principal and Acting Principal roles including at John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow and Magdalene Catholic High School in Narellan.

Simon complements his leadership experience with a sound academic record with a Master of Educational Administration (Deakin University), Master of Religious Education from the Australian Catholic University and a Bachelor of Education from Newcastle University. He is an active member of St Paul's Parish in Camden and comes highly recommended for this important senior role in Catholic education.

Simon writes about his appointment:

"I am excited and humbled to be appointed as Principal of St Dominic's College. St Dominic's has a long and proud history of providing quality Catholic education in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. I congratulate Mr Michael Ronchetti, as the outgoing Principal and recognise the contribution of Michael and many who have gone before him in making St Dominic's an excellent school. A strong community working in partnership to provide the very best opportunities for our students is something I passionately value. I am eager to work with students, parents, staff, the College Advisory Council and Edmund Rice Education Australia to take St Dominic's College into an even brighter future. I look forward to meeting everyone and deeply listening to learn more about the culture and traditions of the school, as well as hearing about the community's aspirations for the next chapter in the life of the school."

On behalf of all members of the Edmund Rice Education Australia community, I warmly congratulate Simon on this significant appointment. We look forward to formally welcoming Simon, his wife, Jacinta and their family, into the St Dominic's College community early in the new year.

Yours sincerely

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

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