



**Dear EREA Community,**

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Natalie Devenish as the new Principal of St Dominic's College, commencing at the start of Term 3, 2025. Ms Devenish brings with her a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Catholic education, making her an excellent fit for our school community.

Ms Devenish is a strategic leader with 35 years of experience in education, and a deep understanding of leadership and school operations. Having served in diverse roles, including Year Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Head of Primary, and both Deputy and Acting Principal, she has developed a broad skill set that enables her to make informed decisions. With decades spent in boys' education, she understands how young men learn, the importance of pastoral care, and the need for clear boundaries. She values the opportunity to guide and support boys in their growth, drawing from both professional experience and her personal background of growing up with four brothers.



Ms Devenish's motivation for applying for the Principal role at St Dominic's College is deeply rooted in her lifelong connection to Edmund Rice Education Australia and the Christian Brothers. Having spent her entire career in schools inspired by the Edmund Rice charism, she values Blessed Edmund's rich legacy and the four touchstones that emphasise providing a quality education to students in need. Natalie is passionate about ensuring that young men graduate with not only literacy and numeracy skills, but with a sense of purpose and a pathway to a fulfilling future. She is committed to a Christ-centred learning, embracing Gospel spirituality, and fostering an environment of solidarity and justice, values she actively lives out through her work. Growing up in the country has given Natalie a strong sense of community and an understanding of its unique needs.

During her most recent tenure as Assistant Principal—Teaching & Learning at Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham, Ms Devenish successfully led strategic improvement initiatives, introduced data-driven instructional practices, and implemented targeted literacy programs that significantly enhanced student outcomes. Her leadership in developing high-potential programs and refining learning support initiatives has been instrumental in fostering a culture of academic excellence.

In her previous role as Deputy Principal at St Mary's Cathedral College, Ms Devenish managed school operations, developed staff capacity, and promoted a culture of academic excellence. She spearheaded the implementation of the School Strategic Plan and Annual Improvement Plan, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and enhanced operational efficiency through the introduction of digital learning

platforms. Her efforts in community engagement and student wellbeing initiatives, including partnerships with the Matthew Talbot Hostel and St Vincent de Paul, have enriched the holistic educational experience for students.

Ms Devenish is highly relational, earning trust through strong communication and active listening. A strong advocate for governance and financial stewardship, she has experience on finance committees, understands funding, budgeting, and risk management, and ensures processes and systems support a school's long-term vision. Her passion and energy will drive her commitment to excellence at St Dominic's College.

In addition to her experience in leadership and with the charism of Edmund Rice, Natalie has a very significant connection to St Dominic's. Her father, Mr Graham Kennedy, served as the Principal of St Dominic's College from 1994 to 2002. Mr Kennedy was a highly respected leader who made significant contributions to the College, and we are honoured to continue his legacy through Ms Devenish's appointment.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr Adam Rafferty for his dedication and leadership during his time as Acting Principal. His commitment and hard work have been greatly appreciated, and he has played a crucial role in maintaining the high standards of our school community.

We are confident that under Ms Devenish's leadership, St Dominic's College will thrive and continue to uphold the values of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

There will be scheduled opportunities throughout Term 2 for the wider St Dominic's community to meet Ms Devenish as she moves into her new role.

Please join us in welcoming Ms Natalie Devenish to our school community.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maura Manning', written in a cursive style.

Maura Manning  
Director of NSW Colleges and CEO

Edmund Rice Education Australia NSW Colleges Ltd