**Kearnan College Manjimup**

# Annual Community Meeting
# Principal's Report

November 25th, 2025

Good evening staff, parents, members of the School Advisory Council and members of the P & F. Thank you for your attendance at tonight's Annual Community Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to present the community with an overview of 2025 at Kearnan.

As part of the Quality Catholic Education (QCE) Framework, much of what we do at the College is focused on four pillars – Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship. My report is aligned with each pillar.

**Catholic Identity**

Fr Joseph Sousa began as our Parish Priest at the start of the year and has been a great support to us. We started the school year with a whole school Mass where we commissioned staff and our student leaders. Throughout the year, we have ensured our students and staff have had opportunities to engage in liturgies and Masses in celebration of House days, St Joseph's Day, Ash Wednesday, graduation, our centenary celebration and Advent, among others. Our focus on service to others has continued this year, with primary and secondary students engaging in fundraising activities for charities such as Caritas, Catholic Earthcare and Vinnie's.

Students in Years 3, 4 and 6 participated in sacramental programs this year and we were thrilled that several of our students were baptised. We are grateful to be able to work in partnership with the Parish and our parents to enable our students to continue in their spiritual and faith development through the Sacraments.

Retreats continue to be an important part of our students' faith formation. Our secondary students engaged in year-level retreats to explore their spirituality and students in Years 3, 4 and 6 experienced sacramental retreats in the lead up to the celebration of each sacrament. We are excited that 6 of our students will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne this weekend.

**Education**

The College is currently in our second year of Fogarty Edvance, which is a professional learning program focused on school improvement. The School Improvement Team continued to work on the various aspects of our improvement plan, with a particular focus on the implementation of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) approach to ensure a calm and orderly learning environment, and the development of a Whole School

Instructional Model (WSIM). This model is evidence-based and provides our staff with guidance in delivering lessons in a way that will maximise learning opportunities for our students. This work will continue into 2026.

To support students in need of additional educational support, the College uses a multi-tiered system of support. Excellent classroom teaching meets the needs of the majority of students. Those who need a bit of extra help are supported through programs delivered in small groups. This included Minilit in the primary and Spelling Mastery in Year 7. Some children require one-to-one academic help which is provided by teachers and Education Assistants. We will continue to explore avenues to provide further help to students who need something beyond the classroom, particularly in lower secondary.

Our Pre-Kindy began in Term 2 and currently has 10 students. Nine of these students are of the right age for Kindy in 2026 and have all enrolled. This program provides a high-quality play-based introduction to school routines and will operate from the beginning of Term 1 next year with 8 students currently enrolled to begin at some point in Semester 1.

We are very excited to be able to offer our Kindy students in 2026 the opportunity to attend for up to five days each week. We understand that not all children will be ready for full-time school, so parents will be able to choose whether they attend 3, 4 or 5 days. Our wonderful early childhood staff will provide high-quality play-based learning within the routines and structure of the classroom.

We have had a restructure of some of our primary classes with the introduction of two composites – a Kindy/Pre-Primary and a Year 1/2. This is mostly the result of low enrolment numbers in those year groups, but will also be an opportunity to enhance social interaction between students in those groups. Very small class sizes are not conducive to the development of social skills and having a slightly larger group of students to learn alongside will have positive impacts. Based on current enrolment numbers the K/PP class will have 19 students and Year 1/2 will have 22, so they are still both nice-sized groups. The very talented Mrs Naomi Riddell and Mrs Sarah Kestel will share the teaching of the K/PP class and the amazing Mrs Narelle Kammann will have Year 1/2.

**Community**

The Kearnan College community is built on strong connections between the school, families and the town and its services. The development of the whole child is our focus and we provide a wide range of opportunities to extend in academics, sports, the arts and spirituality. We continue to engage in local mental health practitioners, the Health Department team, Therapy Focus, BYA and other professionals to help support the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students.

Kearnan College continues to provide a high-quality education for students from Manjimup and surrounding areas. We have strong relationships with our feeder schools and are grateful that many of their families choose to continue a Catholic education for their children's high school years. The close ties between our schools is something we continue to nurture through leadership networking events, collaborative staff professional learning and opportunities for students to interact, such as the TREE public speaking competition. Our innovative and highly impactful Year 7 transition program provides further opportunities for students from Kearnan and our feeder schools to interact and form bonds that will last through their secondary school years.

We celebrated an amazing milestone this year – our centenary. This was a wonderful event for staff and students, past and present, and many community members with long associations with the College. It was fantastic to see the school buzzing with excited ex-staff and students who were reconnecting and sharing their memories of the school. As part of the celebrations, staff and students created a time capsule that is displayed in a school bag in the Library. I look forward to visiting in 25 years when it is opened!

Another significant event for our school community was the official opening of the early childhood classrooms. We had numerous VIP guests, including Bishop George Kolodziej, Mrs Annette Morey, Executive Director of CEWA and Mrs Eva Skirra, Chair of the Catholic Education Commission. They joined staff, parents and our primary students in admiring our beautiful classrooms.

Our hard-working P & F, led by dynamo Ms Jess Durbin, made huge contributions to our school this year. They generously contributed funds to install a new playground in our early childhood area, funded teacher requests for tricycles, reading books, laptop charging stations and sand for our volleyball court, and made contributions towards our Breakfast Club, Country Week catering and our PBL rewards. Their work is not just about money though. They also supported and organised a range of events enjoyed by our parents and students, such as the art auction, Easter raffle and World Teachers' Day.

Throughout 2025, the school has celebrated many special days that build connection, belonging and community. We endeavour to publish and share these days through Seesaw, social media and the Chronicle.

**Stewardship**

Our most precious asset will always be our students. We have continued with our clear focus on pastoral care and wellbeing and in supporting the diverse needs of each of our students. After the departure of Mrs Burvill at the end of Term 3, we welcomed Mrs Cecily McCarthy to our team as Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care and Ministry) and she has hit the ground running. We have created a pastoral hub in the Middle School Block and Cecily and our fantastic secondary Heads of Year, Mrs Liz Collins, Mr Aaron Pedlar and Mr Riley Mason are based in there. Our primary teachers, along with Mrs Barton and Mrs

Nock, provide exceptional pastoral care to our younger students. We see the evidence of the work of our entire pastoral team in the happy faces of our students, in the improvements in their learning and in their social interactions.

Our staff have engaged in a range of professional learning opportunities this year. We completed training in the Berry Street Education Model, which is focused on engaging students in learning by creating safe and supportive environments, Sr Christine Clarke led us through professional learning on the Sacraments, and various staff engaged in professional development days on topics such as mental health, leadership development, child safety, religious knowledge and first aid. It has been a year of rich learning for our staff.

We are lucky to have a very stable teaching and support staff cohort. This provides consistency, allowing us to move the school's improvement agenda forward. However, there will inevitably be staff who will need to leave us. We bid a sad farewell to four teachers at the end of this year. Mr Charlie Chodorowski will be retiring (again!), Mrs Heidi Tempra will be seeking new adventures, Miss Lauren Madeley is finishing her one-year contract and has secured a new job at St Anne's in Harvey and Mrs Bobby-Jo Stoiche has secured her first fulltime teaching job at Northcliffe Primary School. Thank you to Charlie, Heidi, Lauren and Bobby-Jo for your dedicated work for our students. We wish you well with your future endeavours and look forward to hearing what you have been up to. Mrs Ellie Beeson will be taking a year of leave, and we look forward to welcoming her back in 2027. Dr Clare Omodei will return to her teaching role in Semester Two.

Our staffing for 2026 is finalised. Mr Yoram Jobse will join our secondary teaching team at the start of the year and our new Design and Technologies teacher, Mr Seb Archer-Jennings, will start in Term 2. We will also be welcoming back Mrs Tess Mills and Mrs Jodie Lapinski who have been on leave this year.

To Mrs Heidi Tempra, thank you for your leadership and diligence in your role as Head of Secondary and the support you provided me in my transition to a composite school. There were many new acronyms and lots of new terminology for me to learn in the secondary space and you have deciphered it all for me! To Mrs Peta Barton and Mrs Fran Nock who lead our primary school. Thank you for your supreme organisation, your focus on students and your support of your staff. The passion each of these leaders has for Kearnan College make them assets to our community and I value working with them all.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Julie Brown, Mrs Leah Kilrain and Miss Shannon Scaini, our amazing administrative staff, who not only keep us all organised, but also provide a friendly face to our students, parents and visitors. No day is ever the same in the office and they approach each day with good humour, calmness and a 'can-do' attitude.

To our middle leaders – Heads of Learning Area and Heads of Year. Thank you for your diligence, initiative, professionalism and care for our students, pastorally, academically and spiritually. To our teaching and support staff – I am constantly impressed with the work that goes on in our classrooms for the benefit of our students. Thank you.

I have loved my first year as Principal of Kearnan College. It is an honour to work with such a dedicated group of staff and a vibrant student community. I wish you all the best for the coming Christmas season, for rest and renewal over the Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in the new school year. We have a lot of exciting plans, so stay tuned!

**Dr Lisa Gallin – Principal**