Boarder Parents' Association Meeting

Location: Iles Theatre
Date: Monday 31 January 2011
Time: 3:00pm

Present:

Staff: Principal; Head of Senior Years; Dean of Boarding; Boarding Liaison Officer.

Parents: Alan Liddle; Jennifer and Stephen Edwards; Jenny and John Ridley; Sarah and Steve Todd; Rosie and Gary Johnston; Mandy Horton; Ann Craven; Penny and Michael Crawford; Angela Lavender; Toby Allworth; Sandy and Matthew Duff; Margie Payne; Georgina Kennedy; Robyn Watson; Megan Donnelly; Ben Swan, Anna Hickman; Gregory Mackenzie; Peter Schubert; Polly and Andrew Locke; Whitney Drayton; Margot Mooney; Suzanne and Greg Hayes; Sue and David Nicholas; Deb Allworth; Lisa and Nigel Champion; Natascha Wrigley; Lisa Stephens; Annabel and Rob Beith; Margot and Chris Shannon; Foong Ooi; Ingrid and Roger Hendry; Amanda Gavin; Alison and Scott Fuller.

1. Welcome – Head of Senior Years:

   Referred to attachments provided: Principal’s Powerpoint presentation and Minutes from previous meeting.

2. Principal’s Comments:

   -Outlined the roles of Head of Senior Years with his extensive background in Admissions and Boarding at Churchie, Geelong Grammar, Dulwich College UK and as Qld President of the Australian Boarding Schools’ Association.
   -Outlined the role of new Dean of Boarding and the newly created position of Boarding Liaison Officer in supporting the leadership team of boarding.
   -Gave updates on the review of catering and the thorough tender process that led to the selection of Trippas White Group as being the new providers. TSC is the only school in an extensive and select group of businesses catered for by Trippas White Group.
   -Mentioned the considerable capital works that had taken place in boarding houses over the Christmas break as being part of a rolling program of development of boarding facilities.

3. Head of Senior Years’ Comments:

   - Indicated something of his personal background, philosophy and the role he has taken on.
   - “Why am I here?” – Attracted to values, mission and community of the College as well as the “all round product”.
   - Emphasised that boarding provides a thorough grounding for boys – for boys living in communal environment especially, as they are judged by their actions.
   - Sees boarding as the centre of the school.
   - Was a boarder himself, but celebrates the current environment that embraces individual differences.
   - His number one priority is to have happy boys away from home.
- Secondly, to achieve fulfilled and challenged boys who operate within transparent standards, have common expectations, a climate of trust and have no doubts about their place within the community. Foster a robust relationship.
- If boys can become self-directed as a natural consequence of the above, then this becomes the essence of true and effective leadership.
- Strive to create an authentic pathway for academic achievement; a culture of service which develops steadily as boys move into Year 12.
- Aim to kick-start Boarder Support Group to have executive work regularly (electronically, if necessary) with himself and the Dean of Boarding.
- Emphasised not to sit on an issue; that we need to know. What you hear directly from your son is not necessarily what we are hearing.

4. Dean of Boarding’s Comments:

- Welcome and an outline of his background.
- DoB role is mainly one to effect operational management within boarding.
- His mission and passion is to move boarding forward; benchmarking to the best international standards and (through the team of staff within boarding) to support your sons.
- Changes for 2011:
  - Daily routine to bring evening practices forward – finishing earlier to allow more time for sleep;
  - Years 7 to 10 will have laptops and mobiles locked down at the end of the evening;
  - Leave organisation has been standardised across Houses and now involves more electronic involvement of parents before weekend leave is authorised;
  - Greater commonality of practice across all Houses;
  - Increased formal communication channels to deliver timely information and maximise lead-time for parents to involve themselves in important events; and
  - More newsletters and weekly updates communicated electronically.
- Encouraged parents to bring problems to Housemasters or DoB.
- The expansion of the role of Dean to include direct oversight of food provision and to further the dining experience with changes to routine revolving around more formal dinners, but also nights where smart casual clothes may be worn.
- “Open Door” policy – parents always welcomed.

5. Boarding Liaison Officer’s Comments:

- Explanation of role in supporting boarding communication; rural visits and boarding expos; admissions of boarders and helping time-poor Boarding Housemasters visiting country parents.

6. Election of Office Bearers for Boarding Support Group

- Nominations for President:
  - Alan Liddle
  - Nominated: Robyn Watson           Seconded: Megan Donnelly
- Nominations for Vice-Presidents:
  - Andrew Locke
    Nominated: Scott Fuller
  - Deb Allworth
    Nominated: Whitney Drayton Seconded: Scott Fuller
  - Alan Liddle duly elected
  - Deb Allworth
    Nominated: David Nicholas
  - Both duly elected

- Nomination for Secretary:
  - Megan Donnelly Nominated: Georgina Kennedy
  - Duly elected

- Year Group Co-ordinators:
  - Year 12: Deb Allworth
  - Year 11: Georgina Kennedy and Robyn Watson
  - Year 10: Lisa Champion
  - Year 9: Ben Swan
  - Year 8: Angela Lavender and Margot Shannon
  - Year 7: Steve Todd

7. Confirmation of BSG Meeting Dates for 2011:

- TBC by Executive.

8. Q & A:

- Georgina Kennedy sought clarification over new electronic leave system - any scope for discretion by HM and senior boys.
  - DoB responded and discussion ensued about a minority of boys who may not take leave opportunities preferring to bury themselves in laptops on weekend afternoons.
- Questions posed about need for mobile phones.
- Questions followed about the access to social networking sites during class time. Principal clarified about staff access to software (LanSchool) that allows them to directly monitor and intervene as appropriate.
- Anna Hickman raised issues as a new parent about uniform to which DoB responded.

Meeting closed: 4:10pm