Dear Parents/Caregivers,

School Fee Schedule for 2015

Please find attached the 2015 College Fee Schedule, Fees notice and Financial Policies relating to Fees. The College Board feels that we have a duty to give families as much time as possible to plan for their children's schooling in 2015 and we believe that a term's notice of the 2015 fees accomplishes this. The board also recognises that since we require a term's notice in writing from parents withdrawing children from the College it is only fair to give parents an equal amount of notice of the fees they can expect to pay in the ensuing year.

There is only one major change to the structure of the Fee Schedule in 2015 which is the treatment of compulsory student workbooks for years Prep to 10. Traditionally, student workbooks have been made available to families of the College by way of the booklist that we upload on our website at the end of every year (to which we send all parents a link). However, we have found in the past that we have encountered frequent problems (for various reasons) with students turning up to their first week of school without the necessary workbooks.

The College's solution to this problem is to purchase all necessary workbooks in bulk and distribute them to each student during the first week of school. This cost will then be added to the resource levy charged to each family on their annual fee account. We recognise that the increase to the resource levy charged to each child is therefore more than it would otherwise be, but wish to emphasise that this does not represent an additional cost to parents, but is rather the cost being moved from the booklist onto the fee schedule.

As a school we rely on a mix of Federal and State Government funding (74%) and fee income (26%) to support our staff wages, equipment purchases, buildings, cleaning, furniture and the incidental costs that allow a school to run. This funding mix is determined by the Federal and State Government on a needs based system. We manage the College frugally while keeping the standard of the facilities and education high.

Our school fees are among the lowest of any independent school on the Sunshine Coast and I am pleased to advise you that our overall fee increase from 2014 to 2015 will be a very moderate one, in recognition of the major restructuring of our fee schedule that we undertook for our 2014 fee schedule and the burden that this placed upon some of our families.

We also feel very strongly that the College's schedule of fees ought to be simple, fair and transparent and we believe we have achieved this:- all known costs, including camps and excursions, subject costs, most sport costs, the Student ID card, Locker hire, the College Yearbook, the Year 7 Canberra Trip, the provision of laptops and iPads, the loan of student textbooks and many other items are included in our fees (i.e. they are not charged in addition to the Fees stated on the Fee Schedule). This is not necessarily true of other independent schools.

In 2015 we strongly encourage parents to continue to utilise our Direct Debit method of payment which has proven to be the easiest way for parents to budget for and manage the payment of our school fees over the year. Further information on how to sign up to this method of payment will be distributed with your 2015 Fee Statement in January.

Please phone our Business Manager, Mr John Dohler on (07) 5439 0033 to discuss any of the above matters further.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Curtis
Principal