



Hong Kong Parents Evening
Friday July 18th, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS (TRANSCRIPT)

Dear parents, friends, agents and prospective families,

Thank you for joining us this evening. Although we are 1000s of miles away from our actual school, you are all part of our community. It is important that we visit, connect with you personally like this and help you feel part of what your children are doing in Australia.

There are four things that I would like to talk through with you tonight – my background, the mission of the College, 2025 so far, and where to from here.

Firstly, a little bit about me. I grew up in country New South Wales, but I went to Sydney for high school. I had 6 years away at boarding school. Although it was only 5 hours away from home, I understand the decision you have all made and I appreciate the challenges your children face. They are away from home, away from family and friends, in a foreign country, a different culture, learning in a second language. You have placed a lot of trust in us to care for and educate your children. This is important to me. Prior to joining St Paul's I worked at Canberra Grammar School where I held pastoral care and boarding positions. Student wellbeing and care is at the forefront of my educational philosophy. Children cannot learn effectively if they are not connected, happy and engaged.

When I first visited St Paul's in 2023, I found a school that had this same set of values that I do. Next year our school will celebrate its 40th birthday. 40 years of academic excellence, character development and inclusion, all with a great care for the individual student. We are a small school, set on parklands an hour from Sydney. This size and location give us great strength. Our class sizes are small. Every student is really known. Our community events are a great source of pride and connection. And we are away from the distraction and concerns of a major city. Your children are safe with us. We are safer, smaller, stronger.

2025 has seen St Paul's really lean into these strengths and values. We are prioritising the student experience. More events, more activities, a new music carnival, more community engagement and service, more excursions, additional services for students such as the new fee-free laundry machines, and updated bathrooms for the girls' boarding house. We have also redesigned our reporting format to place more focus on student application and encouragement. This has allowed us to celebrate effort and provide clear directions on where our students can improve.



From here, our plan is to continue to invest in the student experience, not simply for comfort and enjoyment, but for academic confidence and success. We are currently recruiting an Academic Co-ordinator to join our new Head of Teaching & Learning to focus on curriculum and teacher development. We want every single student to be known, engaged and supported as they extend themselves in knowledge and skill.

By completing their schooling at St Paul's, your children will be in a safe and supportive environment with routines and structures in place with access to teachers dedicated to helping them achieve their best. They will be awarded a NSW HSC, a globally recognised certificate, they can use to apply to any course at any university.

They will also be completing an education that is aimed at more than just pure academics. Your children will continue to develop their emotional intelligence and a sense of connection through a broad offering of activities and community events. This is vital.

By completing their high school in Australia, you are giving your children the best chance of success at an Australian university, and the best chance of success in the Australian job market. Their language acquisition, their understanding of the Australian education system, their cultural awareness and workplace interaction skills will all be enhanced, equipping them with the soft skills as well as the academic knowledge and understanding.

We are not just selling a qualification. The education we are providing is not transactional – it is relational. It is setting your children up for not only for the next step, but the step after that and the step after that. All while becoming more confident, open-minded and caring people.

This is a mission that we passionately believe in. We thank you for placing your trust in us. I sincerely hope that we repay this trust over the coming years and you continue to see the benefit of your decision for many years to come.

Thank you.