



Monday 27 November 2023

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School (GGS),

Re: Update from Chair of Council

On behalf of the Geelong Grammar School Council, I am writing to update you on the progress of four important strategic initiatives for our School.

Junior School at Corio Campus

I am delighted to confirm that the School has progressed the design of our new, purpose-built Junior School at Corio and that construction of this project is anticipated to commence in Semester 2, 2024. This is a significant strategic project for our School, a transformational “Timbertop moment”, and an exciting new chapter for our Bostock House community. This project has experienced several delays as the School has navigated complex planning matters amidst a highly inflationary environment. Through collaboration with our project team of architects and builders, we have reached an optimal design and cost solution for the project so that we can deliver an exceptional Junior School experience at Corio from 2026 and beyond.

Middle School at Toorak Campus (The Glamorgan Initiative)

The School has also completed its comprehensive review of the educational model at our Toorak Campus and we will be progressing with the design of a Middle School program, including the phased re-introduction of Years 7 and 8. The review included workshops and focus groups with staff and families, as well as an independent research project conducted by Roy Morgan to provide robust data and a clear market perspective.

The new model will continue our record of Exceptional Education at our Toorak Campus. Known as The Glamorgan Initiative (TGI), it will include reorientating and refreshing existing facilities to accommodate the introduction of Year 7 in 2027, followed by Year 8 in 2028. We are confident there is a healthy appetite in Melbourne for our proposed co-educational Middle School model (Years 5-8), supported by dedicated Middle School staff and providing a direct pathway to Timbertop and beyond to Senior School at Corio. There will be information sessions for current families during Semester 1, 2024, supported by a comprehensive communications and marketing campaign. Applications for new students (for entry in Years 7 and 8) will open in 2024.

Corio and Timbertop Masterplans

I can also confirm that at the recent Council meeting, we renewed our commitment to progress other projects outlined in the Corio Campus Masterplan and endorsed a newly developed, comprehensive Masterplan for Timbertop. At Corio, we have continued to advance designs to reconfigure and revitalise two Senior School boarding houses, Garnett and Perry.

Like our Corio Campus Masterplan, our new Masterplan for Timbertop interweaves the rich heritage of the campus (which celebrated its 70-year anniversary in 2023) with an evolving vision for contemporary learning. The Masterplan leverages our wealth of environmental assets for real-world, nature-based learning. As was the case at Corio, these plans are based on deep collaboration and consultation – I am grateful to our students, staff and broader community for their contributions to the process of developing a shared vision for our Timbertop campus.

The delivery of the Masterplans will enable us to continue to provide an Exceptional Education well into the future. It is very clear that as a community we have significant ambitions! The next step is to commence a philanthropic feasibility study to understand the support available to advance these ambitions. The level of community interest and philanthropic capacity will help us plan the logistics of where we start and create a map of works with estimated timelines.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the complexity of these important capital works at each of our campuses.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Community Engagement, Brendan McAloon, via email to bmcaloon@ggs.vic.edu.au or call (03) 5273 9209.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paddy Handbury'.

Paddy Handbury (M'72)
Chair of Council