



GEE LONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL®
EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

Tuesday 18 November

Dear GGS Community,

At yesterday's meeting of School Council, we formalised my retirement as Chair of Council. It has been an enormous privilege and honour to serve as Chair for the past six years and as a member of Council for approximately 15 years, including four years as Chair of the Foundation Board.

I am delighted to advise that Council has elected David Bowser (Fr'90) to succeed me as Chair. David is the founder and CEO of Curio Group; a consulting and technology firm focused on learning and development. Following a successful career as a neuroscientist at Cambridge and Melbourne universities, David made the move to management consulting, initially with the Nous Group, before starting Curio in 2017. David has been a member of Council for almost three years, most recently serving as Chair of the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, and demonstrates thoughtful, values-led leadership. He brings a unique combination of educational insight, commercial acumen, and a strong sense of service. David has developed a strong synergy and purposeful partnership with our Principal, Rebecca Cody, and I couldn't be happier to be leaving Council knowing the School will be guided by such exceptional and exciting leadership.

The School is in an excellent position and continues to move forward with confidence. It is strengthened by a collaborative School Council, a talented Executive leadership team, and committed staff whose professionalism and passion for delivering an Exceptional Education never ceases to inspire. They are led by a highly ethical and strategic Principal, who has developed authentic and collaborative relationships with staff and students, whilst advancing a Strategic Framework that prioritises progression and positions the School extremely well for a sustainable future. As I have noted before, it gives me immense faith that our School is in great heart and hands.

The past six years have not been all smooth sailing. We have navigated a global pandemic (a perfect storm for a boarding school of our size and scale) and embraced a survivor-focussed and trauma-informed approach to historical harm with a renewed emphasis on student safeguarding. We have done so with a clear sense of direction and purpose, with a focus on change by choice, and by persisting with positive, proactive and progressive decision-making. I have greatly appreciated the support I have received from our community as we have tackled each challenge and seized each new opportunity.

I am very grateful for the progress we've made together – advancing academic achievement, expanding Adventure Education, driving enrolment growth, strengthening our scholarship programme, and enhancing parent satisfaction. Importantly, we have also developed and endorsed comprehensive Masterplans for Corio and Timbertop that provide the School with a roadmap for the future development of our campuses. The new, purpose-built Junior School at Corio leads into the development of the overall Masterplan and we are excited to finally welcome our Bostock House community to Corio in 2026. We are equally excited by plans for our Toorak Campus and the imminent redevelopment of the Timbertop Library and Outdoor Education Store.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on Council over the years for their diligence, kindness and care. I would like to thank our community whose ongoing generosity and unwavering belief in the transformational power of education continues to provide life-changing opportunities for so many young people.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paddy Handbury', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paddy Handbury (M'72)
Chair of Council