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22 November 2023

2024 Tuition Fees

Dear Parents and carers

The College is committed to ensuring that tuition fees remain affordable for families, whilst also ensuring that each student is offered the best possible educational experience at St Edward's. A number of factors impact on the fee schedules determined each year, including the level of Federal and State funding, inflation, and wages. I am writing to inform parents and carers of the factors that have impacted on the College financial planning which have resulted in a larger than normal increase in tuition fees for 2024. This information was publicised in the last edition of the College newsletter, and it is important that all families are aware of the proposed increases.

The way in which independent schools are funded by the Federal and State Governments has undergone recent changes. These changes are progressive in nature and have the cumulative effect of a reduction in funding of \$3.6 million over the next six years.

Furthermore, the recent pay increase for NSW public school teachers under the Minns Labor Government has led to negotiations for similar adjustments for our dedicated teaching staff, who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our boys through education. To retain our valued teachers, I recognise that it is necessary to reward their hard work, care and commitment.

In response to these financial pressures, and the pressures faced by families as a result of interest rate and other cost of living increases, St Edward's College has worked very hard to minimise the impact of fee increases on our families by spreading the burden across multiple years. Our families are at the heart of everything we do, and I emphasise that our decision to increase tuition fees has been painstakingly considered. The full schedule of fees for 2024 including the schedule for sibling discounts are available on our College website and can be accessed using the following link. <u>2024</u> Fee Schedule

Lastly, I would like to address the positioning of St Edward's College within the landscape of independent schools on the Central Coast. Despite the impending fee adjustment in 2024, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing an education that is of great quality and competitively priced. When compared to other independent schools in the region, our fees continue to be lower, even after factoring in the adjustments necessitated by the reduction in government funding.

Families who have concerns regarding their capacity to pay tuition fees are encouraged to contact the College Finance Team on 4321 6400 or via email on <u>accounts@stedwards.nsw.edu.au</u> to discuss their circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Mark Bonnici College Principal

