

18 March 2014

Dear John XXIII College Community

I am writing to send you my very sincere thanks for a truly enjoyable two weeks on campus recently.

As you may know, at the invitation of the Principal, Mrs Anne Fry, I readily accepted the challenge of writing a new school song. As I saw it, the task was to familiarize myself with the culture of the College first, and to consult with you, staff and students, who make it what it is today. I can only say I was mightily impressed with the warm welcome you gave me, the inspiration that was aroused by the daily visits, and just the joy of being on a school campus that obviously lives out its values. In fact I was so enlivened by the whole experience that the words and melody came together quite quickly.

Ownership by the College community was clearly a priority. For this reason I invited Ellie Korn of Year 11 to set the piano accompaniment, and the Swing Band to take the song further. So in the not too distant future this will truly be YOUR song to sing with gusto.

Special thanks are due to Ms Caroline Watson, who in her role as Director of Mission, oversaw the project. Her energy, generosity and total commitment was infectious.

To the steering committee and other members of staff who offered time and interest, I thank you. One would have to single out Mrs Jo Allen, Mr Peter Johnston and my former colleague, Ms Toni Strong for their professional music advice and interest.

To all the students from both Primary and Secondary, in choirs and class groups; to the SRC, in particular the Music Captain, Lauren, to Ellie, Alice and Andrea who were the first volunteers to dare share their ideas, my sincere thanks. What I have written is a song that is something between a lively yet dignified piece.
I hope you see it that way.

This is the story line I tried to capture.

Refrain: The verbs to 'seek', 'do', and 'be' impel us out of an armchair mentality. It's not enough to simply know justice. We need to seek it actively in all we are and do.

Vs 1 situates us as a college that is inclusive, friendly, compassionate, appreciative of difference, grateful for opportunity.

Vs 2 picks up the founding story, in the context of our catholicity and commitment to the gospel of Jesus.

Vs 3 establishes us as a contemporary college, leading from the heart like Saint John XXIII, open and ready to embrace the new.

Hopefully on 27 April, the day of John XXIII's canonization, you will remember how you helped to put this song together, and will enjoy it into the future.

Sincerely
Deirdre ibvm

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