



29 March 2018

Dear Parents and Staff

I write today with some exciting news about the future of Catholic schooling in the Edmund Rice tradition in the Diocese of Parramatta.

For the past few years, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) and the Diocese have been working collaboratively on a vision for educating children with special needs. This work has looked at a number of options including: how to best cater for the needs of current families, how to maximise the use of available resources, as well as considering what models of education will serve the needs of future generations of young people.

Today, I am delighted to announce an important first step in bringing this collaborative vision to life with the expansion of the educational provision at St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill. From the commencement of next Term, applications for enrolment into Year 7 in 2019 will be open with a view to offering families a Catholic secondary school option in the Edmund Rice tradition on the St Gabriel's site for the first time.

While a lot of work remains to be done as the school continues to grow into a full K-12 school in the coming years, I would like to congratulate all of those people who have worked so hard on the project, especially the Principal, staff and Board of Edmund Rice Special Education Services and staff from EREA and the Catholic Education Office in Parramatta.

I would also like to acknowledge the Bishop of Parramatta, the Most Reverend Vincent Long and Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Catholic Schools who have both been wonderful supporters of this work.

I look forward to meeting many new parents and children as they commence their journey in secondary education at St Gabriel's and trust that the remainder of the 2018 school year will be a happy and productive time for all members of the St Gabriel's school community.

If you have any questions about this new development, please contact the Principal, Mr Jon Franzin, at St Gabriel's school.

With my best wishes

Wayne Tinsey
Executive Director
Edmund Rice Education Australia