



Wednesday 30 August 2023

Dear St Dominic's Priory College Community;

I hope this letter finds you well. Today, I am writing to share some significant news for our College community.

After a notable journey of 23 years of dedicated service at St Dominic's Priory College, we extend our warm wishes to Ms. Cate O'Leary who has announced her retirement from 2024. As the esteemed Director of the Junior School, Cate has been an integral part of our College community since 1999 when she joined us as a Year 3 and 4 Teacher.

Throughout her tenure, Cate has exhibited unwavering commitment to our College's values and has played an instrumental role in shaping the lives of students, teachers and families. Her journey within our community has been one of continuous growth and accomplishment. In 2011, she took on the role of Key Literacy Teacher and Primary Coordinator, showcasing her dedication to fostering a strong foundation in girls' education. In 2016, she assumed the position of Coordinator of the Primary School, where she excelled as a leader. In 2020, Ms. O'Leary was appointed to the role of Director of the Junior School, a position she has held with unparalleled dedication and excellence.

Cate's impact as an educator, leader, and role model has been profound. Her pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning, student engagement, and professional development is truly commendable. Her boundless energy, visionary outlook, unwavering enthusiasm, and unrelenting drive have been crucial in ensuring that she knows every girl by name and every family by car! Moreover, her commitment to supporting families and inspiring her team members has fostered a culture of growth and empowerment within the Primary School and beyond.

Having had the privilege of working alongside Cate, I can attest to her admirable qualities, generosity and professionalism. She is not only a trusted colleague but also a wise educator, a creative leader, and a person of the highest integrity. Her embodiment of the Dominican charism shines through in her reflective nature, her high standards, and profound respect for the sacredness and dignity of every individual she encounters. Our community is undoubtedly richer for having known Cate, as teacher, colleague and friend.

The College will look to farewell and acknowledge Cate in a suitable style later in the school year. In the meantime, I invite you all to join me in congratulating Cate on her impending retirement.

The College will soon initiate the process of advertising for a new Director of the Junior School, and we are confident that we will find an individual who will continue to uphold our values and nurture the growth of our girls, inspiring confidence in our work as leaders of girls education.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Helen Steele
College Principal

inspiring confidence