



17 November 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians

As 2016 draws to a close, St Margaret's students can reflect on a year filled with strong achievements across both academic and extra-curricular endeavours. It is important a school seeks to continuously improve, to remain at the forefront of innovation in education, and to challenge and support each of our students to ensure they develop a strong foundation for their future beyond the school gates.

To achieve this, a school relies on their community – which includes the students, their families and, of course, our staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their support during the year, and our staff for their dedication to our students. A clear focus of the school this year has been on enhancing the quality of our teaching and learning program. The staff have been committed to developing in all our students the ability to think deeply and critically, as well as focusing on the wellbeing and academic care of each student. This will continue to yield results for the girls and the school as a whole.

Throughout 2016, the Academic Management Plan has been implemented across all year levels. Our staff have been heavily involved in the development and implementation of this plan, specifically with the St Margaret's Quality Teaching and Learning Framework, and are highly committed to embedding its principles into the day to day operation of the school. This framework will guide the school's teaching and learning program in 2017 and beyond.

Developments

The School Council has been busy this year working on projects that form part of the school's masterplan. Some of these projects are well progressed and in their final stages of design prior to tender, such as the major landscaping project of the bitumen area between Toorak and Avoca, extending down to join up with the Barley Sugar Garden. The other exciting project is the creation of M's Café, which will adjoin and complement the new hospitality facility, providing a different learning environment and an inviting place for students and staff to meet and relax. Work will begin on these projects in December, 2016.

Also underway is planning for the 'Atelier' facility in the primary school, the collaborative lecture theatre in the secondary school, and the sports precinct. All these projects will be in the detailed design phase during 2017.

Fee Structure for 2017

In past years, the fee account presented to parents for their child's education at St Margaret's listed a range of items – tuition costs, levies, school camps and *The Link* magazine – which potentially varied the fees payable from term to term. The fee account also varied from year level to year level through both primary and secondary. Increasingly, we have received feedback this is confusing and there is a strong preference from our families to have a single school fee encompassing all compulsory school activities and a consistent fee for primary years and secondary years. It is hoped a single fee approach will provide greater clarity and certainty for budgeting purposes in a simpler and easier to read format.

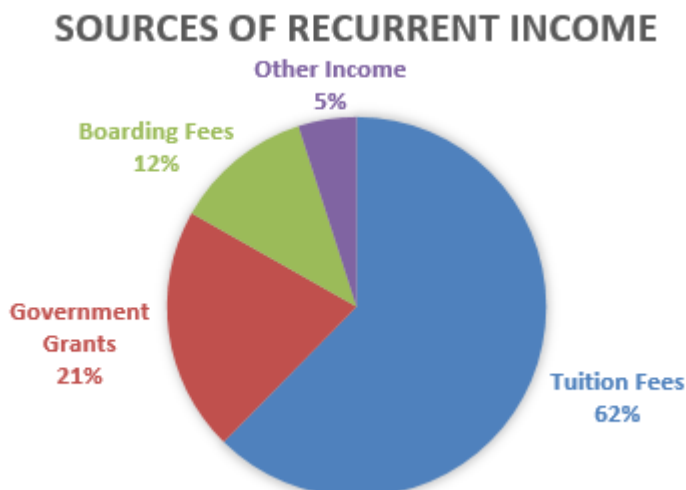
We have decided to implement this change for the 2017 year. Your fee account will include only a single amount which covers all tuition fees together with any compulsory levies and school camp costs. The only time you will see an additional charge on your fee account will be if your child chooses to participate in an optional activity such as private speech and drama, music lessons or musical instrument hire.

We recognise this may cause some consternation in the first year as we transition to this new format, but believe the clarity and certainty it provides will be beneficial for all. We also felt it was important to explain clearly the change; therefore, an example of how the 2017 fee account format will be presented is shown in Appendix A, together with a comparison to how that same fee account would have looked for 2016.

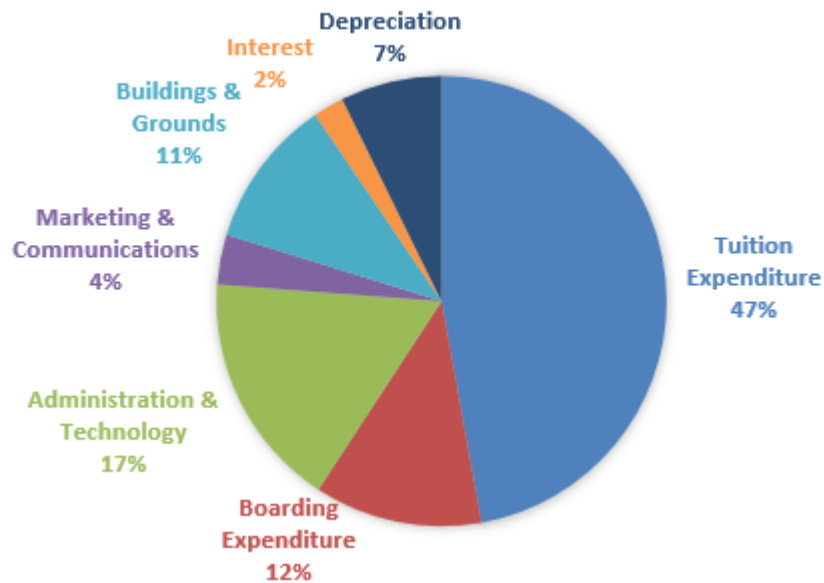
As with every year, the School Council is mindful of the affordability of the education offered at St Margaret's, especially as we move to a different way of presenting the fee account. It is for this reason the Council felt it was important to be very transparent about the increase from last year to this year. In 2017, the fee increase on the tuition fee component has been contained to 2.8% across all year levels.

Source and Application of Funds 2016

For your additional information, details of the school's source and application of funds for 2016 are shown in the graphs below. In 2016, the school received an unqualified audit report by our external auditors, Bentleys and continues to deliver financial outcomes that will ensure consistent reinvestment into facilities and resources while reducing debt levels.



RECURRENT EXPENDITURE



Payment of Fees

The 2017 Fee Schedule is attached.

A 3% discount will be available for all families who choose to pay their annual account on or before the 24th January 2017. The School also has favourable terms if you would like to prepay fees for years beyond 2017.

School fees are due at the beginning of each term. Your fee statement for Term 1, 2017 will be emailed to you in December 2016. If you would prefer to pay your fees in monthly instalments, please contact School Plan on 1800 337 419 or www.schoolplan.com.au. For your convenience, School Plan information will also be included with your fee statement.

If you would like to take advantage of the 3% discount or know more about the fee schedule for 2017, please contact our Finance Office on 3862 0766 or email lburns@stmargarets.qld.edu.au.



On behalf of the School Council, may I again thank you for your support of St Margaret's and the trust you have placed in the school for your child's education.

Yours sincerely

Alison Quinn
Chair of School Council

Appendix A: Example of a 2016 Fee Account in the current and new format – for comparison purposes only

Current Format in 2016 (2016 Fees)

 St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School		11 Petrie Street, Ascot BRISBANE QLD 4007		 Biller code: 27060
Phone: 07 3862 0766 Fax: 07 3862 3657 Email: accountsreceivable@stmargarets.qld.edu.au Website: www.stmargarets.qld.edu.au ABN: 93 492 310 839		Ref: 0		
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT		ACCOUNT NUMBER	EXAMPLE	
Mr & Mrs Smith		DUE DATE	01-01-16	
		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$21,627.00	
if not paid electronically, please detach and return this section with your payment				
ACCOUNT: Mr & Mrs Smith		Date Due: 01-01-16		
DATE	DETAILS	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			\$0.00
01-01-16	Year 10 Tuition Fee	\$19,698.00		\$19,698.00
01-01-16	Technology Levy	\$640.00		\$20,338.00
01-01-16	Transport Levy	\$160.00		\$20,498.00
01-01-16	Capital Levy	\$500.00		\$20,998.00
01-01-16	Link Magazine	\$60.00		\$21,058.00
01-01-16	Student Diary	\$17.00		\$21,075.00
01-01-16	Camp - Year 10	\$552.00		\$21,627.00
	TOTAL PARENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			\$21,627.00
E & O.E.		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		\$21,627.00

New format that will be used in 2017 (2016 fee used for comparison purposes)

 St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School		11 Petrie Street, Ascot BRISBANE QLD 4007		 Biller code: 27060
Phone: 07 3862 0766 Fax: 07 3862 3657 Email: accountsreceivable@stmargarets.qld.edu.au Website: www.stmargarets.qld.edu.au ABN: 93 492 310 839		Ref: 0		
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT		ACCOUNT NUMBER	EXAMPLE	
Mr & Mrs Smith		DUE DATE	01-01-16	
		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$21,627.00	
if not paid electronically, please detach and return this section with your payment				
ACCOUNT: Mr & Mrs Smith		Date Due: 01-01-16		
DATE	DETAILS	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			\$0.00
01-01-16	Year 10 Tuition Fee	\$21,627.00		\$21,627.00
	TOTAL PARENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			\$21,627.00
E & O.E.		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		\$21,627.00