



P&F AGM – Monday 2nd March 2020

Good Evening Madam President and Executive.

The key events of the 2019 academic year were summarised in the report provided to the Parents and Friends Association (P&F) in November last year; the February 2020 report included details of new staff appointed to the College and enrolment numbers, as well as refurbishment projects that had been completed over the holiday period. The scope of this report will therefore be much briefer than was the case at the 2019 AGM.

The main thrust of this report is to acknowledge and affirm the significant contribution that parents make to the education of their daughters and to this College community. The most tangible expression of this support is the activities of the Parents and Friends Association. St Ursula's College is indebted to the P&F for its many contributions during the 2019 academic year – including your presence at College events such as sporting carnivals, Enrolment and Parent Information Nights; the provision of parent education presentations and guest speakers and the organisation of opportunities for social interaction and engagement amongst parents. The 2019 guest presenters were a group called **Project ROCKIT** and their theme was **Cyber Safety**, an issue that has been promoted to public awareness by both education and Government authorities. The funds provided by the P&F Association enabled all students in the College to participate in the workshop on this issue and staff to learn more about how to address it.

The College and Year 12 parents appreciate the P&F gesture of providing drinks for parents attending **Graduation Night** each year and assistance provided at the bar at the **Year 12 Formal**. The inaugural **Jazz and Shiraz Night** was enormously successful and very enjoyable despite a smaller crowd than hoped. The success of the evening, and an earlier date (May rather than August), should help assure better attendance this year. The **Jazz and Shiraz** initiative took courage, vision and a lot of hard work to initiate but I hope the enjoyment of those who attended has provided sufficient affirmation to encourage your organisational efforts. The P&F **support for the Interact High Tea** which raises funds for the **Girl Up** Foundation is also greatly appreciated by the Rotary Club and the College community.

Along with the Board of Directors, I also express sincere thanks for the vision the P&F has demonstrated in the distribution of funds. Your willingness to consider and direct significant amounts from the annual levy to a major capital project (that would not receive Government Funding but would enhance the learning and development of a majority of students) has resulted in a very successful partnership with the College in achieving projects such as the Air Conditioning of the Ballygriffin Centre (Many prayers of thanks have been uttered this summer both during the classes that occur in the BCC and during Assemblies). We look forward to working with the P&F to **weather proof the Fahey Sports Court**. The wet weather of recent times has accentuated the need for this project.

On behalf of St Ursula's College, I express sincere appreciation for the positive communication and interaction that occur between the P&F Association and the College

itself. I thank and congratulate the outgoing executive, **Mrs Jane Walsh, Mrs Megan Weinert, Mrs Majella Keily, Mrs Jo Couper and Mrs Natalie Salisbury**. It is a selfless gesture to assume a role on the Executive and such positions are becoming much harder to fill in all volunteer organisations. When people do accept these roles and execute them very effectively, we are all truly grateful. I thank you all for your energy, enthusiasm, expertise in a number of areas and generosity and good will to St Ursula's College. I thank Jane Walsh (President) for her attendance at a number of College activities and her willingness to be the voice of welcome to the parents. I have very much enjoyed working with the P&F Association in 2019 and look forward to an ongoing positive relationship in 2020.

God Bless you all and sincere thanks.

Catherine Dunbar
Principal