



15 December 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

### **2023 SCHOOL BUDGET**

I write in relation to the 2023 College budget and to apologise for the lateness of this advice to our community. Due changes in the way Government funding is distributed, we have had to await confirmation of our funding allocations and projections from Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) which have delayed the process.

In addition to changes to funding allocations, the College Executive Leadership Team and Advisory Council have also had to negotiate their way through several complexities such as inflationary and associated cost of living pressures in conjunction with wage indexation.

A key consideration is the annual school fee increase. College management and the Advisory Council are very cognisant of the impact that school fee increases can have for members of our school community. Every effort has been made to keep fee increases at the minimum required to ensure adequate resources are provided for the teaching and learning operation of the College.

After much careful discernment and thorough investigation, the College has calculated that a tuition fee increase of **4% for Primary** and **4% for Secondary** is required for 2023 to meet the ongoing costs associated with running the College. This percentage equates to the following increases to tuition fees:

| <b>GRADE/S</b>       | <b>2022 Tuition Fee</b> | <b>2023 Increase (\$)</b> | <b>2023 Tuition Fee</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kindergarten         | \$1397.00               | \$56.00                   | <b>\$1453.00</b>        |
| Pre-Primary – Year 2 | \$2407.00               | \$96.00                   | <b>\$2503.00</b>        |
| Years 3-6            | \$2611.00               | \$104.00                  | <b>\$2715.00</b>        |
| Years 7-9            | \$5972.00               | \$239.00                  | <b>\$6211.00</b>        |
| Years 10-12          | \$6630.00               | \$265.00                  | <b>\$6895.00</b>        |

These rates are consistent with those recommended by CEWA and have been endorsed by the Advisory Council and emphasises the need to keep school increases at a level that will not impact adversely on families.

School fees and standard levies such as the Building and ICT levies will increase in line with tuition fees. These levies are based on a cost recovery model and generally apply where students undertake additional subjects with associated resource levies, software licenses or textbook replacement costs.

While community expectations of schools, both public and independent, continue to grow, Ursula Frayne Catholic College is committed to ensuring that the College continues to provide a high quality, affordable and sustainable Catholic education, especially during the current economic climate.

I understand that the impact of COVID pandemic and increasing cost of living expenses can put considerable strain on household budgets. Every year, the College makes provision for families facing financial hardship, perhaps through changed personal or economic circumstances. If you feel that you may need assistance in meeting your school fee obligation, please contact the Business Manager directly to discuss if you might be eligible for assistance.

I am confident that any peer comparison of Ursula Frayne's fees or expenditure, using the *My School* website, will show that our fees are not excessive, and our expenditure is modest and well managed for the level of service offered. If you have friends, neighbours, or colleagues with children, I encourage you to share the gift of our *learning and faith sharing community, centred in Christ* with them as well. Supporting future enrolments is one of the most important ways to ensure an active, vibrant future for Ursula Frayne Catholic College.

I am very happy to make myself available to meet with any families who may like to discuss or enquire further in relation to school fees and their impact on your family. Please feel free to contact my Executive Assistant on (Direct) 9470 0943 or by email at [mandy.williams@ufcc.wa.edu.au](mailto:mandy.williams@ufcc.wa.edu.au) to arrange for us to meet.

In the spirit of Christmas, I wish you a most blessed, safe, reinvigorating, and happy time together with friends and family. May Christ be central to your families this Christmas and may you all have a happy, peaceful, and safe holiday. I thank you for your contribution to our *learning and faith sharing community, 'centred in Christ'* and look forward to your support next year.

With regards and prayerful best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Mills', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Geoff Mills**