A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of the staff and College Board I welcome you to a new school year.

I trust that you have been able to enjoy the Christmas break and that you are looking forward to getting back into a routine – I know many of the students I have chatted to in recent days are ‘itching’ to get back to school.

As I indicated at Presentation Evening last year, 2017 promises to be a significant year for the development and growth of the College.

Of particular note are:

1/ the opening of our Senior School facility. Much has been said about the significance of the provision of such a high level teaching facility for families on the South Coast; I will not say anything further. The ‘Official Opening’ will be on 8 March this year and I invite you to come and enjoy a tour of the building at that time – details will follow shortly.

2/ the College’s Year 12 results of 2016 have yet again proved the calibre of teaching staff and the teaching and learning programs offered at the College. In 2016 44% of our students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above and there were 11 subject ‘merits’ or perfect scores. This is unprecedented and is testament to the care and attention taken by the senior staff with the students.

3/ we commence the year with a whole school focus on Wellbeing and Community Development. Further details are to follow, but central to the business of better learning outcomes for all students regardless of ability is good relationships and community engagement.

4/ the College has recently been advised that it has been successful in obtaining a Trade Skills Grant from the Federal Government via the SA Block Grant Authority. This grant [some 1.3 million dollars] will enable infrastructure development at our Currency Creek Eco Environmental site to deliver Certificate level courses in Conservation and Land Management and Horticulture.

Finally at the start of another exciting year, I congratulate you as co-investors in the critical business of education.

I was troubled by the media reports late last year highlighting the underperformance of Australian schools. The Australian wrote [and I quote]:

‘The release of the latest Program for International Student Assessment reveals the performance of Australia’s 15-year-olds in maths, science and reading is in “absolute decline” and the nation is being outgunned by New Zealand, Estonia and Slovenia despite a strong focus on education and record spending.’

While this is the concern to ALL Australians, I feel compelled to share with you some facts.

If we were to separate the results of Independent Schools - that is, schools like Investigator College – across the nation and rank them amongst the world’s top performers, the headlines would be considerably different.

In Scientific Literacy where Australia as a whole is 15th, Australian Independent Schools are ranked number 2 in the world behind Singapore.

In Reading Literacy where Australia as a whole is ranked 17th, Australian Independent Schools are ranked number 1 in the world.

In Mathematical Literacy where Australia as a whole is ranked 26th, Australian Independent Schools are ranked 5th in the world behind Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau [China] and Taipei.

I pray that the commencement is smooth for you and your children. As always, if there is anything that I or the College can do to assist, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Don Grimmett
Principal

The College welcomes the following new members of staff:
Rachel Dalby – Middle/Senior School Food and Hospitality
Sally Judd – Librarian and Junior School teacher

Staff returning from leave include:
Rachel Coghlan - Senior English
Vicki Hudson – Junior Primary Music/
Performing Arts
Jess Leslie – Goolwa Playgroup Coordinator

The College congratulates:
Steph Gilbert [Goolwa Reception teacher] on her marriage.
Steph will now be known as Mrs Gurner.
Mel Scott on the birth of her son, James.
Sarah Hockey on the arrival of Angus.

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### Middle/Senior School Commencement Service
- **Friday 3 February**
- **Students to wear College Formal uniform.**

### Junior School Welcome Evenings
- **Thursday 9 February**

### Students ID Photograph Day
- **Monday 13 February**

### Middle/Senior School Welcome Evening
- **Tuesday 14 February**
- Further details to follow.

For further information on any College event, please go to:
www.investigator.sa.edu.au/calendar/

### DIARY DATES

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### Junior School classes to take a 10 minute break during L1-4 at Class Teacher’s discretion. NO BELLS. Junior School “Eating Time” will be at 1:15pm.

### Hosting Opportunity
**Yamanashi High School Visit**
Yamanashi students will be visiting from 11-18 March 2017. Please consider hosting a student and experiencing this wonderful opportunity to share the ‘Aussie’ culture whilst learning more about the Japanese culture. Financial assistance will be provided. Hosting application forms are available at Student Services and online.

### Native Plants
**SALE**
Native Plants
$1 each
Contact Nat Gilbert:
ngilbert@investigator.sa.edu.au
Ground covers through to trees.
Please contact Nat to discuss species available.

### TIMETABLES for 2017

#### JUNIOR SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Lesson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50-9:00am</td>
<td>Home Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:40am</td>
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<td>12:45-1:25pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:25-2:00pm</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>8</td>
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### NEVER MISS A THING!
**NEWS | ACTIVITIES | EVENTS**

**REMINDERS | DIARY DATES**

AND CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE/ COLLEGE CALENDAR
www.investigator.sa.edu.au

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