



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG

135 Aphrasia Street, Newtown VICTORIA 3220 / Ph: 03 5226 8100  
Fax: 03 5221 6983 / Email: sjcoffice@sjc.vic.edu.au / ABN: 74 114 857 147

22 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you in relation to the St Joseph's College school fees in 2024.

Following extensive discussion and consideration of a range of options the College Advisory Council, on advice from the Finance and Planning Committee, has recommended a 7.5% increase to school fees in 2024. This recommendation was taken with full understanding of the financial pressures being experienced by many families at this time. It has been approved by Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA).

Government funding contributes approximately two thirds of our total income and school fees the remaining third. 2024 will see a reduction in our government funding. This is due to an increase in the College's Direct Measure of Income (DMI) which is based on the median income of families with students at the College which determines levels of government funding.

Salaries make up approximately 70% of our annual expenditure. The cost of salaries to the College has increased by approximately 7% as a result of the new employment agreement. There have also been significant increases in insurance premiums and State Government WorkCover premiums. The need for higher specification laptops for students has also added additional expenditure.

We are committed to finding a balance between affordability and maintaining the highest quality educational facilities and programs possible. Our aggregate fee increases over the last four years have been lower than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which we hope has been of assistance to families during and after the COVID pandemic.

We believe that our total inclusive fee of \$6,980 and our commitment to providing a laptop as part of the fees, along with very few levies, continues to provide outstanding value for money.

We remain committed to keeping a St Joseph's education as affordable as possible for all families. As always, should any family find the school fees unmanageable we encourage you to contact our accounts office for a confidential discussion about ways in which we may be able to provide support.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2024.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Paatsch - Principal**

