

Newcastle Catholic Secondary Schools TRANSITIONING TO YEARS 7 TO 12



Background

In May 2022, it was announced the Trustees of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle had made the decision to transition all secondary schools in Newcastle to Years 7 to 12. The transition will occur in a staged and planned way.

Over the next five years, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is renewing its approach to secondary schooling in the heart of Newcastle to ensure it can best support the educational needs and outcomes for its students now, and as we look to the future.

From 2024, all Catholic secondary schools in Newcastle will be commencing the transition to Year 7 to Year 12 schools, this includes:

1. San Clemente High School, Mayfield – with the inclusion of Years 11 and 12
2. St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton – with the inclusion of Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
3. St Pius X High School, Adamstown – with the inclusion of Years 11 and 12

Staff, students, families were invited to collaborate on the implementation plan to meet the unique needs of each school. In June, each school and feeder primary schools had dedicated consultation activities – Listening Assemblies and online information sessions.

These sessions were designed to identify the current strengths of each school that should be maintained, as far as possible, during the transition process. They also provided an opportunity for participants to ask questions and to name the challenges each school could face as it transitions to a Years 7 to 12 learning community.

Who did we hear from?



Almost 400 participants involved in face-to-face consultations.



An additional 60 parents joined online sessions.

We were pleased to hear from many in our **school communities**.



125+ parents



155+ staff



75 students

What did we hear?

Overview

A universal theme was how deeply parents and students valued the professional and pastoral endeavours of the teaching and support staff. There was strong commendation as to the Catholic mission and ethos of each school, a high degree of satisfaction with respect learning outcomes and strong support for the various pastoral care and student wellbeing initiatives.

Whilst broadly, the addition of Years 11 and 12 at St Pius and San Clemente were warmly welcomed by their respective communities. The conversion of St Francis Xavier's from a Senior College to a comprehensive Years 7-12 school was met with a high degree of disappointment and concern.

A selection of key themes we heard from the Listening Activities are overleaf.

What did we hear?

The Listening Assembly process prioritised a range of overarching questions and challenges that will be addressed during Stage Two of the consultation process.

Key themes



Teaching and Learning

- ▶ Range of subject choices
- ▶ Quality of teaching
- ▶ Funding for specialist support programs



Staff Development and Wellbeing

- ▶ Recruitment and retention of teachers
- ▶ Staff professional development and timing
 - Job security
 - Staff wellbeing



Student Wellbeing

- ▶ Senior school culture
- ▶ Pastoral care
- ▶ Support for initial student cohorts as schools transition to Years 7 to 12



Facilities and capital works

- ▶ Timing of and disruption of capital works
- ▶ Funding of capital works and impacts on fees

St Francis Xavier's

Physical space for activities for younger students, lack of infrastructure, playgrounds, specialist rooms.

St Pius

Facilities – College Hall, TAS workshops, Canteen, parking, Designated areas for Year 11/12.

San Clemente

Lack of space; significant building developments and upgrades to existing buildings required; sporting fields, TAS, VET, music, labs, library, learning support, resources (computers), admin building.



Diocesan and School Policies

- ▶ Zoning of feeder schools
- ▶ Choice of schools during transition and sibling priorities
- ▶ Uniforms

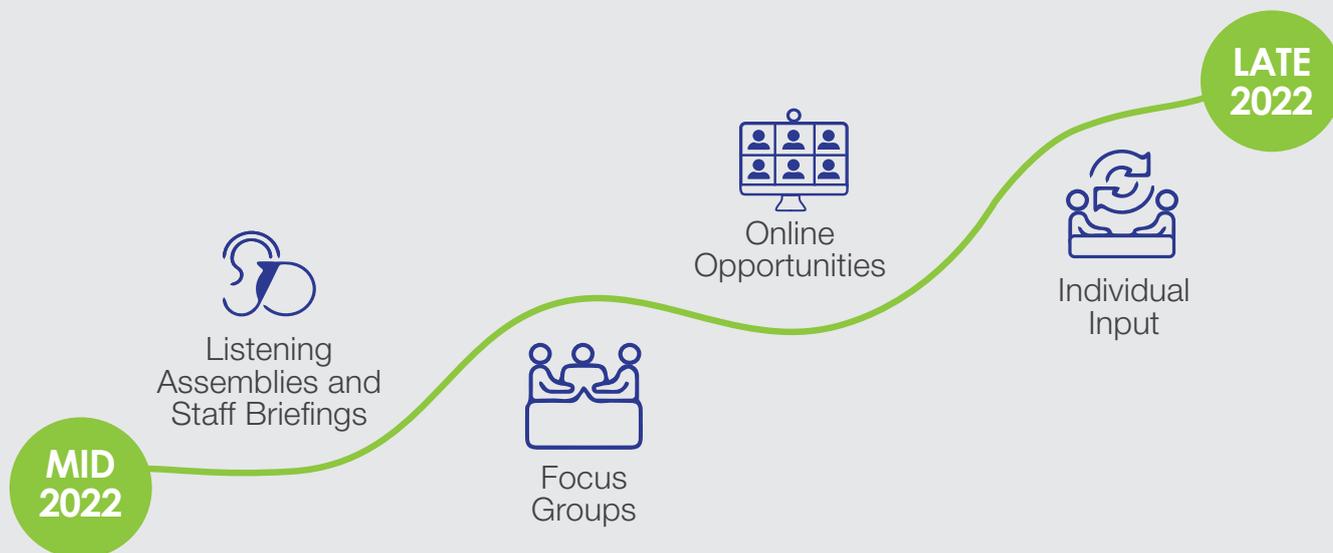
Specific matters raised, unique to each school will be provided for consideration as part of each schools' individual 'Implementation Plan'.

We remain committed to:

- ▶ Providing the best possible learning outcomes and learning environments for our students
- ▶ Supporting our families through the provision of accessible education in a faith-filled environment
- ▶ Preserving the foundations of our Catholic ethos and enhancing the unique charism of each school
- ▶ The provision of specialist subjects, pathways and support for students

Next steps

We remain committed to listening opportunities in 2022.



Stage two of the consultation process includes:

- ▶ **Tuesday 6 September, 2022**
St Pius X High School, Adamstown
Staff briefing
- ▶ **Wednesday 7 September, 2022**
St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
Staff briefing
- ▶ **Thursday 9 September, 2022**
San Clemente High School, Mayfield
Staff briefing

Further focus groups for feeder schools will be held in Term 4, 2022.

View more information online:

www.mn.catholic.edu.au/7to12SecondaryEducation Email: ImplementationPlanning@mn.catholic.edu.au

