

St Philip's College enrolment figures for 2016 remain over 700, and as at 17 May 2016 the College has 715 students. This includes 89 students who identify as Indigenous and 20 boy boarders and 33 girl boarders.

There are many factors as to why our enrolment numbers are so high, but one of them is the quality of our staff, staff retention (we have a large percentage of staff who have been with us for 10+ years), plus the enormous amount of time and energy our teachers invest to ensure our students receive a world class education. In 2016, we had minimal staff turnover with only two new teachers joining our staff at the beginning of the year.

With our senior teachers leading our crew of talented teachers it further emphasises that St Philip's has developed and matured to be a solid educational facility, comparable to many private schools nationally and internationally.

The College's financial situation is secure and this is a fortunate position, well monitored by the board, the Headmaster and Business Manager. Only responsible budgets are produced and safety margins are an important feature of these. The opening of the new Science/Food Technology block and the Rivergum Cafe has added a new dynamic to the College. Our students, staff and parents have a new hub to build relationships, hold meetings and promote the College. The new landscaping around the building has been completed and includes lots of seating and shade as well as beautifying the gardens. This was made possible by a Cancer Council Shade for Secondary Schools Program grant, and other generous support.

Mr Geoff Leedham, Head of Applied Technology again taught the only approved mainstream Year 12 boat building course in Australia for the fifth year, and two of the boats were launched at Glen Helen 1 1/2 hours west of Alice Springs. The three of the four boat-building students, enjoyed the launch and going for a paddle.

The College has also become well known locally, nationally and internationally for the range of opportunities it offers its students beyond the classroom. Under the banner of Round Square, St Philip's exposure with the international community grows bigger every year. Round Square is a prestigious association of international schools which share a commitment beyond academic excellence to personal development and responsibility through service, challenge, adventure and international understanding. In 2015, 28 Year 10 students travelled to the four corners of the world and St Philip's played host to 34 incoming exchange students and 6 GAP students. Thirty-nine Year 8 students went on national exchange, with 30 interstate students coming to St Philip's and were hosted by our families. Eight students attended the National Round Square Conference in April, and 14 students attended the International Round Square Conference in Singapore.

The Performing Arts Department again produced shows of an excellent standard. In 2015, the senior play was *"Charley's Aunt"*, and the annual College musical was *"Pirates of Penzance"*. These events were also supported well by the P&FA having cake stalls at intermission, but also the Rivergum Cafe selling dinner prior to the performances, which gave families and staff the feeling they were having a true 'night out'.

The Outdoor Education camps were again memorable and life changing events for many students (and staff), and continue to be an important and integral part of the framework of the College. Families often share stories about how their Year 9 child returns from camp with a greater appreciation for their family and some of life's luxuries. Also, the Stage 2 Outdoor Education students are extending their skills and completing course units not only in the NT but also Victoria. The College's Outdoor Education program continually attracts the attention of interstate Outdoor Education staff who have heard of the calibre of the program offered by the national assessment task in numeracy, writing, reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation. The national results were made public on the My Schools website: www.myschool.edu.au. This has allowed for a comparison between our students and those from other states. Overall they are pleasing results for St Philip's, as we are well above the Territory average, and it's pleasing to see we're well above the national average in nearly every area.

The Homework Centre has continued to be a popular venue for students doing homework after school. The Homework Centre has been open until 6.30pm Monday to Thursday and 5.30pm on Fridays. Teachers have been on duty to assist students with their homework until 4.30pm. Computers with Internet access are available for students to assist with completing homework. Maths, English and Science Help is offered in the library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school and also PLP and Nutrition on Thursdays.

In 2016, the College introduced the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy, whereby all senior students in Years 10, 11 & 12 were expected to bring a laptop which fits within a boundary of specifications.

The College originally supplied laptops to students enrolled in the senior years in response to funding supplied by the Commonwealth Government. These were replaced three years ago and were largely funded by the College. After three years the laptops reach a point where their functionality and reliability is very limited.

In 2015 the College made a significant investment to upgrade our IT infrastructure including our connectivity (AARnet), the network and ancillary infrastructure. Work to improve wireless connectivity is ongoing across the campus.

St Philip's is committed to creating a 21st century learning environment which empowers its students and enhances the use of technology in their learning. This policy, in part, has been made in response to an increased number of requests

from students to use their own laptops, thus giving them choice. The new policy will also enhance the students' attachment and appreciation for their own laptop and hopefully deepen and personalise their learning experience.

Horticulture was offered for a seventh year as an elective to Year 9 students, and was successful as evidenced by the flourishing vegetable crop and the care and tendering to the College chickens.

The Art Department ended a successful year with two Year 12 Visual and Practical Art students having work selected for the Exit Art Exhibition in Darwin. This is the seventh year that students from St Philip's have had their work selected.

Ex-activities such as rock climbing and rifle shooting again proved popular with many students.

St Philip's has a very positive relationship with the local community. Year 9 students complete community service work each week during term and our boy and girl boarders assist every year in numerous fund raising events for local and national charities and also assist at other local community events. Community service and involvement is part of the ethos of the College and is reflected in these and many other events/activities organised by students/staff and parents.

The P&FA had a very successful year with their President, Mrs Christine Neves. Among the many things they did, the P&FA held a raffle raising thousands of dollars for the College. Christine was also instrumental in the success and launch of the Rivergum Cafe.

The College is proud to be a school of the Uniting Church and always seeks to conduct itself in the best possible traditions of the Church. With the imminent retirement of our Headmaster, Chris Tudor after 30 years of distinguished service, we look forward to the arrival of the new Principal, Roger Herbert who will continue with the philosophies of College founder, Rev Dr Fred McKay, Round Square founder, Kurt Hahn and Chris Tudor, essentially that the tyranny of distance and isolation, should not impede the opportunities or quality of education for students at St Philip's.

The future of the College is exciting as we continue to move forward and provide the best education possible for the young children in our charge.