JOHN HENNESSY FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

An offer of assistance to students in Years 7 -10

Background

I have been conscious for some time that many Catholic families are not in a financial position to have their sons attend a Catholic school, even a systemic one. The challenge is to find ways to communicate with such families, opening up the possibility for enrolment at Marcellin College. This program is in its infancy and will hopefully become a fund which sponsors at least two families on full scholarships in each Year group at the College, with possible part scholarship for other families.

Communication

In Mid Term 3 the Headmaster would write to Parish Priests of local parishes and also to the Principal of each primary Catholic school in our drawing area. These are the people who are best placed to ascertain the needs of local families. The purpose of this correspondence is to encourage suitable applicants to apply for enrolment at Marcellin College. Application forms for this Scholarship would be included in the package sent to Priests and Principals. Application forms are invited from Year 5 families up to the beginning of Term 4.

The package includes our normal application documents and also includes relevant financial information which will assist us in making our decision. A letter of support from either the Principal or Parish Priest is to be included with the application. Our aim is to ensure the package itself does not inhibit application by making the process as simple as possible.

Interviews

On receipt of the enrolment application an interview is coordinated with the Headmaster during Term 4. This interview would take the form of our normal Year 7 enrolment interview. No guarantee of enrolment is given at these interviews. Communication would be made to parents re the offering of a scholarship by the first week of December.

Rationale for decision

The documents of each applicant will be separately reviewed by the College Business manager and will be ranked in order according to financial need. The Headmaster will also arrange applicants in rank order independently, according to normal enrolment criteria. The Headmaster will meet with the Business manager to discuss the financial needs of each applicant. A Rank order of applicants will be decided upon and then presented to the Enrolment committee for discernment. Following the meeting of the enrolment committee two full scholarships will be awarded. Two part scholarships may also be offered if there is the capacity of the fund to do so. Communication will be sent to each family in the first week of December informing them of their success or otherwise.
**Financial Contributions**

Finances for this fund are resourced from Ex-students and some independent donations. An appeal is conducted at the Annual Ex-student dinner.

**Review**

An annual review of the student’s performance and behavior will take place to ascertain whether the student is afforded a continuation of financial assistance in the year ahead. The decision as to whether the scholarship is continued is made by the Headmaster.

August 2009