



Catholic Schools Office *Diocese of Armidale*

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To the Staff and Parish Community of St Edward's Primary School Tamworth,

It is with great pleasure and the approval of Bishop Michael Kennedy, that I announce the secondment of Alison Hatton and Lisa McSweeney as **Co-Principals** and Greg O'Toole as Assistant Principal of St Edward's Primary School Tamworth for the 2020 school year. Leadership is about teamwork and Alison, Lisa and Greg's skills and experience complement each other extremely well. Thank you to Fr Paul Anthony Aguilar and Fr Christopher Onuekwusi for the collaboration in this process.

This Co-Principalship and the Assistant Principal appointment will provide increased leadership density and capacity at St. Edwards. The position of principal and the Leadership Team play a key role in our evangelising mission, and the delivery of positive faith and learning outcomes for students. The appointment of co-principals is a significant step in our work of reimagining how schools operate into the future. Alison, Lisa and Greg are very capable and experienced leaders, have strong well-integrated faith, and are active members of their parishes.

Alison brings with her over 18 years of leading learning in the Diocese of Armidale, with extensive experience in both the infants and primary stages of learning. Alison has held positions of leadership as Religious Education Coordinator as well as her current position of Assistant Principal. Alison is a very passionate and dedicated leader of learning, with expertise in leading 21st-century pedagogical practices, both in and out of the classroom. Alison has completed a Bachelor of Teaching, Bachelor of Education (University of New England), a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education (Australian Catholic University) and a QELi Senior Leadership Course.

Lisa has had over 30 years' experience across a range of educational settings and is currently the Assistant Principal at St Nicholas Primary School, a position she has held since 1997. Prior to taking on this leadership role, Lisa held the positions of Religious Education Coordinator and Curriculum Coordinator. Lisa has taught across all grades K-6 and has a strong interest in pastoral care and wellbeing which has resulted in her implementation of strategies that support the social and emotional development of young people. Lisa holds a Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood Studies) Macquarie University, and a Master of Religious Education, Australian Catholic University.

Greg has been part of the Armidale Diocese for over 27 years and has taught all aspects of the primary curriculum. Greg has a particular interest in the areas of literacy, sport, and Aboriginal education. He has held the position of Assistant Principal at St Francis Xavier Primary School Narrabri and St. Joseph's Primary School, Wee Waa. For the past six years, Greg has held the position of Assistant Principal at St Joseph's Primary School, West Tamworth. Greg holds a Diploma in Education (Infants/Primary) from the University of New England, and a Graduate Diploma in Education (Religious Education) from the Australian Catholic

University. He has also participated in a range of professional development activities including curriculum, Religious Education, Special Education and administration.

Alison, Lisa and Greg have our support and best wishes as they accept this important co-leadership role at St Edward's, and as key system leaders for all the schools of the Diocese of Armidale.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Stefan van Aanholt for his commitment to the leadership of the school over the past year. Stefan effectively built on the positive legacy of Gary McSweeney who built a quality Catholic Professional Learning Community.

We wish Alison, Lisa and Greg our congratulations, prayers and best wishes in their new role as *leaders of* the school community.

We are fortunate to now have a system of schools with a shared vision and common classroom practices that facilitate the movement of staff between schools that all operate as a Catholic Professional Learning Community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Smyth', followed by a small dot.

Chris Smyth
Director of Schools