

30 March 2022

## Catholic schools achieve high gains in NAPLAN

More than 100 Catholic schools across Australia have been recognised by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) for the high gains achieved by students in the latest NAPLAN scores. The NAPLAN data was released on the My School website on 16 March.

National Catholic Education executive director Jacinta Collins said, *“This result reflects the commitment of our school communities to ongoing improvement in learning and teaching across all states and territories.”*

In the Diocese of Armidale, three schools were identified by ACARA as High Growth in Years 3-5 or 7-9: St Francis Xavier’s Narrabri; St Edward’s Tamworth; and Holy Trinity Inverell. According to the Daily Telegraph, St Joseph’s Quirindi was identified as one of the state’s top 40 performing schools in New South Wales.

Director of Schools for the Diocese of Armidale, Chris Smyth said, *“We are proud of all our schools who have seen improvement in NAPLAN results, and congratulate these three schools for being recognised nationally.”*

*“Our high achieving schools are testimony to the strong learning and unrelenting focus we have on literacy across all schools in our Diocese. These schools are attaining outstanding results despite the challenges of a regional setting, smaller cohorts compared to metropolitan schools, and the impacts of COVID.”*

*“Thank you to our teaching staff for their consistent laser-like focus on boosting literacy by using evidence-based strategies such as guided reading, explicit instruction and phonics,”* Mr Smyth said.

In an effort to improve students’ reading and writing outcomes, schools and system leaders have been working together over the last 6 years to focus on the transformation of learning and teaching within their schools.

Elise Baird, SME Data and Literacy stated, *“More than 16 out of 24 schools across the Diocese had shown above the average progress of students with the same starting score and similar backgrounds for at least one learning area.”*

A new NAPLAN testing schedule will be brought forward to mid March from next year which will allow our schools to access this data earlier and inform learning improvements in literacy and numeracy—the foundation skills critical for success in schooling.

While we celebrate academic achievement we are equally proud of our pastoral care and wellbeing support that has been a strong focus over recent years, with our *Living Well Learning Well* framework guiding all aspects of student learning and well being.

-- END--

*The Catholic Schools Office (CSO) Diocese of Armidale administers 19 primary, two central and three secondary schools, and caters for the learning needs of almost 6000 students. The schools in the Diocese of Armidale are building a professional learning community in a Catholic context as a vehicle for school improvement.*

### For Media Inquiries please contact:

Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Armidale  
Tahnee Denton, CSO Communications & Marketing Coordinator  
0418 227376, [tdenton@arm.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tdenton@arm.catholic.edu.au)



*Living Well, Learning Well*



St Edward's Tamworth



St Joseph's Quirindi