



CARDIJN

COLLEGE

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Dear members of the Cardijn College community,

The vision for a Catholic college in the Southern Vales began with the efforts of a small group of people from the local parish communities. In 1984 this vision became a reality when a small team of staff established Cardijn College in a very modest new building in Noarlunga Downs with 102 students.

One of the staff present on that first day of school was Paul Rijken, not yet a doctor, but a first-time teacher, full of the excitement and anticipation that comes with new beginnings.

From that very first day and throughout his career-long connection with Cardijn College, including the last 17 years as our Principal, Paul has been instrumental in establishing a culture of excellence with a foundation built on our method to See, Judge and Act in the tradition of Joseph Cardijn.

Therefore, it is with heartfelt appreciation and great respect that some 38 years later, I announce that Dr Paul Rijken will retire as Principal and CEO of Cardijn College at the completion of Term 2, 2022.

Paul began his teaching career at Cardijn as a pioneer PE and Mathematics teacher. Following several more senior roles at Cardijn, in 1997 he was appointed Deputy Principal at St Aloysius College in Adelaide before returning 'home' to accept the principalship at Cardijn in 2005.

The next 17 years at Cardijn can only be described as extraordinary as Paul built a culture of continuous improvement interwoven with the fundamental principles of a school in the Marist tradition. He has truly been the driving force that has seen Cardijn become *the* school of choice in our region.

It is hard to overstate the scale of change Paul has overseen including several significant building and development projects as well as the introduction of two new campuses, Marcellin and Galilee. Under his leadership, the College has achieved consistently outstanding academic results and crucially, opened doors and pathways for students to realise their full potential.

Cardijn College has been more than a job for Paul. His dedication and service to our students and community has been a masterclass in how to engage and empower people and form meaningful connections with others, all while creating a culture of collegiality and a sense of family. Paul has seen many thousands of students pass through Cardijn's doors, followed by their children in more recent years.

Paul's leadership can perhaps be best described using one of the Marist characteristics - *Presence*. He leaves an enduring impact on Cardijn simply through his presence with the students at school events, weekend and after-school sports, student retreats and camps, music, drama and Athon Day performances, Sports Day, 10, 20 and 30 year alumni reunions, live broadcasts in more recent times and countless other defining moments in the history of Cardijn.

Our community has been blessed and we are forever thankful for Paul's leadership, vision, wisdom, faith and great commitment to this College and its students.

Every journey eventually comes to an end, but every ending also heralds a new beginning. For Paul, this means spending more quality time with his family including his wife Debbie, their adult children and partners as well as their young granddaughter, whilst also continuing his research in the field of Academia.

Paul would be the first to acknowledge that he hasn't achieved this success on his own and the outstanding team of teachers, ESO staff and leadership he has established will ensure the school's continued trajectory of growth and innovation. Paul leaves Cardijn in a very strong position and there is still much to look forward to.

The realisation of several projects including the geographic expansion of the Noarlunga and Galilee campuses as well as the unfolding of the masterplan at Marcellin Campus will ensure the name Cardijn College remains synonymous with an educational experience of the highest calibre.

Our strategic plan, *Toward 2025*, provides a framework for the next several years and outlines Cardijn's future directions and priorities. Our mission is to be a locally engaged and globally connected learning community which develops every individual in the Marist tradition using the wisdom and method of Joseph Cardijn (See, Judge, Act) so that they grow to be future-oriented, capable learners and leaders making a positive impact in the world.

In conjunction with the College, Catholic Education SA will undertake an extensive recruitment process to find a suitable replacement to lead Cardijn College into the next era.

I know you will join me in congratulating Paul on his tremendous career and service to Cardijn and the broader Southern Vales community and wish him all the very best for his well-earned retirement. There will be opportunities forthcoming for staff, students, families and alumni to express our gratitude and to celebrate Paul's contribution to Cardijn before he officially retires in July at the end of Term 2.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Tim Ryan
Chair, Cardijn College Board