COLLEGE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2009

2009 was another successful year in the rich history of Cabra Dominican College. It was also a year characterised by significant change. The departure of Mr John Neate as Principal after the several years leading the College, and the commencement of two new Deputy Principals in January 2009 also saw the first cohort of students engage with the New SACE as they work towards the completion of their secondary education.

Regardless of the changes to personnel or structures, 2009 was another year filled with many triumphs and challenges in the lives of our young people. Throughout the year they were immersed in the life of our community and were the beneficiaries of an extraordinary range of opportunities and experiences. For our Year 12 and Year 13 students many will remember their retreat as the high point not just in 2009 but of their entire educational journey. For others, especially the Year 11 students, 2009 will be remembered with sadness due to the death of one of their fellow students. For our youngest students 2009 was their first year at Cabra marking a major milestone in their growth into adulthood. The following report provides a snapshot of some aspects of college performance during the year.

Professional Engagement
1. Staff Attendance
   Teaching Staff attendance for the 2009 school year was 97% and the types of leave taken included sick leave, carer's leave, bereavement and special leave. The high level of attendance by staff is testament to their ongoing commitment to the mission of the College and the education of our young people.

2. Staff Retention
   In Term 1 (2009) 7 new teachers joined our staff and 91% of our teachers were retained from the previous year. As usual we were delighted to welcome new staff members who brought new ideas and skills to complement the expertise and commitment of our existing staff members.

3. Teacher Qualification
   The teaching staff is highly qualified and many staff are continuing to undertake on-going and further study. Many staff also hold multiple qualifications. In 2008 staff held the following qualifications: Bachelors Degrees (87), Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas (54), Graduate Certificate (44), Masters Degrees (17) and Doctorate (1).

4. Expenditure on Teacher Participation in Professional Learning
   Staff Professional Development remained an important priority in 2009 with all members of the teaching staff engaged in a variety activities throughout the year. In 2009 teachers participated in a number of whole-staff inservice days. Teachers also undertook additional hours of personal professional development outside of programmed school hours. With the implementation of the New SACE many of our teachers also took advantage of the professional development opportunities offered in relation to this. In 2009 Cabra spent approximately $1050 per teacher on professional development.

Key Student Outcomes
   Information for the following components of school performance for 2009 is accessible via the new My School website. A copy of the information is provided here for your convenience.

5. Student attendance
6. National Literacy and Numeracy Standards
7. Changes in Benchmark Results
8. Average Standardised results for Year 9

9. Value Added

‘Value Added’ is difficult to quantify in the context of a vibrant Catholic school like Cabra. Nevertheless, the following examples of rich experiences enjoyed by students throughout 2009 suggest that the College is significant in their development as people.

- Large and diverse music and arts program including regular performances for our College community, local fêtes and festivals
- Comprehensive sporting program in summer and winter and many opportunities for students to participate in ‘knock out’ competitions
- Community Living Week with its vast array of camps and activities local and interstate that students chose to participate in during the last week of Term 1
- Retreats for Year 11 and Year 12
- Overseas tours to Japan, Italy and Vietnam
- The Cabra Fete
- St Dominic’s Day Celebrations
- Reflection Days
- Weekly Masses for different year groups
- A variety of Social Justice programs

All of these events and activities were captured in our fortnightly Newsletter, on the College website and in our annual publication, Veritas.

10. Senior Secondary Outcomes

We congratulate the 2009 graduates for their achievements in the SACE. Examining their results for individual subjects and overall TER scores it was very pleasing to see so many students richly rewarded for their efforts throughout the year. It is also very pleasing to hear that so many of our ex students have accepted positions in tertiary courses or commenced work in 2010.

I would like to make special mention of the seventeen students who achieved a TER score of 90 or higher. Regardless of individual ability, to achieve such a result requires consistent application to study throughout the year including many extra hours of preparation and revision. The overall pattern of SACE results was consistent with profile of our results in recent years with a high proportion of students receiving grades in the A-B band. In this context it is also important to acknowledge the efforts of all students who worked diligently to maximize their achievements across the spectrum of ability in all subject areas.

11. Proportion of Year 9 students retained to Year 12

The retention rate for students from Year 9 to Year 12 (2009) was 70%.

12. Post School Destinations

Our students who completed their schooling at Cabra at the end of 2009 have followed a variety of pathways with many receiving first round offers of study at local tertiary level in a diverse range of disciplines. Many others have commenced apprenticeships or other forms of work.
Satisfaction
13. Towards the end of 2009 we undertook a major cultural survey of life at Cabra Dominican College as viewed by staff, students and parents. With over 500 responses, primarily from students and staff, we have obtained a detailed snapshot of staff, student and teacher satisfaction at Cabra. In 2010 we have begun to review the collated data as we work to develop our strategic intent or preferred future for the College for the next ten years.

Reading the summary of survey responses it was very pleasing to see the high regard with which all stakeholders view the College and their commitment to working together to build on our 125 year heritage of educational excellence.
School statement

Cabra Dominican College is a Catholic co-Educational school with a student population of about 1,050 students from Years 6 to 12. Founded in 1886 by the Dominican Sisters, Cabra has strived throughout its history to remain faithful to the Dominican tradition. The school motto, 'Veritas', challenges all members of the Cabra community to search for God's truth in their personal life and in the world around them. In all that we do, we hope to bring life to the school's Vision Statement: Cabra Dominican College, as a Christian community in the Catholic tradition, strives to nurture and develop the unique gifts of individuals, to liberate them in the search for truth, and to empower them to create a better world.

NAPLAN Results

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses all students in Australian schools in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The chart below displays average NAPLAN scores for each domain in 2008 and 2009. The selected school's scores are displayed in blue. Also displayed are average scores for statistically similar schools and all Australian schools.

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