



## Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Australia

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25th February 2020

Dear Members of the Daramalan College Community,

Last week we received notification from the College Principal, Ms Rita Daniels, that after twelve years of outstanding leadership she would be completing her time as Principal at Daramalan College at the end of the 2020 school year. Ms Daniels has devoted overall some thirty-three years to the education of students in the Daramalan community. Including her time at St Clare's College, Ms Daniels will have been a Principal for 20 years.

It is difficult to begin to enumerate Rita's extraordinary impact on Daramalan College. Over her tenure as Principal the College has gone from strength to strength and is recognised as among the premier secondary schools in Canberra and indeed the wider Australian educational community. Few would recognise Daramalan from what it was twelve years ago as it has undergone a significant building program under Rita's guidance that leaves it with state-of-the-art educational facilities and the College ideally positioned to educate young people into the future.

More impressive than the marvellous infrastructure is the way that Rita has embodied the Spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Her Heart Spirituality has underpinned all her relationships with students, staff and families. The College's academic record is impressive, and the envy of many, however Rita would value the all-round development of the students and their positive contribution to society as far more important products of a Daramalan education. The College is highly regarded for its encouragement of the cultural and sporting talents of its students and Rita has been the significant promoter and supporter in these areas ensuring students flourish in a wide variety of endeavours.

Rita has been recognised for her generous contribution to the wider educational community and has contributed wisely to numerous Boards and committees both within the ACT and across Australia. There are not many highly regarded educators like her across the nation and her wise counsel is sought by many including governments and other educational leaders.

There will be opportunities later in the year to express our appreciation and gratitude to Ms Daniels for her extraordinary contribution to the Daramalan community, however I'm sure all will join me at this time in congratulating Rita on her many achievements and wishing her the best for what the future may hold. Shortly we will commence the process of appointing the 9th Principal of Daramalan College.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris R McPhee MSC**  
**Provincial MSC Australia**



**Mark McGinnity**  
**Director MSC Education**