



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we emerged from the changed realities of 2020 and commenced the 2021 academic year, we took tentative steps towards planning many of the events and traditions of Kent Street that had been curtailed during 2020. We were not naïve to what might be possible. With many parts of the world still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, with COVID-Safe protocols and restrictions still in place, with circuit breakers and border closures still a reality, we knew some things would still be different.

While the commencement of the 2021 school year was delayed due to a lockdown, and protocols and restrictions prevented operation at full capacity for a time, what remained unchanged was our commitment to the learning outcomes of our number one asset, the students. It's a simple enough premise: every child can learn. Those four words underpin every decision we make at Kent Street; they reflect our values and they shape our future. We believe in the infinite potential of every child. We encourage students to invest in their own future, to understand the next steps in their learning and to develop explicit learning goals in order to optimise progress. We encourage high aspirations and insist that students examine, understand and respond to the relationship between the intensity of their effort and persistence. We insist that students are deeply engaged in their learning, and we believe in ambitious capability – that with high quality instruction and support, students can close the gap between what they currently know, understand and can do, and what they can learn to do in the future.

At Kent Street, optimising student progress means that we are committed to research, analysis and implementation of the most effective models of teaching and learning. During 2021 we have worked hard to further raise the standard of instruction throughout the school and our students are the beneficiaries of this expertise. By making teaching and learning explicit, and by being precise in our management of our performance, we will continue to achieve great results. The academic outcomes of our students reflect our attitude to learning and our unwavering commitment to the social, emotional and academic development of our students. Every context – whether sport, music, LARP, Interact, Duke of Edinburgh – is an opportunity to learn, make progress and achieve.

As a school this year we have also remained committed to inclusion and diversity as we support our students in developing the skills, competencies and capacity they need to be a positive contributor in this incredibly complex world. At Kent Street, we believe diversity is more than something to be accepted, it is something to be cherished. We know that learning requires us to step outside our comfort zone and to acknowledge momentarily what we do not yet know. A world without diversity is a world where the opportunity for learning is diminished. Exposure to different cultures and beliefs is what keeps us thriving and evolving, and most importantly, it keeps us learning.

Education regularly references “21<sup>st</sup> Century skills”. The reality is that there are simply “skills” and the really valuable ones have stood the test of time. The ability to try your best, to relate well to others, to be genuinely curious about the world around us, and to be ready for and motivated by the need to adapt to new challenges. These are skills that will



serve our students well into the future and they are the skills Kent Street prides itself on valuing and providing.

To those in our community whose family journey has brought them from places outside Australia, know that you are most welcome, that your experiences and views are valued and you are safe within the community that is Kent Street. Our diversity is an essential part of our DNA, it is a great strength of the Kent Street community. Membership of this community is easy. It is not based on the colour of a person's skin, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status, family background or any other characteristic. Membership of the Kent Street community requires individuals to value learning, to try their best and to understand that being respectful in dealing with others is simply what it means to be a decent human being.

What we share with each other, our humility, our compassion, our capacity to evolve and grow, is far greater and far more powerful than any difference there may be between us. Our students, your children, understand this. They are the future and now, more than ever, we need them to lead us.

The Kent Street community as a whole plays a significant role in the continued positive progression of our school and its reputation, and I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank our parent body for their continued support, understanding and compassion. It is clear that parents have trust and confidence in Kent Street to put their children first. As we quickly approach 1 100 enrolments, it is clear the partnership between home and school is strong, and our commitment to you is that we will continue to aspire to exceed your expectations and cement the reputation of Kent Street as a recognised and respected school of choice.

At Kent Street we are most fortunate to have a School Board and P&C that consist of most proactive, hardworking individuals, dedicated to ensuring our students are provided with the resources and support necessary to enhance the educational experiences Kent Street provides. I express my deep gratitude to our School Board and P&C. Both of these entities are made up of highly skilled individuals who volunteer their considerable expertise to provide sound governance, considered leadership and financial support. You have all continued to place great trust in me and my endeavours for your students and your school and I sincerely thank you for your time, commitment and ongoing support and encouragement.

The Kent Street staff, teaching and operational, are most passionate and have kept the students at the centre of their attention; remained focused on the academic progress as well as the social and emotional health of all students within their care. The 2021 school year has seen us work together powerfully as a team and the results of our students are testament to our commitment and dedication. I thank the Kent Street team for their unwavering, selfless, and inspirational commitment.

We are all aware of the importance of strong leadership, values-driven, and I am indebted to the Executive Team for the focus and energy they bring to their work – to every interaction and every decision. I am also extremely grateful for the drive the Senior Leadership Team has brought to the task of navigating the challenges COVID-19



continues to present. The effort and determination evident will ensure we emerge stronger, more effective, and that we thrive and continue to have the “courage to achieve”. The Senior Leadership Team has continued to work with clarity and commitment to ensure we hold steady on the strategic direction and vision of the school. I am fortunate to lead such a talented and passionate team.

To the graduating Class of 2021, congratulations on an extraordinary year – in more ways than one. Your resilience, adaptability, creativity, and commitment has held you steady during continuing uncertain times. You have demonstrated your ability to embrace and transform challenges into opportunities and triumphs. Remembering that you will always be part of the Kent Street family; our alumni is strong and we value the deep connections that bind us as Kentians. On behalf of the Kent Street community, we wish you all the very best as you take the next steps in your lives and pursue your aspirations.

While the messaging around “we’re all in this together” has been on high rotation over the past two years, I think it is fair to say that we have been and that we are. As I look back upon the response of our community to the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps we have made since its height, I cannot help but feel that as a community, we are standing on the threshold of our shared future, a little more resilient, a touch more knowledgeable and as hungry as ever for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The Kent Street community should be proud of what has been achieved during 2021 and excited about what is possible in 2022!

Kate Wilson  
Principal