28 November 2016

Dear Members of the Marist College Ashgrove Family

I write regarding the recent consultation process undertaken by the College toward the current name of Othmar House.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Working Party for their contribution and for volunteering their time to oversee this process. I would also like to thank all community members, past and present, who took the time to make a submission. I greatly appreciate the reflective, meaningful and insightful contributions across a wide spectrum of respondents.

Our aim with the consultation process was to ensure that all members of our community were able to have their voice heard. Whilst the ultimate decision about the naming of the Boarding House was always going to be a decision which utilised a holistic approach to the issue (as per prior communications, this was not an exercise of mere voting). Allowing our community members a conduit for input was important. We were determined to facilitate an open feedback process where no limitations were placed upon contributors. As the quantity (over 600), quality and compelling nature of the submissions indicate, I believe we were successful in this pursuit.

The College will be changing the name of Othmar House. Whilst a part of our community do not support this change, 86.5% of respondents who expressed their voice through our consultation process are supportive of the change of the Year 11 Boarding House name. This is reflective of the College’s position.
The consultation process presented numerous suggestions for the name of Othmar House. Marist Brothers, other Religious, passionate and dedicated lay staff from Marist College Ashgrove as well as influential male and female historical figures were all fine suggestions and worthy of consideration. Ultimately however, the College has decided not to rename the House after a person.

After much discussion, deliberation and reflection, I would like to announce that the College will proudly rename the Year 11 Boarding House ‘Fourvière’. Fourvière commemorates the common origin of the Marist Project. From the earliest antiquity, the hill of Fourvière – the praying hill – is the centre of the spiritual and cultural life in Lyon, France. On 23rd July 1816 the twelve Marist aspirants, priests and seminarians, St Marcellin Champagnat among them, climbed the hill to the shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere. They placed their promise to found the Society of Mary under the corporal on the altar. This is our Marist beginning and hence the name of Fourvière is very appropriate.

Again my sincere thanks to all who participated in this consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter McLoughlin
Headmaster