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26 April 2022



Dear members of our School community,

The past two years of the pandemic have provided moments for our school community that offer a rich source for reflection. We are all aware that the closure of international borders saw a significant number of our international students prevented from returning to their families during this period, entrusting themselves to the sustained care of our boarding staff and their teachers. Additionally, many students who wished to come to Kilmore to study were forced to undertake their lessons remotely, a particular challenge for some students where time differences and geopolitical censorship hindered their ready access to course materials and online classes. The way these young people coped with these challenges was truly impressive, as was the selfless response from our staff. Within our local circumstance we faced prolonged lockdowns, extended periods of remote learning, and limited social interaction with our community, leading to the feeling of isolation experienced by many. Again, across all year levels, our students demonstrated what remarkable young people they are, achieving exceptional results in their academic pursuits. This is especially evident in our International Baccalaureate Diploma graduates.

While the dark cloud of COVID-19 has offered numerous challenges, it has also offered a silver lining to be embraced and nurtured. The necessary adoption of remote learning has seen our school's digital learning environment rapidly flourish, with digital technologies now embedded across the curriculum. We have commenced a student laptop program that will see each student in Years 5 to 12 with their own device by the commencement of 2024, building upon the class sets of laptops available for Years 3 and 4. The school has initiated network upgrades that will ensure our students have seamless connectivity to the resources they need to enhance their learning. The interest and demand for places at the school continues to rise steadily, particularly within the middle years of schooling, as families from the ever-expanding northern reaches of Melbourne seek a quality independent education for their children. Such advancements have led the School's Board of Directors to carefully consider how the school plans to meet the needs of current families and those who seek to join us in the future, both within the shorter and longer term.

Since the School commenced over 30 years ago, the community has known The Kilmore International School as an institution that provides an international learning environment that encourages and enables students to pursue academic excellence, to great effect. What has not been commonly known is that throughout this time the school has not owned the property at White Street, the surrounding boarding houses, nor the School's name; the current site is occupied under a long-term retail lease, and the name is granted under a licence agreement. Ownership of these assets changed hands in 2019 and while past arrangements may have served the needs of the school, the current Board of Directors firmly believes that for the school to continue to thrive and advance, alternative arrangements must be explored that will require further significant decisions to be implemented.

Our White Street campus is nearing full capacity. Based on current demand and future enrolment modelling, the school will reach a stage, mid-decade, where we will outgrow our current site. As we do

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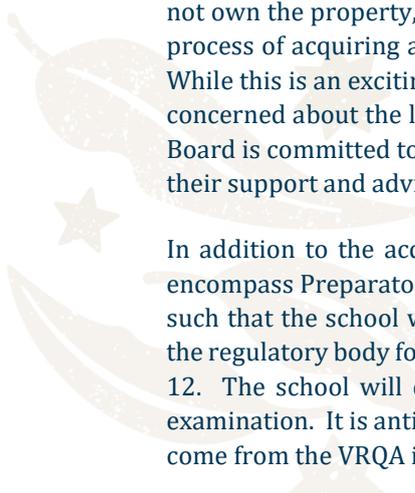
## The Kilmore International School

40 White Street  
Kilmore, Victoria, 3764  
ABN 21 083 505 131 CRICOS 00671E

**W** kilmore.vic.edu.au  
**E** enquiries@kilmore.vic.edu.au  
**T** +61 3 5782 2211

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ACADEMICA  
PERSEQUENDA**  
the pursuit of academic excellence





not own the property, we are unable to build new infrastructure. As such, the Board has commenced the process of acquiring a new school site that will meet the needs of the school, well into the next century. While this is an exciting and historical endeavour for the school, the Board is mindful that families will be concerned about the location of the new school and transportation arrangements for their children. The Board is committed to acquiring a site within the surrounding district and has met with Mitchell Shire for their support and advice. As the process develops, the Board will ensure the community is kept informed.

In addition to the acquisition of a new site, the school is looking to expand its curriculum offering to encompass Preparatory to Year 2. Enrolment demand for these year levels has been considerable of late, such that the school will be applying to the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), the regulatory body for independent schools in Victoria, to expand our licence to cover Preparatory to Year 12. The school will continue to maintain its selective nature, requiring applicants to sit an entrance examination. It is anticipated this expanded licence will commence from 2023, but final confirmation will come from the VRQA in the latter half of the year.

Perhaps the most significant decision the Board has been compelled to enact is that which surrounds the licencing agreement associated with the School's name. The name of any institution is its identity, perhaps none more so than a school, as the name of a school holds powerful memories of childhood, adolescence, friendships, mentors, success, to name but a few. It also provides a focus for the hopes and ambitions of those who seek to join it. While there is justifiably great affection and history associated with "The Kilmore International School", the licencing arrangements imposed on the school for the use of this name are unsustainable. Therefore, the Board of Directors have resolved that from 1 July 2022, the school will be known as Colmont School.

While the change of name will come as a surprise, if not a shock, it is important to note that the history of The Kilmore International School will not be expunged by this change, nor will the unique essence that made this school the 'school of choice' for families from a diverse range of cultures and global locations. Colmont will continue the tradition of valuing an internationally minded education and preparing students for the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

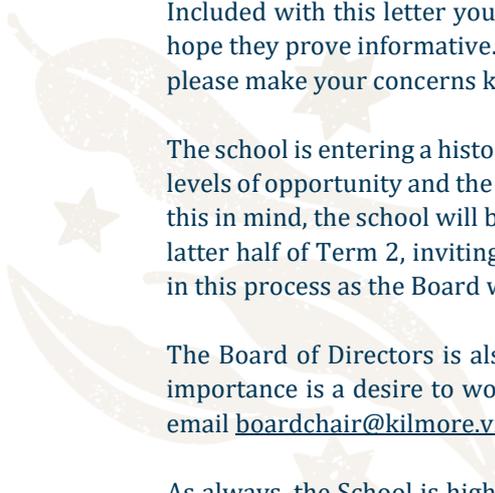
The name 'Colmont' is constructed from two elements: *col*, the lowest point between two peaks, and *mont*, the peak. It epitomises the journey we all take in our quest for knowledge, seeking to lift ourselves to a higher level of understanding and preparedness to act. This is reflected in Colmont's motto, *intelligere et agere*, Latin for 'to understand and to act'.

Expectedly, the change of name foreshadows a change in the School's colours and uniform design. By the end of May we will provide details of the transition to a revised uniform, having sought design input from our students. It is the considered intention of the School that this transition period entails minimal cost to families.

This morning, the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Principal met with staff and informed them of the change. This afternoon we will be meeting with our Year 12 Student Leaders, and we will address the whole school at an assembly tomorrow morning.

To assist families, we will be holding an Information Evening on Tuesday, May 3, in the IB Centre commencing at 7:00pm. To enable us to conduct a COVIDSafe event, we ask that you book through this [TryBooking link](#) as attendance numbers will be limited. If demand is greater than capacity, the school will hold additional evenings.





Included with this letter you will find responses to questions we feel may be of immediate interest. We hope they prove informative. Should you have concerns that are not addressed in the attached document, please make your concerns known by emailing [pa.principal@kilmore.vic.edu.au](mailto:pa.principal@kilmore.vic.edu.au).

The school is entering a historically significant phase, a period of change that will present new and exciting levels of opportunity and the ability to us to plan our preferred future, thoughtfully and strategically. With this in mind, the school will be commencing its strategic plan development process for 2023 – 2027 in the latter half of Term 2, inviting contributions from our school community. Please consider being involved in this process as the Board would sincerely welcome your input.

The Board of Directors is also seeking interested and dedicated persons to join the Board. Of primary importance is a desire to work in the best interest of our children. For a confidential discussion, please email [boardchair@kilmore.vic.edu.au](mailto:boardchair@kilmore.vic.edu.au).

As always, the School is highly appreciative of your support and interest. Thank you for your continued dedication to our wonderful school. While the decisions the Board have deliberated are transformative, our community can be assured that the Board of Directors and School Executive are united in their desire to achieve the best outcome for our children and continue the advancement of our exceptional school.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Rod Dally**  
Chair, Board of Directors



**Dr Peter Cooper**  
Principal



## Key Questions

### Why do we have to change the School's name?

'The Kilmore International School' name was available for use through a licencing agreement. With the name changing ownership, the conditions imposed by the new owners mean that our use of the name, "The Kilmore International School", is no longer financially viable for the school. The Board of Directors believe the school will derive far greater benefit from these funds being directed to our educational programs.

### What is the new School name?

The school will be named Colmont School. The name 'Colmont' is constructed from two elements: *col*, the lowest point between two peaks, and *mont*, the peak. It epitomises the journey we all take in our quest for knowledge, seeking to lift ourselves to a higher level of understanding and preparedness to act.

The Colmont crest is comprised of three elements: an open book signifying knowledge and a willingness to learn, the Southern Cross indicating our Australian location, and the flora represents our rural heritage, strength, and continual growth.



The motto for Colmont is *intelligere et agere*. This Latin phrase means "to understand and to act". The motto exclaims our desire for those who attend the school, that as their attainment of knowledge brings greater understanding, they act responsibly and wisely for the betterment of their community. In fact, we consider this an expectation.

### Are there new school colours?

The colours of Colmont School are navy and white, with accents of eucalypt.

### Does the change of name mean the School's legal identity has also changed?

No. While the company name has changed to Colmont School Limited, the school retains the same Australian Company Number (ACN). The school remains an Australian Public Company, Limited By Guarantee, regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

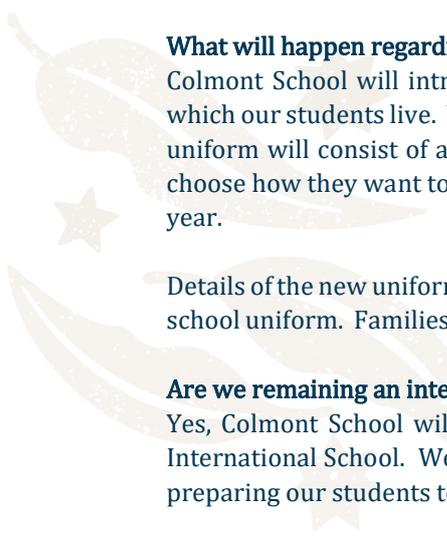
### Has the ownership of the School changed?

No, the School governance structure remains the same. We will continue to operate as an Independent School with a voluntary Board of Directors, regulated by the ACNC.

### What changes will occur initially?

From 1 July 2022 there will be several obvious changes. The signage on the 40 White Street property will change to Colmont, the website address will change, as will our identity on social media, online maps, and road signs. There will also be a change in the documents and stationery used by the school. From 2023 we will commence the transition to a new uniform.





### **What will happen regarding the School Uniform?**

Colmont School will introduce a school uniform (academic and sport) that better reflects the world in which our students live. We also think it is important our students have input into the design process. The uniform will consist of a contemporary wardrobe approach that is non-binary. Students will be able to choose how they want to wear the pieces. The range will be available for purchase for the 2023 academic year.

Details of the new uniform will be sent to families in May, including the transition timeline from the current school uniform. Families can expect a transition period that is respectful of the purchases they have made.

### **Are we remaining an international school?**

Yes, Colmont School will continue to be an international school in the same tradition as The Kilmore International School. We will continue to welcome families and staff from around the world, and locally, preparing our students to live and lead in a global society.

### **Will Colmont remain a boarding school?**

Yes, Colmont School will continue to be a boarding school in the same tradition as The Kilmore International School. COVID-19 has had a significant effect on the number of international students seeking secondary education in Australia, with all boarding schools having experienced a rapid decline in international student numbers. With the reopening of Australia's international border, we have been able to welcome our returning boarding students and accept new students for 2023 and beyond. The school is currently able to house 80 boarders.

### **Will Colmont continue to be a selective school?**

Yes, Colmont School will continue to be a selective school in the same tradition as The Kilmore International School. Prospective students will still be required to sit an entrance examination. Our academic focus will remain, with the intention of enabling our graduates to access the best universities in the world.

### **Will Year 12 students be able to choose the school they graduate from?**

While we would like to be able to offer this choice, it will not be possible. As the school will formally change its name on 1 July 2022, our Year 12 students will graduate from Colmont School. The school will no longer have the right to use 'The Kilmore International School' from that date, nor will that name be registered with the International Baccalaureate Organisation or the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

### **Will Colmont continue to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)?**

Yes, the school will continue to offer the IBDP as its senior course for students in Years 11 and 12. The IBDP will remain the only senior course offered to students. We are not considering the introduction of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

### **What about our alumni?**

Our alumni will always remain graduates of The Kilmore International School and may proudly continue to consider The Kilmore International School their alma mater. They will also be an important part of Colmont. As Colmont School develops over the years, our history will always include The Kilmore International School and its foundation.



### **Will the School Houses change?**

No, our School Houses of Hudson (Red), Hume (Blue), Mitchell (Green), and Rutledge (Yellow) will remain unaltered.

### **When and where will the school be relocating?**

The Board has commenced the process of selecting a new school site that will meet the needs of the school, well into the next century. As the search progresses, the Board will be undertaking due diligence, seeking a location suitable for relocation within the decade. While this is an exciting and historical endeavour for the school, the Board is mindful that families will be concerned about the location of the new school and possible transportation arrangements for their children. The Board is committed to acquiring a site within the surrounding district and has met with Mitchell Shire for their support and advice.

### **Will there be a new website?**

There will be progressive updates to The Kilmore International School website during the transition period. From 1 July 2022 the website will transition to Colmont School. The important history of The Kilmore International School will not be expunged on the website and will still be visible in galleries and publications.

### **Will school email addresses change?**

Not immediately, but there will be a change from name@*kilmore.vic.edu.au* to name@*colmont.vic.edu.au*. We will let you know of the change well in advance and we anticipate that the changeover period will redirect old email addresses to the new email address.

### **Will the School's phone number change?**

No, the School's phone number will remain (03) 5782 2211

### **Will new staff/student ID cards be required?**

Through the transition phase (now, until 1 July 2022) new ID cards are not required. New staff and students will be issued a new ID card, acknowledging the change in school name. All students and staff will be issued with Colmont School cards in due course.

### **Will the change in school name affect my login access to SEQTA or Teams?**

No, your login details and the user interface will remain the same. From July 1 there will be some visual and design changes to our online systems, however, this will not affect your ability to log onto SEQTA or Teams.

### **How will this change affect prospective students and families?**

Prospective students will be made aware of the School's transition to Colmont School. From 1 July 2022, all prospective students will apply to Colmont School and any Offer of Placement will be made as Colmont School.

### **What about the daily running of the school?**

The change in school name will have no effect on the daily running of the school. For example, lunch orders, bus routes, the borrowing of library books, daily start and finish times, term dates, and examination periods will not be affected.



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An open book represents knowledge and a willingness to learn

The Southern Cross denotes our Australian location

The flora signifies our rural heritage, strength, and continual growth

Our motto, Latin for "to understand and to act"



# COLMONT

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**COLMONT**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



**COLMONT**  
SENIOR SCHOOL