



25 August 2021

Dear staff, students, parents and Blackfriars community members,

Appointment of New Principal

It is with great pleasure that we announce the next Principal of Blackfriars Priory School will be Mr David Ruggiero.

David is well known to the school having served as Deputy Principal and APRIM since 2012. His appointment marks the first time in the school's history that a former student has been appointed to the role of Principal.

Following the announcement in May of this year of the retirement of our current and highly regarded Principal Simon Cobiac at the end of 2021, Hender Consulting were engaged by the School Board to conduct a national recruiting exercise to find our next Principal, with a number of highly qualified applications received.

David's application highlighted his extensive experience in senior roles across a number of schools including Marymount College, CBC, St Paul's College and St Columba College, in addition to Blackfriars. This breadth of experience, and associated exposure to a variety of teaching methods, school cultures and co-curricular activities was considered a great strength. Equally, David's professional development throughout these and more recent years has been comprehensive, both in formal training and exposure to development opportunities at the highest levels in the sector.

In addition, David's demonstrated appreciation of the Dominican search for truth and its application in education, his passion for the Catholic faith and identity of the school, his commitment to the fundamental importance of a vibrant and diverse co-curricular program, and his very positive track record of professional executive leadership at the school since 2012, all served to strengthen the call for his appointment.

As a former student, a long term member of staff, and a highly regarded leader within the school, David's commitment to the future of the school leaves little doubt he will embrace the opportunity expressed in his application *"to lead Blackfriars Priory School as a globally recognised Catholic school of choice for exceptional and innovative education, ...that ignites and inspires the intellectual minds and hearts of boys"*.

David's appointment has been welcomed by unanimous support from both the School Board and the Provincial Council in recent days.

The Provincial Council and the School Board have great pleasure in celebrating this historic moment and look forward to a seamless handover by our much respected Principal Simon Cobiac to our incoming Principal David Ruggiero for his commencement in the role on 1 January 2022.

Your sincerely,

Very Rev Anthony Walsh OP
Prior Provincial

David O'Loughlin
Chair, Blackfriars Priory School Board

