

30 August 2021

Dear Members of the Blackfriars Community,

Retirement of Head of Primary School (ELC-6): Mr Frank Ali

Mr Frank Ali, Head of Primary at Blackfriars Priory School since 2018 has decided to retire from education at the end of the 2021 school year.

Congratulations to Mr Ali for an extraordinary career of service to education at three outstanding Adelaide schools over 41 years.

Mr Frank Ali commenced his career in education in 1981 as a Primary School teacher here at Blackfriars, appointed by Fr John Neill. In a short 5 years, the leadership qualities of Frank were evident and he was promoted to Head of Primary from 1986 – 1998. Never shy of a challenge, Frank was appointed Head of the Junior School at Mercedes Catholic College from 1999 – 2007. Prior to returning to Blackfriars to accept the position of Head of Primary, Mr Ali Served at St John's Grammar School, Belair completing 10 years in this role from 2008 – 2017.

Mr Ali demonstrated his wealth of teaching and leadership experience in his role of Head of Primary at Blackfriars. He brought a calm, energetic and wise approach to the leadership of the Primary school and Early Learning Centre. His greatest legacy is the positive and caring relationships Mr Ali developed with students, parents and with the staff of Blackfriars. He always challenged and supported teachers and Education Support Officers in the Primary School and ELC to be their very best as role models for the students and to bring out the best in each student.

Mr Ali was an expert in the provision of differentiated learning for students and he used this expertise in special education to develop programs in literacy and numeracy so every student of every level of ability in the primary school at Blackfriars was able to access the curriculum, engage in learning and show their individual skills and talents.

I also acknowledge Mr Ali's contribution to the Executive Leadership Team of Blackfriars Priory School over the past four years. Mr Ali returned to Blackfriars at a time of significant development and change and he brought his wisdom, insight and experience to the conversations, plans and strategies developed in our community over this period. Mr Ali also provided strong support to me as Principal and was always able to accurately brief me on the people, events, challenges and joys of the Primary School and ELC.

On behalf of Blackfriars I wholeheartedly congratulate Mr Ali on his impending retirement, on his remarkable career in education and the positive, encouraging influence he has had on so many lives over 41 years. I wish him many happy years of retirement with his wife Tracey, his children and grandchildren and of course, supporting his beloved football team, *Go the POWER!*

Yours sincerely,



SIMON COBIAC
PRINCIPAL