

New Space, New Programs

Exciting News: We've Purchased a New Property! | 16 November 2018

As part of God's unfolding plan for us as a College community, today we announce the purchase of 58-64 Hall Road, Warrandyte South – just over five minutes from Tindals Road. From the start of 2020 this will become the home of our new Year 9 Centre.

Hall Road is currently the home of Youth Dimension, a para-church ministry focused on equipping young people for a life of mission. Youth Dimension is well known to many in our community, and just as we're writing to you now, they will simultaneously tell their community the exciting news. You may even be one of those who hears about it twice!

Since we published our '2020 Vision' last year, our Board and Senior Leadership Team have been discussing and praying through what new space we need. So we're very pleased to finally be able to make this announcement today. It's so important to us to honour God and take care of all that he's richly blessed us with, particularly as our enrolments continue to grow rapidly.

Here is how we expect the next few years to develop:

2019 Purchase of Hall Road finalised, Year 9 Centre developed

2020 Year 9 Centre opens, current building at Tindals Road becomes the Year 8 Centre

And beyond We're able to begin work on the Community Hub and Sports Centre at Tindals Road

We look forward to keeping you up to date over the next two years as the development of Hall Road progresses.

One of the great opportunities this new space offers is for the natural development and sustainable management of the site to become part of the learning experience of every Year 9 student. The projects they do will leave a legacy for every Year 9 student to come.

Does this seem like a huge leap for us? When we re-dedicated the Year 7 Centre a few weeks ago, we were reminded by one of our founders that when the school opened only 30 students were expected. Within days of the start of that first term in 1975, there were 90 students. It seems God has always exceeded our expectations, both in what he asks of us and the resources he provides. Today is no different.

Blessings,



Tim Argall
Executive Principal



Brad Greenwood
Board Chair



Please Pray!

Thank God for this exciting opportunity that builds into the future of our College. Pray for good progress to approval for planned repurposing of buildings at Hall Road. Pray for the construction teams at Tindals Road and Hall Road - for safety, efficiency, and timely completion of projects. Pray for the Board and Senior leadership team as they consider future directions and opportunities, and finally, pray specifically for our partnership with Youth Dimension in 2019 and their future ministry.

FAQ

1. Why do we need a second site?

Our student population is near its practical limit at Tindals Road. Each day we live with the reality of limited space here, both physically and from a planning perspective. The purchase of Hall Road will ease this pressure.

2. Is this another step to just becoming a big school?

No. Despite the increase in demand for places which we have experienced during 2018, and which shows no signs of easing, and the fact that there are waitlists in many years, four classes per year in primary and six per year in secondary will remain our full enrolment at Donvale Christian College.

3. What will happen to the current Year 9 Centre?

Year 8 will move to current Year 9 Centre alongside the dam in 2020, which will become the new dedicated Year 8 Centre. As is the case with the Year 7 Centre, classes from other year groups will use this building for classes when availability allows. This fulfils our commitment to have dedicated centres for Years 7 to 9 ahead of schedule.

4. Have we budgeted for this?

We're pleased to say that this acquisition is not an extra cost. Without it we would have had to substantially extend Building G in quite a short timeframe to accommodate the imminent growth in student numbers, for pretty much the same cost.

5. If I have students at both sites, how will I manage drop-off and pick-up each day?

From 2020, parents of Year 9 students will have two options for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. All Year 9 classes are at Hall Road and students will start and finish each day there. Families with siblings at Tindals Road can take advantage of a shuttle bus provided to take Year 9s to Hall Road in the morning and return to Tindals Road in the afternoon. They will be timed to allow students who travel on school-provided bus routes from surrounding suburbs to catch the shuttle service.

6. Does this mean the College Farm program is ending?

No, on the contrary the College Farm program will expand at Tindals Road with the addition of the VCE Animal husbandry course. The Year 8's will have access to the farm from 2020 and we are exploring the curriculum possibilities there and we are also starting to explore what might be possible with garden/small livestock programs at the new campus.

7. Is Youth Dimension closing?

Not at all! Youth Dimension will continue its important ministry from a new home, to be announced in the near future. To ease their transition, they will continue classes throughout 2019 at Hall Road as usual, with one course taught on Wednesdays from our College at Tindals Road.

Question not answered? Please email us at hallroad@donvale.vic.edu.au

