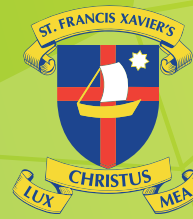


Newcastle Catholic Secondary Schools

TRANSITIONING TO YEARS 7 TO 12



Background

The Trustees of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle have made the decision to transition all secondary schools in Newcastle to Years 7 to 12.

This follows the recommendation in the 2014 Study into the Provision of Secondary Education by the Secondary Education Steering Committee to, where feasible, progressively move secondary schools to a Year 7 to 12 educational model of service delivery.

The transition will occur in a staged and planned way.

Staff, students, families and the wider community are invited to collaborate on the implementation plan to meet the unique needs of each school.



What is happening?

Over the next five years, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is renewing its approach to secondary schooling in the heart of Newcastle to ensure it can best support the educational needs and outcomes for its students now, and as we look to the future.

The Diocese is committed to:

- ▶ Providing the best possible learning outcomes and learning environments for our students
- ▶ Supporting our families through the provision of accessible education in a faith-filled environment
- ▶ Preserving the foundations of our Catholic ethos and enhancing the unique charism of each school
- ▶ The provision of specialist subjects, pathways and support for students

From 2024, all Catholic secondary schools in Newcastle will be commencing the transition to Year 7 to Year 12 schools, this includes:

1. San Clemente High School, Mayfield – with the inclusion of Years 11 and 12
2. St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton – with the inclusion of Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
3. St Pius X High School, Adamstown – with the inclusion of Years 11 and 12

The transition allows opportunities for specialist subject areas or programs to be developed and incorporated into the planning and, as part of the renewal project, existing facilities will be reviewed and capital works will be planned to ensure the best possible physical environment to support our students.

The transition of schools to a full Year 7 to Year 12 complement is expected to be completed no later than 2027.

Newcastle Catholic Secondary Schools

TRANSITIONING TO YEARS 7 TO 12

Why is this change important?

The Diocese needs to ensure it can deliver quality, consistent and accessible secondary education for students, both now and as we look ahead into the future.

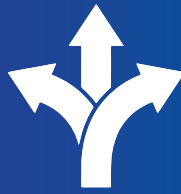
The transition to Year 7 – 12 secondary schooling is based on the below long-term benefits.



Strong educational outcomes



Improved student wellbeing



Opportunities for staff



Enhanced learning environments



Accessible Catholic education

For students

- ▶ The provision of the **best possible educational outcomes** for secondary students:
 - **Reducing transitions** to new environments and the associated 'performance dip'
 - **Improving student engagement** and stronger learning outcomes
 - Greater awareness and knowledge of each **individual student** and their potential, throughout their secondary schooling
 - Leveraging technology to offer a **broad array of subject offerings and extra-curricular activities** for Years 11 and 12 students
 - Improving **retention** of 'at risk' students, especially beyond Year 10
 - Capability to provide **meaningful leadership** opportunities for students
- ▶ Enhanced **student wellbeing**, with a stronger sense of belonging and senior role models
- ▶ Providing **pathways and opportunities** for students, such as academic excellence or vocational education
- ▶ Building a sense of **community and belonging** for all students throughout their entire secondary education
- ▶ A stronger foundation for **continuous school improvement** across all learning stages

For staff

- ▶ Enhancement of **opportunities for staff** to teach and lead at all levels of secondary education
- ▶ **Building capacity** whilst growing and developing our staff in their areas of curriculum, pastoral skills and interests
- ▶ Opportunities to **influence a vibrant new future** of Catholic secondary education, including the implementation of NSW Curriculum Reforms

For families

- ▶ Capital works and physical building upgrades to support a fully integrated Year 7 to 12 school and the **best possible learning environments** for students
- ▶ Supporting the **growth of our communities** through the consideration of demographic trends and growth corridors to ensure Catholic education is accessible to all families that seek it
- ▶ Where possible, **reducing travel** times for students, improving transport management, and decreasing our reliance on vehicle transport

Newcastle Catholic Secondary Schools

TRANSITIONING TO YEARS 7 TO 12



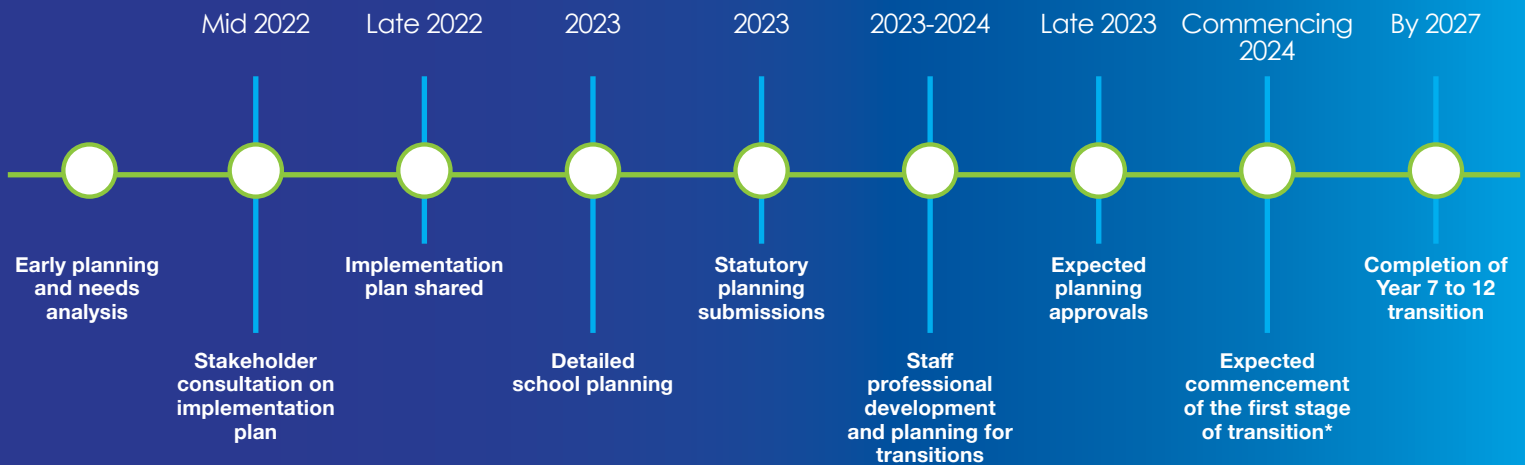
What does this mean for me?

Staff, students, families and the wider community are invited to collaborate on the implementation plan to meet the unique needs of each school.

Each location will have dedicated consultation activities, such as Listening Assemblies, Focus Groups or Individual Interviews.

As the project gets underway, more information will be provided about how you can contribute and collaborate.

Our anticipated timeline



Individual aspects of the timeline may vary for each school and details may be at an individual school level, dependent on the outcome of the Implementation Plan.

The recommendations resulting from the implementation planning phase may result in an acceleration of the transition if it is reasonably practicable to do so.

* May be at an individual school level, dependent on the outcome of the Implementation Plan.

Newcastle Catholic Secondary Schools

TRANSITIONING TO YEARS 7 TO 12

Who is leading this work?

The Diocese has engaged an external adviser, Dr Dan White, former Executive Director of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Sydney.

A Reference Group has also been established with members committed to discerning the best possible implementation plan to achieve the desired long-term educational outcomes for Catholic secondary students in Newcastle.

Next steps and contact

Information will be provided about how you can contribute to the implementation plan.

Participate in our Listening Assemblies

- ▶ Tuesday 14 June 2022, St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
- ▶ Wednesday 15 June 2022, San Clemente High School, Mayfield
- ▶ Thursday 16 June 2022, St Pius X High School, Adamstown

Further details will be provided.

Email: ImplementationPlanning@mn.catholic.edu.au
www.mn.catholic.edu.au/7to12SecondaryEducation

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information

