

Newcastle Catholic Secondary Schools

TRANSITIONING TO YEARS 7 TO 12



Overview

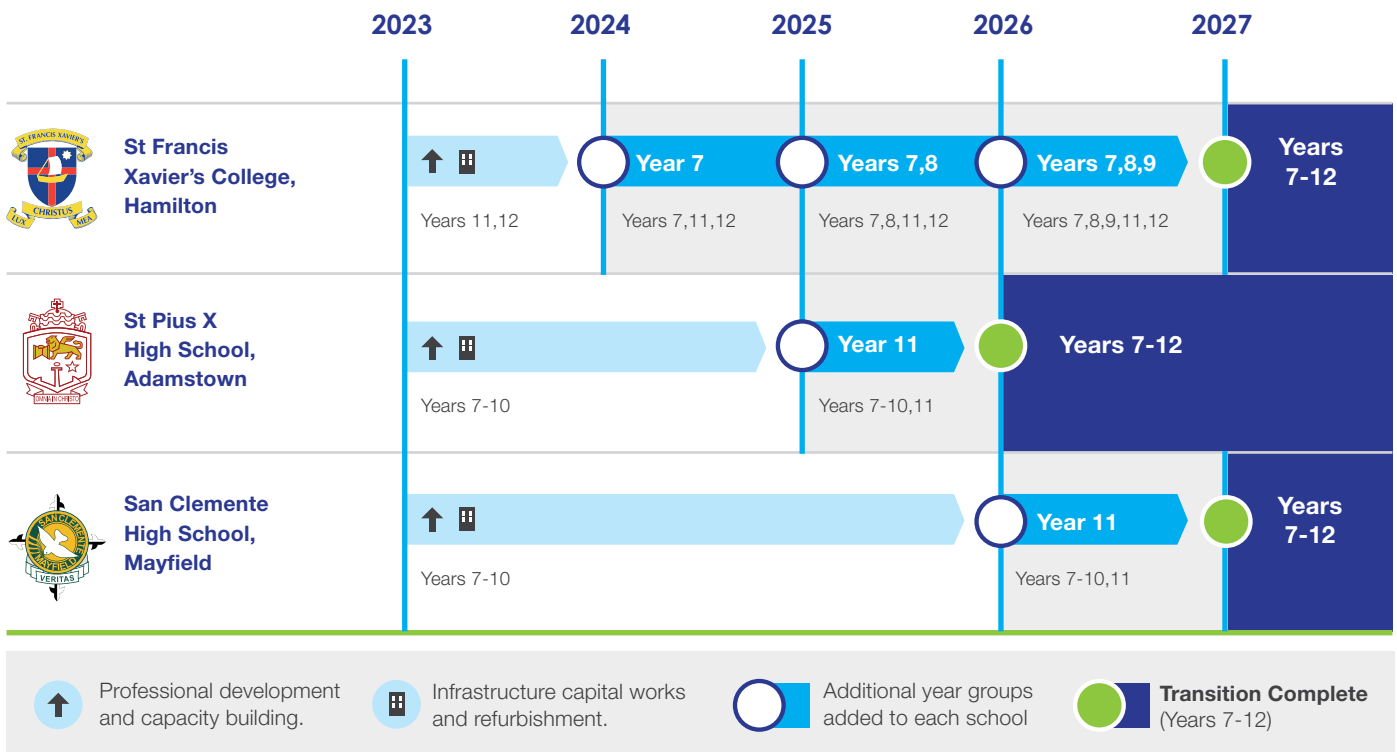
The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is renewing its approach to secondary schooling in the heart of Newcastle to ensure it can best support the educational needs and outcomes for its students now, and as we look to the future.

We are committed to strong educational outcomes, improved

student wellbeing, opportunities for staff, enhanced learning environments and accessible Catholic education.

The initial implementation planning and listening opportunities are now complete and this overview highlights outcomes and next steps.

As per the table below, St Francis Xavier's College (currently Years 11 and 12) will commence the transition with the inclusion of Year 7 in 2024, adding a further year group each year to the full Year 7-12 complement in 2027; St Pius X High School (currently Years 7-10) commences with its first Year 11 students no later than 2025, becoming a full Year 7-12 school in 2026; and San Clemente High School (currently Years 7-10) commences with its first Year 11 students in 2026, becoming a Year 7-12 school in 2027.



Outcomes and recommendations:



Strong educational outcomes



Improved student wellbeing

Academic learning, student outcomes and wellbeing

- ▶ At the core of this work is the provision of the best possible educational outcomes for secondary students.
- ▶ Recommendations of the report that seek to improve student engagement and strengthen learning outcomes include:
 - A revision of the 'learning brief' for each college with a greater focus on setting high achievement goals for every student
 - Further investigation into the establishment of an 'academically selective stream' at each school with direct connections to local pathway primary schools.
 - A comprehensive review of all student wellbeing policies and practices.

Breadth of subject selection

- ▶ We heard feedback about the importance of the breadth of subject selection for all students, particularly in senior years.
- ▶ We will be providing a comprehensive range of academic and vocational education subjects at every school. We will also leverage technology to provide further options for students wishing to choose specialised, low demand subjects.
- ▶ Opportunities for collaboration and mutual support across all three colleges will ensure both the sustainability and the enhancement of subject choices and learning outcomes for every student.



Enhanced learning environments

Infrastructure capital works and refurbishment

- ▶ Capital works, refurbishment and the provision of key facilities are a priority.
- ▶ A detailed site audit and comprehensive master planning will progress in Term 4 2022, for each school. Master plans are expected to be completed mid-2023.
- ▶ Master planning will inform future updates regarding new facilities that reflect contemporary pedagogical practice and the practical educational needs of the school community.
- ▶ Refurbishment projects will commence as soon as practicable to accommodate the first stream of new students at each school.



Accessible Catholic education

Enrolments and Pathway Schools

- ▶ 'Pathway' Catholic primary schools, directly aligned to respective secondary colleges, have been established. This assists families to access a streamlined K to 12 Catholic education across the inner-city region of Newcastle, with first preference enrolment in the respective pathway secondary school.
 - A list of pathway primary schools is available in the accompanying FAQ document.
- ▶ Previous zoning and enrolment policies will be refined, and schools will work collaboratively throughout the transition period.
- ▶ Individual circumstances will be considered to support families particularly recognising the importance of keeping families together wherever possible.
- ▶ Transport options, such as a dedicated bus service, are being further reviewed to provide a service from the western corridor suburbs of Newcastle to San Clemente, Mayfield.

Catholic Mission and Identity

- ▶ The Catholic mission and identity in schools is deeply appreciated by the parent community.
- ▶ The Marist charism and St Dominican charism will be maintained at St Francis Xavier's and San Clemente respectively.
- ▶ In the absence of a unique charism it is recommended that St Pius X discern the potential of a new charism and cultural identity.



Opportunities for staff

Capacity building and professional learning

- ▶ We continue to remain committed to the enhancement of opportunities for staff to teach and lead at all levels of secondary education.
- ▶ Each school will develop a detailed and sophisticated professional learning plan that reflects their unique needs and challenges.
- ▶ A professional learning budget is allocated to ensure all staff are equipped to develop in their areas of curriculum.

Support for the transition period

- ▶ The transitions will be resourced and supported by the appointment of a Diocesan Transition Lead Manager and school-based Transition and Student Wellbeing Coordinators.
- ▶ These positions will help ensure staff and students are well supported throughout the transition years.

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View more information online:

Read more detail about timing, pathways schools and frequently asked question on our website:

www.mn.catholic.edu.au/7to12SecondaryEducation

Email: ImplementationPlanning@mn.catholic.edu.au



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