



Together we're building the future



An Invitation to our community

After much prayer and wise consideration, we are pleased to announce that Devonport Christian School is planning to launch a Secondary school.

OUR MOTIVATION behind this decision stems from our desire to provide our current families with a continuation of their children's learning experience from Primary into Secondary. We have always maintained that if the timing and marketplace were right, we would prayerfully consider the option of starting a Secondary school under the DCS banner.

OUR AIM is that our school will continue, as it is now, to provide excellent teaching and learning facilities across both Primary and in the future, Secondary.

OUR COMMITMENT to our parents is to provide an excellent learning experience that prepares students for life in the 21st century. We are already incredibly blessed with our Primary school's facilities and teaching staff, and our Secondary will be no different! Part of our decision to commence a Secondary school at this point in time is based on the solid foundation we have created to meet the educational needs of our students.

We are so excited to be starting this venture as a school and know we can only do this with the support from our current community. We believe our community sets us apart, and we know it is you, our community, filled with faith and support that will propel this vision to reality.

In this document, we have provided some FAQ's that will answer some initial questions and also ways you can be involved. We want to answer your questions to ensure you feel in the loop about this new and exciting venture, so we have included a link to an online form to submit your questions. We are also planning to hold a DCS Community meeting shortly to address these questions in person.

The future we're building is exciting, and we invite you to be part of the journey.


Yours in Christ

Chad Smit
PRINCIPAL

Alison Moore
BOARD CHAIR



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In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. MATTHEW 5:16

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY IS DCS STARTING A SECONDARY SCHOOL?

The decision behind DCS commencing a Secondary school stems from our desire to provide our current families with a continuation of their children's learning experience from Primary into Secondary. This is supported by feedback in our parent surveys, which, for many years now, have indicated a strong desire for DCS to provide Secondary education. In addition to this, the recent growth within the Devonport, Latrobe and Port Sorell areas also supports the addition of another Christian Secondary education provider.

SO WHY NOW?

We have always maintained that if the timing and marketplace were right, we would prayerfully consider the option of starting a Secondary school under the DCS banner. Under the wise leadership of our Board and Management team, we have experienced significant growth in recent years, which has led to healthy class sizes in our upper years. This school growth, coupled with a strong and healthy community, alongside local population growth means we have been able to, with all due diligence, determine we could now sustainably commence a Secondary school without jeopardising our existing school infrastructure and culture.

WHEN WILL SECONDARY SCHOOL START?

At this stage, we would anticipate Year 7 to commence in 2023. However, this is subject to our strategic planning and regulatory requirements. We know this will affect many of our upper Primary families, therefore, our commitment to our DCS community is to keep you informed and up to date with information as soon as we finish our due diligence.

WHERE WILL THE SECONDARY SCHOOL BE LOCATED?

We are blessed to currently have a large enough property to commence a rolling (year by year) Secondary school. As part of the feasibility studies and planning, we have begun working on a new Master Plan for our school, which will support this vision. We believe there would also be scope to open an additional site for Secondary to operate, with God's provision. Strategic planning for the future would also factor in this expansion.



A photograph of three young students in school uniforms standing outdoors in front of trees. The student in the center is a boy with blonde hair, wearing a white shirt. The student on the left is a boy with dark hair, also in a white shirt. The student on the right is a girl with brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt under a dark blue sweater. All three are smiling at the camera.

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Two overlapping squares, one orange and one light blue, positioned to the left of the text block.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 JOHN 5: 14-15



WILL THERE BE A CROSSOVER OF STAFF BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY?

Our aim is that our school will continue, as it is now, to provide excellent teaching and learning facilities across both Primary and in the future, Secondary. We will begin advertising for teachers with secondary curriculum qualifications for the exciting journey into senior curriculum in due course. Our expansions into Secondary will mean the addition of specialist learning areas, which will positively enhance our existing Primary school.

While our Primary and Secondary schools will function separately in terms of curriculum and learning philosophy, we are excited to establish a culture in Secondary, which is an extension of the heart and soul of our Primary school. The unity and relational atmosphere developed and nurtured over many years has created a strong foundation upon which to build into the future. Among many things, we are excited to continue developing the gifts within our students as we provide opportunities for our senior students to model Christ-like leadership to our younger students as we partner with our parents in their child's learning journey.

WHAT YEAR LEVELS WILL BE OFFERED?

We will commence Year 7 and then continue to grow by adding one year level each year.

HOW WILL DCS PROVIDE FACILITIES THAT HELP MY STUDENT GET THE BEST OUTCOMES?

Our commitment to our parents is to provide an excellent learning experience that prepares students for life in the 21st century. We are already incredibly blessed with the facilities and teaching staff in our Primary school, and our Secondary will be no different! Part of our decision to commence a Secondary school at this point in time is based on the solid foundation we have created to meet the educational needs of our students. As we grow, we will continue to invest in developing our teachers, our curriculum, and our facilities. We also plan to continue the solid ecumenical partnership with other schools, educational providers, and local churches. We will continue to create opportunities for our parents to give feedback to ensure we continue to provide an excellent environment for their children.

WILL CURRENT FAMILIES BE PRIORITISED FOR YEAR 7 PLACEMENTS?

Yes! Places will be offered first and foremost to our current families, allowing for direct enrolment. After this initial enrolment offering, we will begin marketing our Secondary school in the same way we already do our Primary. We have an [Enrolment Policy](#) that supports our commitment to our community to protect and nurture the culture and values of our school, and we will continue to ensure this will not change with the expansion into Secondary.



WHAT WILL THE FEES LOOK LIKE FOR SECONDARY?

Fees will be set in the same manner as our current ones by our Finance Committee each year. As is customary in any fee-paying school, the fees in Secondary are traditionally higher than in Primary school and incrementally increase with each year level. Sibling discounts will continue into Secondary.

WILL THE UNIFORMS BE THE SAME?

Our Secondary uniform, whilst complementing our current Primary uniforms, will reflect the age of our Secondary students appropriately as they become young adults.

WILL THERE BE BUS SERVICES AVAILABLE?

The current MerseyLink bus service will remain the same for our Secondary school. Management will continue to investigate additional transport services to support our families, especially those to the east and remote or rural areas.

AS A CURRENT PARENT, WHAT CAN I DO?

We are so excited to be starting this venture as a school and know we can only do this with the support from our current community. We believe our community sets us apart, and we know it is you, our community, filled with faith and support that will propel this vision to reality.

So how can you help? Here are just some quick ways:

1. **Prayer.** We would appreciate prayer for wisdom and insight as we finalise our due diligence processes.
2. **Ask questions!** We want to answer your question to ensure you feel in the loop about this new and exciting venture. Your questions will also help with further planning and direction. We have created a page here (www.dcs.tas.edu.au/have-your-say) where we can start the conversation.
3. **Sign up for 'Together we're building the future' newsletter.** This is where we will be talking about all things Secondary, letting you know any prayer points, exciting updates – anything regarding this adventure we are about to embark on as a school community. You can sign up for this by also clicking the [link](#) above.



Pray for us



Ask us questions



Stay Informed



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