



ST. JOSEPH'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (December 2016)

Greetings to parents and friends of St. Joseph's International School, Kuching.

We are sending this Newsletter out electronically. We want to ensure that parents who do not have email access, can find a way of accessing such newsletter. We hope to regularly update you all about any matters relating to school operations.

My name is Brother Paul Hough (pronounce as Huff) and my background is mainly in Australia, where I was Principal of Boarding schools in Cairns in Queensland (QLD), Campbelltown in New South Wales (NSW) and Hunters Hill in Sydney. The last school was "St. Joseph's College"! It was here that I enrolled Boarding students from different parts of Asia, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, and parts of Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and parts of the Pacific. Later, I was the Executive Officer of 26 Catholic Schools in the Cairns region. More recently, I have been working with Aboriginal students from the remote and outback areas of Australia, helping them with Boarding schools so they can break the cycle of welfare poverty. I have also worked with young people in junior prisons. My academic background is Physics, especially Astrophysics and Cosmology!

"Brother" comes from being a Marist Brother, similar to the De La Salle Brothers who used to be here. Marists Brothers are an International group of Catholic Men working in about 80 countries worldwide. We specialized in Education. Our founding community will consist of a Malaysian Brother, a Filipino Brother as well as an Australian.

It has already been decided to adopt the Cambridge Curriculum in major subject areas, and the school will move towards student sitting external exams monitored by Cambridge. Secondary schooling around the world has changed significantly over the last 30 years, especially with the development of computer technology. We are moving to one-hour teaching periods in 2017, which helps promote student centered learning.

Overseas countries even have longer periods – one I know of has three 110-minute periods a day! So, the style of teaching and the expectation on students in our international school will differ from some of the current practices.

Staff will meet on three days – Wednesday, 28th December to Friday, 30th December. School starts on Tuesday, 3rd January 2017, with assembly at 8am. I will keep you posted on development as time goes on.

In the meantime, enjoy the school break with your family and friends, and looking forward to meeting you next year.

Wishing you all the best,

Brother Paul



Brother Paul (left) with Brother Mark