

12 February 2021

Dear School Community

Announcement on behalf of the School Board

I am writing to share the news that Geoff Newton will be retiring at the end of this year, after 24 years of outstanding leadership and contribution at Hillbrook and 41 years in education.

Geoff joined the school in 1998 as Deputy and became our third Principal in 2008. He has a very personal and practical approach to leadership, and has inspired many students and staff to see themselves as able to change the world and themselves for the better.

The School's culture and its approach to education and the development of young people has certainly been deepened and built upon during his tenure. We thank him for his vision and leadership and for his outstanding commitment to our school community.

Geoff has always believed in people and their ability to change the world. This is evident in our social inclusion and diversity policies and our commitment to be a sustainable school. He has also contributed to the Independent Schools' sector, particularly in his leadership and involvement in the establishment of the national teaching standards. For this service, he was recognised with a Queensland Fellowship from the Australian Council for Educational Leadership. His deep commitment to the Anglican sector is further testament to his belief and commitment to high quality education and the teaching profession.

His time with us has seen a period of huge growth from just over 500 students in 1998 to 800 this year. The campus has also been transformed and we now enjoy some of the best teaching and learning facilities and social spaces of any independent school in the state; while retaining the uniqueness of the original Hillbrook spirit.

It is a bittersweet moment as we say farewell to Geoff. Hillbrook's culture, vision and principles have flourished under his leadership and our students leave Hillbrook with a strong sense of hope and capacity for the next part of their journey. With his humour, energy, ideas and humility he has truly embodied the underlying belief of our community in *making a positive difference in the lives of others*. We express our congratulations and deep thanks for his service to our school community, and sincere best wishes to Geoff and Jacky for the new season of their lives.



Mr Rob Seljak
Chair of School Board