



Sam with her family

FAREWELL

SAM

Sam will leave Mater Dei with our gratitude,
our prayers and our warmest wishes

It was with considerably mixed feelings that we farewelled Sam Giles, Assistant Principal, from Mater Dei on Friday 8 June. By a nice coincidence of history, Sam's last day coincided with G-Day; Grandparents and Great People Day at Mater Dei. Sam will take up a senior leadership position with Catholic Schools New South Wales (CSNSW) as the Manager, Disability Support.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Sam to express her considerable leadership capacity in a different and broader context. The leadership of Catholic Education, and specifically, those students requiring additional supports, need people like Sam in senior leadership positions; people with obvious capacity to think and work strategically, to problem solve effectively and to engage in relationships that are distinguished by mutual respect for the dignity and worth of each person. Sam brings all of these qualities to leadership as well as a quite unique ability to act with integrity and conviction. Sam will make a great contribution to this important work and the beneficiaries will be every student in a NSW Catholic school who has an additional support need of some kind or other.

Of course, it is also true that Sam will be greatly missed at Mater Dei. She has made a unique and extraordinary contribution to every aspect of the life of our school since she joined the staff in 2010 and particularly since her appointment as Assistant Principal in 2011. Sam has been without peer as Assistant Principal. The very best. She has led considerable reform of the structures and processes of our school that has meant a safer school for our students and staff and a school that now provides world class educational and other opportunities to our students.

I know you will join with me in thanking Sam for all that she has contributed and all that she has been to our school community and to wish her well in the next phase of her professional journey. Sam will leave Mater Dei with our gratitude, our prayers and our warmest best wishes.

Tony Fitzgerald
CEO/Principal