The importance of solid values and principles

All Saints’ College has existed for over 130 years because it is founded on solid values and principles. These values and principles have been the starting point of the school’s journey and they have determined the course we have taken. As a result, this school has overcome many periods of difficulty and will continue to thrive well into the future, stronger for the experiences of challenge and occasional hardship and confident about the direction in which it is heading.

If you have ever been involved in the sport of rowing and had the job of steering a boat without a coxswain (the small person who typically sits in the back of the boat to steer it) you will know that setting a course requires the following: a fixed starting point, check points along the way, regular glances over your shoulder in the direction you are travelling to ensure you are not going to hit something and little adjustments each time you have looked ahead to ensure you stay on course. This is a powerful analogy for life and our school. In effect, we are moving forward while looking back but we are careful to keep an eye on what might come up.

Our fixed starting point at All Saints’ College is our unfailing commitment to our values and Christian principles. Combined with this is our focus on students and their educational needs. The community at this school is more interested in where our students are going than where they have come from. These values and principles are regularly challenged in our complex contemporary world. Some people might even think from time to time that we pull up short of living up to such grand expectations. These are high expectations but they are achievable. An ongoing commitment to them and keeping them at front of mind means that during our journey, our course may need to be corrected from time to time to ensure we honour our original route plan. Frequently little adjustments are made to ensure we stay on course.

The reality of the experience of this school for our students is that they experience a school in which our origins are important and traditions are honoured but we are looking forward, guiding our students into life beyond school and preparing them for the challenges they will face. Strong values, clear principles, authentic relationships and good quality teaching throughout the school are the key to this. Together they comprise the spirit of our school.

In this final VIM for 2012 it is timely to evaluate the check point we have arrived at and ensure it is in line with our starting point and our destination. The recent growth of our school and the excitement about the years ahead show we are on track and thriving into 2013.

Dr Peter Miller