

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Facilities Revitalise Century-Old College

One of the oldest Catholic schools in Far North Queensland is celebrating both history and renewal as it unveils a \$1.25 million contemporary facelift in its 100th year of service.

Mount St Bernard College in Herberton will today (Thursday) officially open a raft of cutting-edge practical facilities, including a new food technology kitchen, refurbished art room and art courtyard, an upgraded music, drama and dance facility with a tutorial room, and two updated classrooms.

Bishop of Cairns James Foley, Cairns Catholic Education Services Executive Director Bill Dixon and Senate Candidate Andrew Cripps, representing the Federal Government, will be among the official attendees helping to unveil the new spaces.

Principal Ian Margetts said the refurbished facilities helped to support both teaching and learning, with staff able to access technology provisions and students learning in a comfortable environment.

“The upgrade to specialist teaching spaces will enhance the College’s curriculum delivery in its areas of strength,” he said.

“Having a high first Nations student population, students can enjoy, experience success, and share culture in these practical spaces, with a contemporary approach.

“The updated facilities have also allowed co-curricular opportunities to be offered. There is now an Art Club, and First Nations students regularly visit the music, drama and dance room to practise their traditional dance.

“The College has long had a strong involvement in the performing arts, and this refurbishment allows us to continue this in a contemporary learning environment.”

The Commonwealth Government invested \$1.206 million in the project and Mount St Bernard College contributed \$48,890.

The College will mark a century of service to rural and remote communities this year.

Mr Margetts said Mount St Bernard College prided itself on adapting and responding to changing educational needs.

“From the not-so-distant farming communities of the initial years, to supporting the war efforts, to now caring for boarders from very remote areas of the country, Mount St Bernard College has continued to provide a place where those that need education can access it,” he said.

“Whatever era or place of origin, Mount St Bernard College has enabled students to ‘let their light shine’.”

Mr Dixon said the College had long provided a vital service to families from all corners of Far North Queensland.

“Mount St Bernard College has been integral to the education of tens of thousands of Far North students over its many decades of service,” he said.

“The new facilities unveiled here today will enable the College to continue providing outstanding opportunities to its students for many more years to come.”

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