

# Media Statement



18 November 2021

After eight years as Principal of leading independent girls' day and boarding school MLC, Ms. Diana Vernon has announced she will be leaving at the end of 2022 to return home to the UK to be with family.

MLC Chair, Simon Martin, paid tribute to Diana Vernon following the announcement.

"Diana has led the College with distinction since her appointment as Principal in 2014. Importantly, Diana has driven the College's continued focus on student wellbeing, learning and enhanced academic achievement for all students, including the enviable excellence achieved by our Year 12 students each year.

Diana's leadership has enhanced the development of a robust, passionate and dedicated leadership team. With this team, Diana has continued to build upon the solid foundation and exemplary reputation of MLC. MLC's commitment to excellence and innovation in education, combined with extensive wellbeing support, size, scale and resources, continues to offer girls enriched learning opportunities that are truly unmatched in Melbourne's education landscape.

Under Diana's leadership, there has been a significant improvement in enrolments, including strong growth at Year 7 and the development and implementation of a transformational College Masterplan, including the inspiring new Nicholas Learning Centre and Dr Wood Learning Centre. "

Ms Vernon said, "It was not an easy decision to make, and it will be a huge wrench to leave MLC, but the pandemic has reinforced the importance of our connection to family, friends, and home. It has been a real privilege to lead this exceptional school and to work with such impressive and dedicated teachers, supportive and committed parents, 32,000 Old Collegians worldwide and, most importantly, empower young women to be confident and resilient global citizens."

Diana further added, "I look forward to continuing to lead MLC for the next year and am confident that the College is in an excellent position to transition to new leadership. MLC will continue to inspire and teach resilient, capable and confident girls and young women who are equipped, not only with the skills and knowledge, but also the right attitude, to thrive in an ever-changing, globalised world".

The recruitment process has commenced, and the Board has appointed a search firm to conduct a national and international search for the next Principal to lead the College from 2023.

## About MLC

MLC is a leading independent girls' day and boarding school in the heart of Melbourne, Australia. Our unmatched breadth of learning and wellbeing experiences and environments inspires and supports MLC students to find and nurture their individual interests and talents, forge their own paths and achieve their best.

The contemporary and broad curriculum and extensive wellbeing programs offered at MLC engage all students to be independent, creative and adaptive thinkers. Internationally recognised for our extensive curriculum choice and outstanding academic results, MLC offers multiple academic pathways in Senior School - the VCE including VCE VET (Vocational Education and Training) with significant work-ready programs and IB (International Baccalaureate).

Our commitment to providing excellence and innovation in education, combined with our size, scale and resources, offers enriched learning and wellbeing opportunities that are truly unmatched in Melbourne's education landscape.

Our students are empowered to be confident and resilient global citizens who possess the skills, knowledge and attitude to thrive throughout every stage of their schooling, and in an ever-changing, globalised world.

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