

25 July, 2025

Dear Loreto College Ballarat Community

It is with both sadness and deep gratitude that I write to inform the Loreto College community that our Principal, Michelle Brodrick has made the decision to step away from her role at the end of the 2025 school year.

After a period of discernment, Michelle has decided that the time is right to step away from her role. This decision comes after years of tireless and dedicated leadership, which has helped shape Loreto College Ballarat into a strong, future-focused and values-driven community. It is through this steady and thoughtful guidance that the school is so well placed today and it is also what has enabled Michelle to reach a point where she can confidently take this time to pause. At this stage, Michelle has conveyed that she is looking forward to some well earned long service leave.

The Loreto College Ballarat Board, together with our broader school community, expresses its profound gratitude to Michelle for her exceptional leadership, unwavering strength and deep compassion during her time as Principal. Her tenure has been marked not only by her vision for the future, but by her extraordinary ability to guide the College through some of the most challenging moments in recent history.

From the uncertainty and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic to the deeply impactful and distressing school bus incident (with legacies from both still prevalent today), Michelle has led with courage, care and compassion, always putting the wellbeing of students, staff and families at the centre of every decision. Her calm presence and thoughtful leadership provided reassurance, unity and strength when our community needed it most.

At the same time, she never lost sight of the bigger picture, steering the College with purpose and ambition into its next chapter. Under her leadership, Loreto has continued to evolve, embracing innovation whilst remaining grounded in the values of justice, sincerity, verity, felicity and freedom.

Since joining Loreto College Ballarat in 2020, Michelle has led with vision, integrity and a profound sense of mission. Her contribution to the life of the College has been far-reaching from strengthening student wellbeing, academic outcomes and staff culture, to guiding master planning, community engagement and long-term strategic direction. Her legacy is one of collaboration, inclusivity and a deep belief in the potential of every young woman entrusted to our care.

The Loreto College Board will commence a search to appoint the next Principal in the coming months. We are committed to finding a leader who will continue to honour the vision of Mary Ward and Mother Gonzaga Barry, while confidently leading the College into the future.

In the meantime, we look forward to acknowledging and celebrating Michelle and her outstanding contribution to Loreto later in the year. On behalf of the school community, I thank her most sincerely for her devoted leadership and wish her every blessing as she prepares to enter this next chapter.

Yours sincerely



Melanie Robertson
Loreto Ballarat Board Chair