



February 8, 2017

Dear Members of the Loyola School Community,



It is clear that the Loyola School community is very special. This was immediately apparent to me when I visited the school at the end of last year, through the warmth of the welcome I received and the conversations I shared with students, staff, parents and other members of the community.

I would like to especially thank Arielle, Jack, Ariel, Filippo and Willow, the students I met with during the interview process, for the conversation we shared while I was at Loyola School. Loyola exists for its students and it was inspiring to hear them talk so positively and affectionately about Loyola School. Certainly, that conversation was a central component of my reflection in terms of accepting the role at Loyola and for this I am deeply appreciative.

As with any educational institution, its standing and ability to fulfill its mission is dependent on the quality of the people that comprise the community. Indeed education, particularly Jesuit education, has human relationships at its heart, based on *Cura Personalis*, care for each individual across all of their dimensions. Needless to say, therefore, I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to join the Loyola community as Principal and do so with a strong sense of humility and excitement.

Most of you are familiar with the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm and particularly the centrality of Experience, Reflection and Action as part of a Jesuit education. Given the attention afforded to these three elements in Jesuit schools, we can be forgiven sometimes for forgetting that these are bookended by the elements of Context and Evaluation. It is the former of these two elements that acts as my starting point in this introductory letter, as I wish to start our relationship, at least at a collective level, with the sharing of some of my context.

I join you after having had the privilege of working in Jesuit education in various capacities and across a number of institutions for the last seventeen years. This includes Clongowes Wood College in County Kildare, Ireland, Boston College, Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview in Sydney and currently at Xavier College in Melbourne, Australia. Each of these institutions has their own unique context, despite all being Jesuit schools. I know Loyola also has its own unique context and I look forward to learning the Loyola story from the inside out, through the relationships and conversations we will share.

Despite these variations in context, there are a couple of constants that emerge. Firstly, the centrality of Christ in a Jesuit education. Secondly, the genuine hope that a Jesuit education will develop and form well-rounded people of depth and faith who are discerning, reflective, committed to social justice and the service of others. Certainly, this would be my hope and dream for our students as you undertake your education at Loyola.

Clearly then, a Jesuit education resonates strongly with me and I am particularly drawn to the ideals and values that underpin it. However, I am also acutely aware that in this day and age a Jesuit education also requires courage to be counter-cultural, in order to educate, form and transform our students into self-aware and responsible global citizens who, at their core, have a sense of responsibility that transcends themselves and a deep commitment to serve others for the greater glory of God. This is the ultimate horizon and something we should not shy away from, both in terms of conversation and aspiration.

This is the challenge with which we are all faced in the context of Loyola School, a Jesuit school in the 21st century. In a world that seems to become more individualistic by the day and where the whole concept of relationship has shifted seismically due to the 'globalization of superficiality', as Father Nicolas the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus describes it, we must challenge each other to be 'to become academically excellent, open to growth, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice'. To seek for greater meaning and depth in relationship, experience and ourselves. To look outward at the same time as looking in. Global responsibility begins with self-awareness.

It is an ambitious goal, but I am certain that the Loyola community is one that is committed to this end. I look forward to joining you in terms of this commitment and know that we will learn and grow together through the process.

I am honoured to have been named as the next Principal of your wonderful school. I would like to thank Mr. Oroszlany and the other members of the Principal Search Committee, as well as the Board of Trustees for this truly wonderful opportunity and for the faith they have shown in me. I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Ross Cully, especially as she enters the final months of her work at Loyola. While I will not have the opportunity to work directly with her I thank her for the legacy she will leave – one that I will be fortunate to inherit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Adam Lewis