



Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham

A Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition
Educating boys in Years 5 – 12 since 1891

11 May 2022

Dear Neighbours,

I write to you again to brief you about our planning and processes about responding to your ongoing concerns about traffic management, parking and the future development of Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham.

As you would be aware we have lodged a Development Application with the Inner West Council to rezone the use of an apartment block at 86 The Boulevard for school use. As part of this we intended to use the garages for additional off-site parking but residents' objections about the slope of the driveway meant that we had to amend the plan and we now intend to use the garages for storage of equipment. The units will be modified for offices and small group meetings to accommodate students who need support with their reading and writing.

Contrary to statements on social media this is not an application to increase the enrolment at the school beyond the 1350 student ceiling. In fact the school has embarked upon the strategy of reducing class sizes to reduce the number of students at the school. The current enrolment is well under that ceiling at 1241 students. I wish to repeat the undertaking that I made to you in my first letter to you last November that planning for the school for the foreseeable future does not include us asking to raise our enrolment ceiling beyond the currently approved 1350 students.

Future works that we are considering will help ease some of the community concerns by increasing onsite parking, improving traffic flow, improving existing facilities and creating recreational spaces for the students. In September we will be refurbishing a classroom block and I have extended the student vacation to reduce congestion during the main construction period. All capital works carried out at the school will meet NSW planning and approval requirements.

The school follows a traffic management plan and we have trained staff controlling traffic and parking before and after school each day. This traffic plan will be updated as part of the planning procedure. Our current observation is that traffic is flowing well before and after school and we have reminded parents not to double park or to wait more than a few minutes in the parking bays on The Boulevard. The congested periods appear to be limited to 15 minutes in the morning and afternoon and appear to be well below the extended congestion experienced by non-school traffic on Toothill Street.

We have minimised the traffic congestion on The Boulevard and Denison Road by altering our school day so that different year groups commence and finish classes at different times. We have also staggered, where possible, school events such as Open Day and Mother's Day by holding multiple events to reduce the congestion on local streets. Furthermore, our parent teacher interviews will be held this year via video conferencing to reduce congestion and parking issues. We have also adjusted delivery times and places to accommodate neighbours on Denison Road.

Online comments on social media suggest that parking remains an issue but now that we are emerging from the pandemic we will return to encouraging the use of public transport for both staff and students. Like the rest of the state, the risk of infection had led to a reduced use of public transport but now that Covid case numbers have reduced we will use parent gatherings and our newsletter to encourage boys to use public transport. Every boy has an Opal Card and we are exploring ways to incentivise staff to use car-pooling. We already have resumed encouraging staff to use public transport. We have also resumed our litter patrols as a service to our local residents but so far we have found the footpaths largely clean.

I remind you that we have a dedicated webpage for neighbours which highlights upcoming events and provides an electronic version of these community letters which I hope to publish at least twice a year.

The website address is: <https://www.cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au/life-at-cbhs/community/neighbours/>. You can also contact us at office@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au.

Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham is a comprehensive school that educates boys who live in the Inner West and Canterbury Local Government Areas. It is a low fee Catholic inclusive school that has served local families for 131 years. I hope its long standing contribution to the community was a reason why you chose to live in this local area which we all share and enjoy.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Blowes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Dr Michael Blowes
Principal