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EXCLUSIVE

St Mary's College set to close Windsor Presentation campus

It is the end of an era for former girl's school Presentation College with the decision to close the doors of its former inner-city campus, three years after it merged with a nearby boys' school.

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St Mary's College in Windsor will close its doors in September 2024. Picture: Sarah Matray

A historic Catholic school that underwent a major merger just three years ago will close the doors to one of its inner-city campuses.

The Herald Sun can reveal St Mary's College in Windsor's Presentation campus, which merged with CBC St Kilda to become a co-ed school almost three years ago, will shut its doors in September next year.

The school opened in 1874.

Current students will be moved to the school's Edmund Rice campus on Westbury St, St Kilda East when the school's lease is terminated in September 2024.

Edmund Rice Education Australia, which ran the boys' only CBC St Kilda, vowed to take in girls left without a Catholic education when the Presentation

Sisters pulled the pin on Presentation College in July, 2019, citing dwindling enrolments.

In a letter to the school community, St Mary's College Acting Principal Michael Lee said the school had leased the Presentation campus for three out of its five-year lease.

"This will bring savings to the college to fund purposeful educational facilities and resources at ERC," Mr Lee said.

"Our capital works program will commence this year at the Edmund Rice Campus (ERC), Westbury St campus and will be funded by a \$1.5m Australian Government grant and college funds, which will equal over \$3m," he added.

Mr Lee said the works would include a general refurbishment of teaching and learning spaces including the development of a textiles and food technology area.

"The provision of a year 12 Study Centre will also be incorporated into the Library at ERC."

In October this year, the school will apply for a state government grant of up to \$2.4m to redevelop its Logue Hall.

This will include new lighting, sound and acoustics and the reconfiguration of the performance spaces.

Mr Lee said the school community was "excited" to move into the refurbished teaching and learning spaces in third term next year.

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"I have also received many positive messages about the merging of the two campuses which will allow us to focus our teaching resources on the one upgraded site, improve logistics and strengthen a sense of school community."

“The teaching staff particularly welcomed the news that teaching and learning resources and facilities would be concentrated on one campus fostering greater collegiality.

“The changes follow extensive consultation by a college working party which focused on the best interests of the educational and wellbeing needs of all students.”

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