

St. Joseph's Catholic College

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25th October 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

School Welfare Dog

The College is developing the provision of pastoral care by introducing a therapy dog in Term 2. The dog, a 15 month old Cocker Spaniel called Pippa, will be based in the Pastoral Office and will be supervised by the Head of Pastoral, Mrs Grace.

The use of dogs to support children who are experiencing difficulties in school has been successful in several local schools. We have consulted with them and looked at academic research, which has indicated that therapy dogs can provide a valuable additional resource to the intervention of a pastoral team.

The therapy dog will be starting a time limited trial in Term 2. There will be supervised contact between the dog and students in the Pastoral Office. We will review the impact of the dog on the welfare of the students later in the year. We hope that the introduction of a therapy dog to the College will provide a comforting and reassuring addition to school life. If you would like to comment on this trial, or have any worries or concerns about it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. A. Stoten
Assistant Principal Pastoral

