Report from Bev West to P and F AGM 9 March 2011

- Ash Wednesday today – a service was held in the DPA this morning for all students and staff. The service was short (20 minutes) but well-planned and significant. “Ashing” of those students and staff who wished took place.

- A very special thank-you to the P and F for the Festa Italiana on Saturday. The day had a great “vibe”, students had lots of fun and the weather gods were very kind to us. Attendance appeared to be strong and there was excellent support for the Calcutta. A special note of appreciation for Mim Pratten, Sally Wilson and the whole team from all of the staff and students. A letter of appreciation has also been sent by Brian to Gary Fitzgerald of Pizza Hut.

- Year 7 information morning ran well on Saturday; it was very well attended by parents, even those who have had older children go through Year 7. Bill Tink is to be commended for the way he does his job as Year 7 Adviser. Brian, Bill, Geoff Hull, Louise Brand and I all spoke to parents and we were able to give them a lot of information about the “mechanics” of the school and its routines.

- On the same day a presentation was made to parents of Year 9 whose children are doing the Rite Journey programme. This involved an outline of the programme, its aims and principles, and a small ritual involving the students and their parents. We are very pleased with how the programme is running; we have dedicated and very committed staff taking the groups and as the journey continues we envisage some positive developments and growth in the students.

- There is a new Head of Music who will start at the beginning of Term 2. Her name is Annelise Alloway and we look forward to her taking up the reins. In the interim, Ross Burrell is doing a great job as acting Head of Music; he will remain in the Music faculty after the arrival of Annelise.

- On Friday we will interview for the Director of Boarding position to replace Simon Shepherd; we are also interviewing for various maternity and other leave vacancies.

- Brian has received from Louise Brand a response to the letter from the P and F concerning textbooks and the stationery list. He will speak to you directly about that on his return. Any further queries after that should be sent to Louise.

- Preparation is well under way for the camps week at the end of term. Staffing is almost complete and most arrangements are locked in.

- Year 12 begin exams immediately Term 2 begins; during this period Years 9 and 10 have HSIE excursions and Year 11 go to their Leadership Camp.
• Brian is travelling with Joe Donnelly for two days to visit families who take part in the cow/calf programme. This programme is very important in ensuring the long-term financial security of the school and for providing finds for bursaries and scholarships.

• Brian has placed into this week’s Family Bulletin a statement from Margaret White, Chair of the NSW branch of AHISA. The statement deals with the importance of the independent education sector and it puts to rest some of the myths surrounding funding for independent schools. I commend the article to you.

_Bev West_  
_9 March 2011_