

Specialised campus builds foundation for future

Setting
out on
the Rite
Journey

TRANSITION: Croagh Patrick Year 9 students Chelsea Pinkard, left, Harry Moss and Sasha Massey at St Patrick's College, Launceston

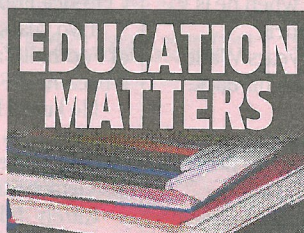
Picture: CHRIS KIDD

LORETTA LOHBERGER
Education Reporter

A SPECIALISED Year 9 campus is helping students at a Catholic college build a solid foundation for their senior secondary years.

Since 2012, St Patrick's College Year 9 students have been educated at a separate, purpose-built campus, known as Croagh Patrick, near the main campus.

Croagh Patrick head Luke McCormack said with enrolments at St Patrick's increasing in recent years — it now has almost 1500 students, 280 of whom are in Year 9 — the year



7-12 college had a chance to expand and change its structure.

He said Croagh Patrick, named after the holy mountain of St Patrick in Ireland, had become a "rite of passage" for St Patrick's students, and refocused them on their education before their senior secondary years.

"It's a pretty exciting age that 14-15 year old ... they're searching for their own identity, they're in that transition phase of becoming a young adult," he said.

The transition is further supported by the college's use of the year-long Rite Journey program, developed by South Australian teacher Andrew Lines, who said the program helped students move from the "life is all about me" thinking of childhood to the "life is about others" thinking of adulthood.

As the State Government grapples with low Year 12 completion rates — particularly in public schools — Mr Lines said

School head
Luke
McCormack

St Patrick's was "doing great work" in terms of its approach to Year 9.

He said it was an important year, as it coincided with students' physical maturation and was also a time when they were at risk of disengaging from education. "That's why we need to meet them with something," he said.

Building relationships are an important part of Year 9,

and having a separate campus means students can form bonds with each other and with their teachers, Mr McCormack said.

"They don't have the pressure to play up to the younger students or to try to be cool with the older students; they can just be themselves a bit more," he said.

When they move into Year 10, the students are then part of the senior school.

Before the changes, Mr McCormack said Year 9 and 10 students were often "stuck in the middle" of the junior and senior grades. Now, he said, Year 9 and 10 students were "no longer forgotten about".

Relatives
wait on
crash
findings

PATRICK BILLINGS

THE families of two men who perished in a plane crash near Hobart are expected to receive a draft report into the tragedy this month.

Photographer Tim Jones, 61, and pilot Sam Langford, 29, both of Hobart, were killed when their Cessna ditched into the ocean off Cape Raoul at Storm Bay on December 29, 2014. The flight's purpose was to photograph the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Crew on the yacht *Mistraal* were about 300m away when they saw the plane hit the water after dropping sharply during a turn.

The aircraft was recovered from the 90m-deep seabed, eight days after a complex operation by Tasmania Police.

An inspection of the wreckage by federal crash investigators ruled out mechanical failure as a cause of the crash.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau's crash investigation has been delayed twice due to "workload and competing priorities". The delays saw the release of the draft investigation to family pushed back to January and then March, with the document's public release expected in May.

The investigation has included:

EXAMINATION of the recovered aircraft components, including recorded data.

AN ASSESSMENT of the weather in the area at the time. **A REVIEW** of the operator's procedures, in particular for low-level and photographic flights.

A REVIEW of relevant human factor issues.