Dear Community members

The submissions for schools to become Independent Public Schools are open for 2016.

The Independent Public School Process is looking to identify 250 schools over the life of the Program 2013-2017. At present there are 130 schools already identified as IPS. Of that group there are 5 of our 7 neighbouring schools have become IPS schools. It would be envisaged that the surrounding schools in our area who are not IPS, would be considering this option to maintain market share.

In 2001 Runcorn State School participated in the Leading schools Pilot Program. This program involved forming a School Council (a key requirement of IPS). This has been in operation and highly successful since its inception. It comprises of 3 community members, 3 current staff and the Principal. Its role is to discuss and advise on strategic decision making, identify areas of need and future direction through processes such as the Quadrennial School Review and Annual Implementation Planning process as well as link planning and fundraising through the P&C.

It does not have a role in Human Resource management, decisions that would be undertaken by the Principal, curriculum or pedagogy decisions. These as always are driven from systemic processes and administered through the School Leadership Team, Administration Team and Curriculum Leadership Group.

After much discussion with IPS and non IPS Principals and administration teams, I would like to outline the following benefits of becoming an IPS school.

Runcorn State School already has the operational structure to become an IPS School. This includes having a strong active School Council, working closely with BAS for facilities maintenance and strong representation from unions in all workplace sectors.

The benefits for our school becoming IPS include;

- Runcorn State School already operate an active School Council (whose constitution is already aligned to the IPS model. This was undertaken in 2014)
- The QTU and current Government is now supportive of the IPS process
- More flexibility around HR arrangements and the ability to shape the workforce to align with strategic direction (as long as they still comply with EB agreements and departmental protocols)
- There is no effect to employees working conditions

13.10.15
- Runcorn has strong student data including relative gain and continuous improvement, a strong School Review outcome and are currently undertaking a Quadrennial School Review and effective financial management, processes and controls. All requirements for acceptance into the program
- Schools receive $50000 plus an additional $50000 in their first year to support the implementation of the IPS model. This means an increase in resourcing that can support staff, students and program implementation
- Should more neighbouring schools become IPS we may lose market share to both IPS and the private sector. This could give the perception we are not as successful as other schools in the area and possibly have a marked effect on enrolment over time

There is overwhelming support from the School Council, Curriculum Leadership Group and staff to be an Independent Public School. Attached is some fact sheets and access to the IPS website [IPS Information](#) for further information.

Please take some time to explore this information. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email or contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Greg Gosling
Principal