Dear Parent/Care-giver,

As you would be aware, recent media reports have outlined a number of funding areas and processes that will change in 2014 and 2015 for public schools in Western Australia following the Government changes to educational funding.

On behalf of the Board of John Tonkin College, I am writing to inform you of the challenges this will have on John Tonkin College. The college will lose the equivalent of 6.9 staff position. While it is clear that the college will have to work differently within the revised staffing and resource allocations, the college sees this as an opportunity to review and refine current practices and programs.

John Tonkin College prides itself on the ability to offer the breadth of curriculum necessary to cater for the diversity of students we enrol. While aspects of this breadth may be impacted on, it is important to note that the college has been proactive in its ability to forward plan, both for the predicted half cohort in 2014 and its ability to continue to sustain some subjects that given the funding changes, would not normally have been able to have been continued.

Our academic leaders and teachers will continue to deliver the following unique programs and opportunities in 2014-5 which include and are not restricted to:-

- Marine Studies and Outdoor Pursuits, the Approved Department of Education Specialist Program

- Curtin University Spatial Science partnership program and App design

- CiSCO (Aries) & computer technology

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Robotics

- ATAR revision seminars

- Career development program – psychometric profiling

- Workplace Learning

In addition to this, the college will expand the delivery of courses to provide students with greater access to the John Tonkin College Marine Centre and Murdoch University Specialist laboratories; as well as strengthening partnerships with The City of Mandurah; Curtin University; Murdoch University; Challenger Institute of Technology; Bendigo Community Bank – Halls Head; Mandurah Muskateers and our local in-take primary schools.
Our college leaders are not opposed to change and reform but they understand it must be carefully managed in consultation with the John Tonkin College Board. Staff members will be charged with implementing the change to ensure any model continued is sustainable and promotes a strong public education system at John Tonkin College.

I encourage you to support the staff at John Tonkin College through this period of change.

Yours sincerely,

Emeritus Professor Jo Barker
John Tonkin College Board - Chair