



11 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Nanette Hanson Memorial

Last night we celebrated our annual prizegiving event within the school – a marvellous occasion where we celebrate the learning and achievements of our learners.

I chose this event to launch our latest appeal for your support: the Nanette Hanson Memorial Appeal. As everyone within our community knows, the tragic events which unfolded in our school on 1 November 1967 resulted in the death of Mrs Hanson who was just newly married and a young teacher at the time. Mrs Hanson risked her life out of care and concern for her pupils, and ultimately lost her life as she ensured their safety. Her example has been an inspiration to us all within St John's High School for generations. Thankfully events like this are an extremely rare occurrence in this country, and perhaps this gives us an even greater reason to never forget this example of love, sacrifice and selflessness.

In the days following this tragedy, Brother Bede (the Head Teacher then) wrote to parents to request their support for a fitting memorial for Mrs Hanson. The parents of St John's were, as always, generous, and a beautiful oak carving of St John was dedicated in her honour. However, a fire in the 1970s destroyed this memorial, and for reasons lost in history, the memorial was never replaced. With the upcoming 60th anniversary, I would like to put this right with your support.

We are commissioning a local artist to work with some of our young people to design a stained glass window for our chapel, which will be dedicated to the memory of Nanette. Therefore, I am launching an appeal to raise £3000 over the next year to make this a reality – a truly fitting memorial for a teacher who embodied our Marist values of 'Family Spirit' and 'In the Way of Mary'.

I hope you will support this fundraiser if you are able to do so. You can donate whatever you can afford on ParentPay right now. Cheques made payable to 'St John's High School' can also be handed in to the school office.

With thanks in anticipation for your generosity,

Seán P Hagney
Head Teacher

With every good wish,



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