

Mayor's Inspirational Award 2020

Mr. Lynn Martin - Xavier College

At the end of 2019 Lynn Martin stood down from his role as principal of Xavier College due to ill health. It brought down the curtain on 16 years of leadership at Xavier College as well as 43 years as a servant to Catholic education in this State. Lynn has previously taught at St Michaels College and Mercedes College as well as holding senior positions at Black friars Priory School and Gleeson College.

For the past sixteen years he has led the transformation of Xavier College into a true community, firmly rooted in its Catholic and Salesian traditions beyond any dreams of those who established it, from 600 students to around 1000 students.

Within weeks of assuming the role as Principal of Xavier College, Lynn was faced with a community trying to come to terms with the passing of his predecessor, Fr Dennis Handley due to ill health. For someone who was very new, he showed great community leadership during this time. He was able to lead the community with great compassion and understanding of what they were going through, while at the same time ensure that the College continued to

operate the best it could given the circumstances. Very few leaders would be placed under that level of pressure and scrutiny so early in their tenure.

The way in which Lynn went about making sure senior staff, which had worked so closely with Fr Handley, staff, students, parents and old scholars were supported and listened to, was amazing for someone who had only been at the College for a matter of weeks. It was a true testament to his personal character and his ability to read the needs of a community and then act accordingly. This was all done in his quiet, unassuming and unpretentious manner, something the community would all come to know and love about him as the years went on. Through his genuine concern for the Xavier community, Lynn was able to prove quickly to those around him that he was the right person at the right time. His actions at this time were to define his leadership for the next 16 years.

I first met Lynn Martin some years ago at when presenting a Mayoral Award on behalf of our Council at Xavier College and from this first meeting I was immensely impressed with his personable and outstanding leadership style and the incredible acknowledgement and respect he received from both students and staff. Lynn has led Xavier College for the past 16 years he has been the driver of some extraordinary development of school facilities and property improvements to the highest standard.

In his personable and unassuming manner Lynn has made an outstanding contribution and always demonstrated inclusive leadership, under at times adversity caused by major personal health issues he continues to deal with. His attitude to college life captures the essence of his inspiration and professional but humble manner in encouraging students and supporting staff members. The outstanding student achievements and academic excellence along with growth and development at Xavier College is a great credit to Lynn who has recently retired from the college...!.

I will finish where I started by stating Mr. Lynn Martin led the Xavier College by example demonstrating integrity, vision and passion and will be sadly missed by the students and school fraternity.

As he moves into retirement it will be his commitment to helping define what it means to be a member of the Xavier College Community and the driver of some extraordinary development of school facilities and property improvements for which he will be celebrated and remembered for the most at the College. Well done Lynn, you have not only inspired a generation but have been a truly exceptional and inspirational leader within at Xavier college. It now gives me great pleasure in awarding you with Light Regional Council's - Mayor's Inspiration Award on Australia Day. I'm sure you will remain in the hearts of the Xavier College community in the years to come.... Congratulations Lynn it has been a real pleasure to meet you..

I received the following testimonials:

Margit Blythman Lynn's PA for some considerable time:

Congratulations Lynn on receiving this well-deserved award. As principal of Xavier College, you worked with such determination and care for the benefit of students; it was always about the students.

Your open-door policy and natural way of giving your undivided attention to those you spoke with will always remain with me. Our nation needs citizens such as yourself. Leaders who cultivate leadership in others and seamlessly who work alongside, rather than over others; for the benefit of others. You worked at Xavier College as a servant leader and I was privileged and inspired to share some of that journey with you. Your vision has seen the unfolding of a state-of-the-art learning environment which will benefit not only Xavier College students and families but also the wider community for many years to come. On behalf of those who have and those who will reap the fruits of your diligent work - thank you.... Margit

One of the Student Leaders had this to say:

Mr. Martin is so passionate and dedicated to supporting the education Xavier students and creates a real sense of community between staff and students. He is one of the most inspirational people I have met.