

## OPENING AND BLESSING

Friday, February 26 saw a host of special guests join students, staff, parents and members of the broader Mercy Regional College Camperdown community for the Opening and Blessing of the Master Plan Stage 1 Buildings.

It was a privilege for the College to host Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat who officially blessed and opened our new Science laboratories, senior classrooms and other refurbished learning spaces. Bishop Paul was joined by Ms Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education Ballarat, Mr Christopher Houlihan, Chief Executive of Mercy Education Limited, Mrs Jo Beard, Mayor of Corangamite Shire, our College chaplains Fr Matthew Thomas and Fr Gerry Prunty as well as principals from other Ballarat diocesan secondary schools, Hampden Catholic Network schools and local government secondary schools.



The opening was hosted by our College Captains Indi Kent and Austin Evans, the enthusiasm and pride they demonstrated as well as that by fellow Year 12 student, Lucretia Bell, was a definite highlight of the day.

Another highlight was the presence of a number of community members whose connections to Mercy goes back more than 40 years; their delight in seeing the growth of the College provided wonderful memories for all.

Thanks to the large number of people who contributed to the day in a range of ways but especially to the College maintenance staff for providing an outstanding site for the opening, Mrs Jo Saunders and Fr Matthew for assistance in preparing the blessing liturgy, and Mrs Annette Price, Ms Lyn Davies and her Hospitality class for the luncheon.

