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**Media Release  
For Immediate Release**

**Marist College Ashgrove turns first SOD on new Primary School**

Marist College Ashgrove Head of College, Michael Newman, and Year 5 student, Brasco Forrest, joined Marist Schools Australia Regional Director, Mark Elliott, as well as representatives from building contractors Stokes Wheeler, Phorm Architecture and Urbicus to 'turn the sod' on marking the start of construction of ten new primary classrooms at the College.

The precinct will create a hallmark contemporary learning space for Years 5 and 6 boys at the College with modern technology and a flexible classroom design, enabling a learning environment that is collaborative and student centred. Head of College, Michael Newman, said the Primary Learning Precinct will herald in a new benchmark for boys' learning with adaptable furniture, smart technology throughout and break-out spaces – all designed around delivering effective teaching and learning pedagogy for young boys with the aim to create confident, resilient and successful learners.

"Our teachers are experts in how boys learn best and it's not necessarily just sitting at a desk! They need plenty of space to spread out and move around. They require classroom environments that stimulate a love of learning and are completely au fait with learning via modern technology and equipment," Mr Newman said.

We need to be ahead of the game to deliver a truly future-focused education and that is what we've planned for our boys Primary Precinct,' he said.

Fences surrounding the construction site are now up with early works commencing in the coming weeks. A build time of 12 months is expected.

The ten new classrooms will be located between the existing primary area and tennis courts and will provide a 100% increase in primary classrooms enabling the College to yield its biggest ever Year 5 cohort intake in 2024, allowing for two additional full classes.

The construction was awarded to Stokes Wheeler to develop the first phase of the 2030 College Master Plan. One of the two directors of Stokes Wheeler is a past parent of Marist College Ashgrove. A Queensland based construction company, Stokes Wheeler was founded in 1928 and specialises in mid-large scale construction projects.

Following the completion of the Primary Precinct, the next phase of the Master Plan will follow. More information on the College 2030 Master Plan can be found [here](#)

**Ends**

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