Dear Members of the IGS Community

It is with immense pleasure that, on behalf of the Board of International Grammar School, I announce the appointment of Shauna Colnan as the new Principal of IGS.

Shauna brings to IGS a unique combination of ‘hands on’ experience in the independent schools sector as well as in pedagogical governance and academia. Shauna has 28 years of experience as a teacher of English, History and Drama and has held significant leadership roles in four leading Sydney independent schools. She comes to us from MLC School where she is Deputy Principal and Head of Senior School.

Shauna has worked at the NSW Board of Studies as a senior curriculum officer and at the National Project Unit, a strategic team that captured and shaped the NSW response to the emerging national curriculum. She has been NSW Supervisor of HSC English Marking, managing the change to an onscreen marking environment and has been a member of HSC English examination committees since 2001.

Shauna led one of the nation’s largest English Departments at Barker College and she has also worked in the Teacher Education Program at Macquarie University, preparing postgraduate students to enter the teaching profession.

Included in the key strengths she brings to this role are her extensive experience of and commitment to Indigenous engagement and curriculum development throughout her career.

Shauna’s capacity as an educational leader has been enhanced by academic study at the University of Sydney, the University of New England and New York University where she studied Cinema. She holds graduate and postgraduate qualifications in business administration, the arts and education, and has a special interest in Shakespearean scholarship and performance, having been awarded the John Bell and Joyce Williams Prize in Shakespeare Studies from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney. Shauna was also the co-founder of Shakespeare Reloaded, a ground breaking ARC funded collaborative research project that focused on building excellence in the teaching of and learning about Shakespeare across school and university contexts.

Shauna is married to Michael – who is a retired police commander and teacher of ESL and Geography – and has two sons who are both studying at the University of Sydney.

Shauna is looking forward to building on the work of our outgoing Principal, Michael Maniska, who has overseen a period in which IGS has achieved outstanding academic results and consolidated its position at the forefront of multi-lingual education.

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In this our 30th year, Shauna is keen to work collaboratively with our leadership team and staff to honour the School’s history and build upon the first 30 years. She aims to harness the unique culture, qualities and offerings of the School, to develop a shared vision for the future.

Shauna will work closely with Michael, Deputy Principal Mary Duma and the Leadership Team as well as the Board to ensure a smooth transition at the end of Term 3. She will commence as our Principal in Term 4.

Shauna will attend our International Day Assembly on 25 July and enjoy that most unique of IGS experiences.

Kind regards,

Larissa Cook
Chair, IGS Board