



CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 2 Issue 1 2018



Faith Courage Tolerance

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Friends, Staff and Students of Caroline Chisholm College,

Welcome back! To our newest community members, parents of Year 7 and parents of students entering other year groups, I warmly welcome you to this inspiring community of faith and learning. It is my prayer that your journey with us will be rewarding and richly blessed as, together, we watch your daughter flourish as a learner and an active member of Caroline Chisholm College. Our new students have already begun the process of settling into high school, and I am grateful to **Mrs Fran McCauley**, the Year 7 Homeroom and CoLe team, and all the teachers and support staff for ensuring our year has begun smoothly, with a focus on learning and wellbeing.



Over the Christmas holiday period, I spent a lot of time reading and thinking about what makes a successful learner, and I shared this with our staff at the first meeting of the year. Every student wants to be successful. It is not a complicated formula. As we begin the year, I ask that parents and carers engage with their daughters around these key attitudes and strategies for success. Conversations in the car, or over dinner can have a profound effect on the way our girls think about themselves and their learning.

1. **Help your daughter to get organised.** High school is so busy, and the closer we get to the HSC, the busier it gets. Our school diary is so useful for keeping tasks and timelines in order. Increasingly, our students are using apps on their phones to stay in control of their learning: Google calendar, the Classroom app, the Drive app, reminders and alarms, may all be useful in bringing some order to what is a big task.
2. **Help them realise that their education is the top priority.** We know young people have a lot going on, and that's wonderful, but the knowledge and skills they learn at school will likely impact on their decisions in the future and their opportunities. Her school days are a precious opportunity that must not be wasted. Attendance every day is vital, which is why I will decline a request for leave unless it is unavoidable.
3. **Effort is the only 'trick' to learning.** It would be nice if there was a secret trick to getting good results and learning well, but there isn't. Successful students are the ones who work hard, act on feedback and don't give up. They make sacrifices to ensure they've given themselves every chance of learning and growing. No shortcuts, no excuses.
4. **High expectations make a difference.** Young people, generally, will only do as much as is expected of them. If we don't expect much from them, we don't get much. If your daughter gets stuck in her learning and gives up, do you say "Well, at least you gave it a go", or do you say "This looks hard, what else can you try?". Learning to give up as a teenager becomes a habit for life. Learning is hard and sometimes it's uncomfortable. It's meant to be. When we stretch, we grow.

Your daughter will hear these messages from all of her teachers, and your support at home will make all the difference. Maybe you could have a discussion about after school activities, and how to fit in study time. Maybe there could be less TV and screen time to open up space for homework. When checking and signing her diary, perhaps have a talk about the tasks you see in there (or don't see in there!). As always, the college is ready to support you in this. We will be holding our Parents Forums again this year, so that you can come along to learn some strategies for supporting your daughter and meet other parents experiencing similar things with their own teenager. Your daughter's Homeroom Teacher, Subject Teachers and Year Leader will gladly discuss your daughter's learning with you. In partnership, we can navigate the challenges of educating teenagers!

We have had some changes in our team this year. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the following staff who are either new, or in new roles:

Mrs Deborah Scollard joins us as Assistant Principal, responsible for learning and curriculum. **Mr Patrick Madigan** will be with us for 12 months while **Mrs Jeanette Cocks** spends the year as Religious Education Coordinator at Emmaus Catholic College. **Mr Madigan** will be Year 9 Leader of Learning and a member of the CoLe team. The CoLe Team has another two new members. **Miss Rebecca Sidhom** is replacing **Mrs Terezel Araya** until Term 4 and **Miss Jaden Ellis** will be here for 12 months. **Mrs Amanda Moore** joins the Science faculty as Assistant Leader of Learning, and has already begun working with **Ms Ashley** and the Science team. We have two new members of the Mathematics team. **Mr Robert Elliott** (no relation!) will be replacing **Mrs Rebecca Zammit** during her maternity leave, and **Miss Saoirse Ward** will be job-sharing with **Mrs Natasha Harper** for 2018. In PDHPE, **Miss Tayla Gianotti** will be working part-time, and **Miss Alara Cassels-Forward** will be with us for another year full-time.

Finally, **Ms Lana-Marie Nagy** has been appointed by CEDP as our permanent, full-time counsellor. Lana comes to us from Gilroy College, who are quite sad about losing her. She has already been introduced to some of our girls with whom she will be working.

Over the coming weeks I will share with you, through this newsletter and website, our plans to transform the learning of our students in this challenging time, to prepare them for the uncertainty of our complex world. The work has already begun; our team is filled with hope and so capable of leading your daughter to great learning. We call this plan our '5 Transformations' and its effect on the quality of student learning will be significant.



Last Sunday our College Executive and Student Leadership Team had the privilege of attending the installation of **Fr Suresh Kumar** as our Parish Priest at St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park. Bishop Vincent asked us to pray for Fr Suresh as he begins this important ministry of service. Please pray for our whole community, that, in 2018, it will be an authentic expression of God's love and compassion. As **Bishop Vincent** reminded me three weeks ago "Catholic schools find their authenticity in the Gospel priorities of inclusion and special concern for young people at risk of being left behind. We are not schools that provide education for Catholics only but Catholic education for all."

Risen One,

We struggle to recognize you in the everyday journey of our lives.

We seek your wisdom as we begin again this work of Catholic education at Caroline Chisholm College

Open our eyes,

Light of the World, to your work of transformation in and around us.

As we walk with you day by day, may your new life be made present in what we say to others.

Give us the grace to make all our conversations holy.

Just as we desire that our speaking be holy, may our seeing be holy as well.

O Christ, that shape our attitudes and behaviours.

And in our seeing, help us to recognize and welcome the stranger in our midst.

May our welcome be a celebration of the gifts and graces of persons who are different from us
and not merely tolerance of an outsider.

Remind us, Holy One, that you invite us to abide with you;
to have our lives grounded in you.

We thank you that you walk with us in our joys and our concerns.

Amen.

Mr Greg Elliott
Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I'd like to welcome all the students and parents back for the year. I need to start the year by giving some generic information that I need to say at this time each year so there is no later confusion. While most of this information is similar to the last few years, I would ask all parents to read it carefully, as it is very important information and there are a few slight changes from previous years, including uniform information.

Vaccinations

We have a complicated series of vaccinations this year for Years 7, 10 and 11.

- Tuesday 20 February: Year 7 1st dose HPV and dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis [whooping cough]) as a single dose
- Tuesday 8 May: Years 10 & 11 Meningococcal ACWY strains vaccine as a single dose + Year 8 2nd dose HPV girls catch-up from 2017
- Wednesday 29 August: Year 7, 2nd dose HPV girls + any other catch-ups from Years 8, 10 and 11

The first vaccination for Year 7 students will be on **Tuesday 20 February**. Students in Years 7, 11 and 12 will receive a permission form for the vaccinations next week. Year 7 students in particular need to bring these back immediately.

Forms can come in on the day of the vaccinations but we would much prefer to have them before that for organisational purposes. It is important that students come to school on the day, even if they are a little unwell, as long as they don't have a fever. If they are unwell it is possible for them to be brought to school for the vaccine then go home. Vaccinations start at around 9.00 am.

Uniform

As usual, I am impressed by the appearance of the students at the start of the year and I'd like to thank the students and the parents for their support. We are a uniform school and it is the strong wish of the parent body that we enforce our uniform requirements. All students and parents, on enrolling at the college, also signed an agreement to abide by the college's uniform expectations.

If you are ever in any doubt if an item conforms to the college expectations, particularly if there is a cost involved, such as school shoes, please check with me or your daughter's Year Leader. The college uniform requirements are clearly spelt out in the student diaries and on the website. While the vast majority of students adhere really well to the expectations, some students push the limits. Three particular areas we will continue to enforce strongly are

- skirt lengths – skirts must reach the bottom of the knees (a number of students have been given reminder notices this week)
- piercings – the only visible piercings allowed are up to 2 in each ear (and no expanders – only simple studs or sleepers). There is categorically no facial jewellery (including plastic studs) to be worn by any student in any year, from Year 7 to Year 12. Students who refuse to remove non-uniform jewellery, in addition to receiving warnings leading to detentions, will be removed from class and not allowed to return until the jewellery is gone.
- nail polish – the rules in the diary must be followed. Students with unacceptable jewellery or nail art or non-compliant nail polish will be asked to remove it immediately.

These uniform provisions have been consistent since any current student enrolled at the college and it would be greatly appreciated for parents to support us by discouraging these piercings while their daughter is a student at the college. Additionally, no visible body art is permitted. Students are also reminded that the only neck wear allowed is a simple chain and cross or a name chain.

All students from Years 7-12 must have the College backpack or, for Years 10-12 the College satchel. Students in Years 7-9 must use the backpack each day, although they may use the blue tote bags with the college name for **additional** equipment. Students in Years 10-11 may continue to use their backpack or purchase the College satchel which has a place for a device and is suitable for the needs of senior study. Previously, students in Years 10-12 were allowed to use the College tote bag to take bring equipment to and from school. This will no longer be the case, although we will allow the current Year 12 who only have three terms left to do this. The tote bags are not designed for carrying substantial loads, either in terms of their durability or their ergonomics and have been found to be quite unsatisfactory for the purposes they were being used.

Unfortunately, our supplier has only been able to source enough satchels for the current Year 11. Students in Year 11, therefore, have the option of using the backpack or the new satchel. Students in Year 10 will continue to use the backpack until more satchels become available.

Students should have all their equipment including uniform items, clearly labelled. Students at the College are very honest and many lost items are handed in. It is very frustrating when the owner cannot be traced because there is no name on the item.

All students in Years 7-9 are required to have their hair tied back. Senior students, only, may have their hair out, but they must tie it back in classes with WHS requirements.

Any parent whose daughter has a problem meeting the uniform requirements immediately needs to contact her Year Leader or me to talk over the issues. Where there is an issue of genuine hardship and a uniform item cannot be purchased, parents and carers are asked to contact Mr Elliott or me, confidentially.

Caroline Chisholm Day

Students will be receiving information about Caroline Chisholm Day closer to the event but as this is the last newsletter until just before the day, I would like to draw parents' attention to a few matters:

- This is a significant college event and all students are expected to attend. Absences from this event will be noted on the semester report.
- The day consists of a full college mass at Padre Pio church followed by a fun remainder of the day, with games, rides and food.
- Students who wish to use the professional rides can buy a wristband for \$20. There are many other activities which are free or have a small cost which goes towards Project Compassion.
- Students are to wear their full uniform to the church. They can change into sport uniform on their return to school and go home in sport uniform. Be sun safe.
- Students who do not attend the mass will not be allowed to take part on the afternoon fun activities. Students who come to school after the mass will be supervised in the library for the remainder of the day.
- The activities are for current Caroline Chisholm students only. No relations, friends or ex-students are allowed.
- Students can bring their own food, pre-order from some stalls or take their luck with other hot food stalls. Students will not be allowed to order food in or have take-away food dropped off to them. The canteen will only take orders in the morning before homeroom and will not be open for non-ordered food purchases during the day.

Parent/Student Contact During the Day

As students should not have mobile phones on in class time, I would ask that any communication between parents and daughters happen in break time. I understand that there may be times when simple messages regarding domestic arrangements are sent this way.

However, in the case of a student needing to leave school unexpectedly or a potentially upsetting message needing to be conveyed, I would ask parents to use the school office as the channel of communication. If you need to take your daughter from school unexpectedly, please contact the school rather than your daughter directly. Similarly, if a girl becomes ill during the day she should notify her class teacher who will send her to the sick bay. The office staff will contact the parent and organise for the girl to speak to the parent if this is necessary and make arrangements for her to be picked up. Girls should not be contacting parents directly to ask to be picked up when they are ill. It is part of our duty of care that we are informed immediately a student feels unwell or needs to go home. We need to liaise with parents to make the best arrangements for the student's welfare.

Absences

- If a student is away from school, she must provide an acceptable **written explanation** signed by her parent or carer or a doctor's certificate within five school days (one week) of her return to school after absence. The written explanation can be an SMS message texted IN REPLY to the college SMS message notifying you that your daughter was not in homeroom in the morning.
- If a note is not returned by that date she will officially be recorded as "Absence is not explained or justified". Even if a note subsequently comes in, the official recording will remain "Absence is not explained or justified" and appear that way on the semester report, although the note will be stored in the student's file.

- Parents need to apply for leave from the principal if their daughter will be absent for more than 10 days (other than for illness). This application must be done using the form on the college website (in the news and events section). This is a NSW government regulation.
- If a student is not in a homeroom at 8.23 am she will be marked absent. Students arriving after this time must sign in at the front office and have their late note signed by a parent or carer. Students on a late bus still need to sign in as the roll will have been taken in their homeroom. However, a late bus arrival will not be recorded as a partial absence.

Lockers

At this stage, all students are provided with locker access, at no cost, unlike the case in some schools. Due to reconfigurations to the buildings, there is no longer room for a locker for each student. Years 10, 11 and 12 students share lockers. At this stage, Years 7-9 still have an individual locker. This is a privilege which comes with a few expectations. The first is that each student provides a secure lock for the locker. Students will not be allowed to use a locker if they do not provide a lock. Their items and school bags will be stored at the front office and they will have to go the office each time they need something.

Locks should be adequate for the job. Many cheap locks purchased by students are not secure and can easily be opened by other keys. There are a significant number of students who do not have locks on their lockers, yet use them to store items of value. We cannot guarantee the safekeeping of any item in a locker, even if it does have a lock on it. Lockers are primarily designed for the storage of books and such, not as secure places to store valuables. Items of value, such as wallets, iPads, and phones (switched off) should generally be kept on the student's person. Furthermore, if there was no lock, the loss of an item from a locker will not be investigated. It is recommended that large amounts of money are brought to school by parents, not students. If a student has an item of value which must be brought to school, it should be left in the office for safe keeping.

Care for the environment

As part of our collective responsibility for the College environment, students will from time to time be asked to help pick up rubbish. Even as I pick up rubbish which is not mine, I would expect a student to co-operate with a staff member when asked to pick up rubbish, even if it was not theirs. Students have access to plastic gloves where this is appropriate or necessary.

Detentions

While relatively few students receive afternoon detentions, detentions are an important part of the college student management structure. All students and parents, on enrolling at the college, signed an agreement to abide by and support the college's student management policies, including possible afternoon detentions. The normal detention is for one hour. This may be for a serious offence or for an accumulation of 6 diary warnings for minor infringements. (Students receive a lunch detention after 3 warnings.) Any student who does not attend a scheduled afternoon detention without a valid reason will receive a two hour detention at the next available opportunity. This will comprise a one hour detention for the original offence and an additional hour for failing to attend without a reason. Notice of afternoon detentions is always posted to the parent/carer and requires a signed response. Please note that after school detentions will be held on **Wednesdays** (from 2.45 pm to 3.45 pm.).

Opal Cards

We have some important information from Busways regarding the need for students to use their Opal cards each day:

“Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services.

If students don't Tap on and Tap off, services may be cancelled or reduced due to the lack of recorded patronage. With this in mind, we again ask for your assistance in reminding your students that tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card. This in turn helps us ensure we are able to provide the appropriate level of service to your students.

To assist the schools, Busways is developing a campaign to further promote and encourage the use of School Opal. We will also continue to conduct boarding checks on School Opal cards over the coming months. Students without an Opal Card will be given a brochure to take home identifying how they can get an Opal Card.

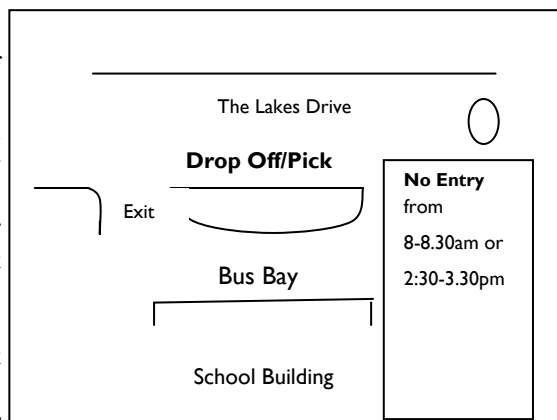
Please support Busways staff with afternoon boardings and checks to ensure minimal delays to bus departure times and demonstrate a united front to students on bus travel and Opal Card use.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.”

Traffic Arrangements

A drop off zone on The Lakes Drive enables students to be dropped off in the morning and picked up in the afternoon outside the College gates. Due to the high pedestrian and bus activity in the mornings and afternoons **parents are not to enter the college grounds to drop off or pick up their daughters at these times.** There is **no access for non-staff vehicles** into the College grounds between 8.00am and 8.30 am or between 2.30pm and 3.00pm. Vehicles already on the premises may not exit between 2.30pm and 3.00pm.

Parents and students are advised that the speed hump outside the front western gate is not a pedestrian crossing. There is a pedestrian crossing and safety zone for crossing near the roundabout. Students are to enter the college grounds only through the pedestrian gate, not either of the vehicular entrances. The rear gate of the College is opened for pedestrian access only in the afternoon for students walking home and should not be a pick up point for vehicles. Parents are also reminded of a number of no stopping areas outside the college, particularly near the driveways. You are not permitted to stop in these areas at all, even momentarily, to let a student out of the car.



Mr Greg King - Assistant Principal

FROM THE LEADER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Welcome to 2018 What a busy year it has been and will continue to be both here at the College and in the wider Catholic Church. This year we have a College goal for the students to learn about the value of dignity (as it is understood in Catholic theology) and how this is connected to others and themselves by modelling what Jesus did and taught us.

Here at Caroline Chisholm College we continue to make this a focus in every aspect of daily life. This is done by treating each other with respect and dignity, showing consideration for each other in our thoughts and in our deeds and finding ways to carry out the works of mercy associated with service in our community.

These works of mercy include the Corporal Works of Mercy which are:

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To clothe the naked
4. to give welcome to strangers
5. to visit the sick
6. to visit the imprisoned
7. to bury the dead

The work of the Social Justice committee and the Caroline Footsteps program here at the College offer a variety of ways in which students can get involved and give dignity to all people. This Term our focus for social justice is on supporting the work of Caritas Australia through Project Compassion.

On Wednesday 10th February Lent commences. This year Caritas (the Catholic agency for international aid and development) has taken as its theme "For a Just Future". By giving to Project Compassion you join people across Australia united to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity for our one human family.

Each homeroom at the college will be involved in an activity to raise money to support the work of Project Compassion. This includes the homerooms from Years 10-12 who will be involved in activities celebrating Caroline Chisholm Day on Friday 23rd February.

A few other reminders about Lent.

Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season for the Catholic Church. This is a time of **almsgiving, penance and fasting**. During the 40 days of Lent we are asked to search for ways to change our lives and make ourselves better people. This can be done through **charitable works** such as contributing to Project Compassion, through **attending the sacraments** especially the sacrament of Reconciliation and by giving up items of food as a **sacrifice or penance**. In Lent

it is traditional to fast and abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday. To fast means to go without so Catholics are reminded to try to limit their food intake on days of fasting. To abstain means to not eat meat. The days of fasting and abstinence from meat are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. However, it is traditional in the Catholic Church for people not to eat meat on any Friday in Lent.

Here at Caroline Chisholm College we observe this Lenten abstinence by not serving meat products at the canteen on Ash Wednesday or on any Friday during Lent.

Lent is also a time of prayer. A time for deepening one's relationship with God. It is a time of personal reflection, of searching deep within oneself to find ways in which we can change to become more Christlike, more focused on others rather than on oneself.

On Ash Wednesday students will participate in year group liturgies. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." For further information on this ritual please see <http://www.catholic.org/lent/ashwed.php>.

Prayer to St Josephine Bakhita

St Josephine Bakhita,

you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering.

Once liberated from your physical enslavement you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

St Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery;

Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.

For all those enslaved, including those who are victims of forced labour, human trafficking and the survivors, give us the courage and strength to reach out and provide a voice and comfort.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.

May they see you St Bakhita as an example of hope and faith

Amen

Ms Bernadette Murray - Leader of Religious Education

DIARY DATES

Year 7 Items, Year 8 Items, Year 9 Items, Year 10 Items, Year 11 Items and Year 12 Items, Whole School Items

Fri 9 Feb	Onstage Excursion Years 11 & 12 Drama Penrith Regional Gallery Excursion 10.30-12.30 pm	Mon 19 Feb	College Swimming Carnival Encore HSC Music Performance Concert Yrs 10, 11 & 12
Tue 13 Feb	Year 11 Information Evening - 6 - 7.30pm Year 12 Major Works Projects Meeting - 6 pm	Tue 20 Feb	Year 7 Vaccinations
Wed 14 Feb	School Engagement Excursion Class 10.1	Wed 21 Feb	Year 11 Visual Arts Photography Excursion
Fri 16 Feb	Distinguished Achievers Assembly Student Leaders Development afternoon Year 7 Families Welcome Barbecue - 6pm	Thur 22 Feb	Year 10 Reverse Garbage Educational Workshop
		Fri 23 Feb	Caroline Chisholm Day and Opening School Mass



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Over the course of the holidays I had the following two conversations with my own children. The first conversation was about encyclopedias. I'm not sure how it came up, but my husband and I were explaining that when we were at school we used encyclopedias for our research projects. My daughter, Georgia, asked us, "What's an encyclopedia?" I explained to her that they were books that contained information about most topics from A-Z. I remember when I was at school and had to do a project on Greenland, my mother sent me next door to borrow the encyclopedia covering 'G' from our neighbour who had a full set. I then took the 'G' book home to copy the information.

One of my sons asked me if I meant I photocopied it – imagine his horror when I explained that I meant copy, as in write it out ... we didn't have photocopiers! My husband then explained that when his older sister started Year 11 his parents went out and bought a whole set of encyclopedias for her to use because that was what she needed to succeed in senior studies.

The second conversation was about a computer game called Bridge Constructor Portal. This is an engineering video game that you can download from the App Store for \$4.99. My youngest son asked if he could buy this game – we said yes, he downloaded it and played it very happily over the last few days of the holidays. The aim of the game is to get a ball from one hole to another by building bridges and concrete launch pads. You need to build bridges that are strong enough to support the weight of the concrete slabs that make up the bridge. You also need to ensure the bridges are on the right angle to produce enough speed to bounce the ball off the concrete and into the second hole at the end of the game. Essentially, it is an engineering game that teaches physics and mathematical skills.

Reflecting on these two conversations makes me realise that our world has changed dramatically! We have moved from a world where you use encyclopedias to access a fixed body of knowledge to a world where our children download and play physics and engineering games on their iPads, iPhones and laptops! It is no news to anyone that young people today are growing up in a world that is vastly different from the world their parents grew up in.

Teachers and schools have an obligation to 'keep up with the changes' and present learning opportunities that meet the needs of our 21st century learners. In practice this means that schools and teachers are engaged in a constant process of striving to find better ways to meet the needs of their students, better ways to engage students in quality learning experiences. They are involved in a process of ongoing pedagogical change. Schools and teachers are challenged to be on the constant look-out for better ways of teaching and better ways of learning and are challenged to 'move with the times' and provide contemporary learning experiences for their students.

I have been at Caroline Chisholm College for just over one week. The first week has been a whirlwind adventure getting to know the staff and the students, finding my way around and listening to information about what is going on here at the College. I have been fortunate to meet with many of the teachers who have reflected on the learning at the College and who have explained their hopes for future learning in the College. I have been greatly impressed by the quality of these conversations and by the passionate desire of the teachers to engage in the ongoing process of transforming the learning experiences of the girls. This is a wonderful school! The teachers are passionate educators who are willing to embrace ongoing pedagogical change to meet the needs of the girls and ensure they have the very best opportunity to succeed in our 21st century world. The students are open and eager to learn. I certainly feel privileged to be a member of such a dynamic community.

Mrs Deborah Scollard - Assistant Principal