

# CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE

## Welcome to Year 7



*Faith, Courage, Tolerance*

7 February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 7,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2019 school year at Caroline Chisholm College. Your daughters have made an excellent start to high school and are already growing in confidence, building new friendships and taking initiative in their classes. It is a privilege to be able to work alongside this group of young women and to assist them in their transition to high school.

Year 7 students have been issued with college diaries and timetables and have been familiarising themselves with school processes. Please note that the diary is an important tool of communication between parents and teachers. If used correctly, the diary should contain a record of upcoming events, class tasks and assigned work and may also have some communication from a classroom teacher. I would ask that you sign your daughter's diary each week and encourage her to use it as an organisational and planning tool.

Attendance at school every day is essential for your daughter to achieve her educational best and increase her career and life options. The correlation between attendance and performance is very clear. Punctuality in the mornings and a high level of attendance will again be a focus of the Pastoral Care team this year. When unavoidable absences occur we would ask for your assistance in providing an explanation sending an explanation of absence note on the very next day the student is at school or by requesting approved leave beforehand where possible. For leave of more than 10 days, a request form is available on the college website. Normally, parents can also explain absences by sending a reply text to the SMS notification that is sent when a student is not in Homeroom. This facility is not currently available on the new Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta attendance program. It should be available soon. You will be contacted when this is available. Phone calls on the day of absence are appreciated but not mandatory and still need to be accompanied by a written or texted (when available) explanation. Any absence will require students to ensure that they have caught up on all work missed and collected all information provided in those lessons. As we monitor attendance we will endeavour to address any issues as early as possible. Students need an attendance rate of at least 90% to have study leave privileges as well as opportunities to represent the College at sporting and cultural events as well as in leadership positions.

The Year 7 Pastoral Team will be working alongside subject teachers to ensure the best possible learning environment is provided for your daughter. Her homeroom teacher should generally be the first point of contact for any enquiries or concerns. It is important for you to develop an ongoing relationship with your daughter's homeroom teacher. This can be achieved through use of the college diary, email or phone calls as necessary. This information will then be passed on to me by the homeroom teacher. If your daughter has any issues with a subject it is best to address them as early as possible by discussing them with the subject teacher. Further discussions may then involve the KLA Leader of Learning or the Assistant Principal, Mrs Deborah Scollard.

The Year 7 Pastoral team for 2019 is outlined below:

|                              |                                       |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 7 Gilmore                    | Ms Saoirse Ward<br>Mrs Natasha Harper | <a href="mailto:sward6@parra.catholic.edu.au">sward6@parra.catholic.edu.au</a><br><a href="mailto:nharper@parra.catholic.edu.au">nharper@parra.catholic.edu.au</a> |
| 7 Jackson                    | Mrs Karen King                        | <a href="mailto:kking5@parra.catholic.edu.au">kking5@parra.catholic.edu.au</a>   |
| 7 Kenny                      | Mr Richard Caws                       | <a href="mailto:rcaws@parra.catholic.edu.au">rcaws@parra.catholic.edu.au</a>   |
| 7 Macarthur                  | Ms Odette Blandin De<br>Chalain       | <a href="mailto:oblandindechalain@parra.catholic.edu.au">oblandindechalain@parra.catholic.edu.au</a>   |
| 7 MacKillop                  | Ms Penny Mabon                        | <a href="mailto:pmabon@parra.catholic.edu.au">pmabon@parra.catholic.edu.au</a>   |
| 7 Wright                     | Mrs Diana Larsen                      | <a href="mailto:dlarsen@parra.catholic.edu.au">dlarsen@parra.catholic.edu.au</a>   |
| Assistant to the Year Leader | Mrs Jodie Cusack                      | <a href="mailto:jcusack@parra.catholic.edu.au">jcusack@parra.catholic.edu.au</a>   |

To support students' wellbeing the College will continue implementing a Pastoral Care program based on the models of Positive Psychology. The program will focus on identifying the character strengths that make us unique, developing specific skills to assist students to strengthen their relationships, face challenges in life and enhance their personal resilience.

You will shortly receive an invitation to the Year 7 Welcome Barbecue which will take place on Friday the 15th of February between 6pm and 7pm. This is an opportunity for staff, parents and students to become better acquainted and to foster positive relationships.

Camp is one of the highlights of Year 7 and will take place this term (see dates below). This is an important opportunity for our students to build friendships, develop their teamwork skills and increase their self-confidence. The Year 7 Pastoral team will accompany students on this camp and information will be sent home in coming weeks.

With your assistance at home we can work together to ensure your daughter reaches her full potential this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any concerns, queries or require further information by calling 4737 5500 during school hours or on email [cthompson7@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cthompson7@parra.catholic.edu.au)

I am anticipating an exciting, fulfilling and challenging year ahead for the Year 7 students of 2019 and will endeavour to support them in their learning and growth.

Yours sincerely,



**Ms Clare Thompson**  
**Year 7 Leader of Learning**

## Upcoming Events for Term 1

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 15th February             | Year 7 Welcome Barbecue - 6-7 pm                  |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February | Opening School Mass and Caroline Chisholm Day     |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March  | Ash Wednesday                                     |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March    | College Open Night                                |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March   | College Swimming Carnival; Year 7 and Competitors |
| Wednesday 20th March to          |   |
| Friday 22nd March                | Year 7 Camp                                       |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April    | Final Day Term 1                                  |