

# CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE

## Welcome to Year 9



*Faith, Courage, Tolerance*

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 9,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the Year 9 Pastoral Care Team and warmly welcome you to the 2019 school year which marks the beginning of the important next stage in your daughter's education at Caroline Chisholm College.

I have high expectations for Year 9 in 2019. I look forward to working together with you and your daughter in partnership, to help ensure the best possible outcomes for her in the academic, cultural and spiritual spheres of College life.

I have a vision for our year group – which is to develop the 'Spirit of Year 9' and our pastoral team will challenge the girls to *be* their best, *do* their best and *give* their best in all they do. I encourage the girls to contribute positively and productively in all that they do, as they aspire to work towards this ideal.

The pastoral team for 2019 is:

Ms Sophie Watt (Assistant to Year Leader of Learning)

9 Gilmore	Mr Mitchell Sutton
9 Jackson	Mr Adam MacNamara
9 Kenny	Mrs Brooke Hughes
9 Macarthur	Mrs Bozena Kozlowski
9 MacKillop	Ms Jaqueline Morley
9 Wright	Mrs Caroline McElroy

Year Support: Mrs Jeanette Lans, Mrs Danielle Bellomo and Mrs Des Hodges

I will be working closely with the Year 9 Pastoral Team and the Year 9 subject teachers to ensure the best possible learning environment is provided for your daughter. Your daughter's 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 and you will have noticed that these positions have not changed. This can be done through use of the College Diary, email, letters or phone calls as necessary. This information will then be passed on to me by the homeroom teacher. If you have any concerns regarding a specific subject, however, please feel free to contact the classroom teacher or KLA Leader of Learning.

Research has shown a student's performance in Year 9 is a strong predictor of success in the HSC (Australian Council for Educational Research Study) – this highlights the critical nature of this stage in your daughter's education. It is vital that she develops her skills as an independent learner – that she works to the best of her ability in class and then supports this with a pattern of regular revision and study at home. The College Diary is a key tool to assist with organisational skills and self-planning and you are asked to **please check and sign the Diary each weekend to keep** track of your daughter's progress. It is also an important communication channel between home and your daughter's teachers.

We will also be closely monitoring student attendance and taking action sooner rather than later if patterns of absence appear. Please assist us by ensuring that your daughter is at school as often as is practical and that any absences are warranted and a note of explanation is supplied soon after or even before the absence. If students have poor attendance habits at the end of Year 9 then it becomes increasingly more difficult to address this in later years. If your daughter becomes reluctant to attend school for any reason it is important that you inform us early so that we can address her concerns and provide her with support and encouragement. 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. 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. 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.

With your assistance at home we can work together to ensure your daughter reaches her full potential this year. I encourage and welcome your input and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any concerns or queries, or require further information, by calling 4737 5500 or on email ifuller@parra.catholic.edu.au.

I look forward to working with you and your daughter during 2019. I hope that Year 9 will be a rewarding and successful year for your daughter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ian Fuller

Year 9 Leader of Learning

<b>Upcoming Events for Term 1</b>

Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Student Leader's Development Afternoon
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> February	College Swimming Carnival; Year 7 and Competitors
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Final Day Term 1