



MIDDLE SCHOOL 2023 INFORMATION BOOKLET

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School at St Philip's Christian College Cessnock, is a learning environment designed to cater to all spheres of the adolescent student. As whole of life educators, we understand that between the ages of 10-15, young people go through the most rapid physical, emotional, academic and spiritual changes, since their toddler years.

Consequently, it is our heart in the Middle School to create Christ-centred, intentional and engaging experiences, which meet young people where they are at, whilst providing a supportive environment to continue their learning.

The pedagogy and curriculum in Middle School is designed to offer academic challenge to our students, through each of the key learning areas, whilst also providing immersive experiences which spark curiosity, inquiry thinking and the development of 21st century skills. The skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, adaptability, media literacy and critical thinking will allow students to thrive as they continue through their learning, both in their schooling years and in their future lives beyond school.



It is our heart to create Christ-centred, intentional and engaging experiences in a supportive environment.

For young people in the middle years, a sense of belonging is vital. They want to be known by others and they want educators who truly care for them. We have a dedicated team of specialist educators in the Middle School, who are passionate about their teaching practice, highly relational and empathetic towards the needs of the adolescent.

As we approach this year of Thankfulness in , I am thankful that you have chosen to partner with us, at St Philip's Christian College, on your child's learning journey.

ABOUT MRS REBEKAH MARGACH

Mrs Rebekah Margach has been a part of the St Philip's Christian College Cessnock family for many years. She first started at the Newcastle campus in 1989, as a Year 5 student, before graduating in 1996. Following High School, Rebekah studied at both the University of Newcastle and University of New England, as an English and HSIE Teacher and commenced teaching at St Philip's Christian College in 2004 as a Middle School Homeroom, English and HSIE Teacher. Throughout her time working at SPCC Newcastle, Mrs Margach taught students from Years 5-12, in a range of English and HSIE subjects. She holds a Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Education (eLearning & Gifted Education).

Rebekah is passionate about seeing young people love learning, love coming to school and providing opportunities for young people to learn more about God. School is more than just a place to learn academic skills, it is also a place where young people can develop their social, emotional, physical and spiritual self. In 2023, Mrs Margach will teach in the Year 8 Integrated Studies learning environment.

In her spare time, Mrs Margach loves to spend time with her husband, children and Cavoodle, Frankie. Together with her family, she attends church at Northlakes Salvation Army, and is actively involved in different parts of church life. Holidays are important in the Margach family and we enjoy taking our caravan around the country to explore new places.

INTRODUCING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Middle School Leadership Team have been handpicked because they are experienced specialist teachers who are committed to the vision and mission of both St Philip's Christian College and the importance of Middle School education.

Together with the Head of Middle School, Mrs Rebekah Margach, this team leads the Middle School with passion and dedication. Each of these educators will have an important role in your child's experience at the College.



MRS CHARISSA FOSTER ASSISTANT HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL AND YEAR 8 TEAM LEADER

My name is Charissa Foster and I am the Assistant Head of Middle School and the Year 8 Team Leader. I studied at the University of New England and trained as a History, English, Drama Teacher. I have taught a range of year groups and subjects across my career and have taught in both the public and private sector. This is my seventh year at St Philip's Cessnock.

I love teaching Middle School because no day is ever the same. I love the energy and honesty of the Middle School students and the passion they have for seeing justice in their world. In my spare time, you will find me with my family at the beach, the lake and with our Labradoodle, Norah. I also love to travel, read and go to the theatre.



MRS AMANDA COCHRANE YEAR 7 TEAM LEADER AND INTEGRATED TEACHER

My name Amanda Cochrane and this is my sixth year teaching at St Philip's Cessnock. I am the Year 7 Team Leader and teach Year 7 Integrated Studies and Mathematics. Prior to joining St Philip's, I was working in the Public School system in a program focused on supporting literacy and numeracy with primary-aged Indigenous students.

When teaching, I love creating a safe space for all students to take risks in their learning and to extend beyond what they think they can do. I am passionate about helping students of all abilities to discover and develop their God-given talents and hope to inspire a love of learning in all of my students.

When not working, I love to spend time flying kites, playing board games or watching movies with my two sons, and my husband. I also love to be creative in as many ways as I can including: painting, drawing, jewellery making, reading, renovating, and trying to keep my indoor plants alive.



**MISS HANNAH NIXON
YEAR 6 LEADER**

Miss Hannah Nixon has taught at St Philip's Cessnock for eight years, and worked at St Philip's Newcastle campus prior to this. She has a passion for primary education, including specialised subjects, and development programs. Miss Nixon is passionate about Christian education and telling the Good News about Jesus. She serves as a youth leader at the Grainery Church in Newcastle on Friday nights and is a part of the Welcoming Committee on Sundays. During Miss Nixon's spare time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family and being a part of her roller derby team. She is thrilled to be teaching Year 6 again this year and looks forward to journeying the year with you and your child.



**MRS NAOMI DOHERTY
YEAR 5 LEADER**

It is an honour to be working with you this year. I have been teaching for over 20 years now and look forward to encouraging your children to strive for excellence in 2023. I have been teaching at SPCC for eight years in both Junior and Middle School. This year, I lead the Year 5 team and we look forward to delivering an exciting year of learning for your children. I am a huge fan of books and writing. My family enjoy glamping and visiting new places.



PASTORAL CARE

In Middle School, we strive to recognise positive student behaviour and effort as much as possible. Our approach to Pastoral Care, is based upon our College Christian Perspective, Core Values and the studies of Positive Psychology. Pastoral Care lessons occur at the beginning of each day. This time is a little different to normal classes, it is a time that allows teachers to share a devotional thought and pray with students. It is also a time where announcements for the day are given and an opportunity to check your child's current and up-coming academic requirements. If you have any concerns, your child's PC teacher is the first point of contact.

YEAR 5 PASTORAL CARE TEAM



MR CALLUM DOUST

Callum has spent the last four years finishing university with the St Philip's Teaching School and is excited to be joining the Year 5 team for his first fulltime year of teaching. He is married to the beautiful Mrs Doust, who is teaching in Junior School at St Philip's Cessnock. Together they attend Maitland Evangelical Church. In his spare time, Callum enjoys op shopping, playing any sport with a ball, watching musicals, and listening to podcasts. He is looking forward to teaching his incredible students this year.



MRS SARAH ADAMS

It is with great pleasure and joy that I teach Year 5 again this year. It is very lovely to have so many beautiful faces and families back in the classroom for 2023. I have been teaching for over 14 years and love the joy of laughing whilst learning. I studied at the University of New England and have taught a variety of age groups; I love teaching in Middle School and seeing your children emerge into lovely young people over the year. My husband Luke Adams also works at SPCC as the Director of Studies (7-12), and we have two beautiful boys who also attend SPCC.



MRS ASHLEIGH MADDEN

I am really looking forward to teaching Year 5 again this year. Middle School is such an exciting place to be! It is my pleasure to foster and build relationships with your children and watch them grow and continue to strive for excellence. I completed my degree at University of New England and have taught in the Northern Territory in a remote aboriginal mining town. I have lived and taught overseas in Ireland. My husband is a chef, I have three amazing children and I love spending time with my family.

YEAR 6 PASTORAL CARE TEAM



MR LUKE HAYWARD

Luke Hayward has taught many grades during his career. During his 12 years of service in Queensland, and this being his twelfth year teaching in NSW, he has gained experience with each grade from Prep to Year Six. Teaching has become a passion due to the wide scope of content that can be taught, so that he and his students can appreciate God's intricate and beautiful creation, and develop their own talents to be creative in visual arts and music. In his spare time, he and his family are invested in the Beyond Church creative ministries by leading the music team at the Cessnock location. In his spare time he loves to cook, exercise and paint landscapes.



MRS JODI MCNAMARA

Miss Jodi McNamara graduated in 2016 and has been teaching in Junior School. Jodi was a sort-after Casual Teacher, which has progressed to full time in Middle School. Jodi is a passionate teacher who shows her bright and vibrant personality through her teaching. She enjoys teaching God's word and seeing students make good choices and looking out for other's needs. Jodi is dedicated to her relationship with God and her church as she volunteers in Children's Ministry and is a lead vocalist in the Creative Team.



YEAR 7 PASTORAL CARE TEAM



MR HUGH MACINTYRE

Hugh is a Year 7 and 8 Integrated Studies teacher and a PC teacher for Year 7 this year. He also facilitates the entire Integrated Studies course here at the College. He loves teaching young people and is looking forward to seeing all the amazing things they achieve this year. When Hugh is not at school teaching wonderful students of Year 7, he loves watching and playing sports, playing guitar, listening to podcasts, skateboarding or going to the beach.



MISS EMILY LOVERIDGE

Emily is a Year 7 PC, Integrated Studies and English teacher at the College. When she is not at school, you'll find her camping, 4WDing, spending time with friends and family or singing along to her favourite playlist. Emily is excited to navigate Year 7 through their first year of high school studies, and learn more about each of her students.



MR JASON MATHESON

Jason is one of our longest serving teachers at St Philip's Cessnock and is enjoying being a Year 7 PC teacher this year. He is passionate about seeing young people develop further into the amazing individual God has created them to be. Jason loves art, music, and writing Buzzbomb novels! His favourite Saturday night is a BBQ with his family, a game on PS4 with his three sons and a movie with his wife.



MRS ROBYN REID

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Mademoiselle Reid! This is my 11th year working at St Philip's Cessnock. I teach French and Art and love doing both of these. I have been to France many times and it has been my joy to take students twice to visit my favourite places. I have two little poodles called Eddie and Bear, and an art studio at home. I also have three grown-up children and two grandchildren, Jack and Odelia.

YEAR 8 PASTORAL CARE TEAM



MRS JADE DOBSON

Jade is a Visual Arts teacher who enjoys engaging students in a love of all things creative. In her spare time you will find her in a coffee shop, at the beach or off on adventures with her friends and family. Jade prays regularly for her students and cannot wait to see what God does in each of their lives this year.



MRS STEPHANIE CHAUMONT

Steph is a Science and specifically Biology teacher at the College and loves looking at problems in different ways. At school you may find her with a class outside looking at the wetlands, or sitting under a tree learning about all things Science, specifically plants. Her dream is to become a teacher like Ms. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus and in all her classes 7-12 she aims for that level of excitement and fun. In her spare time, you may find her bike riding with her family, chasing her bunny or mindfully colouring.



MISS ISABELLA STRATFORD

This is Isabella's fifth year at the College and she loves being a Middle School PC teacher. At school you might find her conducting experiments over in the laboratories, teaching a range of students from Years 7 to Year 12. Isabella loves teaching Year 8 for the enthusiasm they bring both inside the classroom and out. When not at school, she can usually be found at the beach, on a bushwalk, travelling and exploring with her pup Boni by her side.



MR DYLAN MATTHES

This year Dylan is teaching PDHPE and Christian Studies and is enjoying his role as a Year 8 PC Teacher. He enjoys seeing students grow, develop new skills, and he especially loves the enthusiasm and joy that Year 8 bring to the classroom. In his spare time you will find him surfing, hiking, playing basketball, learning something new or eating food.



MISS PEPE LATU

Pepe is a Food Technology teacher at the College and loves teaching Year 8. This is her third Year teaching Year 8 PC and she is passionate about seeing students grow, learn, gain confidence and make strong connections with other peers. In her spare time outside of school, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, cooking, sewing, creating things, playing team sports, such as basketball, going to the gym and she is really looking forward to her wedding later this year.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENT/CARERS AND SENIOR SCHOOL STAFF

The following table has been prepared to assist parents to target their communications to the appropriate staff member. Where more than one name appears in a box, please follow the sequence of staff in order.

Concern/Need	Who to Contact
Subject specific performance/ relationship with teacher	1. Subject Teacher 2. Faculty Team Leader 3. Head of Middle School
General Academic Performance	1. Pastoral Care Team Leader 2. Assistant Head of Middle School 3. Head of Middle School
Excursions, camps, activities, calendar items, daily planning, organising etc.	Pastoral Care Teacher
General Administration (Absences, exemptions, locker issues, confiscated items, lost property etc)	Middle School Administration
Chaplaincy, Counselling, Wellbeing	Director of Student Wellbeing K-12
Academic Support	Director of Learning Support K-12
Sport/Sporting Events	1. Sport Administration 2. Head of Sport
Performing Arts/Music	Head of CAPA
Prefect/Student Leaders	Assistant Head of Middle School
Enrolment, Scholarships, Change of Records/Contact Details	Registrar
Fee Enquiries/Finance.	Finance Team Leader Business Manager

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Name	Position	Email Address
Mr Matt Connett	Principal	matt.connett@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Margaret Pond	Deputy Principal	margaret.pond@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mr David Cole	Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning	david.cole@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Rebekah Margach	Head of Middle School	rebekah.margach@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Charissa Foster	Assistant Head of Middle School	charissa.foster@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Kris Tierney	Middle School Administration	kristine.tierney@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Naomi Doherty	Year 5 Team Leader	naomi.doherty@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Miss Hannah Nixon	Year 6 Team Leader	hannah.nixon@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Amanda Cochrane	Year 7 Team Leader	amanda.cochrane@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Charissa Foster	Year 8 Team Leader	charissa.foster@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Leanne Preece	Director of Learning Support	leanne.preece@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Belinda Shields	Director of Student Wellbeing	belinda.shields@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Katrina Van Vorst	Curriculum Administration K-12	katrina.vanvorst@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Jessica Philogene	Sports Administration	jessica.philogene@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Monique Keet	Registrar	monique.keet@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mr Jacques Mouton	Business Manager	jacques.mouton@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Mrs Melissa McCallum	Finance Team Leader	melissa.mccallum@spcc.nsw.edu.au

College Communication

St Philip's Christian College Cessnock prides itself on open communication with parents and community. We have numerous different means of communication, including social media, our newsletter and MySPCC. For more information on our Learning Management System (MySPCC), please see previous section 'MySPCC iLearn'.

The details for our social media accounts are as follows:

- Facebook — St Philip's Christian College Cessnock
- Instagram — @spcc_cessnock
- LinkedIn — St Philip's Christian College Cessnock

We also release newsletters throughout the term, highlighting student achievement, and upcoming events. As part of your enrolment, you are subscribed to this email. In the case of urgent, time sensitive information you will be contact via SMS.

AN OVERVIEW OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Daily Schedule

Pastoral Care	8:15am to 8:35am
Period 1	8:35am to 9:25am
Period 2	9:25am to 10:15am
Recess	10:15am to 10:30am
Period 3	10:35am to 11:25am
Period 4	11:25am to 12:15pm
Lunch	12:15pm to 12:55pm
Period 5	12:55pm to 1:45pm
Period 6	1:45pm to 2:35pm

2023 Term Dates

Term 1	31 January to 6 April
Term 2	26 April to 30 June
Term 3	24 July to 22 September
Term 4	9 October to 6 December

Our school day begins at 8:15am for all students, with teachers available for supervision from 7:45am in the playground. At 8:15am, students will start their day in class with their Pastoral Care Teacher. During their pastoral care time they will participate in devotions, prayer, they will hear daily notices and build connection with their teacher and class members.

Our school day ends at 2:35pm and students are encouraged to collect their belongings quickly and walk to either the parent collection zone or the bus stop.

Attendance and Early Departures

It is important that all students arrive in time for the start of the school day. If a student misses the first 30 minutes of a school day, that is the equivalent to 15 whole days per year of lost time in their schooling experience.

However, there may be occasional circumstances where a student must arrive to school late. If this is the case, the student should immediately attend the Middle School Office as soon as they arrive to school, so our Middle School Administration can sign them in for the day and direct them to their class.

Parents/Carers are required to provide permission for Middle School Students to depart prior to the end of the school day. Where possible, it is best to advise the Middle School Office via phone, email or a handwritten note, with the time and reason for the early departure, as this assists to minimise any delay you may experience waiting for your child to come from class.

Absences

All absences are required to have an explanation from parents/carers. If your child is absent from school, an SMS notification will be sent to your nominated mobile number stating your child has been marked absent from school for the day. It is important that you respond to this SMS, with your student's name and an explanation of their absence. This response is then added to your child's attendance record.

If you have planned leave that your child will be absent from school for a day or an extended period of time, please notify the Middle School Office via phone or via email and the Middle School Administration will advise you of the best process to follow, depending on your planned leave.

Please note that extended absences beyond a week, require permission from the College Principal for approved leave. The Middle School Office will be able to provide details about this process.

OVERVIEW OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lockers

Lockers are available for all students from Year 5 onwards. These lockers are for the sole use of that student and cannot be shared with another student. The lockers are made available to store school supplies and personal items, necessary for use at school. Students are to maintain the security of their own locker. To support students with this, they are issued with a lock in Year 5 or when they commence at the College. The code for the lock is to be kept private and not shared with other students. Students are to treat their locks with care to ensure that they are kept in good working order. Locks are to remain on the lockers in a locked position when not in use. If a lock is lost or damaged, outside of normal wear and tear, parents/carers will be charged a replacement fee.

Macbooks

From the start of Year 5, students in the College utilise a Macbook to support their learning in the classroom. All technology at school is regarded as learning tools, to enhance and facilitate engagement with research, online resources and learning activities. Classroom teachers will balance the use of Macbooks, with a range of other offline activities which promote the development of a range of skills, including refining handwriting.

In Year 5, students will keep their Macbooks at school for the whole of Term One, after which they will begin taking home their Macbooks overnight some days per week. By the end of the year, students will take their Macbooks home every night.

Students have the responsibility to look after their Macbook and ensure that it is brought to school fully charged and ready for use, at the start of every day. The Macbook has a protective shell which helps to reduce damage to the Macbook should it be dropped or damaged. Students are asked to make sure the protective cover is not removed from the Macbook. If there is an issue with the cover, they are asked to visit IT Services to discuss the matter.

At school, all student engagement with their Macbooks is monitored, including their internet use. Our staff also work hard to help our young people align their use of technology with the College Core Values as well as develop an understanding of their responsibilities as digital citizens.

We encourage parents and carers to develop boundaries for children at home when they use any technology. If you would like to know more about strategies which could be used to keep young people safe when they are accessing technology, please access the parent resources available through the eSafety Commissioner site.

MySPCC iLearn

The College Learning Management System (LMS) is a unique tool that can be accessed by staff, students and parents, to distribute learning content, digital resources and assessment items.

The MySPCC iLearn will provide parents:

- access to a digital copy of your child's timetable
- links to groups your child may be interested in, such as College Productions, Sport, Debating, Year Group Information and the Middle School Page
- details about student academic achievement in assessments and feedback from teachers about the student's learning

For each subject your child learns, there will be a dedicated class page where you will find a range of information. This will include:

- Assessment notifications and information regarding submissions. This will include formalised feedback on each Assessment Task.
- An ongoing record of what students should be completing in class each day or week.
- Structured learning programs with individual lessons or resources for students to use
- Contact information for your child's teacher.

OVERVIEW OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

In addition to this, parents can also access the Middle School Guide which provides key information about your child's experience at SPCC, including equipment lists, canteen details and year group pages.

Important Links

- [Access mySPCCiLearn](#)

Prohibited Items

In order to keep our students safe, the following items may not be brought onsite:

- Chewing gum and bubble gum
- Lighters and matches
- Tobacco products, including vapes
- Energy drinks
- Portable gaming devices
- Dangerous toys or weapons
- Water missiles including water pistols
- Drugs, alcohol and other dangerous substances

Any other items that do not comply with the College ethos or as determined by the College.

Mobile Phone, Personal Devices and Headphones

At St Philip's Christian College, we want to protect student wellbeing and engagement with their learning. Incoming calls, messages or alerts during the school day disrupt the learning environment and can hinder student's ability to focus on their learning. For this reason, the College maintains a strict Mobile Phone and Personal Device Policy. *A personal device can include: iPads and other tablets and personal computers, or any device that can connect to the internet.*

- Once arriving at College, Mobile Phones/devices should be turned off and out of sight in their school bag and locker. Incoming calls, messages or alerts during the school day disrupt the learning environment. Students may wear smart watches, which connect to the internet, but these must be placed in flight mode during school time. In some circumstances, during assessments, students may be asked to remove their smart watches.

- Students must never lend a phone to another student for calls, text messaging or for use as a camera or video recording device.
- Students are prohibited from filming other students or teachers with their personal devices, unless permission is granted from a teacher for educational-based activities.
- The inappropriate use of mobile phones/devices will be recorded on the student's record of behaviour.
- Students should not wear headphones or bring them to class, unless instructed to do so by their teacher.
- If a student is found using their mobile phone/personal device without permission, the teacher may confiscate the device and it will be placed in the Middle School Office for safekeeping and collection later in the day. Parents may be contacted about this situation.

Responsibility for Mobile Phones

Students bring mobile phones/devices to College at their own risk – the College and College staff members will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to mobile phones or for investigating loss or damage.

Contacting Your Child During the College Day

Parents and guardians are asked to contact the College Office (02) 4007 5000 if they wish to send a message to their child, rather than calling them or texting them whilst they are at College. To ensure the College maintains consistent duty of care, a student who is sick should follow normal procedures, seek permission to go to sick bay and, if required, administration staff will contact parents.

STAGE 3 LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Our PC classes are our home base for Stage 3 students. Students undertake most of their learning, including Christian Life and PDH with their PC class. Integrated Studies is a dynamic subject incorporating science, geography, visual arts and literacy. It includes everyone; whole grade teaching and peer cooperation which stimulates problem solving and collaboration.

Spelling, LIFT (literacy in full throttle), our reading program and maths, are grouped across the grade, to best cater for the needs of the students. Students will also visit the Library during the LIFT program, which will encourage students to engage in wider reading.

Our Stage 3 students also participate in an elective opportunity through our Davinci program. This program allows students to select two options 1) sport/creative option and 2) academic option. The purpose of these electives is to offer extension into an area of learning that your child is interested in or has a strength in. At the start of Semester 2, students can then nominate another two electives they are interested in participating in.

Students are expected to complete homework for Maths, LIFT and spelling each week and hand it in to their teacher on Fridays. If you have any questions or concerns, please email your child's teacher for that subject. Our homework program will commence from Week 4, Term 1.



STAGE 4 LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Integrated Studies

Every student in Year 7 and 8 participates in a subject called Integrated Studies. At its heart, the aim of Integrated Studies is to meet the young people of Middle School where they are at, provide an engaging, challenging and supportive environment for them to learn, develop and grow the skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in life. The teachers will engage in teaching strategies that are based in research and design projects that will create authentic experiences for our young people. Students will learn syllabus content and skills and be challenged to take initiative and responsibility, build their confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, and manage themselves more effectively.

Integrated Studies is the title that we have given to the way we teach English, History and Geography in Year 7 and 8. By teaching each of these course in an integrated way it allows us to create authentic links between the content in the separate key learning areas. Integrated Studies involves bringing together typically disconnected subjects, in a style that is derivative of Project Based Learning, so that students can arrive at more meaningful and authentic understanding of all the subjects we teach.

Generally, students will complete one major assessment each term that will assess outcomes in English and either Geography or History. They will also complete formative assessments known as benchmarks in class throughout the term to ensure that they are attaining the skills necessary to complete their final project.

Electives

In Stage 4, students have the opportunity to complete a semesterised elective. These electives are small tasters of courses that students select when they have the opportunity to undertake their Stage 5 Electives. The value of this learning opportunity is that every student can undertake a broad overview of a range of courses to see if this is an area of learning passion for their future.

Towards the middle of the year, our Year 8 students will then undergo a process to select their electives for their Year 9 and 10 studies.

Homework

In Stage 3, homework will begin from Week 4. Students will receive Spelling, LIFT and Math homework. Should you have any questions in relation to homework, please contact your child's teacher for that subject. All students are expected to hand their completed homework in by Friday of each week.

In Stage 4, our students will undertake a range of subjects. There will be times when students will be asked to complete any learning that was not finished during class time. They will have allocated review learning for Maths and there will also be ongoing Assessment Tasks that students will need to work on, both in class time and during their home study sessions. For an overview of student Assessment Tasks for the year, please see the relevant Year Academic Guide, which has been distributed to students as a hard copy and is also available on the Year Group pages on mySPCCiLearn.

THE FOUR RS

The Four Rs

The Four Rs provide teachers a system through which to regulate a safe, secure and happy learning environment. The process of the Four Rs allows students the opportunity to reflect on and correct their behaviour before further escalation. This system is provided to support the relational nature of student-teacher relationships. In applying this system, teachers are encouraged to move through each of the 4 Rs with students fairly — to explain to students why they are receiving the 'R', referring to the Core Value that has been broken and to actively teach students the more appropriate behaviour. An important notion here is that punishment has no capacity to heal broken relationships and that it is not possible to punish your way to obedience.

The Four Rs

01

Reminder

A reminder of our agreed values and expectations.

02

Redirection

A redirection from the current behaviour to the preferred agreed expectations.

03

Relocate

A physical relocation to improve the student's readiness to learn.

04

Reflection

Student relocated to Reflection area to restore composure, encourage reflection and a restorative conversation.

Chapels and Assemblies

Each week, our students will participate in either Chapel or Assembly. Our Chapels are facilitated by our Chaplains and this time is used to encourage our young people with a message that focuses on God, be a part of worship and a range of Christ-Centred activities. Our Chapel services are designed to inspire our young people to consider their own walk of faith and challenge them with a range of age-appropriate messages aligned to the bible and the College Core Values.

Our Middle School Assemblies provide an opportunity for our whole Middle School to meet together, to hear inspirational message, connect with students and teachers, hear important updates and announcements, as well as receive awards. Prayer, Acknowledgement of Country and the National Anthem, are an important part of our Assembly tradition. Our Assemblies are managed and hosted by our Middle School Student Leaders.

Stage 4 Assessment Policy

The following information is an extract taken from the Year 7 and 8 Academic Guides. These guides have been distributed to students and provide an overview of their assessment program for the year. The guides are also available on the student's Year Page on mySPCCiLearn.

Assessment forms an important part of the learning process for students, as it allows them to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Students are required to submit all formal assessments on or before the due date.

All tasks will be submitted via mySPCCiLearn by the set date and time of task, or where applicable some tasks may be completed in-class. Submission details will be specified on the assessment notification. iLearn submissions are normally due by 9am on the due date.

1. All dates for assessment tasks will be indicated in the individual subject assessment schedules, and the individual Assessment Task Notification.
2. Any assessment task submitted after the due date, will incur loss of marks, see table below. For submittable tasks, this includes Public Holidays and weekends. NB: weekends are counted as one 'day'.

- Day 1 – 15%
- Day 2 – 30%
- Day 3 – 45%
- Day 4 – 60%

1. Any assessment tasks submitted more than four days after the due date, will receive no marks. However, to satisfy course completion requirements, assessment tasks must still be submitted even if it is too late to score marks.
2. Late assessment tasks will be marked out of the full marks available and then the marks for lateness will be deducted from the achieved mark. This is so the students will be able to see the true value of their work.
3. Parents will be advised if a student submits late assessment tasks. This is to ensure that students do not fall too far behind in their work, and to ensure parents are fully aware of their child's progress.
4. If for some valid reason, a student needs a short extension of time for an assessment task, permission for this must be sought, together with a note from parents, or medical certificate well before

OVERVIEW OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

the due date. The Director of Studies will then negotiate the time of extension with the student and the class teacher. The student will be provided with the information in writing, for major assessments.

NB: Extensions will not be granted by teachers on or after the due date for a task. If issues occur on the due date of a task, a student should instead complete an Appeal Form. Copies of the appeal form are available at the back of the Assessment Guide.

Students will receive a grade and written feedback on their assessments via mySPCCiLearn, with parents also able to review this same information via their mySPCCiLearn access.

Please see the relevant Academic Guide, which has been distributed to students, for additional information about the Assessment Policy, including information on:

- Appeals Process
- Illness/Misadventure
- Missed Tasks
- Honesty in Assessment

Overview of Sport and Fitness

Middle School Students will be given a range of opportunities to participate in representing our College, in both team and individual sports. Middle Students will represent our College through the Hunter Region Independent Schools (HRIS) sporting pathway then progress on to AICES and CIS then All Schools at NSW Level. We have had a number of students achieve this level in the previous years. All students engage in physical movement activities during the week, including sporting activities and fitness programs.

From Year 7, students will participate in a weekly fitness program, accessing our College Gym, as part of our ongoing commitment to improving the wellbeing of our students. Regular exercise has positive benefits, not just to general health, but also

mental health. With mental health related illness now being the top medical condition effecting young Australians, it is imperative that we do all that we can to improve mental wellbeing and physical fitness.

College Sport Houses and Colours

Allandale	Green
Wonnarua	Yellow
Campbell	Blue
Lomas	Red

After School Sport

In an endeavour to help students develop skills in a range of sports, the College offers after school sport activities on Mondays and Thursdays. These sessions provide students with an opportunity to learn and refine their skills, in order to prepare for our College Regional and Representative sporting teams, as well as, support students in developing skills for their local sporting teams. From term to term, the coaching opportunities change to align with seasonal sport. Our Sport Team will update parents regularly with the offerings for After School Sport.

Lunch Clubs

The Middle School offers lunch clubs for students to engage with a range of activities, examples include homework club, quiet activities, music groups and bible study groups. The lunch club offerings are currently being refined for 2023 and will be published on the Middle School Handbook page online, once the information is available.

CAMP INFORMATION

Every student in Middle School will participate in a school camp this year. Our school camps offer a combination of learning, challenge and connection with their peers. For a sneak preview of what to expect from camp in 2023, please see the details below:

Year 5

When:

26th July to 28th July 2023

Where:

Bathurst and Dubbo

Brief Outline:

This school camp is packed with a range of iconic Australian highlights. Students will visit scenic world in Katoomba before venturing on to the Bathurst goldfields, to learn about the historic gold rush. As they travel from Bathurst to Dubbo, students will visit the Wellington Caves and then stay in Dubbo. There will be an observatory visit, a trip to the Western Plains Zoo – including an early morning walk, breakfast and animal encounter. Before heading towards home, our students will also visit the Royal Flying Doctor Education Centre.

Year 6

When:

25th July to 28th July 2023

Where:

Canberra and the snow

Brief Outline:

Our Year 6 students will have the opportunity to visit Canberra and the snow in their Year 6 camp. This is a three night experience that provides students with an understanding of key significant landmarks in our nation's capital city.

Year 7

When:

17th May to 19th May 2023

Where:

CRU Camp at Galston Gorge

Brief Outline:

In Year 7, our camp focus is largely on helping students to build connections with one another. This is especially important, as we have welcomed a number of new Year 7 students into the College in 2023. Students will have the opportunity to complete physical challenges such as archery, indoor high ropes and abseiling. There will be bush walks, team sports, time for chilling out, devotions and a stealth night.

Year 8

When:

17th May to 19th of May 2023

Where:

CRU Camp at Lake Mac

Brief Outline:

For our Year 8 camp, the focus of the camp is providing opportunities for students to step outside of their comfort zone and build resilience. The focus of the camp is also continuing to build connection and trust between the Year 8 students. Activities are broken into two categories, land and water, and students will also participate in a one night bivouac activity. There will be sailing, fishing, raft building, climbing and a survivor challenge. The focus of the camp also allows for our young people to continue to develop an understanding of who Christ is.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Support Services

Our College offers a range of student support opportunities which are provided to enhance a student's learning experience and allow students to engage with their learning to the best of their ability.

Learning Support Team

For students requiring academic support, we have a dedicated team of learning support specialists, who are committed to supporting students in achieving the best educational outcomes. This team is led by Mrs Leanne Preece, our Director of Learning Support K-12.

The Learning Support Staff work alongside Pastoral Care Teachers and Subject Teachers, particularly in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Social Skills, to cater for the range of individual needs of students. Our Learning Support Team assist with designing appropriate programmes and assessment, differentiating learning experiences and monitoring student progress.

Throughout the year, students may be identified and receive individual and/or group support, as required. The Learning Support Staff may provide assistance both within the classroom, and in small withdrawal groups.

What About Provisions?

Where there are identified learning difficulties and/or disabilities, students may access provisions for assessments and examinations, including standardised testing such as NAPLAN. These provisions may include: a reader, writer, extra time and/or rest breaks.

It is important for Learning Support teachers to gather detailed information regarding the learning difficulty or medical disability of a child and to assess the nature of provision

that may apply. Any documentation and supporting evidence that parents can provide about student needs can assist in the application process for provisions, this is especially required for items such as NAPLAN testing.

Our Learning Support Team in Middle School are:



MRS LEANNE PREECE
DIRECTOR OF
LEARNING SUPPORT



MRS ANGELA BRITT
LEARNING SUPPORT
TEACHER



MRS KAJSA-LISA FERGUSON
LEARNING SUPPORT
TEACHER

In addition to this, we also have a team of Aide's who support our students in the classroom environment. Our Teacher's Aide staff include:

- Mrs Narelle Arciniega
- Mrs Tina Linden
- Mrs Tracey Piggott
- Mrs Erin Lynch

COLLEGE SERVICES

College Nurse

In order to provide the best possible medical care and advice to students we have a qualified nurse on site each day of the week. The College nurse is located in the E Corridors, and the office includes the College sick bay. During the course of the day, if a student becomes unwell or sustains an injury, they will be directed to the College nurse who will assess and triage the situation to determine the best course of action. The Middle School Administration will contact parents, if a student presents with a serious injury or illness which requires them to be collected from school.

IT Services

Our IT Services Team facilitate the outworking of all technology and associated resources across the College. They are the first port of call for any questions students may have about their Macbooks. If a student's Macbook is damaged, or aspects of the technology fail, then the student should visit our IT Services Team immediately. IT Services are located in the E Corridors near the Middle School Hub.

Canteen

We have an amazing Canteen Team, who work tirelessly to provide a nutritious range of food items for students to purchase at school. The canteen is available during recess and lunch for students to purchase a range of items. Students may bring cash or can use eftpos to purchase items from the canteen. In addition to this, the school offers the ability to preorder food/lunch orders, [using the Flexischools online platform.](#)

For a sneak peek of the College Canteen menu, [please access this link.](#)



