



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2019, now known as the 'Pathway'.

This name was chosen as it represents the process and journey of learning that our College provides for our young people. It also represents the pathway that we all travel as we grow in our understanding and faith in the mighty teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been recently undertaking a great deal of reading in relation to the role of Christian schools and Christian education in Australia. I have encountered some wonderful ideas that have resonated with me in some way. I would like to use our newsletter to share some of these thoughts with you.

"We believe firmly that God gave parents the primary responsibility for the education and nurture of their children. Consequently, we see our role as one of a partnership with parents, assisting them in their responsibility. The ultimate goal of education is to nurture and train children to honour God and in this way to find true wisdom. Equipping children with all they will need for wise living begins with knowing and understanding God and His word, the Bible. Equally children need to learn how to faithfully respond to God in faith and obedience."

"Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

Albert Einstein



Be an Advocate for Your Child's School

Verity Christian College is a great place in which to have your children complete their early years of schooling. We have staff who are passionate about their role and of the place of God in their lives. We are well resourced and class sizes are small so enabling each child to experience individual guidance and support as required. We are a part of a strong and vibrant Christian community from which so many fantastic people have given of their time to support our current building project. Tell others about our College! Please be an advocate for the benefits to children of being able to access a Christian focussed education in a small school setting that really cares about its students and their families. Encourage other Christian families to consider enrolling their children with us so that they too can be a part of our nurturing educational setting.



School Terms 2019

(In line with other Independent schools in NSW)

Term 1- Monday 28th January to Friday 12th April

Easter Good Friday 19th April to Easter Monday 22nd April

ANZAC Day Thursday 25th April

Term 2 Monday 29th April to Friday 28th June

Term 3 Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September

Term 4 Monday 14th October to Friday 13th December

Student Testing

Having given students time to settle into school for the year, it is now time for the staff to undertake our first round of testing to help us establish a base line set of data from which we identify the strengths and needs of each student. Testing in Numeracy, various strands of Literacy and School Readiness will take place during weeks 3 and 4.

Parent teacher Interviews

Our first set of Interviews will take place during Week 6 of this term on the afternoons of Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th of March. More details later.

School Attendance

I am required, under the Education Act, to remind all families about Compulsory School Attendance. Once enrolled into school/college each child must attend each day that the school is open.

If a child is unable to attend, the parents/caregivers must provide notice to the school, preferably in writing, to explain the absence. Should it be necessary for a child to have an extended period of absence, then an EXEMPTION FROM THE SCHOOL, should be applied for, at least a few days before the anticipated absence. The school Principal is empowered to grant exemptions when given sufficient notice to do so.



Homework

Verity Christian College is a school which will provide regular homework tasks for students to complete. The homework that teachers set is meant to reflect, reinforce, practice and prepare for work being done in class as a part of the curriculum delivery. We encourage all of our students to complete the tasks set, while at the same time, being mindful of family commitments and responsibilities which must also be fulfilled.

College staff will not set homework which is unreasonable in its expectations or excessive in terms of time demands.

In general Homework will be issued each Monday, with the expectation that it be handed in on Friday.

Times Tables

We need our students to know their multiplication tables. There is no simple way to do this other than with practise. Each student from Years 3-6 will be issued with a set of take home times tables on a ring. Anytime spent learning these would be of great benefit.

Volunteers Always Welcome

If you have some time to spare during the week to assist students with reading aloud we would be extremely grateful. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Mrs Badenhorst. You will need to have a current Working with Children clearance in place.



School Photographs -2018

We still have a small number of families who have yet to finalise payments for last year's photographs. This is fine, but we do need to move forward from this. I will make an approach to the families, where necessary to remind them of any outstanding amount.



In Closing....

In closing this first edition of 'the Pathway' please let me emphasise again how important it is for us all to be strong advocates for our College. This will give added confidence to our current students and will serve to encourage others to consider enrolling their child in the College.

I will leave you with one of our devotion passages from Chapel, a reminder to our students as well as our staff, and now to all parents and caregivers of how unique and precious we all are to the Creator God.



God bless you all. Have a wonderful week.

Blessings

David Fox

Principal VCC