

5th December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to inform you of some of the college initiatives and continuing programs for 2019.

This year, St Brigid's underwent a school review by the Catholic Schools Office. The review was a great affirmation of Catholic Life, teaching and learning and wellbeing at the college. It was also an excellent opportunity to identify opportunities for growth as a community.

Educating young people is exciting and challenging. The modern world requires schools to adjust to the complex and changing landscape to meet the current and future needs of our graduates. At St Brigid's College, we aim to form Catholic people of character who engage as active global citizens and use their strengths and talents to make their communities better places. Basic literacy and numeracy skills are essential to this, as are creative and critical thinking, collaborative and communicative adeptness. With this in mind, we are embarking on the following for 2019.

Literacy and Numeracy

MultiLit and QuickSmart

Our one-to-one programs for students with gaps in their literacy and numeracy will continue.

Literacy Strategies

We have engaged Jane Denny, Education Officer from the Catholic Schools Office to work with us on literacy strategies to enhance students' progress across all capabilities.

Maths Pathways

We are introducing an online program in Stage 4 Mathematics (Years 7 & 8) called Maths Pathways. This software has been written by Australian researchers and teachers to enable students' to understand their current mathematical ability and focus on growth. A diagnostic assessment is used to determine each student's learning needs and create individualised learning tasks in the different strands of mathematics. Students will be working at their own level and addressing their own individual learning needs. Teachers will still conduct workshops for assisting students in acquiring skills but will now have better data to help cluster students according to their capabilities.

There will be a parent information evening early in 2019 to explain the program and how parents can be part of their students learning in mathematics. This program will be available from Year 7 to Year 10 for these students. Unfortunately, our current Year 9 & 10 students are not able to be enrolled in the program (the company's restriction on use).

New Pedagogies for Deep Learning - Impacts for Mentor Conversations, Learning Design and Reporting

St Brigid's, along with several other schools in our diocese has joined a global network called NPDL (New Pedagogies for Deep Learning). As part of this network, we have access to many resources and tools which will further assist staff to embed the '6 C's' of 21st Century skills:

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Character
- Citizenship

Mentor conversations will now occur around two of the 6C's per year, starting with Collaboration and Character in 2019. In subsequent years, another two progressions will become the focus. Learning design by teachers will address all 6 C's where appropriate, however, we will only explicitly measure two at a time using learning progression rubrics.

Our *Student Learning Review* will now occur only at the end of each Semester and will focus on progression in the two focus areas as well as how students have lived out our college values of Compassion, Courage, Stewardship and Wisdom. *A to E grade reporting* will still occur at the end of each semester, but students will now have an *ePortfolio* where they will publish their best learning in consultation with their teachers.

Mentor coaches will host *Student-led Conferences* after reporting periods. Students will present their learning and achievements to their parents/carers across all areas of college life including contribution to the community. These conferences will take the place of traditional parent/teacher interviews however there will still be the opportunity to speak with subject tutor teachers at other times.

Mentor coach conversations during term time will become a critical component of this improvement and staff who are Mentor Coaches will have three and a quarter hours per fortnight to have individual conversations as part of their pastoral load (currently they have an allocation of two hours). The extra time will enable mentor coaches to further build on their positive relationships with students in their mentor groups.

I do hope you will be able to join us for the relevant parent evenings in early 2019 which will provide more detail than I've been able to articulate in this letter as well as practical tips.

Yours faithfully
Julie Terry