



WELCOME TO

**SHELLHARBOUR
ANGLICAN COLLEGE**

FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

Thank you for your interest in Shellharbour Anglican College.

We are now in our second decade of serving the Illawarra community. As we build on the foundations laid in those first ten years we are grateful to those people who had a vision for providing quality independent education that is financially accessible to the local region. Since opening our doors with 93 students in 2004 we have grown in so many ways.

We anticipate growing to a school of over 900 students, Prep to Year 12, in our second decade. That growth in student numbers has been matched by growth in teaching and support staff and we have been encouraged each year by the calibre of teachers who are attracted to serve the Shellharbour Anglican College community.

For those who have watched “the school on the hill” expand it has been obvious that a range of buildings have added much to the educational programs of the College. However the most significant growth occurs in the lives of the people who contribute daily to this vibrant community.

We aim to prepare our students to be successful, contributing members and leaders of this community

and communities they will serve in the future.

We seek to offer an education that will equip our students to accept responsibility, take initiative and show sensitivity to the needs of others. Our Christian faith foundation will be taught as the spiritual and moral basis of life and students will be encouraged to make informed and personal faith decisions.

The information that follows aims to help you understand our values, our community and the College structure and activities. However, they are just words on a page and we look forward to meeting you in person and sharing with you as you consider this very significant decision for your family.



Tony Cummings
Dip Teach, B Ed, M Ed Studies, MACE, MACEL



Faith • Wisdom • Compassion • Respect



OUR VALUES

Our values were not the outcome of a focus group established before the College opened. Staff, students and parents were asked to consider the values that were evident in our young community. Over a consultation period of twelve months we ultimately agreed that it is impossible to contemplate a world without:

Faith Wisdom Compassion Respect

They became part of our thinking, our speech and our actions as our first Year 12 were preparing to sit the Higher School Certificate. These values that underpin our diverse community are at times at odds with the world we live in, and that is a challenge in and of itself.

Our nation, our constitution, our laws, our democracy, our daily lives are shaped by the influence of faith. The scrutiny of history may not always treat that faith foundation well but it cannot be ignored.

To live in a world where wisdom is prevented from permeating our thoughts and our decisions is to contemplate a world incapable of progress, incapable of integrity, incapable of justice.

Without compassion we are quickly reduced to a world that revolves around ourselves. Without compassion we are quickly reduced to self interest that leaves us insular, self absorbed and ultimately lonely.

Respect permeates the work of leaders who have had an impact on the world in which they live.

So we remain, unashamedly, a College that values faith, wisdom, compassion and respect:

Faith as a foundation for this life and eternal life

Wisdom as a foundation for daily life

Compassion as a foundation for life in community

Respect as a foundation for relationships that matter for today and for the future.

THE MISSION EXPANDED

While our values are more publicly evident, it is also worth considering the mission statement that is foundational to our forward planning:

In Christ alone we are building a learning community, dedicated to excellence and equipping to serve.

In Christ alone points unashamedly to the Christian faith that is foundational to this community.

We are building a learning community emphasises the significance of seeking to develop a commitment to lifelong learning for both students and staff.

Dedicated to excellence is not simply about academic excellence. Our role as educators and parents is to understand our children and assist them to overcome weaknesses and develop strengths. Personal excellence is often more significant as we aim to draw out the best from the students in our care.

Equipping to serve reflects our commitment to developing young men and women who are able to think beyond themselves and serve their local and broader communities. This is evident in our pastoral care program and the activities of the College that encourage all members of the community to develop a servant heart.

OUR COMMUNITY

GOVERNANCE

The College is owned and operated by the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation. This body was established by the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney.

Local policy development is vested in the College Council which is appointed by the Corporation and is generally made up of members of the local community. Council members are drawn from different fields to enhance the capability of the Council in dealing with the present and the future of the College.

Daily management, including staffing, enrolments and educational programs, is the responsibility of the Head of College.

THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

We serve a diverse community in terms of geography and in terms of educational and faith backgrounds.

In any one year our students have been drawn from Nowra in the South through to Thirroul in the North and we are generally bound by the escarpment between those extremities. This indicates that our reputation fosters confidence beyond our local area.

Our desire to provide a comprehensive education brings families from diverse backgrounds to entrust their children to our care. While the majority of our Year 7 cohort is made up of students who have come

through the Junior School, a significant number of students also join us from a range of public sector and other independent schools.

Our approach to Christian Studies and Chapel reflects the range of faith backgrounds present in our student body, as well as the reality that the overwhelming majority of families have no current church connection. We appreciate the responsibility to be sensitive to that diversity while retaining our Christian faith foundation. All students take part in Christian Studies and Chapel and other activities are attended on a voluntary basis.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

This association was established in 2004 with the prime objective being “friends and funds raising.” Significant contributions have been made to the facilities of the College with funds raised through the annual voluntary levy and through a variety of activities throughout the year.

The P&F have purchased retractable seating and audio visual equipment for the Multi Purpose Hall, a bus, musical instruments, outdoor education equipment and have made a range of contributions to the curriculum programs of the College.

In addition this association contributes greatly to strengthening the community it serves through activities such as the Community Fair, barbeques at sporting carnivals and morning teas at a range of significant occasions within the life of the College.





OUR PREP

Prep offers a program designed especially for children in the year before Kindergarten. It includes a learning program of inquiry, play, directed teaching and exploration of the things that are important to a four year old. Also, girls and boys enrolling in Prep gain the necessary skills and knowledge to best prepare them for formal school. It features an outstanding learning space and a unique outdoor ‘jungle’ with vegetable gardens, mazes and climbing trees.

Prep class has a maximum of 20 and is open to children who turn 4 by March 1.

Our 3 day class and 2 day class enjoy the facilities of the College and include specialist teachers in addition to the Prep staff. The curriculum draws from the Early Years Learning Framework and the NSW Board of Studies Early Stage 1 syllabus, allowing the program to be purposefully designed.

Children enrolled into Prep are welcomed into a College community that connects them to the future. Progress to Kindergarten and then through to Senior School is one of the many advantages of starting in Prep. Before and After School Care is offered on site through Camp Australia for Prep to Year 6 girls and boys in the Junior School campus.

A DAY AT PREP

Our day at Prep begins with a Morning Meeting. This is an important time where we gather to discuss the day, reflect on prior learning and gain ideas for future projects and learning. Our children look forward to this important time each morning.

Our day then includes indoor and outdoor play, small and large group experiences, literacy and music. We value outdoor learning and our children spend time daily climbing the trees, tending to our gardens and worm farm and learning to love the environment. During indoor learning we spend time engaged in meaningful learning experiences and project work.

We view children as capable and competent learners and our programs aim to foster each child’s natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world and their place in it. Our children do not sleep at Prep but rather enjoy a short quiet time of relaxation and reading after lunch each day. Our days are varied and flexible, allowing our children to learn at their own pace and in many different ways.



OUR JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Junior School is a place where children can find their place in academic studies, creative activities, friendship, sport or community service. We aim to foster a respectful and caring environment in which students enjoy learning. Dedicated and professional staff plan for creative learning and growth in social development. There are opportunities to grow and learn beyond the classroom, combined with high standards expected of behaviour, uniform and effort in all endeavours. It's a wonderful place to learn, to play and to grow.

CURRICULUM

The learning programs are based on the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards Key Learning Areas and are enhanced by specialist staff in Italian, PE, Health and Music. Our library has a dedicated teacher and offers a dynamic place for children to explore literature and grow in their use of technology. Except for Kindergarten, classes are organised into Stages. A variety of strategies are used to allow for differentiated learning. Units of inquiry allow for valuable excursions, integration of technology and collaboration with classmates.

PASTORAL CARE

The class teacher is the primary carer for students in the Junior School. Children spend most of their learning and play time with their home class teacher, who works at getting to know each student and his or her specific needs, interests and concerns. Developing positive and

lasting social skills is one of the key parts of a strong pastoral care approach. Communication with parents and caregivers is vital for a collaborative approach to supporting children as they grow.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Chapel is held each week and allows the children to learn about relating to and enjoying God and our world. Assemblies celebrate achievements from the week and classes take turns to host. There are many opportunities for girls and boys in weekly and representative sport, music tuition and ensembles, drama and leadership. Each year classes travel to places beyond the school to learn about history, science, the natural world and people and their communities. Stage 3 take part in a three day camp that begins the outdoor education program of the College. Social action and fundraising for charities are a regular focus for House groups, Crusaders and Kids 4 Causes. All these opportunities allow the students to understand and express our values of faith, wisdom, compassion and respect.





OUR SENIOR SCHOOL

The Senior School marks the period in a student's life when they become young men and women equipped to take their place in their community beyond the safety of the school setting. It can be a challenging period of growth as our students develop their understanding of themselves and the world around them. Important relationships are developed and tested and much is learnt about how to relate with their peers, staff and parents. Their worldview will also be tested and in the context of a school that values faith, wisdom, compassion and respect, they will also be challenged about their understanding of God.

CURRICULUM

We are registered and accredited by the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) to deliver courses leading to the award of the Higher School Certificate. As students move from Year 7 to Year 12 they are given increasing choice that reflects the BOSTES curriculum. A range of compulsory subjects common to all schools in NSW are complemented by an increasingly broad range of electives. While our early years have seen small cohorts completing the HSC, we are now entering an era when those numbers will double and enable expansion. While the majority of our students seek university entrance, our subject offerings reflect the diversity of our demographic and include a range of practical and VET subjects. A "Bring Your Own Designated Device" (BYODD) program began in 2013 and has seen increased technology integration without compromising the reality that learning remains a process very dependent upon relationships within the classroom.

PASTORAL CARE

A strong vertical, House-based approach to pastoral care is adopted in the Senior School. As part of House groups students compete in swimming, cross country

and athletics as well as our annual House music festival and public speaking competition. The sense of House identity is an important aspect of the College pastoral care program and offers a range of opportunities to develop formal and informal leadership amongst the students. A House Tutor meets with a group of approximately 20 students from Years 7 to 12 each day for roll call and three times a week for a pastoral care period. Day book monitoring, preparation for House events and building community within the House and Tutor group are the focus for these meetings. The Head of House supports the Tutor in ensuring your child is known and supplements the care offered by teachers in subject specific classrooms.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students attend Chapel and assemblies in House groups and these are regular events for us to acknowledge the faith foundation of our College in the former and celebrate the achievements of our students in the latter. There are numerous opportunities for representation in sport as a team and as an individual. As a growing school we have enjoyed considerable representative success that reflects our community spirit and the support of families in encouraging their children to contribute. Houses are active in support of a range of charities and this reflects our whole school approach to encouraging our students to think beyond themselves. Learning through service is evident throughout the College and seen clearly in a variety of projects unique to the Senior School. Students are actively encouraged to take part in cocurricular activities which include debating, Duke of Edinburgh, Crusaders, photography, music ensembles, choir, visual arts, da Vinci Decathlon, drama, chess and science.



WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The enrolment process may be a new experience for some families but is designed to ensure that understanding is fostered during this significant stage of the relationship that will be foundational to your child's educational journey.

Generally enrolment interviews are conducted in the year prior to expected enrolment unless the circumstances require a more immediate admission process. The enrolment process includes the following steps:

1 THE APPLICATION

Submit the accompanying enrolment application along with the application fee. The application should be accompanied by:

- Two recent academic reports for Years 1 to 12 or any relevant information from current Prep or pre-school for enrolment in Prep and Kindergarten;
- Birth Certificate or Passport;
- Copies of NAPLAN or similar tests when appropriate;
- Immunisations record.
- Visa or proof of residence if not an Australian citizen.

2 THE INTERVIEW

Interviews will be arranged at the discretion of the Head of College on receipt of the application form(s), application fee and the information outlined. Waiting lists will be established when required. At the interview the following documentation may be helpful but not essential:

- Up to three references or documents attesting to behaviour, citizenship, leadership and dedication to studies;
- Up to five other acknowledgements of achievements including certificates.

3 THE OFFER

Offers of enrolment are generally but not always made at the completion of the interview, acceptance of which is to be confirmed within 14 days of the offer by the payment of the appropriate fees.

CONTACT DETAILS

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