29 March 2019

Dear Mentor

The Rite Journey - Mentoring

All Year 9 Students at St John’s Grammar are participating in The Rite Journey, a year-long experience offering students a contemporary rite of passage. The program has been created to complement the role of parents and carers in guiding their children into adulthood.

Our Rite Journey classes at St John’s follow a unique 7 step sequence throughout the year which combine to offer a contemporary rite of passage experience. One of these seven steps; the Following, involves working with a mentor for a period of time throughout the year – e.g: 1-2 hours per month. Rite Journey teachers take on the role of a mentor to their Rite Journey class but in addition to this, we encourage the students to surround themselves with a number of other positive adult role models that provide examples of great men and women. To this end you are invited to be a mentor, after discussion between the student and their family. They acknowledge your values and experiences and would like you to share these with them.

We know that learning how to be an adult in any society requires guidance, mentoring and a great many conversations. Adolescents are best supported during this journey by a broad and supportive community and a diverse range of experiences and conversations. Your role as mentor will centre on being there for them – being someone to talk to, learn from and form an ongoing relationship with. Possible activities you might undertake include: playing sport together, going out for lunch, making or constructing something, attending a match, concert or theatre performance – the list is endless and should be guided by your personal fields of expertise and the mentee’s interests. You may wish to extend the relationship beyond the year.

Most traditional cultures have a carefully crafted process to assist children with the journey from childhood into adulthood. In the absence of such an experience, adolescents have been known to develop their own practices, which often entail behaviours that can have less than positive outcomes. In our society today, young people often turn to their peers, the internet and the media to source their knowledge and guidance. During the Rite Journey, students will be required to have important conversations about what it is to be a respectful and responsible man or woman in our society.

To celebrate the important partnership that we hope you establish with your mentee this year, all mentors, along with families, will be invited to attend the ‘Taking Flight’ Year 9 Homecoming Ceremony in December that signifies the completion of their special journey this year and their time in our Middle School.

I trust that you and your mentee find the Rite Journey to be a positive, rewarding and transformative process and I wish to thank you for your potential involvement.

Yours sincerely

Carlee Mitchell
Leader of Student Wellbeing

Learning to Soar