



28th November, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

Year 9 Enrichment Program, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Year 9 students will be participating in a specialised Enrichment Program in 2019. The emphasis of the program is for the students to make connections with the real world and to enhance the depth of their learning. The program is designed with linked syllabus learning outcomes within the Religious Education and PDHPE courses. It is extending the programming of both Key Learning Areas without taking away from the intended curriculum. The program is NOT to be viewed as extra-curricular, diverting from the syllabus, but more an extension of syllabus related outcomes, taking the curriculum beyond the classroom. The program provides life experiences that will be remembered and influence the student's learning journey as they embark on their future studies and life after school.

Year 9 is widely acknowledged as a difficult period for students. Some may become disengaged and some may lack motivation towards their learning. Research indicates that traditional models of learning and teaching are not always successfully engaging all Year 9 students and meeting their learning needs.

Adolescents need time to explore their own emotions and sense of self. The aim of the Year 9 program is to allow them to become more self-aware as well as to prepare them to enter the adult world.

The major goals of the program are to promote:

- Further development of the Catholic perspective
- A sense of individuality and identity
- The development of values
- A sense of community
- A sense of self-esteem
- An awareness of civic responsibility
- Self-reliance
- Self-discipline

Aims of the program

When creating the specialised program, the staff at Xavier Catholic College constructed a list of overall aims to be achieved throughout the year.

These include a program which is;

- Exciting and innovative
- Includes a series of modules throughout the year
- Designed to cater for the social and emotional needs of students
- Gives students time and opportunity to explore their rights and responsibilities within society
- Relevant, challenging, values-based
- Appropriate to the specific developmental needs of adolescents.
- Emphasis on problem solving and higher order thinking skills
- Variety of methods catering to individual learning styles
- Based around Contemporary Learning Framework

Program Structure

The program will be held every Friday afternoon. Those involved in the off-campus courses will depart half way through lunchtime and return by 3:20pm. The students involved in the on-campus courses will attend these during Periods 5 and 6.

The students will be placed in smaller groups, a class size of around 20. All classes will complete a module each term by rotating through the four modules over the four terms. The four modules are outlined below.

Module	Overview	Module Goals	Length of Course
Module 1 Community care (Off campus)	This module requires students to embark on a community placement for a term. Students will attend the same placement every week and contribute to the community in a variety of ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> giving their time to community service exposure to various community groups such as hospitals, aged care facilities, and charitable organisations contributing to these in a variety of ways developing valuable skills that can be translated to workplace situations, broadening their outlook on their world, showing them aspects of their community they might not otherwise see. 	1 x Term (Approx. 20 lessons)
Module 2 Pastoral Care (On campus)	This unit of work addresses the current issues adolescents face every day. This module will embark on some gender specific classes where the boys and girls will be involved in different activities and information sessions to help support them and guide them through social and emotional changes and challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health and Wellbeing Bullying Relationships Resilience Social media Leadership Issues that face young people today Importance of being able to make their own decisions 	1 x Term (Approx. 20 lessons)
Module 3 Reflection and Spirituality (On campus)	The Reflection and Spirituality Module delves not only into the religious aspects of our College, but it will allow students to reflect on the spirituality of themselves. It focuses on the connection we have with ourselves, each other and the environment around us. There will also be some focus on Indigenous spirituality and our connection with The Bundjalung People.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module is designed to raise self-awareness To allow students to explore their values and their religious and ethical beliefs To discuss what it means to be an individual and how their belief systems develop To explore traditional and non-traditional religious beliefs and determine how these affect our community. 	1 x Term (Approx. 20 lessons)

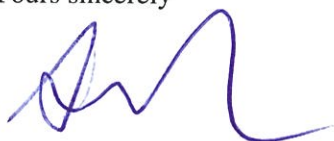
Module 4 Equipped For Life (Off campus)	This is an innovative leadership program conducted at Lake Ainsworth Recreation Centre. It is a program that explores student's strengths and develops many life skills. The program is based around Outdoor Educational Activities and is conducted by trained instructors. It is designed to challenge students in both personal achievement and leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develops skills through experiential learning activities ● Includes the importance of taking responsibility, setting goals and priorities ● Teamwork, cooperation and effective communication ● Equipped for Life uses games and activities, small group learning and discussion ● Outdoor activities to explore a range of personal leadership themes 	1 x Term (Approx. 20 lessons)
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Costing

Previously, Year 9 have attended a 3 day Outdoor Education camp which has cost approx. \$350. There will no longer be an Outdoor Education camp for Year 9. This program has been designed to take the place of the camp and to reduce the cost for families. There is a small cost involved to run this enrichment program. The program will cost \$200 per student for the entire year which equates to \$5 per week. These fees will be added to the school fees. The program is designed to use the resources we have available through the College. The fee will cover all costs associated with travel to off-campus sites, any extra materials that are required and for the use of the Lake Ainsworth Recreational facility.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the College.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Grimster
Year 9 Enrichment Program Coordinator