



11 February 2019

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

Welcome to 2019! Year 9 is a wonderful year in your child's growth and development, and I look forward to journeying with them and you. We will have many moments in which to engage in adventure and learning opportunities, some of which are outlined in this letter. It will also be a challenging year as your child learns to take on the greater responsibilities of Middle School.

My name is Emily Shea and I am the Year 9 PCG teacher. I also teach them for the following subjects: Health and Physical Education, and The Rite Journey. Your child has the following teachers –Mr de Klerk for Mathematics, Mrs Jessup for Science, Mr Allison for HaSS, English and The Rite Journey, Mr Modoh for Indonesian, Mrs Carter for Biblical Studies and Mrs Garside for The Arts. They will also participate in a range of electives and specialist learning areas.

Equipment

At the beginning of the year all students will receive the following equipment: a red and blue pen, a pencil, a ruler, glue, eraser, pencil case, a diary, and relevant subject exercise books and text books (we have a class set of scissors, glue and sharpeners). Please help ensure that your child comes to school every day with their equipment, as it is expected that Middle School students take on greater responsibility for their learning and for their belongings. If your child loses his/her stationary, please replace it as soon as possible.

Textbooks/Novels – Your child will be loaned textbooks and novels throughout the year. These are loaned out in their name and they must return their own textbooks and novels. Please ensure that your child keeps them in good condition.

iPads – Your child will be loaned an iPad that is to be used as a learning tool. Please review the iPad information booklet and return the agreement document.

Diaries

Students will have access to an electronic diary on their iPad. This will help develop their organisational skills. All teachers will expect students to bring their iPads to all classes and record their homework, assignments, and study requirements on them. Please encourage your child to refer to their electronic diary for required homework and assignment dates.

CANVAS

CANVAS is the NT Christian Schools online learning portal. Students have gradually been exposed to CANVAS in a range of subjects over the last year. CANVAS will be used again this year for classes and for submitting assignments. This online learning portal allows students to interact in a safe space, engage in online discussions, submit assignments easily, and to review or catch up on missed classwork at home.

Learning Together – Bringing Hope to the World

PH: 08 8932 3377

PO Box 113 Palmerston NT 0831

ABN: 65 060 686 305

Homework

Students will be given homework for completion after each English and Mathematics class. At times, they will also receive homework from other subject areas. Students are expected to complete their homework tasks each evening, and to revise what has been taught in class each day.

English – Homework may include worksheets, activities, assignment work, and reading.

Mathematics – Homework may include questions based on the content studied in class to consolidate learning, assignment work, and other activities.

At times, homework will be focused on preparing for a test or completing assignments.

If your child is unable to complete the homework by the due date, **please write a note to explain**, as incomplete homework is completed during their lunch in the Homework Recovery Centre.

Assignments

Every term students will receive a schedule of when all the assignments are due for the term. For every assignment, students will receive an outline sheet that has a due date on it, a description of what the task is and what is expected. Students receive set class time to work on their assignments and have access to their teachers during this time to answer their questions. Assignments will also have a marking rubric on them, which gives students an idea of the expectations required for the different grade levels (Well Above Standard, Above Standard, At Standard, Below Standard, Well Below Standard). Teachers will use these as a marking guideline.

Late Assignments – If your child cannot meet the deadline of an assignment, please contact the subject teacher by email or note at least two days before the due date. Students who fail to meet the assignment due dates will be required to attend Homework Recovery at lunchtime until the assignment is complete.

Homework Recovery – If your child has not brought a parent note identifying why they have not completed their assigned homework tasks, they will be required to attend this lunch time session. Homework Recovery is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Plagiarism Policy – Plagiarism is the act of taking and using another person's published or unpublished thoughts or ideas and claiming them as your own. Please refer to the Plagiarism Policy for more information.

Homework Centre

Is open on Weeks 2-11 every Wednesday from 3:15 - 4:00pm in the library. Students have access to a middle school teacher who is able to assist them with homework or assignments as needed. This is a free service, which students are encouraged to attend; this is not for social gathering.

Education Support

If your child is on an Education Adjustment Plan, the Middle School Education Support Team will assist them in their learning and skill development. Please contact Tasha Robertson and myself for more information tashaa.robertson@ntschoools.net.

Extension and Accelerated

Students that are working above the expected standard will be offered extension or accelerated learning opportunities in each subject.

Tournament of the Minds Regional Challenge Competition (year 7-9 only)

During Term 2 teachers will select 14 students who have excelled in two or more subject areas to take part in the Tournament of Minds regional challenge competition during Term 3. During this time students will work in teams of seven students across year levels to develop a creative response to a clearly defined problem in their chosen discipline, areas include Language Literature, Social Sciences and Science and Technology disciplines. Students extend their lateral thinking and problem-solving skills as they research the set topic and devise with a unique solution. They then

rehearse a creative presentation of their solution in preparation for the regional final tournament. They also will develop skills and strategies to respond to a 'spontaneous challenge', common across all challenge areas, which is revealed on tournament day and forms a significant percentage of the team's overall score.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child is in full uniform each day. Students should not be wearing any jewelry apart from a single pair of stud or sleeper earrings. Students should not wear make-up, however, may wear light foundation to cover blemishes. Make-up such as eyeliner and mascara is not permitted. The uniform policy specifies that students wear completely white socks and completely black shoes. Please send a note with your child when they are unable to be in full school uniform.

Behaviour Expectations

Students are expected and encouraged to develop intrinsic motivation towards learning and display appropriate actions towards themselves and others. The four expectations of the school are Respect, Responsibility, Maximising Learning and Service to Others. For further information on this as well as disciplinary actions for behaviour management and incomplete work, please refer to the PCS Student Behaviour Management Plan attached.

Guided Movie Viewing

As part of the Year 9 curriculum, students may watch film clips and films that are rated G and PG. Permission is required for viewing that is PG rated. If you have any concerns about this please contact me.

Marlow Lagoon Oval

On occasions such as for Physical Education activities, Sports Carnival and various subjects in class activities, students are required to go over to Marlow Lagoon and Oval. As this is not school owned land, parental permission is required. Students are only allowed access to the area if supervised by a teacher.

Assembly

Assemblies will be held in the hall on Mondays at 9:30-10:15am during the odd weeks of each term. Please refer to the Newsletter and Friday bulletin for assembly dates.

Service Project (Year 7-9 only)

This year we continuing our service program, which offer students the ability to participate in a variety of service projects within the school in order to build student capacity to care for each other and our school. Service areas include; primary buddy classes, gardening and art projects, administration duties, assisting in the PCS Early Learning Centre- Kingdom Kids and participating in the band.

The Rite Journey

Year Nine Students will participate in this highly acclaimed program, aimed at guiding students between their childhood and adult years. Students participate in one lesson a week based around The Rite Journey, and will be required to attend a number of events during the year as part of this program. A separate letter containing information about this program and dates for events will follow in the coming days. The Rite Journey also ties into our Larapinta experience in the middle of the year.

Service Project

This year we are continuing to participate in a variety of service projects within the school in order to build student capacity to care for each other and our school. This exciting addition to our holistic program was well received last year, and we look forward to seeing students continue to grow in service this year.

Camping

Batchelor – Year 7-10 students attend a 3-day camp to Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre from the 20th – 22nd February, where they are physically and mentally challenged through a vigorous program of activities. The unique design of this program gives both students and teachers the opportunity to strengthen relationships and build the school community.

Larapinta Trek

The pinnacle of our Middle School camping program is the Year 9 Larapinta Trek, which we have been running for over a decade. This highly anticipated event finds students spending 14 days together travelling from Palmerston to the Larapinta Trail, west of Alice Springs, and completing up to 100 kilometres of walking along numerous trails before returning home. This trip fosters the development of greater independence and resilience within a safe and supportive environment and undoubtedly provides an opportunity for students to experience God through nature as well as continuing the development of healthy relationships between students and with staff.

Larapinta dates this year will be the 9th-20th June 2019.

Available parents are invited to attend the camp as assistants and join in the experience.

Free Dress Days

Camps and casual clothes days (last day of each term) - Please ensure that your child wears sun safe shirts (must have a sleeve) and all shorts must be modest in appearance. To ensure your child's shorts are the correct length, ask your child to place their hands at their sides, if their shorts are above their fingertips they are too short and must not be worn at camps or casual days. Students will be asked to change their clothes to meet this requirement.

Mobile Phones

If your child brings a mobile phone to school they are expected to place it into the classroom lock box every morning, this will ensure that it is kept safe during the day. Student can then take their phones home in the afternoon. Phones that are not placed into the lock box will be confiscated and placed into the safe at the front office for parent collection.

Please feel free to contact me at school anytime, I would love to hear from you.

The best method of contact for me is via email and my address is emily.shea@ntschoools.net. If you contact the front office, they will take your name and send me an email to return your call.

Please fill in and return the form on the next page by Monday 4th of February.

Regards,

Emily Shea

Teacher contact details:

English & Humanities and Social Sciences – doug.allison@ntschoools.net

Mathematics – ben.deklerk@ntschoools.net

Science/STEM Projects – danielle.jessup@ntschoools.net and
heike.wentzel@ntschoools.net

PCG, Health and PE (HPE) - emily.shea@ntschoools.net

The Arts (Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts) – bev.garside@ntschoools.net

Biblical Studies – jill.carter@ntschoools.net

Indonesian – Dom Modoh dom.modoh@ntschoools.net

The Rite Journey – Emily Shea and Doug Allison

Specialist learning areas – Ana Abbott, Bev Garside, Emily Shea, Doug Allison, Ken McAllister ken.mcallister@ntschoools.net



Middle School Consent Form

Please circle

I do / I don't give my child permission to watch PG rated films as part of the school curriculum and last day of term activities. Student Name: _____

I do / I don't give my child permission to walk over to Marlow's Oval and Lagoon (supervised) for sports and other in class activities as required.

I _____ can be available as a parent volunteer on the Batchelor or Kakadu/Larapinta Camps (Circle). (An Ochre Card is needed in order to volunteer)

Yes No Contact number to discuss _____

Please initial the following statements

Parent/Guardian

Student

I have read the plagiarism policy

I have read the behaviour management guidelines

I understand the dress code for Camps and Casual day clothes

I have read the uniform policy

Optional- Parent Comments

Parent Name _____

Signature _____