

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Middle Years Update No. 1



Much planning is taking place in preparation for the opening of our Middle Years Campus in 2019. Through this year I will keep you informed of progress via these Middle Years Updates.

#### Stage One Progress

Contracts have been signed with the builders and works are commencing on the foundations and the connection of services to the Middle Years Campus.

We will be having a “turning of the soil” photo shoot in the next few weeks, so in the next update I will include photographs of progress made.

In the next bulletin, I will also include drawings of the floor plan for Stage One, which includes four general learning classrooms, a science classroom/lab, an arts/design learning space and various break-out spaces for independent and collaborative learning.

#### Application to offer the Middle Years Programme (MYP)

I am currently putting together all of the information required by the International Baccalaureate (IB), as part of our application to offer the Middle Years Programme (MYP). Similar to when we opened our Primary Campus, the IB require the College to supply them with information with regards to resources, leadership/governance, curriculum development, staffing, etc., that we will put in place to ensure that we meet their Standards and Practices. This submission is due late in Term Three and is beneficial as we finalise our preparations to ensure we have addressed all areas of operation.

#### Classes at the Middle Years Campus 2019

In recent months, I have had discussions with the Board, Crest Cabinet (made up of the Executive Principal, Business Manager, Heads of College and Head of Research and Innovation) and Rivercrest’s Pedagogical Leadership Team, with regards to only have one year level (2 classes) at the Middle Years site in 2019.

At Rivercrest one area we deem important in educating the whole child, is that of social and emotional growth. This can include:

- Developing resilience
- Building friendships
- Being collaborative when solving problems
- Contributing to group situations
- Learning to give feedback
- Developing team work skills
- Learning to negotiate and so on...

At school, much of this growth takes place at recess and lunch, as students interact with each other. Having just one year level on such a large campus, limits the ability for this to naturally occur effectively.

Therefore, for 2019, a decision has been made that both Year 6 (which will be known as MYP 1) and Year 4 (our current Year 3 cohort), will both be located at the Middle Years Campus. This will only be for 2019. From 2020 the College will have both MYP 1 and 2 (Year 6 and 7) classes on site, so the above arrangement will just be for next year.

Students in Year 4 will still access all specialist programmes and staff at the Primary Campus and will still participate in Primary Assemblies, Chapel and significant events (such as the Book Parade).

As part of the process of deciding which year level could join Year 6 at the Middle Years Campus, I had Mrs Naude, our Registrar, investigate our sibling groupings and we determined that Year 6 and Year 4 (2019), had the largest combination of siblings. We felt this would assist families with drop-off/pick-up. We were also hesitant to relocate Year 5 for next year, as many take a student leader role in their final year, and all students participate in The Exhibition, requiring them to have access not only to resources and programmes, but to Primary staff, who will act as their mentor.

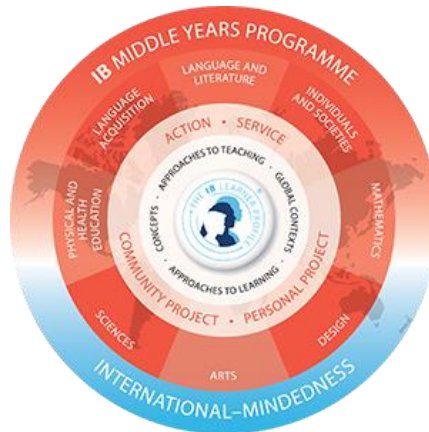
Later this year, I will provide our Year 4, 2019 families with specific information on how students will be involved in activities at the Primary Campus.

### **Upcoming Information Evening**

Next Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm, I will be holding an information evening for current/enrolled Rivercrest families to share current information about the Middle Years in greater detail. The session will cover:

- Campus layout
- Stage One facilities
- Middle Years Curriculum and its link to the PYP
- Staffing
- Timeline to opening in 2019

All Rivercrest families are welcome to attend. This will be held in the Fellowship Building.



The following evening, Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, I will be holding an information evening of the Middle Years for any interested/prospective families who are wanting to find out information specifically about what we plan to offer for students in Years 6 – 10 at Rivercrest. We have had significant interest in Year 7 for 2020 and are currently interviewing families with the view to opening a third stream at Year 7, should we have numbers to warrant an additional class, and students match our criteria. If you know of families interested in Middle Years, please encourage them to come along.

# Rivercrest

## Middle Years

### Information Night

#### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May

#### from 7:00pm

Learn about the Rivercrest new Middle Years (Years 6-10) with Dr Michelle Cafini, Head of College.

RIVERCREST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
 GATE 5, 500 SOLDIERS ROAD  
 CLYDE NORTH  
 T: 03 9703 9777  
 W: rivercrest.vic.edu.au




The next Middle Years Update will be released Week 6 this term. Please continue to pray for our College, as we undertake this next exciting step in our development.

Warm regards,

*Michelle Cafini*  
**Dr Michelle Cafini**  
 Head of College