

17 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### WELCOME TO 2023!

On behalf of the staff Burdekin Christian College I am delighted to welcome you to our College for 2023 and thank you for trusting us with your child/ren's education. It plans to be an amazing year with exciting developments across nearly every area of the curriculum. You will also notice some differences when you return to our campus with the completion of the Prep Centre. Due to flooding in Charleville our new Prep Playground will now be added on 31 January 2023 – until this time our Preppies will have exclusive access to the mini-oval and sandpit. Our Science Laboratories , STEM Centre and Classrooms for Senior School plan to be completed by the end of Term 1. With our extra classes it will be a little bit of a tight fit until then but well worth the wait! We are also proud to again offer small class sizes and experienced Christian staff to maximize student learning and spiritual engagement.

Our theme for 2023 is **"Build & Grow"**. We are not referring to the literal building at our College but our theme instead has a figurative meaning, namely:

- Building staff capacity to support your child/ren;
- Creating a strong foundation for your child/ren in literacy and numeracy;
- Developing spiritual growth of all those who attend the College;
- Creating a growth mindset within your children to grow their confidence;
- Building positive relationships with the Burdekin community.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."

#### **2 Corinthians 5:1**

"For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

#### **Luke 8:14-15**

"The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

We pray that your child/ren will grow and develop amongst our nurturing environment in 2023!

Please find some helpful information included with this letter to assist you with the start of the school year.

## BCC Motto

The College motto is Care:

- Courtesy
- Attitude
- Resilience
- Excellence

*Wisdom and discipline for tomorrow's leaders.*

We endeavour to develop and instill essential life skills with a Christian focus into all students at the College.

## BCC Mission Statement

The Burdekin Christian College exists to equip and educate children from a Christian Worldview to become people who will positively influence their families, communities and nations in a Christ-like way.

## BCC Values

Burdekin Christian College is committed to:

- Creating a community where teachers and parents are partners in teaching and learning.
- Challenging families to make Jesus Christ the Lord of the family and the home.
- Supporting families as they train their children in God's ways and God's truth.
- Establishing an environment characterised by Christian virtues such as love, faith, honesty, humility, consideration, obedience, service, stewardship, industry, loyalty and courage.
- Basing our teaching on God's Word, the Bible.
- Helping our children to acquire a life-long love for learning, and to develop and understand their God-given talents and gifts.
- Developing and celebrating each child's creative and critical abilities.
- Educating the whole child for living in the world and for eternity.
- Fostering and celebrating the development of gifts, skills and abilities of the learner for service to Christ and the community.
- Focusing on cooperation as the most effective strategy for building community.
- Encouraging students to perform to the best of their ability in every aspect of their endeavours.

## BCC Term Dates 2023

Term	Dates	Length
Term 1	Monday 23 January – Friday 31 March	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 17 April - Friday 16 June	9 weeks
Term 3	Tuesday 11 July - Friday 15 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 3 October - Friday 1 December	9 weeks

## Student Free Days:

Monday, 16 January 2023 (New Staff only)  
Tuesday, 17 January 2023 – Friday, 20 January 2023 (All Staff)  
Monday, 10 July 2023  
Friday, 1 September 2023  
Monday, 4 December 2023 & Tuesday, 5 December 2023

## Year 10, 11 & 12 Finishing Dates 2023

Year 10 & 11 - Friday 24 November  
Year 12 - Friday 17 November

## Junior Class Rooms

Prep V – Fleur Vigerzi & Luisa Grasso – The Prep Centre  
Prep B – Valerie Baptista & Ronda Downs – A9  
Year 1 – Alex Sutch – A6  
Year 1/2 – Annette Horn – A5  
Year 2 – Tegan Hutchesson – A4  
Year 3 – Mark Robinson – A3  
Year 4 – Sam Bardsley – A2  
Year 5A – Catania Musumeci – A1  
Year 5B – Chris Eadie/Sarah Furlong – C1  
Year 6 – Lucy Vardanego/Nicole Eadie – E2

## Senior Care Teachers and Rooms

Year 7A – Meg Beavan – C3  
Year 7B – Amber Melhuish – C5  
Year 8 – Karen Wilson – G2  
Year 9A – Brett Jensen – C2  
Year 9B – Olivia Fryer – D2  
Year 10 – Joel Keenan (Monday – Thursday)/Chris Eadie (Friday) – G1\*\*\*  
Year 11 – Megan Diamond – E4  
Year 12 – Darren Meinicke – E3

\*\*\* Subject to change

## School Representatives 2023

### Senior School

School Captain – Emily Holmes

Cultural Captain – George McKenzie

House Captains – Leanne Paterson, Anna Bowen, George McKenzie

School Prefects – Reanna Wirth-McIntosh, Valanda Christofides

### Junior School

Junior School Captains – Ebony-May Moul, Tayler Venter

Junior School Vice Captains – Tyla Cole, Elora Keating

Cultural Captain – Sophie Leamon

House Captains – Emily Leek and Chris Capper

## College Hours

**Office Hours** – 8.00 am – 4.00 pm.

**Office Hours (Holiday Periods)** – 9.00 am – 3.00 pm. The Office closes over the Christmas Week and the New Year Week.

## Uniforms

Uniforms may be purchased at our College Office. We have included the Uniform Policy at the end of this letter. If your child/ren are unable to wear full College uniform due to circumstances between your control please provide them with a note to bring to the Office. The Office is able to issue them with a Uniform Pass they can carry with them during the day. All students are expected to have a formal and sports uniform for 2023 to attend special events, excursions, assembly etc. All students should wear their formal uniform on Friday at the College aka "Formal Fridays".

## Staff News

We welcome some new faces on to our staff in 2023. Please find attached a list of new staff profiles with this letter. We know you will make them feel welcome at the College when you see them. We are expecting further new staff to join us over the year due to the growth in our enrolments.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please be aware the Subject Teachers may change due to the amount of enrolments we have been receiving over the holiday period.**

## Teacher Meet and Greet

Parents/carers and their children are welcome to visit on Thursday, 19 January 2023, from 2.30 pm to 3.00 pm to meet their class teachers or Senior School Teachers. This will not be a parent information session so any specific queries should be addressed through a parent/teacher meeting or at the upcoming parent information evening. There will be a free sausage sizzle and tea/coffee available in the Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Community Information

**Parent Information Evening, Laptop Evening & Overseas Trip Session**– Tuesday 31 January, 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm

**Parent Teacher Meetings** – Wednesday, 3 May, 3.30 pm -7.30 pm & Wednesday, 6 September 3.30 pm – 7.30 pm

**Senior School Subject Selection Evening & Careers Night** - Wednesday, 31 May, 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm

## Academic Advice

Remember parental involvement plays a critical role in our school's success. Ways to support and increase your child's academic success include:

- Make attendance a *PRIORITY* including limiting tardiness and absences;
- Communicate often with your child's teacher;
- In the younger years read with your child at least 20 minutes a day;
- Limit television and social media, encourage other activities;
- Review the school day with your child.

## Homework

We also remind parents and carers of students in the Senior School that students are expected to undertake 3 hours homework each weeknight, particularly those undertaking an ATAR pathway. Homework includes study, revision and assignments. Junior School students will receive homework at the beginning of the week to be collected on Friday. There is a Homework Club on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the library where students can receive extra assistance if required. Please complete the permission form available at the Office if you would like your child to attend.

## Teacher/Subject Offerings

Attached is another copy of Teacher/Subject offerings for 2023. (***Please note teacher/subject allocation may change due to operational needs***). We are excited by the variety and scope of subjects on offer in our College.

## Academies

Our academies for Years 5 & 6 and 7 & 8 are:

- **STEM Academy** – focusing on technology, robotics, coding and engineering.
- **Arts Academy** – focusing on dance, music and drama.
- **Sports Academy** – focusing on ball skills, athletics and fitness.

## Clubs

We have a wide variety of co-curricular across the College in 2023 so please encourage your child/ren to join in these activities. In Senior School it expected to join one co-curricular club/activity for the year. We also offer a wide range of instrumental lessons, worship team, homework club and dance lessons (years 1-4). Please find further information on these offerings attached.

## College Learning Times

Please note there has been a change to our College break times this year for Junior School. This is to ensure the students can access the oval, mini-oval, sandpit and handball courts for their big break and to maximize key learning time in the morning. All Junior School students are asked to pack munch & crunch for a mid-morning brain break. Any student arriving late to school must stop at the Office to collect a late slip.

## Senior School Bell Times

Students are asked to commence moving to class 5 minutes before the bell. Students should gather items from their lockers, have a drink and go to the toilet.

Activity	College Times
Care Class	8.30 am – 8.45 am
Period 1	8.45 am – 9.45 am
Period 2	9.45 am – 10.45 am
First Break	10.45 am – 11.30 am
Period 3	11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Period 4	12.30 pm – 1.30 pm
Second Break	1.30 pm – 2.00 pm
Period 5	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

- \* Academies 7/8 – Tuesdays
- \* Care Class – 2.00 pm to 2.30 pm Fridays
- \* Chapel & Assembly – 2.30 pm to 3.00 pm Fridays
- \* Middle School Sports – Thursdays from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
- \* TAFE students are absent every Tuesday. TAFE commences 30 January 2023.

## Junior School Break Times

Students are asked to commence moving to class 5 minutes before the bell. Students should have a drink and go to the toilet. Be mindful of handwashing.

Activity	College Times
Session 1	8.30 am – 10.00 am
Munch & Crunch	10.00 am – 10.10 am
Session 1 (cont'd)	10.10 am – 11.30 am
First Break	11.30 am – 12.10 am
Session 2	12.10 am – 1.35 pm
Second Break	1.35 pm – 2.00 pm
Session 3	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

- \* Academies 5/6 – Tuesdays
- \* Chapel – 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm Tuesdays fortnightly (P-2 alternately with 3-6)
- \* Assembly – 8.40 am to 9.00 am Fridays
- \* Interschool Sports 5/6 – Fridays from 12.45 pm

## **Communication**

As well as traditional letters, emails, SMS notifications and Facebook posts, the College also utilizes the School Stream App. Please find instructions on how to download this app onto your phone with this letter. We also recommend you like our Facebook page to assist with the facilitation of communication especially in the case of a weather emergency where access to the College may be blocked.

Parents/carers are welcome to make an appointment to see their classroom or subject teacher at any time. If a matter is minor then parents are encouraged to contact the teacher in the first instance to deal with the matter. Formal events for reporting to parents include:

- Parent Information Evening
- Parent/Teacher Interviews (twice a year)
- Careers and Subject Selection Evening
- Formal Written Reports (twice a year)

## **Book Lists**

Book lists have been previously distributed but are again attached to this correspondence. All resources except for lunch boxes and school bags are provided for our Primary cohort. Senior School text books are provided by the College on a loan system.

## **Bus**

Parents and carers may book our College bus services via the Office. Other bus routes such as to Giru are available via Trans North Bus Service – please contact Trans North directly should you need to organise bus pick up.

## **Tuckshop**

Tuckshop is available three times a week. Tuckshop may be ordered before school via paperbag with order written on the front and money enclosed (at the tuckshop or in the baskets provided in front of the Office) or via School Stream. Tuckshop days are Monday (pop up tuckshop) and full menus on Tuesday and Friday.

## **Devotions**

Staff are expected to attend devotions held in E2 each Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8.00 am to 8.15 am. Parents needing to see a teacher on these mornings should be aware teachers will not be able available at these times.

## **Church Services**

Burdekin Community Church services are held each Sunday from 9.00 am to 11.00 am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

## **Detention Room Process (Senior School)**

Sending students to the lunchtime detention room is only for persistent and serious offences. Teachers may still keep students in class for shorter periods of time (i.e. to finish off work) without utilizing the detention room.

If a student does not arrive for their allocated detention they are given 2 detentions. A teacher giving a formal detention to a student is expected to contact the parent/guardian by either email or phone so they are aware there is an issue.

### Assemblies and Chapel

Parents are welcome to attend Senior or Junior School Assembly and are encouraged to attend our special assemblies which include ANZAC Day, Student Leader Inductions and Sporting Presentations.

Senior Assembly and Chapel – Friday 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm (**Pastor Peter Holmes**)

Junior Assembly – Friday 8.40 am – 9.00 am (**Chris Eadie**)

Junior Chapel – Tuesday 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm (fortnightly rotation P-2 or 3-6) (**Pastor Gerry MacManus**).

Commencing Tuesday, 24 January with P-2.

### Camps, Work Experience and Excursions 2023

Middle School Camp	7	21-24 February 2023 (Echo Creek)
Middle School Camp	8-9	Dates TBA (Cairns)
Senior School Camp	10 -12	Dates TBA (Singapore/Vietnam)
Senior School Retreat	12	13-14 September 2023 (Bowen)
Junior School Camp	5-6	30 August 2023 – 1 September 2023 (Magnetic Island)
Year 10 Work Experience		Last week of Term 3

### Smoke Free Buildings

No smoking is permitted on College Campus at any time by families, staff or students.

### Mobile Phones

No student is to use a mobile phone on campus between 8.30 am and 3.00 pm. Any urgent concerns should be directed to the Office by the student.

### Interschool Sport

Junior School – Friday afternoons

Senior School – After school – times set by District Committee

Years 7-9 have the opportunity to participate in sport in on Thursday afternoons in preparation for team sports.

### First Week Back commencing Monday, 23 January 2023

On the first school day of 2023 please note:

- There will be a stall set up in the forecourt in front of the Office staffed by Student Leaders. These leaders will assist new students find their correct rooms (Class or Care).
- New parents are welcome to join the Principal for coffee and biscuits from 8.45 am in the Library.
- Students in the Senior School are expected to wear full formal uniform on the first day.
- Year 7 students are invited to lunch with the Principal in the Hall during first break on Monday, 23 January 2023.
- A sausage sizzle will be held at lunch time to welcome all students to our BCC family on Tuesday, 24 January 2023.



- Senior School students will be allocated their lockers, diaries and timetables in Care Class.
- During your first Care Class sessions teachers will pray, explain any new processes.
- Textbooks will be distributed during Period 1 for Senior School students.
- Buddies will be provided for Prep students and Year 7 students and all new students.
- There is NO POP UP tuckshop on Monday, 23 January 2023.

Once again we can't wait to welcome you to 2023! Let's make it another outstanding year in the history of Burdekin Christian College.

Blessings



Debra Creed  
Principal

## New Staff 2023

### Alexander Sutch – Year 1



My name is Ms Sutch and I am very excited to be starting as a Year 1 teacher at Burdekin Christian College. I am from New South Wales and have been teaching for over 10 years. I just spent 7 years teaching at the International School Suva in Fiji, so I am used to the hot weather, and am looking forward to settling in Ayr with my two sons. I am looking forward to meeting my new students and their families. I think we will have a fun and successful 2023 in Year 1.

### Tegan Hutchesson – Year 2



I am excited to join the Burdekin Christian College team for 2023 having relocated from Brisbane with my husband, son and small menagerie of animals. My recent hobbies have involved improving my skills as a professional snack maker, developing a tolerance for watching movies on repeat and creating encyclopaedic knowledge of the lyrics and dance moves for every song by 'The Wiggles'. I remain optimistic of one day rediscovering my former hobbies such as netball, dog training and quietly enjoying a good book; however, I am resigned to embracing my ongoing role as Mum's Taxi/Chef. I look forward to meeting all the wonderful children and families in the BCC community and sharing in the adventure that is 2023.

### Catania Musumeci – Year 5A



Hello and welcome to the schooling year for 2023. My name is Catania Musumeci, and I am about to begin my journey as a first-year teacher at Burdekin Christian College. I have lived in the Burdekin my whole life and enjoy all aspects of living here, especially being a part of a family like community. I am a kind and caring person who aims to make learning positive, fun, and enjoyable to highly support student success and allow all students to grow into confident individuals. I am very excited for the upcoming school year and cannot wait to be a member of the Burdekin Christian College.

### Sarah Furlong – Year 5B



Hi, my name is Sarah Furlong. I grew up in Brandon and spent most of my childhood at Groper Creek. I love fishing, adventuring and spending time with family and friends. I am a kind person with a big heart and I cannot wait to watch my students grow and flourish. You may have seen my face around the school at the end of 2022. I'm beyond grateful to commence my teaching journey with Burdekin Christian College.

**Lucy Vandagena – Year 6**



My name is Lucy Vardanega and I am excited to be joining the BCC family. I began my teaching career in 2007 at Canossa Primary School in Ingham where I taught grades 5-7 and P-3. I later moved onto Our Lady of Lourdes and taught for a further 3 years. In 2011 I opened Bella Dance Studio and successfully operated the business for 11 years before moving to the Burdekin and selling my studio. During my time as studio owner, I continued to do supply work at school as well as teach dance from P-6 as part of the arts curriculum. I have a supportive husband and 2 children, Bella and Grace. I look forward to working with everyone at Burdekin Christian College as we build and grow together in 2023.

**Olivia Fryer – Chemistry, Maths & Science**



Hi! My name is Olivia Fryer and I'm from Manchester in England. I completed my teacher training at Oxford University and will be teaching Science and Maths at BCC. I'm new to Australia and Ayr and I am very excited to meet everyone!