

Mentoring with The Rite Journey Program 2024: Could you be a mentor to a Year 9 student this year?

You may be familiar with the saying 'It takes a village to raise a child'. As part of our Rite Journey program, we encourage our students to recognise the influence that older people can have in enriching experiences and offering guidance. Our school is sustained by a healthy community of adults from whom students might learn and grow alongside.

Stable mentoring relationships can help children grow in the six 'C's' underpinning The Rite Journey: confidence, courage, commitment, consideration, courtesy, and compassion. A key aspect of the Rite Journey is its mentoring program. Students need to meet with a mentor regularly to share interests and work on a learning project together. While some students readily find a mentor within social networks, other students may benefit from being paired with a mentor from within the parent community of LCS.

Mentoring is a rewarding activity. Sowing into a young person and helping them to grow and thrive by being an encouraging, optimistic, and helpful adult in their life is a great gift to a young person. Seeing a young person's development over time and knowing that they have played a small role in a student's transition to adulthood are things many mentors say that they value long after the Year 9 mentoring program is completed.

Mentors and mentees are expected to spend a minimum of 15 hours together over Terms 2 and 3 on a project. This project could be a practical project with an end point, such as building an engine, learning to play a piece of music, sewing a quilt, learning to rollerblade smoothly for a kilometre. It could also be an investigative project, such as visiting and reviewing coffee shops, testing and comparing bike trails, trialling and perfecting nail painting techniques, or growing plants in different conditions. Mentors can learn along with mentees or share a special interest. We expect students to have a product to share at the beginning of Term 4 to record their learning journey.

Mentors are also invited to the Departure and Homecoming TRJ ceremonies, where students are affirmed and supported by their families, teachers, peers, and mentors.

Mentors are encouraged to regularly meet with students to catch up and check in. Here are some things a mentor might choose to do during these catch up times:

- Recount recent experiences.
- Debrief and share personal challenges.
- Discuss things that are important to the student.
- Do an activity you both enjoy.
- Set healthy personal goals.
- Pray together.
- Watch/read/listen to something and discuss it.
- Share/engage with Bible passages.

In the interest of student and mentor safety, there are a few requirements and guidelines to which mentors need to adhere. Mentors need to possess a current Working With Vulnerable People card, which needs to be held on record by the school. There is also a 10 minute online guidance and training video for mentors to view (or read the transcript) and acknowledge that they have received this information.

If mentoring sounds like something you would like to be involved in, please use the Parent Lounge to indicate that you are willing to be contacted about being a mentor to a Year 9 student in 2024.