

# WILLIAM CLARKE AN EXTRAORDINARY LEARNER





WILLIAM CLARKE COLLEGE  
IS A **CHRIST-CENTRED**  
**COMMUNITY** THAT SEEKS TO  
DEVELOP **EXTRAORDINARY**  
LEARNERS WITH A **PASSION**  
TO SERVE OTHERS





# CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

*“We believe the Strategic Plan captures the essence of William Clarke College – ‘A Christ-centred community that seeks to develop extraordinary learners with a passion to serve others’.”*

As we approach the 30th anniversary of William Clarke College, it gives me pleasure to present the Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2021.

The College Council together with the Executive and other members of staff have developed this Strategic Plan – the most detailed and ‘back to basics’ the College has entertained for years. In ensuring that we remain true to the initial vision of our founding forebears, we believe the Strategic Plan captures the essence of William Clarke College – ‘A Christ-centred community that seeks to develop extraordinary learners with a passion to serve others’. The College is and will remain Christ-centred – the College motto ‘Christ our Wisdom’ is central to all we do. That is what we are; developing extraordinary learners is what we do; and with a passion to serve is why we do it.

We want to be Authentic – committed to the pursuit of genuinely exceptional outcomes in response to ‘Christ our Wisdom’.

The College needs to be Transformative – developing extraordinary learners with the skillset to ingeniously use what they have learnt.

We want to be Relational – building trusting relationships, character and a passion to serve others.

We must also be Sustainable – acting wisely to maintain and to resource excellence in every area.

I believe the Strategic Plan recaptures the original vision and shows the direction that the College will pursue in the years to come. As you read it, I commend it to you and encourage you to join with us as the William Clarke College community in ensuring the College is a place of positive learning where students and staff have a growing relationship with Christ.

Regards,



**Mr Philip Bell**  
Chairman

# HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS

*“As Headmaster, I am confident that we have the staff and shared sense of purpose to provide a compelling and exciting future for your child.”*

What should be the focus of a school's strategic plan? How do schools in partnership with parents prepare young people to thrive in an increasingly complex, globalised world? A world that is characterised by change, technological innovation and in great need of virtuous leaders who possess robust thinking, moral courage and vision.

Indeed, as a society we need citizens who can not only think deeply and ingeniously about issues, but act with integrity, seek justice and selflessly use their gifts and talents to serve the needs of others. We need citizens who, with gentle humility, have a steadfast and deep sense of hope for their future.

These ideas have occupied much of our thinking over recent months and inspired our passion to build 'A Christ-centred community that seeks to develop extraordinary learners with a passion to serve others'.

This is our purpose.

I invite you to read what is contained within this document in light of this purpose statement. This purpose seeks to remain true to our foundations – 'Christ our Wisdom'. The statement is intrinsically based upon the belief that Christ is the key to unlocking wisdom that gives us all deep understanding and life purpose. In identifying 'community' in the statement, this Strategic Plan intentionally prioritises the important relationship between home, school and other community members in developing extraordinary learners with a passion to serve others.

As Headmaster, I am confident that we have the staff and shared sense of purpose to provide a compelling and exciting future for your child. Please read on to capture a glimpse of this vision and the role you may play in bringing our purpose statement to life.

God Bless,



**Dr Scott Marsh**  
Headmaster



# OUR PURPOSE



## A CHRIST-CENTRED COMMUNITY

We are created as social, community-seeking beings by a relational God. God has called us to live Christ-centred lives individually and to be part of a Christ-centred community together. The foundation for a Christ-centred community is love of others in the community. Christ said that love which seeks the good of others is the hallmark of Christ-centred living: *"This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other."* (John 13:35)

We believe a Christ-centred community offers hope that humanity is not alone in the cosmos, facilitates and strengthens faith in Christ, provides incentive for each individual to be an extraordinary learner, and enables passionate service. We seek to draw all people into an enduring, life-giving faith in Christ in a safe and supportive environment in which reflection and discussion are expected. We purposefully integrate a thoughtful and reflective Bible-based perspective in all aspects of College life.

We acknowledge varying degrees of commitment to Christ and provide opportunity for all members of our community to consider Christ's claims. We endeavour to engage those who are skeptical, to encourage those who are seeking, and to equip those with a desire to shape their life around Christ. Both in the classroom and beyond, with intellectual rigour and relational integrity, we challenge existing narratives in order to highlight the good news that Christ's finished work on the cross and resurrection fulfil the deepest human need for acceptance into and belonging to a community. We foster virtues of courage, hope, humility, ingenuity, integrity, and justice as a response to that good news.

## DEVELOPING EXTRAORDINARY LEARNERS

Extraordinary learners make progress. They develop a character that pursues feedback, sees mistakes as pathways and embraces the hard work required to learn deeply. Fundamental skills in English literacy, numeracy and technology complement capacities to communicate, collaborate and critically analyse. To demonstrate rich understanding, extraordinary learners participate in an ongoing process to refine and remodel products of their learning. These products are works of excellence; a service that extraordinary learners offer as a contribution to their community.

As a College, we are exceptional in the art and science of teaching. Therefore, we methodically invest in empowering teachers with pedagogies that cause substantial shifts in student learning. We have high expectations for teachers to generate forward momentum with student progress.

The College culture is one of collective and individual care. We explicitly teach the development of character and support students to push beyond perceived boundaries. We have high expectations for student behaviour for learning and for the community.

Our learning spaces are flexible and partner with a curriculum that promotes success beyond success at school. We prepare students to confidently navigate pathways such as NAPLAN and the HSC. Concurrently, students are engaged in collaborative projects where the learning outcomes are enjoyed by a broad audience.

We will teach the wisdom of Christ. Knowledge of Jesus' work provides the foundation for day-to-day living and the channel for how learners can be extraordinary.

## WITH A PASSION TO SERVE OTHERS

In response to God's grace and the example of Christ, we are a community that values and demonstrates service to others. We do not live in isolation. This compels us to be passionate about service that benefits community and relationships. The College virtues are lived out when we seek opportunities to serve others.

With our foundation in Christ, we are a servant-hearted community that seeks to know and respond appropriately to the needs of others. We do this by using our strengths and gifts with wisdom, building relationships and a sense of community, and role-modelling service with passion and generosity.

We reinforce a community culture that values wellbeing and meeting the needs of others at both a local and global level. Service is embedded in our wellbeing program, various charitable fundraising initiatives, and as a component of other College events such as camps and tours. We build parent and community relationships through acts of service.

*"We will teach the wisdom of Christ. Knowledge of Jesus' work provides the foundation for day-to-day living and the channel for how learners can be extraordinary."*

# STATEMENT OF CHARACTER

*“As a Christ-centred community, we seek to develop character that ultimately brings honour to God.”*

Although much is changing in our world, the idea of building good character continues as a steadfast ideal that attracts great attention in many societies around the globe. Taken from the Greek word ‘charassein’, literally meaning to ‘engrave’, writers have proposed that character can be understood as ‘someone’s distinctive mark or sign’, that is perhaps most authentically revealed when ‘no one is watching’.

Often linked with ideas such as strength and morality, the pursuit of good character is described as a lifelong process that is continually forged through hardship, perseverance and when we each confront areas of personal weakness. We wish to work with parents to ensure that this process is actively supported through establishing a community-wide language for character.

Central to this language are our six College virtues – courage, hope, humility, ingenuity, integrity and justice. Through explicitly teaching these good character qualities, we wish to equip young people with the foundational qualities that will see them thrive, serving God as leaders in their communities.





**OUR  
VIRTUES**

**COURAGE**  
**HOPE**  
**HUMILITY**  
**INGENUITY**  
**INTEGRITY**  
**JUSTICE**





*“A Christ-centred  
community values **who** you  
are over **what** you do.”*

Our society is obsessed with the question, 'What are you going to become?' Lawyer, Doctor, Teacher, Policeman, Nurse etc. These are all great professions. However, if we pause to consider what is actually important to us as families and individually, we are compelled to ask the much richer and significant question, 'Who are you going to become?'

We are committed to developing young men and women of good character. Through explicitly teaching six virtues, we wish to work with parents to engage and support young people to develop a deeper understanding of who they will become and importantly, the person God has created them to be.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

## 1.

### AUTHENTIC

*Commit to the pursuit of genuinely exceptional outcomes in response to Christ our Wisdom*

Collectively establish a shared understanding of the College purpose statement and virtues

–

Identify the most appropriate structures, spaces and practices for maximising the impact of the College purpose statement and virtues

–

Develop new ways for the Christian Development program to effectively engage, encourage and equip students to live a Christ-centred life both now and into the future

–

Purposefully integrate a thoughtful and reflective Bible-based perspective into all of College life

–

Establish a culture of excellence where an ethic of high expectations characterises all of College life



## 2.

### TRANSFORMATIONAL

*Develop extraordinary learners with the skillset to use ingeniously what they have learnt*

Establish a College-wide teaching and learning framework that extends the academic potential of each student and develops extraordinary learners with the skills to thrive both now and into the future

–

Advance academic outcomes for extraordinary learners by reviewing our curriculum and prioritising the improvement of teaching quality

–

Prepare students as highly skilled digital citizens by identifying opportunities to utilise technology further

–

Prepare students for a complex and changing world through embedding real-world experiences

–

Establish dynamic systems that provide rich feedback to relevant stakeholders on student progress

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

3.

## RELATIONAL

*Build trusting relationships, character and a passion to serve others*

Enhance our pastoral practices to embed the College virtues and promote student wellbeing

–

Establish a framework that promotes and enhances a culture of staff wellbeing

–

Create a collaborative professional learning culture that supports teacher-led research and embeds a greater percentage of on-site professional learning

–

Establish more opportunities for community members to foster trusting relationships, connect with others, and grow in their understanding of what it means to live in a Christ-centred community





#### 4.

### SUSTAINABLE

*Act wisely to maintain and  
resource excellence*

Remain relevant to our stakeholders, financially viable and sustainable, and create operational efficiencies by using data, new technologies and processes

–

Evaluate and adjust the structure and content of the College's financial model in light of new initiatives emerging from the Strategic Plan

–

Support the future work of the College by exploring alternative sources of capital

–

Improve our stewardship of God's creation by reducing the College's environmental impact

–

Explore the potential implications of future demographic changes within our region

–

Continue to support and develop the College's reputation

# KEY AREAS OF GROWTH: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

1. In response to God's love and sacrifice, we provide leadership in education
2. Our purpose statement, virtues and brand are clearly defined and known within the immediate and wider community
3. A P-12 unified staff team enjoy trusting relationships
4. Individual progress is made visible
5. Our academic performance against like schools continues to improve
6. Teachers use evidence-based strategies that produce great gains in student progress
7. Students experience a curriculum and a campus that prepares them for success beyond their success at school
8. An increased number of students actively engaged in service and with the gospel
9. An increased number of staff engaged in theological training
10. Strong parent partnerships
11. Reflection becomes a cultural quality of the College
12. The College continues to be good stewards and all resources are managed effectively





2021



**WILLIAM CLARKE  
COLLEGE**

CHRIST OUR WISDOM

T. +61 2 8882 2100  
F. +61 2 9629 2041  
E. [info@wcc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@wcc.nsw.edu.au)  
[wcc.nsw.edu.au](http://wcc.nsw.edu.au)

1 Morris Grove,  
Kellyville  
NSW 2155 Australia

PO Box 6010  
Baulkham Hills BC  
NSW 2153 Australia



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