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GENERAL COLLEGE INFORMATION

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WHO WE ARE

Townsville Christian College is an Independent College with a strong Christian ethos, high ideals of leadership development, and a focus on rich learning experiences. We are committed to pursuing excellence in all areas, and providing a Christ-centred learning environment where creativity and innovation are encouraged and modelled. We believe that effective schooling occurs when authentic and supportive partnerships occur between the school staff, parents/guardians and students. The College strategically incorporates skill-development and a wide range of resources across a range of learning experiences to assist with the journey of each student toward a fulfilled identity and purpose.

History of the College

Townsville Christian College was established in 2007 and is a Co-educational, Independent school that provides quality education for students from Prep to Grade 12. When the doors first opened in 2007, the school was located in the Life Church building. The College had around 53 students and 5 staff who occupied "make-shift classrooms" which were assembled and disassembled each week. From there, our College continued to grow and at the end of Term 3, 2015, we moved our campus from the Life Church building to our current location.

As the school continued to grow, the College recognised the need in our local community to have a Secondary College under one banner that provided quality education with a Christian ethos. In 2018, we opened the doors to our Secondary College and in 2021, we had our first Grade 12 students graduate.

Over the years, the high-quality education and College values have attracted the attention of the broader community, resulting in a large influx of students and teachers from various backgrounds and cultures. We have over 30 nations represented in our College and are proud to be known as "The Multicultural School of Townsville". The College is dedicated to the celebration of life, excellence and learning, as we encourage students and staff to achieve their full potential in an active Christian environment.

College Management

Townsville Christian College is its own registered company and is governed by Townsville Christian College Limited Board. The College Board is not involved in the day-to-day management of the College. This responsibility is delegated to the Principal, who manages the College within the Board's guidelines.

Townsville Christian College is also a member of the Association of Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) and Associated Christian Schools (ACS). The Principal appoints staff through a procedure which includes application, interview and prayerful consideration.

Motto

'Building Lives For Success''

College Scripture

'See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!''

1 John 3:1

'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it''

Proverbs 22:6

Mission

To provide high-quality educational programs, in an active Christian environment, that equip and empower each student to reach their full potential and influence the world for good

Vision

As a College our vision is:

- Excellence in learning and teaching from a Christian worldview.
- Providing a safe place for students of all backgrounds and cultures.
- Respect for the attitudes, culture and beliefs of the College.
- Training and equipping students to become more like Christ.
- Developing Christian character through practical educational programs and serving others.
- Encouraging students to be physically active and to live healthy lifestyles.
- Developing and strengthen the giftings of every child through a dynamic Creative Arts programme.
- Strengthening the family unit by providing pastoral care, counselling and teaching Christian values to students and their families.
- Promoting honesty, integrity, loyalty and faithfulness.
- Encouraging all students to reach for their God-given potential.
- Cultivating an attitude of honour towards others and developing healthy self-image.
- Building a community spirit through involvement in diverse activities.

Foundational Values

Townsville Christian College has four key values that guide everything that we do:



1. Acceptance

To provide a safe place for students and staff of all backgrounds and cultures by developing and maintaining an attitude that is all-inclusive of others and their differences. An attitude and willingness "to do whatever it takes". Pushing through personal limitations and believing for God's very best in all circumstances.

2. Christlikeness

To train and equip students to become more like Christ by reflecting His attributes while walking in humility and grace. Students and staff understand and are inspired by Jesus' servant ministry and practise it through acts of kindness, generosity, encouragement, leadership, justice and citizenship.

3. Excellence

Our students and staff are encouraged to consistently be the best they can be, reaching for their God-given potential, serving others passionately, all the while bringing honour and glory to God.

4. Honour

We encourage our students and staff to develop and maintain a culture of honouring God, each other, our College and the community through determination, persistence, courage, integrity, respect, courtesy, resilience and confidence.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Behaviour Expectations

Our goal is to equip each student with knowledge, skills and experiences that will enable them to make wise choices and subsequently make a positive impact in their community through faith-based living.

As a Christian College community, we place a great deal of emphasis on building healthy relationships. We believe that our behaviour towards others impacts those relationships and is indicative of how we have developed our own character. There is an expectation that all members of our College demonstrate respect, honesty, to be polite and kind to each other, and to respect private and community property.

For an effective and transformational learning environment to be successfully fostered, it is important that we all work towards maintaining a **SAFE, SUPPORTIVE** and **DISCIPLINED** environment that respects the following:

- **The students right to learn;**
- **The teachers right to teach and**
- **Everyone's right to remain safe**

We aim to do this by:

- Fostering a safe environment that models and affirms appropriate behaviour
- Providing a model for Christ like living
- Developing a culture that honours and respects others
- Holding students accountable for their own behaviour and
- Celebrating the uniqueness and skills of others

The "**Responsible Decisions Practices**" program takes a proactive approach to behaviour management, allowing staff to intervene before student behaviour escalates. Our goal is to **shift the focus from negative consequences to positive reinforcement, providing students the opportunity to reflect on their personal choices and how it impacts themselves and their peers.** The RDP flowchart outlines clear expectations for staff and students, providing ample opportunity for students to self-correct before being referred to Student Services.

The Responsible Decisions Classroom (RDC) provides students with a safe space to work one-on-one with a member of the Student Services Team, to reflect on their choices and set productive goals moving forward. The focus is on assisting students to be productive and respectful members of the class. Student Services aims to build strong connections with parents/guardians through consistent communication, working together to support students.

RDC Handbooks are given at enrolment and can also be obtained from Administration Centre.

Our expectation is that all staff, parents/guardians and students honour the College with punctuality, neatness and appropriate self-management.

Student Attendance

Townsville Christian College is committed to providing a **safe** and **encouraging** learning environment for your child/ren. It is our belief that student success is hindered greatly by extended and regular absences from school. **Therefore, the College has implemented an expectation of 80% student attendance or they may not be able to graduate from their current level of schooling. This attendance requirement includes sporting carnivals and other official College activities such as camps and excursions.**

Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their school-aged child is enrolled and attends school **under s176(1) of the Education General Provisions Act 2006. The College has a mandatory requirement to monitor and report daily student attendances and absences.**

As attendance is compulsory, we ask parents to notify the Administration Centre by 9am on any day their child is absent. A message can be left outside of office hours or parents can use "Parent Lounge" to notify the College of a student absence.

Parents will be contacted if a student is absent without parental notification. If a student is late, required to leave early or will be absent for part of the day, **then the Administration Centre must be informed prior to the absence.** In these cases, parents are required to sign the Register located in reception.

In the case of known prolonged absence or an absence which is known in advance, parents are to contact the College, in writing, of the student's absence and if relevant, to supply a Doctors Certificate upon their return.

Families are asked to take their family holidays during gazetted school holidays to ensure their children are provided with every opportunity to excel in their studies. All parents who genuinely need their children to be absent from school must seek approval by putting their request in writing to the Principal, prior to the absence.

IT IS VITAL THAT THE COLLEGE AND PARENTS / GUARDIANS' PARTNER TOGETHER TO ENSURE REGULAR ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN THEIR EDUCATION JOURNEY.

Student Services

Townsville Christian College has a vision to strengthen the family unit by providing Pastoral Care and Counselling to students and their families. The College adopts a holistic approach to support and develop the emotional, social, physical and spiritual needs of our students.

Students can face a range of challenges in their lives at school and home, and may require additional support to navigate through those difficulties. **Our team of fully qualified Pastors, Head of Student Services and Counsellors work together in consultation with parents and teachers to provide support for every student in our College.** The pastoral care team is available to all College students and appointments can be made at the Administration Centre.

Curriculum

The College staff are caring and supportive of each student in their individual learning journey, while proactively promoting and reinforcing our Christian faith and values which are central to the ethos of the College community.

Townsville Christian College’s curriculum has a firm Biblical foundation and is both stimulating and balanced, and is based on the Australian Curriculum. The Christian content is integrated throughout the subject areas. We emphasise the importance of strong literacy and numeracy skills while encouraging students to engage with ideas and information that will assist their understanding and appreciation of increased knowledge. We don’t see Christian education as a separate area of learning, but rather an integral part of the holistic learning experience.

Our students engage in a variety of activities, both curricular and extra-curricular, which combined with our literacy and numeracy programs, help to develop them as a balanced and well-grounded individual. There is a major focus on leadership and developing Christian character and values, preparing students for the next phase of their lifelong learning experience.

SENIOR SECONDARY STUDIES AND PATHWAYS

Townsville Christian College senior students follow the internationally recognised Queensland Certificate Education (QCE) system under the direction of the Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Upon entering their senior years, students are provided the opportunity to work with the College Careers Advisor to customise an educational pathway that works for them. As a foundation, Senior students will engage in an academic program consisting of English and Mathematics as core subjects, as well as four other subjects, providing them the opportunity to obtain their QCE.

For students interested in alternative pathways, the academic program can be tailored to include one or more of the following:

- School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- TAFE at School Certificates
- “Start Uni Now” (SUN) program - for eligible students

Assessments & Homework

We believe that it is essential to develop a close co-operative relationship between the College and the family so that every student can be fully supported in their educational journey. It has been proven that, "children whose parents spend time with them in educational activities or are involved in College activities, achieve higher results, regardless of socioeconomic status" (Benson et al. 1980).

Families play a vital role when it comes to supporting their child/ren's educational journey, and are encouraged to be proactive in the development of good study skills, by implementing afternoon routines and creating study spaces where students can complete their assigned homework, to work on assignments and to prepare for testing.

Assessments

A student's progress through the College is monitored very closely. Standardised, skills-based testing is conducted at the beginning of 1st and 3rd Terms every year. This assists teachers in confirming how well students are grasping new concepts.

Each term, subject specific testing and assessment tasks are distributed during each new unit of study and written reports are sent home at the end of each Semester. It is imperative that students **complete all assessment tasks** and submit them on time to the relevant teacher. The College has implemented an Assessment Policy which is available at the Administration Centre.

Each term, parents/guardians and students will receive an 'Assessment Calendar' with all draft and final assessment due dates.

Study Block / Homework

Study Blocks are hour-long lessons where students are given the opportunity to catch up on assigned tasks, homework, assessment items and incomplete tasks.

Classroom teacher will also allocate homework to students. These tasks may consist of incomplete class work, assessment items, and activities to consolidate learning. If students do not complete homework during Study Blocks, they will be expected to complete it in their own time.

Parents can help by:

- Providing a work space conducive to study/homework activities
- Assisting your child to set a routine that is productive
- Supervising the work completed at home
- Testing your child's work (i.e. spelling words, time tables etc.)
- Encouraging and commending good effort rather than being critical of poor performance
- Communicating concerns to the class teacher

Healthcare

At the beginning of each school year, a Student Medical Form is sent home and parents are asked to complete and return to the College so that student records can be updated. This includes information regarding changes in student health, medications required, emergency information, parental permission to administer paracetamol etc.

Medication for students:

Parents requesting that children receive medication at College must provide a written request on the appropriate form. Forms are available from the reception in the Administration Centre and must accompany all medication. Medication will only be administered by staff, with the exception of Ventolin sprays, which may be administered by the child under the supervision of a teacher.

Head Lice:

Head lice spreads rapidly and persistent carriers place all others at risk. It may be necessary to exclude carriers from the College until their heads are cleared of lice by using a treatment available at chemists. We ask that children's heads be checked on a regular basis and if required treated appropriately.

Parents/Guardians will be notified if any head-lice is detected in their child's hair.

Sun Smart:

The College adopts a "no hat, no play" policy across all year levels. Students without the College hat will not be permitted to participate in outdoor "in the sun" activities. The College also adopts a "**no shirt, no swim**" policy. Children will not be permitted to participate in swimming lessons without a lycra swim shirt.

Healthy Lunches:

Parents are encouraged to pack healthy lunches and snacks for their children to boost energy levels that enhance learning, memory retention and a healthy lifestyle. **NO JUNK FOOD, ENERGY DRINKS, SOFTDRINK, OR EXCESSIVE SUGAR!**

Uniform

We have purposely designed a uniform of a very high standard of appearance. We are aware that the presentation of each student will help both the individual student and the College as a whole, and builds a greater sense of personal self-esteem. Our aim is to build a College of excellence in every way. Therefore, we must maintain a high standard of dress code. It is a condition of enrolment that parents and students understand this and are committed to playing their part in upholding these standards.

Our uniform is designed to be practical, comfortable and Sun Smart. Uniforms must be worn by student's both at school, and whilst travelling to and from the school. The uniform must be worn correctly at all times.

In the Secondary College, uniform days vary throughout the year and each class will be notified of uniform days at start of each term.

The **TCC Sports Uniform** consists of the following:

- TCC Sports Shirt
- Black TCC Shorts (no other logos or colours permitted)
- White TCC Socks (plain white permitted) (No cut-off socks)
- Appropriate sport shoe in black or white

The **TCC Academic Uniform** consists of the following:

- TCC Academic Shirt
- BOYS - Black TCC Shorts
- GIRLS - Black TCC Skorts
- White TCC Socks (plain white permitted)
- Plain Black Shoes (may be joggers or leather lace-ups)

Communication between College and Home regarding uniform

1. When a student is out of uniform for a short period of time (i.e. an item lost or torn) a note of explanation from parents must be provided to the Administration Centre or Classroom Teacher. **This note should not be considered long term permission for variation to the uniform.**
2. When a longer variation is required (e.g. medical condition), a medical certificate must be provided to the Administration Centre or Classroom Teacher. A copy of the certificate will be placed in the student file.
3. Where a student is failing to comply with the uniform policy, a Uniform Action Form (Green Slip) will be issued to the student, and parents/guardians will be notified by RDC Services.
4. If a student receives three (3) Uniform Action Forms, parents/guardians will be contacted to either purchase uniforms items over the phone, **or** must be actioned before return to the college.

Item	Available	Cost
Academic Shirt	Uniform Shop	\$50.00
Academic Shorts	Uniform Shop	\$40.00
Academic Skorts	Uniform Shop	\$50.00
Academic Shoes	<i>Black lace-up shoes</i>	Department & Shoe Stores
Sports Shirt	Uniform Shop	\$50.00
Sport Shorts	Uniform Shop	\$40.00
Sport Shoes	Black or white lace-up shoes	Department & Shoe Stores
School Hat	Uniform Shop	\$25.00
Socks	Uniform Shop	\$12.00
Swimming Boys	<i>Plain black long board shorts with plain black lycra shirt for sun protection</i>	Best & Less, Kmart, Big W
Swimming Girls	<i>Plain Black one-piece swimsuit and long black board shorts with plain black lycra shirt for sun protection</i>	Best & Less, Kmart, Big W
Jacket	Uniform Shop	\$80.00

Acceptable **Academic** Footwear Guide:



Acceptable **Sports** Footwear Guide:



Hairstyles

MALES:

Hair must be above the collar shoulder length and neatly groomed at all times.

The emphasis is placed on neat and tidy presentation. Some minor variations in length will be allowed if hair is neatly groomed at all times. No “flashes” (razor cuts), severe variations in hair levels or braiding is permitted. **STUDENTS WILL BE SENT HOME and asked to alter excessive hairstyles before being allowed back to College.** However, we need to further clarify that:

1. NO UNDERCUTS are allowed. (This is where some hair is left long to sit over a much shorter area of hair).
2. Cuts which include differences in the length of sections of hair must be moderated differences. Generally, **HAIR SHOULD BE EVENLY LAYERED.** Some minor variations will be allowed, but stark contrasts of hair will not. Wedges should be avoided.
3. Where ‘blades’ are used to cut sections of hair **NO CUT BELOW A NUMBER 3 BLADE** is acceptable - The scalp should not easily be visible through the short section.
4. Hair should be groomed so as to not fall across the eyes.
5. Long Hair must be tied back neatly in a bun.

Facial Hair

Male students must be clean-shaven at all times. As a multicultural school, we are aware that sometimes there can be cultural reasons/restrictions that prevent our students from being able to shave. **If this is the case, an Exception Form is available from the Administration Centre.**

FEMALES:

1. Hair to be well groomed and cut in a moderate style
2. **Shoulder length and longer hair MUST be tied back at all times using ties, ribbons or headbands**
3. Hair should be groomed so as to not fall across the eyes.

ALL STUDENTS:

Hair should be of a NATURAL COLOUR. A “NATURAL COLOUR” refers to a colour/rinse that is generally accepted as being a naturally occurring colour.

The College will ask parents to adjust students’ hairstyles where they do not comply with the above guidelines before allowing them to return to College.

Jewellery

MALES:

Boys may not wear any items of jewellery except for one wrist watch (no smart watches).

The main reasons for restricting jewellery are:

1. Safety when playing sport
2. Security, since valuable items cannot be lost or stolen if they are not brought to the College
3. Encouraging an overall neat and tidy appearance when students are in uniform.

FEMALES:

Girls may not wear any items of jewellery to the College except:

1. Plain studs or small plain ear rings, one in each ear, provided that the ear rings are in the lower lobe of the ear (lower quarter of the ear closest to the jaw line)
2. One wrist watch (no smart watches)
3. Chain with Cross

ALL STUDENTS:

Apart from a single piercing in each lower ear lobe for girls, body/facial piercing is unacceptable. Band aids or plastic rings to cover extra piercings are not permitted. **Students wearing jewellery other than that stated will have items confiscated by staff.** Parents/Guardians are able to come & collect from Administration Centre. (Must be collected before end of each term.)

Girls are permitted to wear a moderate amount of skin coloured SPF foundation, clear lip gloss. No other make up including eye makeup (shadow, liner or mascara) or nail polish is permitted.

No false eye lashes – Parents/Guardians will be contacted and student will not be able to return to school until removed.

No false nails – Parents/Guardians will be contacted and student will not be able to return to school until removed.

Technology Policy (mobile phones, smart and other electronic devices)

Townsville Christian College recognises that mobile phones, smart and other electronic devices are a part of modern society, and we respect the rights of the parent/guardian to supply their child with these devices. Although a useful tool, the College acknowledges that every classroom should be devoid of any distractions caused by electronic devices.

Other smart and electronic devices are not approved to be brought to the College.

If a student brings other smart or electronic devices to the College, the procedures for a mobile phone exemption – not approved, will come into effect.

The College has a 'NO PHONE POLICY', unless an exemption is approved. An Exemption Form is available from the Administration Centre.

EXEMPTION - APPROVED

Students will be permitted to bring their mobile phone on College grounds, however, **they must abide by the following:**

- Mobile phones to be **switched off** before entering College grounds or boarding the College bus.
- Mobile phones are to be handed to the Head of Student Services or Director of Secondary **immediately upon arrival**. Students catching the bus, are to hand them to the Bus Driver when **boarding the bus**.
- Mobile phones will be returned to students at the end of the day, however, must remain **switched off** until exiting College grounds **or** the College bus.

EXEMPTION - NOT APPROVED

- Students will not be permitted to bring their mobile phone on College grounds.
- Any student found to have their mobile phone on them (on their person, in their bag/locker, or handed to a teacher) will have their phone **confiscated**.
- Confiscated mobile phones **must** be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Students will receive an **external suspension**.
- **Before returning to the College**, students will be required to attend a Re-entry meeting with the Principal.

Sprays / Aerosols

All spray and aerosol deodorants and perfumes are banned from the College. They are a known irritant to asthmatics and can cause serious asthma attacks. We encourage students to either use roll-on deodorant or to find another alternative.

Bag Checks

It's very important that the school community works together to ensure the College is a safe place for students and staff. Parents/guardians have a responsibility to ensure that their child does not take items to school that might present a risk to them or other people. Parents / guardians should also encourage their child not to take items to school that are unnecessary for them to have while at school.

There are some occasions when the Principal or staff member (authorised by the Principal only) may need to remove property from a student for a period of time. Therefore, random bag checks, with no notice given, will be conducted throughout the year as directed by the Principal by authorised staff members. Any confiscated items will be held in the Administration Centre until the last Friday of the term in which they were confiscated, at which time they will be disposed of, if not previously collected by a parent/guardian. Any illegal items will be disposed of immediately.

Textbook Policy

Townsville Christian College provides textbooks and instructional materials to students free of charge. However, students are responsible for maintaining the condition of the textbooks issued to them.

Return Requirements:

- Textbooks must be returned to the library by the last day of school or by the return date specified by the librarian or teacher.
- If a student leaves the college, all textbooks must be returned before their departure.

Replacement Charges:

- If a student fails to return or loses a textbook the parent/guardians account will be charged the full replacement cost (based on the current price) plus a non-refundable processing fee of \$20.
- Parent/guardian accounts will also be charged the full replacement cost along with a non-refundable processing fee of \$20, if a textbook is damaged beyond repair (e.g., missing pages, missing cover, or water damaged).

PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent as Partners

An old African Proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." **We consider that a good relationship fostered between the family and the College is essential to every child's ongoing educational and character development.**

The attitude of the College towards parent/guardian involvement in education is quite clear. **Parents/guardians are the first and the foremost educators of their children.**

Opportunities for parental involvement include:

- Support for and involvement in activities organised by the College community
- Assisting with outdoor activities e.g. Sports carnivals, excursions etc.
- Participation in Parent/Guardian Information Evenings
- Attending all activities where Parent/Guardians are invited

Parent / Teacher Meetings

Interviews will take place at the end of Terms 1 and 3, and are designed to provide an opportunity for teachers to share with parents/guardians the progress of the student, and any concerns that they may have. These interviews are a vital tool in the ongoing educational journey of your child as they allow you to ask questions and seek advice/feedback from your child/ren's teachers.

Notes will be sent home with students at the appropriate time to make you aware of the meeting times and to allow you to book in at the time most convenient to you. If for any reason you are unable to make one of the scheduled meeting times, the teachers will do their best to accommodate you at another time as your child's education is our priority.

College Communication

Good communication is essential for the ongoing success of any relationship. **We believe that clear, open communication between the home and the College is very important.** To keep you informed about what is happening in the College, communication is facilitated in the following ways:

- By note
- Newsletters
- College Website
- In person for any brief, non-serious matter (after school only)
- For more lengthy discussions by prior appointment
- Parent / Teacher Meetings
- Email
- By Phone

College Policies

Townsville Christian College is committed to ensuring that all students and their parents/guardians have their concerns addressed in ways that ensures fairness, accountability and transparency. Copies of policies are available at the Administration Centre and selected policies online:

- Child Protection Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy

If parents/guardians have any concerns or issues with the College, all matters should be raised in the appropriate way according to the Parent Handbook and not on social media sites, as the College cannot appropriately address concerns via social media.

Exit Interviews

At Townsville Christian College, we are continually aiming to improve the services that we provide to our families. We understand that on occasions, a family's circumstances necessitate that they leave the College. **Parents are required to give ten (10) term weeks written notice of their intention to terminate their child/ren's enrolment.**

If parents voluntarily withdraw their child/ren from the College, parents must give written notice to the Principal of not less than ten (10) term weeks prior to withdrawal. Failure to do so, parents accept that they are liable and will have to pay for ten (10) term weeks fees and levies in lieu of notice.

As part of the continuing communication process, we ask that parents arrange an appointment for an Exit Interview with the Principal so that all educational matters, including account payments, can be finalised.

College Events

A number of important events are held each year. These events showcase our College and celebrate the achievements of our students.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL MAJOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

These may include, but not limited to:

- **End of Year Ceremonies/Awards Nights**
- Sporting Carnivals
- Excursions
- School Camps

Parent Lounge

Parent Lounge is the College's online platform to provide communication between parents and the College. Parents / guardians are also able to use the platform to update personal contact details and information, notify us of their child/ren's absences and book Parent / Teacher Meetings.

We encourage all of our parents to log on and check their details and update if needed. Please contact the Administration Centre if you have any problems accessing your account.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sporting

Townsville Christian College provides opportunities for students to participate in a variety of sporting activities including our Health & PE and Sports Programs. This occurs during scheduled PE lessons, sports programs and inter-school sporting competitions (both in and out of school hours). Students participate in swimming lessons during first and fourth terms, all school sporting carnivals, and have the opportunity to participate in inter-school sporting carnivals.

Swimming lessons are a vital part of our College Programme, and they contribute to the student's development. Students who do not participate (due to a medical reason or swimwear reasons) will stay on campus and complete assessments and study activities, during the allotted lessons.

Townsville Christian College uses a House system and all students belong to a House team. This encourages some friendly competition and good sportsmanship which characterises the teams we send to the inter-school competitions.

Youth Arts Project (Y.A.P)

Students enjoy exploring the language of music through this innovative and exciting program. Learning music promotes confidence in oneself and an ability to rise above and overcome social, emotional and physical barriers, so students can reach their full potential. **The Arts Project is provided to every student at no additional cost to families, throughout the year.**

At Townsville Christian College, we consider the Arts an essential part of a child's whole learning experience. The Arts curriculum includes music, drama, dance, media arts, and visual arts and forms the basis of our growing Music and Creative Arts vision.

AS PART OF THEIR ENROLMENT, STUDENTS AT TOWNSVILLE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AGREE TO ATTEND Y.A.P EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON THROUGHOUT THE TERM.

If a student has a **very good reason** for not attending, parents/guardians must complete an ***Exemption Form***. **Exemptions from Y.A.P last the duration of one (1) Semester.** In order to ensure the safety of our students, a decision regarding attendance must be made at the beginning of the Semester.

ALL EXEMPTIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL.

If for any important reason a student cannot attend Y.A.P and requires a **"once-off" exemption** during the semester, parents/guardians **must contact the Administration Centre before 11am on Friday (the day in which they cannot attend).**

Please be advised that if we do not receive an Exemption Form (semester exemption) or a phone call (one-off exemption), students will be sent across to Y.A.P.

Private Music Lessons

An AMAZING opportunity to empower students to be creative and develop their musical gifts. Townsville Christian College provides **Private Music Lessons** (at a small cost) to all students. Benefits to learning a musical instrument include problem solving and creative thinking, developing areas of the brain involved in language and reasoning, developing teamwork and collaboration skills and allowing self-expression and discipline.

Missions

One of the core values that we aspire to promote in our College community is a culture of generosity. This is developed through the giving of money towards missions-based projects. **Each week, in Assembly, every student has the opportunity to give and bless our Sister Schools - Helping Hands School in Jaipur, India and One Hundred Percent Hope in Uganda, Africa.**

Cultural Celebration Days

This was an initiative started in 2017, to celebrate the multi-cultural diversity in Townsville Christian College. Over 30 nations are represented in our College and each term we have a Cultural Celebration Day. Students can purchase lunch (sausage sizzle and drink) and come in multicultural dress with a gold coin donation. Envelopes are sent home regarding the purchase of lunch and donation for 'free dress'. All donations go to our Sister Schools - Helping Hands School in Jaipur, India and One Hundred Percent Hope in Uganda, Africa.

It is expected that 'Free Dress' clothing is clean, modest, comfortable and appropriate closed-in footwear to be worn.

NAIDOC Week is celebrated yearly and encourages all of our students to celebrate the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As part of the celebrations, students participate in:

- Weaving activities
- Cultural games and sports
- Painting and drawing
- Dances and performances
- Taste testing traditional food

Secondary Camps

The College camps provide an opportunity for the students to develop friendships whilst participating in team activities. As camp activities are a vital part of our College curriculum, and they contribute to the student's development, attendance is highly recommended.

Full details on the camps including location, cost and itinerary will be sent home with the relevant students prior to the camp. **All costs associated with the camp are additional to the College fees and must be paid before your child attends the camp.**

WHILE CAMP IS A MANDATORY CURRICULUM EVENT, there are specific reasons students may not be able to attend, including but not limited to:

- Consistent misbehaviour (RDC visits/suspension)
- Health reasons
- Cost of camp not paid

The College will notify parents / guardians if their child/ren are unable to attend. The same standards outlined in this handbook apply for all camps.

FOUNDATIONAL VALUES

