THE WAY

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FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Learning Beyond the Classroom

This week, I had the privilege of spending a night at the Year 7 Camp. Let’s be honest - ‘privilege’ may not be the most obvious word when sleep is hard to come by, but I stand by it.

Earlier in the year, a Year 4 student asked me how many school camps I had been on in my career. What a great question! As I reflected and crunched some numbers, I concluded that it must be around one hundred. These camps have ranged from single-day excursions to multi-week overseas tours and everything in between. Despite that variety, all of these experiences share common threads: real learning occurs, relationships are formed and deepened and growth inevitably follows.

The media often narrows the definition of learning to academic success, but we know that time at school encompasses far more than academics. School provides the environment and support for young people to learn about themselves, form lasting friendships and develop essential social and emotional skills. While much of this occurs incrementally on a daily basis as students balance formal and informal learning at the College, camp provides a space for this growth to accelerate and take center stage.

As students step away from home, they step up to take on increased responsibility, tackle new challenges, move out of their comfort zones and lean into opportunities for growth around every corner. It is in this context that I have witnessed significant personal growth throughout my career and this week’s Year 7 Camp was no exception.

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One of the best aspects of camp is participating in incidental conversations with students. The rapport built in these unscripted moments pays massive dividends back in the classroom, echoing the old saying that students learn who the teacher is before they learn what they teach.

This environment creates a vital shift in the dynamic between staff and students. In a traditional classroom, teachers naturally act as instructors and evaluators. At camp, those boundaries soften into those of mentors, teammates and cheerleaders.

When students see a teacher tackle a challenge, laugh at a mistake, or share a story over dinner, trust builds rapidly. This rapport creates a lasting foundation back at school. A student who feels seen and supported as a person is far more willing to push themselves academically.

This week was another powerful reminder that camps are not a break from education; they are an integral part of the broader educational journey at the College.

After-School Pedestrian Safety: Protecting Our Community

The end of the College day brings a heavy mix of foot traffic, buses and cars across our surrounding streets. With students eager to head home, dismissal time requires heightened vigilance from everyone to keep our community safe.

A quick reminder for our students and families: please use designated pedestrian crossings. There is a growing pattern of students crossing neighbouring roads elsewhere, which significantly increases the risk of accidents. We also urge parents to use designated pick-up zones rather than asking children to cross busy surrounding streets unassisted or away from the designated crossings.

Mr Chris Wyatt
Deputy Principal

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