



The Year 9 Rite Journey Mentor Program



Dear Mentor,

Thank you for offering to be a mentor for one of our Temple Christian College Year 9 Rite Journey students. This letter outlines what is involved in The Rite Journey Mentor Program for 2023.

WHY THE MENTOR PROGRAM?

You may be familiar with the saying, 'it takes a village to raise a child.' At Temple Christian College we recognise the importance for children and adolescents to be surrounded by well-meaning adults who create a community or 'village' of guidance. When one adult relationship in a teenager's life is under stress, it is vital that other adult relationships take the strain, rather than allowing the peer relationships to take on the guiding roles - something young people are not well equipped to do. There is also a healthy body of research which suggests that the more adult figures adolescents are healthily connected to, the less risk factors they will expose themselves to and hence the safer they are.

As teachers we are passionate about the development of children into responsible, respectful and resilient young adults. By connecting with adults who demonstrate these characteristics, our young people are able to develop their understanding of what a good man or woman might look like and how they might behave.

The Mentor Program seeks to extend each student's existing support network by connecting them with a supportive and trusted adult outside of their school and family environments. Parents will guide their child in this selection process. It is our desire for the mentor-mentee relationships formed during the program to provide support, guidance and inspiration for our students and encouragement for you, their mentor, during the year and in the years to follow.

WHY ME?

You are receiving this letter because one of our school families recognises you as being a positive role model for their child and would like to extend the invitation to you to be their child's mentor for the 2023 school year.

The ROLE of the mentor is to:

- Develop a trusting relationship
- Support parental values
- Help in developing social skills
- Share in celebrating milestones
- Listen to dreams, ideas and concerns
- Promote the discovery of undeveloped potential

The REQUIREMENTS for the mentor are:

- Is the **same gender** as your child
- Is **at least 25 years** of age
- Is **not an immediate family member** (i.e. parent, grandparent or sibling)
- Is able to meet with your child for **a total of at least 18 hours over the year** (ideally regular contact of a couple of hours a month).
- Is willing to help your child complete The Rite Journey Mentor Project and Poster
- Is willing to be contacted by parents and teachers if required
- Is **able to sign your child's logbook** after each meeting as a formal record of the time spent together
- Is willing to attend The Homecoming Ceremony in Term 4

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The Rite Journey Mentor Project

To assist in facilitating the development of the mentor-mentee relationships, each student will undertake a project of some kind to be completed under their mentor's guidance. This is referred to as The Rite Journey Mentor Project.

The project is a free choice project decided upon by you and your mentee. You may choose to build something, or create something artistic or musical, or even teach/learn a new skill or refine a current skill together. Some specific examples include: learning new cooking skills or experimenting with new recipes, learning how to service a bike, creating a knitted blanket, or composing a song together. The possibilities are endless! With your support, your mentee will display your shared project at The Homecoming Ceremony at the end of the year. The students will be exhibiting photo's they have taken throughout the year working with you, please encourage your mentee to take photos at every stage of your time together.

Lawn Bowls Event for Students & Mentors – Term 1 of 2023

A new inclusion to the program for 2023, this fun activity will take place at the end of Term 1 as a vehicle for developing greater social and networking communication skills.

The Homecoming Ceremony - Held during Term 4 of 2023

As a mentor you will be invited to The Homecoming Ceremony to celebrate your mentee's journey over the year. The evening is a special time for us to celebrate the achievements and personal growth of our Year 9 students and to also express our appreciation to you for your support of your mentee along the way. The mentor project exhibit is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the mentor-mentee relationships that have developed over the year. More details will be provided during 2023.

Thank you for your willingness to play such an important role in this young person's life. We encourage you to touch base with your mentee's parents throughout the year to share about your experience and look forward to meeting you at The Homecoming Ceremony in 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Maria Minicozzi & Mr Daniel Desengo

Year 9 Coordinators