



YEAR 9 RITES OF PASSAGE



FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE

BDC
BISHOP DRUITT COLLEGE
COFFS HARBOUR

by Rebecca Brown
(Year 9 Coordinator)

RITE OF PASSAGE AT BDC

As your Year Coordinator I recognise that the journey of school can be exciting and challenging. Along with all the usual trials and tribulations of growing up are the added pressures placed on you like your parents, school and society, not to mention the pressure you put on yourselves.

I believe on days like today, on occasions like this, it is important to consider where you have come from and where you want to go, moving forward into the senior years and beyond, into adulthood.

I want you to think about the people and experiences that have helped shape who you are today and the potential this means for your future self.

The media displays role models making poor choices to be admired and respected. I want you to cherish and recognise the positive role models and people in your lives who inspire you to be a better person and those who set boundaries for you when you need it or honour you when you develop skills to face the coming challenges of adulthood.

All around you are images of people being sexualised and obsessed with money and fame. These are not always the only virtues we should strive to emulate in our own lives. If you look around you today, you will see that there are people you have connected with on your journey...teachers and other students and of course your families at home, who have helped you to feel like you belong and support you and remind you; you are worthy and you are good enough just how you are.



RITE OF PASSAGE AT BDC

Part of growing up is understanding that you are not born tough or resilient, you learn to be this way from your elders or those who have come before you and the experiences you have faced together. Remember the times on your journey so far when you have failed ...and be grateful. Those you trust and admire will treat you with grace and forgiveness because they understand you are still just growing up and want to be better. Sometimes, these same people will encourage you and push you forward when you are scared because they know it is good to be challenged and that it is harder when we feel alone or don't have that person or group to show us how.

Every person in the Branson Centre today has grown through risk and challenge and you will too.

As you move into the senior years I believe it is important that you recognise the potential in yourselves. To have a conversation with yourself. Who am I and who do I want to be? What do I stand for? What boundaries do I set for myself and what barriers can I break? There are so many experiences that make us feel joyful, grateful and special as well as awkward, challenged and uncomfortable; they are all so important. I hope that as you continue to grow, you awaken your own sense of purpose - not just what job you want to have when you leave school, although this is important.

But, what kind of human being do I want to be? Will you hear an inner calling to make a difference: to do a job that needs doing, to put in effort when it is needed, to help another person when they need you. Will you lead by example? Will you stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves? Will you live a life of service?

Year 9...This assembly and following activities planned for today allows you to reflect on and celebrate just how far you have come and get excited about your futures. We are marking your transition from middle school, to senior school in a special and public way. To see, that with impending adulthood comes individual opportunities that mean you will be required to take the ultimate risks in life - to love, be loved and challenge yourself to take responsibility for yourself and your actions.

Today, I want you to feel strong enough to do this, to face every future challenge with confidence, but also recognise that there are people here today like your friends, your teachers, your tutors and me, who will walk beside you when you need it.

