

Corio Bay Senior College

School Overview

Purpose Statement

Corio Bay Senior College, a specialist learning environment for senior students, is an innovative and responsive college catering for a variety of aspirations, inclusive of all students. In a supportive environment students are encouraged and challenged to set and achieve their goals.

The values which form the basis of the actions of the whole school community are:

Commitment: Developing commitment to learning, to develop perseverance and resilience and to meet challenges.

Expectations: Maintaining high expectations and building self-esteem.

Respect: Respecting individual needs, valuing each other and acting in non-judgmental ways.

Corio Bay Senior College is a stand-alone, co-educational senior secondary college with a current student enrolment of 276 students. It is located in the northern suburbs of Geelong, a lower socio-economic area. In a recently released social study, the Corio/Norlane area featured as a neighbourhood with one of the highest levels of poverty and unemployment in Victoria. Corio and Norlane have been formally identified as a Neighbourhood Renewal priority area.

The family occupation status sees approximately 60% of parents in the categories of, 'Home Duties', 'Pensioner', 'Unemployed', 'Retired', 'Student' or 'Homeless' and less than 2% in the 'Professional' category. As a consequence our SFO is 0.75. Approximately 17% of our students are independent and over 50% receive youth allowance. These factors impact on students' personal motivation, self-esteem and individual growth. In response, the college has a very strong, and well resourced, focus on student support, as evidenced through our highly regarded Advocacy / MIPs program.

Between 2001 and 2003 the college underwent a significant rebuilding program which has resulted in a modern, attractive and purpose built learning environment for senior students.

A significant, and unique, feature of the college is the on-site child care centre which caters for a growing number of young mothers (16 – 20 year olds) who are enrolling into our 'Young Parents' Access Program'. The child care centre (which was officially opened at the end of 2005 by the Honourable Jacinta Allen, Minister for Educational Services) and the 'Young Parents' Access Program' (YPAP) enables young parents to re-engage with education. Together with the college's family centre, which provides outreach services and parenting programs for our young parents and young families from the local community, these programs form the Corio Bay Senior College 'Hub'.

The college offers a broad range of pathways. It is an RTO for eleven Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses and has a clustering arrangement which sees approximately 280 year 11 and 12 students from 16 other Geelong schools, 8 of which are private schools, studying a VET subject at Corio Bay Senior College. In 2008 this cluster arrangement (The Geelong North VET Cluster) won the prestigious Victorian State Training Award for VET in schools provision and was shortlisted to the final 3 in the Australian Training Awards. This year the college has lodged a submission, on behalf of the Geelong North VET Cluster, for Commonwealth funding to construct a \$10.5 million Trade Training Centre.

We have a large VCAL program which has grown from a VCAL cohort of 15 in 2002 to 84 students in 2008. The college offers 3 levels of VCAL – Foundation, Intermediate and Senior, including integrated VCAL Building and integrated VCAL Automotive programs at an intermediate level.

We also continue to offer a wide range of VCE units, although VCE enrolments are falling. In 2009 we are running several VCE units on a Wednesday afternoon, in a clustering arrangement, to allow for easier access to VCE studies by year 10 students from our 2 year 7 to 10 associate schools – Norlane High School and Flinders Peak Secondary College.

The continued development and implementation of Problem Based Learning (PBL) pedagogy, with an increase in the use and integration of ICT and the consolidation of integrated learning programs in both VCAL and the VCE remains a high priority. Problem Based Learning and the integration of VCE units 1 and 2 was the focus of the college's Leading Schools Fund during 2005 -2007, and this work is continuing. Our focus has been, and continues to be, to improve students' engagement and their learning outcomes.

In October 2006 work commenced on the exciting Corio – Norlane Schools Regeneration Project. The 9 Schools involved are: Corio Bay Senior College, Norlane High School (7 – 10), Flinders Peak Secondary College (7 – 10) and the 6 local primary schools – Corio, Rosewall, Corio West, Norlane West, North Shore and Corio South primary schools.

The project is developing a whole of Government approach to a full service model for schools with direct links with Government social services and employment programs. The project is intimately linked with the Corio Norlane Urban Renewal Project. The proposed capital investment in redesigning most of the schools in the area is essential to:

- ⊙ support new directions in curriculum, pedagogy and pathways
- ⊙ allow schools to become hubs for the community
- ⊙ allow schools' programs and community services to be integrated across all of the stages of learning (eg students from ages 0 - 25)

Master planning of the recommended school sites commenced in July 2009. This project will see the reconfiguration of 4 of the primary school sites (Corio, Norlane West, Corio West and North Shore primary schools) into Kinder to year 8 sites and the Corio Bay Senior College site redeveloped into a years 9 to 12 site, with the development of a distinct year 9 learning precinct.

This significant capital investment will enable us to accommodate a year 10 - 12 cohort, and a year 9 learning precinct, which is necessary in order for us to be able to achieve the improvement outcomes that are linked to our Strategic Plan's goals and targets.

Corio Bay Senior College is a challenging and exciting school in which to work and we are seeking an Assistant Principal who is committed to their profession and who has the vision, expertise and passion to lead it forward.