



No matter what  
the future brings,  
she'll be ready.







## TEACHING GIRLS TO FACE LIFE'S CHALLENGES WITH CONFIDENCE

Penrhos College is committed to providing an education that honours our traditions and Christian Values in a climate of change. Our students today think and operate differently to the students of years gone by. We must help them to develop strong coping mechanisms, transferable life skills and strategies which equip them to problem-solve capably.

Our focus is on nurturing and inspiring the mind, heart, body and spirit of each girl to enable her to explore her potential, find her niche and – ultimately – to move her into adult life with a confidence that will allow her to navigate all of life's opportunities and challenges successfully.

Penrhos College is fortunate to be resourced so that our inspirational staff and programs are well placed to support your daughter as she journeys through the Junior and Secondary Schools. To my mind, the other vital ingredient is an open, honest and positive relationship between the College and the family of each girl, to ensure that we are all working together and in her best interests.

My hope is that each Penrhos student will understand the significance of all that she has learned during her time at the College and that she will take this gift with her as she graduates from Year 12 and moves into adult life.

**Mrs Meg Melville**

Principal



*mind heart body spirit*



# A HISTORY OF STRIVING FOR THE HIGHEST



Emblazoned on every Penrhos uniform, aptly sitting just above each girl's heart, is the motto "Strive for the Highest". Since the College was founded in 1952, it has guided everything we do.

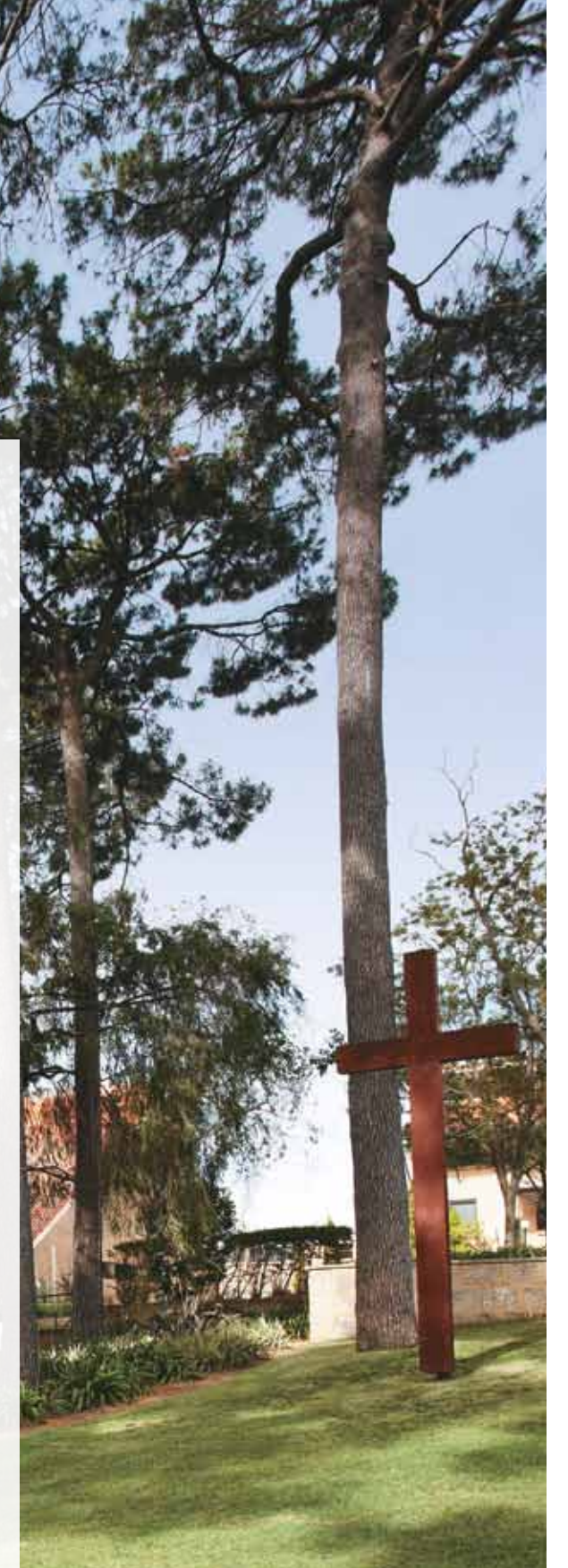
Our motto covers the obvious areas of school life like academic studies, sport and the arts, but is equally appropriate for how we interact with one another as individuals and as a community.

Physically, our motto translates into a magnificent College campus that caters for 1,200 students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. In 1971, the school moved to our present site, an 8-hectare former pine plantation in Como, just 6 kilometres south of Perth. This peaceful parkland setting forms the backdrop for our modern buildings and state of the art facilities.

Academically, "Strive for the Highest" is reflected in the fact that most years, more than 90% of our students aspiring for University entrance are successful, with a number earning certificates of distinction and excellence. Girls who are not academically inclined are still given the opportunity to achieve their personal best through tailored programs, learning support, career guidance and many co-curricular activities.

Emotionally, it is about giving girls the self-belief and strength to face all life's challenges. In a safe, caring, Christian environment, your daughter will be given countless opportunities to set aspirational goals, discover her talents and grow into a young woman with a strong moral compass.

Mind, heart, body and spirit; our holistic approach gives our girls the foundation on which to build a balanced life.





A portrait of Professor Keryn Christiansen, a woman with short, wavy blonde hair, wearing a black and white patterned top and a pearl necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

## Professor Keryn Christiansen

Head of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases,  
Royal Perth Hospital.

### 1966 Leaver, 5 years at Penrhos

#### Fondest Memory:

My English and Drama teacher, Mrs Braunsdorf. Her classes were incredibly stimulating and she was an inspiring educator. Under her guidance I was cast as the lead in our school play "Everyman". This was the beginning of me liking an audience, of being comfortable – and even thriving – in front of a crowd. It prepared me well for my professional career.

#### What's your greatest personal achievement?

First and foremost, my family. I have a wonderful husband whom I have been married to for 42 years, two fantastic children and four gorgeous grandchildren.

Professionally, I love my work in the area of antibiotic resistance and superbugs. Through our work we have successfully been able to keep superbugs from becoming epidemic in WA hospitals, which is a huge achievement. I am also the President of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, which is a position I am very proud of as it is a large and well-respected international association. I am the first Australian, and the first woman, to be appointed to this position.

A close-up, slightly blurred image of a young girl with blonde hair, looking down and smiling. She is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a classroom or library setting.

## HOW WE NURTURE CURIOUS MINDS

**Our teaching and learning program aims to inspire girls to achieve their academic potential through varied experiences that engage, excite and challenge.**

Our high level of academic care, together with a broad, balanced, vibrant and seamless curriculum, starts girls on a lifelong learning journey.

The girls' learning experiences reflect their developmental stage. The early years are a period of discovery and our focus is on nurturing imagination through play based learning. In middle childhood, hands on learning taps into natural curiosity. By late childhood, girls are able to think in more abstract terms and learn how to put their problem solving skills into action.

Early adolescence is a time for questioning self and place. As girls develop confidence with the conceptual framework of different subjects, they are able to engage in more abstract thinking. In late adolescence, the curriculum sets out to challenge the girls and enhance their analytical skills. By Years 11 and 12, the focus is on developing independence and initiative to prepare girls for tertiary education, vocational pathways and beyond.

*mind*





## EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

**Sending your little girl off to 'school' for the first time is an exciting and rewarding experience for both you and your child.**

At Penrhos, you have the comfort of knowing our Early Learning Centre is specifically designed to promote collaboration and creativity in a safe and secure environment.

The ELC is home to 3 to 7 year olds in classes from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 1. In addition to year specific classrooms, there are multi-purpose activity areas where children can come together as a group. The upper floor of the ELC links to the Junior School oval.

Our curriculum for the early years promotes, amongst our youngest students, a sense of identity and well-being, allowing the development of confident and involved learners. Taking inspiration from the philosophy of Reggio Emilia and the College core values of Respect, Integrity, Empathy, Knowledge, Growth and Synergy, the girls make connections with their world.

Through a play-based context to learning, students develop fundamental skills in literacy, numeracy and physical development which foster creativity and social skills.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL

**Our Junior School provides a happy, safe caring environment for girls in Years 2 to 6.**

We pay great attention to giving our girls a solid base in literacy and numeracy, upon which they can build all their future learning. We are also committed to incorporating information technology into our Junior School curriculum. We believe it enhances the girls' learning experiences and helps develop sound research and analytical skills.

As this wonderful age is when many girls start discovering their passions in life, we expose them to as many opportunities and experiences as possible. For example, all girls learn Italian throughout Junior School, giving them an insight into another culture. The arts nurture creativity, expression and imagination, so we have committed significant resources to our visual art, drama and music programs and facilities. Our physical education program emphasises 'giving it a go' and favours learning new skills over competition. Girls have opportunities to participate in ball games, swimming, athletics, dance and gymnastics.

Because your daughter will be bursting to show off her accomplishments, we encourage you to get involved in College life and attend our Chapel services, assemblies and interhouse carnivals. Of course we recognise many parents work, so our Before and After School Care program offers organised activities and homework supervision from 7am until 6pm.









## SECONDARY SCHOOL YEARS 7 TO 9

**The adolescent years mark a period of momentous physical, emotional and intellectual development in a girl's life.**

It's a time when she begins to question the world around her, evaluate her relationships with others and think more deeply about spiritual matters. She needs a secure and supportive environment in which to develop confidence, find her own voice and establish the ground rules for the rest of her life.

Our Phases of Learning and Development program has been designed to meet the specific needs of the early teenage years. The educational program, focused on the whole-person paradigm, considers each girl's specific needs as she progresses through Years 7, 8 and 9. The College's organisational structure, facilities and curriculum engage each student's mind, heart, body and spirit.

Focus on student-centred, enquiry-orientated learning encourages a love of knowledge and independent research. As with the Junior School, information technology is integrated across the curriculum, with personal notebook computers used by each student.

We have found that Year 7 girls benefit from the specialised teaching that they receive along with opportunities for extension and access to facilities not normally available in a primary or junior school setting. Great care is taken to ensure that students feel comfortable transitioning into Secondary School.

Students are offered a variety of leadership opportunities during this period to assist their development and sense of importance during what we deem to be a critical time in their development.



## SECONDARY SCHOOL YEARS 10 TO 12

**This is the pointy end of schooling. A time when girls have to start making tough decisions that will affect their future. It starts in Year 10, when they have to choose their subjects for Years 11 and 12.**

Obviously, the more we can help a girl discover her strengths and interests, the better informed her decisions will be. Our work experience, community service, outdoor education and peer mentoring programs are all there to help your daughter answer the question, "What makes me tick?"

With her subjects chosen, she'll enter Year 11 and 12 along either a university or vocational pathway. During this period she will be supported with on-going careers counselling, visiting speakers and study skills sessions.

As all work and no play makes for a girl with a very narrow focus, we give her plenty of opportunities to incorporate sporting, cultural and social events into her life.

To ensure you stay abreast of your daughter's development, there is a strong focus on communication through parent information evenings, student review evenings, newsletters and email.

With your help, by the time she graduates we will have shaped your daughter into a young woman with the skills and confidence to adapt to a rapidly changing world.





## CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATION

**Young women of today can expect to have multiple careers, many of which do not even exist yet. Whatever your daughter does, technology is likely to be involved.**

That is why we have made a conscious decision to remain at the forefront of information technology in education, to give our girls the learning and research skills to adapt to constant change.

Computer acquisitions, regular upgrades and the integration of information technologies across our curriculum are an ongoing priority, with capital expenditure on hardware and software a major budgetary item.

This is not a matter of technology over content. Used appropriately, technology and monitored Internet access encourage students to become:

- Independent, lifelong learners
- Creative and critical thinkers
- Problem-solvers
- Cooperative and collaborative workers
- Skilled researchers
- Global communicators

Exposure to computer technology starts in Kindergarten. From Year 5 all girls are required to own a personal notebook computer, purchased through the College notebook program. Students also have access to specialised equipment housed in computer resource centres, the library, science laboratories, the music department and other areas of the College.





## Kristy Lawrence

Fashion Designer and founder of lifestyle label Flannel

### 1988 Leaver, 5 years at Penrhos

#### Fondest Memory:

The one thing I cherish above all from my time at Penrhos is the enduring friendships that I made during my five years there - friendships that have stayed with me to this day. The community that Penrhos provided created both a grounding and a launching pad for all of us and I hope to take those experiences and friendships through with me for the rest of my life.

#### What's your greatest personal achievement?

On a personal level my greatest achievement is giving birth to and nurturing my three children. However, on a professional level, my greatest achievement to date would have to be winning the 'V Australia New Generation Rockstar Award' for Best New Australian Designer at Rosemount Australian Fashion Week in May of 2009 and from this, seeing my label stocked alongside the world's best designers in the most prestigious retail outlets around the world.



# THE ART OF DEVELOPING CREATIVE THINKERS

**One glance at The Rixon Theatre, our Performing Arts Centre, with its 750-seat professional theatre complete with orchestra pit, tells you we take the arts very seriously.**

The ability to think creatively will help your daughter survive, and thrive, through all that career change futurists predict is coming her way. Should you have a budding actress, musician, dancer or artist, she will positively embrace our rich arts program. The school calendar overflows with musical recitals, theatrical productions, drama festivals, art exhibitions and eisteddfods.

More than one third of our students learn an instrument and enjoy numerous performance opportunities. We have an ongoing relationship with the WA Symphony Orchestra, The Perth International Arts Festival and The WA Opera Company, giving our girls exposure to international conductors and musicians. Our Music Department incorporates a keyboard laboratory and a computerised composition studio.

Drama and dance are other areas of excellence. Class workshops culminate in a Variety Night at which all students perform. At the Interhouse Drama Festival, students from Years 7 to 12 perform a one-act play and a self-choreographed dance routine. The annual College production is a fantastic public showcase for all our actors, singers, dancers, musicians and backstage crew.

Our visual artists express themselves through a variety of media at the annual Art and Photography Exhibition. Our public speakers and debaters hone their skills at an interhouse level, before going on to interschool and interstate competitions.

heart











## Tessa Parkinson

Sailor and Olympic Gold Medalist

### 2003 Leaver, 13 years at Penrhos

#### Fondest Memory:

All of my friends that I went to Penrhos with are still my closest friends now. We all shared so many good times at Penrhos that really brought us close together. We had a lot of fun in the cross-country team, sailing team, at our Yr 12 ball, in our form classes, the list is endless.

#### What's your greatest personal achievement?

Winning a gold medal at the Beijing Olympic Games. Knowing that you have the confidence to reach the goal that you set out to achieve because in achieving any goal you have to overcome so many challenges and really build your own strength of character.



## DEVELOPING MENTAL STRENGTH THROUGH PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

**It doesn't matter whether your daughter has two left feet, or is a budding Olympian, our Physical and Outdoor Education Program is ultimately about developing life skills over physical skills.**

That's not to say she won't be physically challenged; she will, through a number of activities including swimming, diving, athletics, tennis, rowing, cricket, netball, gymnastics and surfing. However, while being fit and healthy will ultimately make her a better-rounded student, it is the qualities of teamwork, leadership, motivation, confidence and resourcefulness that she will develop through sport that will stay with her for life.

Skills training is the primary focus of physical education classes from Kindergarten to Year 10. Students of all ages enjoy a diverse range of activities such as self-defence, aerobics, dance and rock climbing.

Your daughter will learn about competition through interhouse sports, and because we want her to associate physical activity with fun, girls from Years 5 to 10 take part in an annual camp where they build confidence and resilience while developing their outdoor skills. Year 11 and 12 girls also have the option of interstate and overseas trips.



body







## LEONE COTTAM-WILLIAMS

School Liaison Officer, UnitingCare West /  
Social Justice Advocate

### 1990 Leaver, 5 years at Penrhos

#### Fondest Memory:

I have many fond memories of Penrhos. Many memories are to do with friendships, sitting on the lawns under the pine trees and chatting with my friends. I loved having special friends in each class. I still cherish these friendships and have these friends in my life today. I loved the Chapel being built and the awe of the wavy ceiling and stained glass windows and the how the sound of the hymns changed once we moved from the Jubilee Hall over to the Chapel. I could go on and on...so many fond memories.

#### What's your greatest personal achievement?

Absolutely my two gorgeous daughters. My social justice advocacy work has been acknowledged by UnitingCare West with the honour of an ERIIC (Empathy, Respect, Inclusiveness, Integrity and Commitment) Award. Being a part of The Virtues Project and a board member for Protective Behaviours WA are ongoing commitments I am proud to be a part of. Closer to home in recent years when we've experienced bushfires in our local community, my husband and I volunteered with the Salvation Army setting up a station that looked after the fire fighters. Service is just one of the ways we can give back.

## PASTORAL CARE

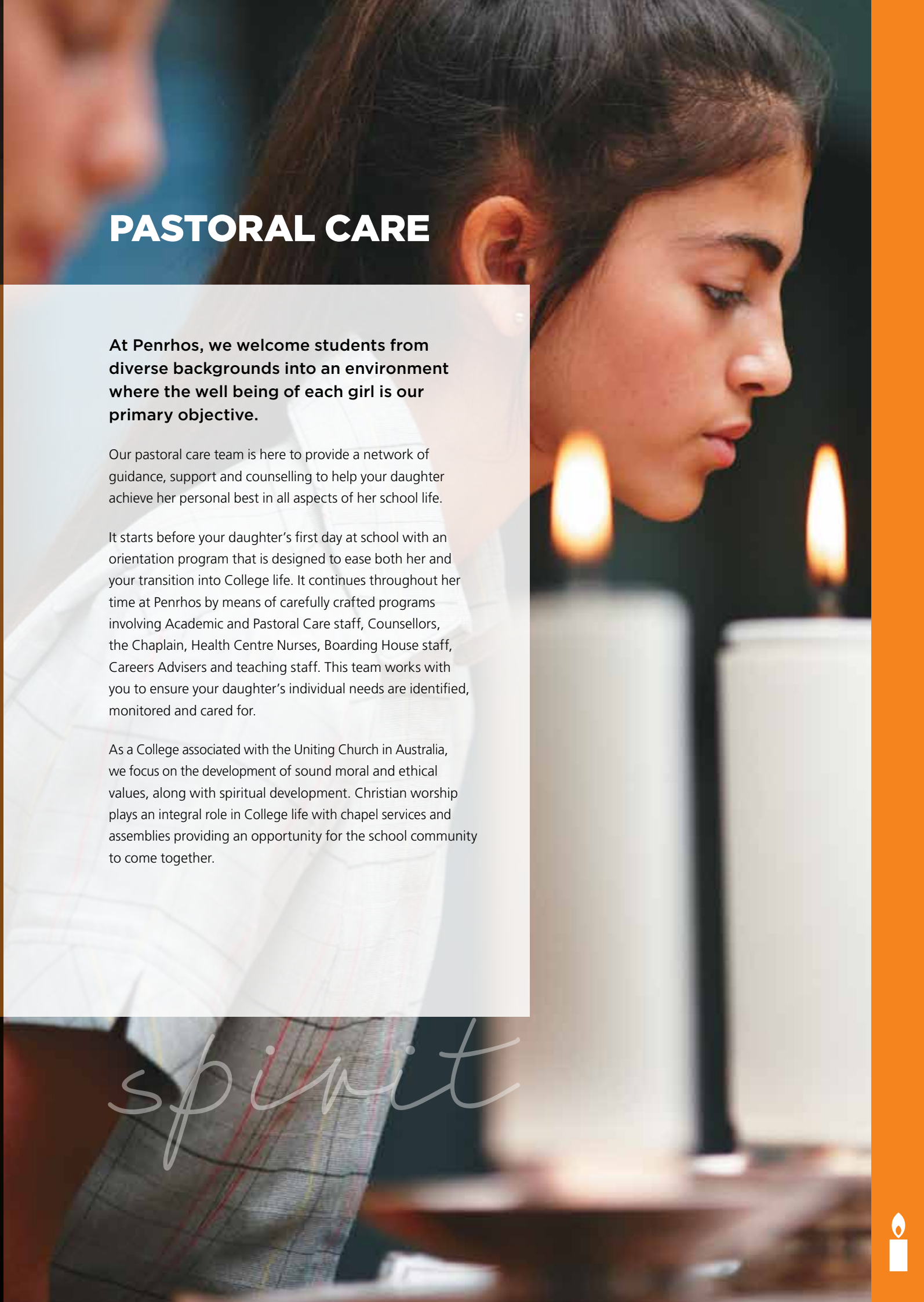
**At Penrhos, we welcome students from diverse backgrounds into an environment where the well being of each girl is our primary objective.**

Our pastoral care team is here to provide a network of guidance, support and counselling to help your daughter achieve her personal best in all aspects of her school life.

It starts before your daughter's first day at school with an orientation program that is designed to ease both her and your transition into College life. It continues throughout her time at Penrhos by means of carefully crafted programs involving Academic and Pastoral Care staff, Counsellors, the Chaplain, Health Centre Nurses, Boarding House staff, Careers Advisers and teaching staff. This team works with you to ensure your daughter's individual needs are identified, monitored and cared for.

As a College associated with the Uniting Church in Australia, we focus on the development of sound moral and ethical values, along with spiritual development. Christian worship plays an integral role in College life with chapel services and assemblies providing an opportunity for the school community to come together.

*spirit*





## BOARDING AT PENRHOS – SHE’S IN SAFE HANDS

**Our boarding community is much smaller than most, with room for only 100 girls from Years 7 to 12. We’ve kept it small to create a nurturing, intimate and safe home away from home.**

The boarding house is home to girls from rural Western Australia and overseas, as well as day students whose parents are overseas for short periods. Looking out for your daughter’s emotional and physical well-being are the Head of Boarding, boarding staff and Health Centre nursing staff.

For most girls, moving into the boarding house is their first experience of living away from home. Our orientation program helps ease the transition, while a strong pastoral care system is there to support girls throughout the year.

Boarding at Penrhos however, is about more than just residential care. It is a place where lifelong friendships are made, and independence, respect and cooperation are learned. Should they need some alone time, each girl has the privacy of her own room.

Each cohort has their own kitchen, television room and common room, and girls have out of school hours access to sports, music and recreation facilities. We even have a recreation officer to organise weird and wonderful weekend activities.

## THE PENRHOS COMMUNITY

**Penrhos is a community made up of not only the girls and staff working within it, but also former students, current and past parents, retired staff and other friends. The College’s excellent facilities and reputation owe much to the voluntary work and financial support of our committed community members.**

While tuition fees and government grants cover recurrent expenses, other measures are necessary to raise finance for capital projects, additional classroom equipment and to ensure the long-term independence of the College. These needs are met by the Penrhos College Foundation, the Board-managed fundraising arm of the College that each new family joins by virtue of paying a confirming fee prior to entry.

The Foundation, through the Development Office, also runs Annual Giving, a yearly fundraising appeal where members are asked to make a tax-deductible gift. This helps provide the best facilities and programs for our students.

The 8,000 strong Penrhos College Alumni Inc make an outstanding contribution with bursary support, annual prizes and gifts, careers advice, representation on the College Council and financial assistance to the archives.

Parents wanting to get involved in school life are invited to join:

- The Foundation
- Auxiliary
- Friends of Music
- Penrhosian Club
- Parents and Friends’ Association
- Friends of Drama and Dance
- Penrhos Rowing Support Group
- Menrhos (Dads’ Group)





## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Numerous scholarships and bursaries are awarded annually to enable girls to enjoy the benefits of a Penrhos education.**

- Academic scholarships are available to students entering Years 7, 8, 10 and 11.
- Music scholarships are available to students entering Years 7 to 12.
- Foundation Bursaries are available to students entering Years 7 and 8.
- An Alumni Scholarship is awarded to a student entering Year 7 who is a daughter or granddaughter of a past student.
- Alumni Bursaries are open to daughters and granddaughters of past students.
- An Isolated Children's Bursary is awarded every two years to a Year 8 student.
- A Boarding Bursary is available every two years to a Year 11 student.

Further details and application forms are available from the Registrar. Application is recommended well in advance of desired admission.

## ENROLMENTS

Applications for enrolment are processed strictly in order of receipt, with entry to Kindergarten, Years 5, 7, 8 and 10 in particular demand. To avoid placement on a waiting list, some parents enrol their child at birth. Casual vacancies occasionally occur at other year levels.

**We would love to give you an individual tour of our beautiful College. Alternatively, you are welcome to attend our annual Open Day which is held in March. Please contact the Registrar for more information.**



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