



# Strategic Vision

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2020-2024

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Doing School  
*Differently*

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Mick Cross  
Managing Director

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# Managing Director

When a student enrolls at Arethusa College, their experience of education has often not been a positive one. Our students have previously disengaged from their educational journey for a broad variety of reasons. However, they all have one thing in common; the system failed them. When the student was struggling at their previous school, the mainstream education system demanded that the student change and comply to serve its needs for elite academic results, for conformity or that they demonstrate an average intellectual makeup that responds well to standard teaching approaches.

Instead at Arethusa we ask;

- Why is this student struggling?
- How do we flex, adapt and re-dream for this student?
- How do we best meet their needs?
- How might they find success?

Three years ago, Arethusa College set out on a journey to not only reinvent itself as an organisation but to reinvent the way we served our students, to focus on achieving their best outcomes. We would do this by creating vibrant, flexible and creative educational communities that put the needs of the student first, looking after their personal wellbeing and their educational and vocational outcomes.

In short, we committed to do school differently for the sake of our students, because we ultimately believe that they are amazing young men and women who deserve the best; who, given the right environment and the right opportunities, are capable of great things.

The questions we asked around how best to meet the needs of the student and how to set them up for success, sent us on a journey of thinking outside the box, outside of conventional practice. We committed to and invested in the road less travelled. We assert that students are our core business and that without them we do not exist. It is our role to serve them and their best outcomes. However, for us at Arethusa our reason to exist is so much more than that.

We love our students, unconditionally. We see our students for who they are and who they can be. We hear our students, and we give their voice respect, value and a platform. We use their voice to assist in shaping the journey they will pursue.

We **Believe** in our students; we don't define them by their past experience but rather their future potential and possibilities. We **Expect** great things of our students; as a result we raise the bar, we invest and journey with them and we **Celebrate** our students; because they are absolutely worthy of being celebrated, as they step out of their comfort zones and towards the goals they set for themselves.

We are Arethusa and we exist to serve our students, to clear their path, to know them and their strengths and invest in them in such a way that it unlocks their potential and their success. This is our journey, the one we commit to pursuing every day and the one we commit to refine and if required, reinvent for the sake of each and every young person that enters our community.

To have a vision of who we are becoming and where we are headed is a powerful resource. However, without the dedication, determination, unending care and creativity of our amazing Arethusa Staff, who live and breathe that dream every day, we would not be who we are or where we are today. For that, on behalf of all our current and future students, I am, and will be forever, grateful.



Lisa Coles  
Executive Principal

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## Executive Principal

This 'Vision' document provides a focus for the direction that the College will take over the next five years and beyond. The Vision sets the scene for the 'Strategic Plan 2020-2024'.

Together, as a College, we shape our future and measure our progress by working collaboratively with all stakeholders - our Board, our precious students, their families and our incredible staff.

Arethusa prides itself on being innovative, flexible and agile in our approach to teaching and learning. We aim to respond in service of our students in a way that stubbornly reflects their value and the immeasurable potential they carry; where we prioritise their needs above what is easy, traditional or expected.

By placing students firmly at the centre of everything we do, we ask new questions around curriculum, pedagogy, staffing, and resourcing. We draw upon research and the expertise of others while also investing into developing new paths that hold to our mission and values.

We believe that education should be student shaped; designed around their individual needs and interests. We believe that we are better when we are surrounded by a safe and supportive community in which we can grow and develop. We believe that it benefits everyone when we think beyond ourselves; to find what is uniquely ours to contribute for the benefit of others. We believe in leadership that is by the students, for the students. We believe that diversity is a strength.

At Arethusa College, we embrace the notion of *Believe, Expect, Celebrate*. To know that there is always a 'vision-centred direction' in front of us that is aspirational but achievable, is an exciting prospect.

The Vision sets the parameters needed to meet the challenges ahead, and I commend it to you, as we together aspire to provide excellence in Special Assistance Schooling for all students who will call Arethusa College their school.

*Believe Expect Celebrate*

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## OUR MISSION

At Arethusa College we affirm the intrinsic value and enormous potential in all young people, therefore we commit to...

**Believe** in our students, **Expect** great things of them and for them and to **Celebrate** them.

We will believe in our students (everyday), until they can believe in themselves and then believe in others.

We will raise the bar and expect of our students, until they can expect of themselves and step towards the exciting possibilities that surround them.

We will celebrate our students as they grow, until they can celebrate their lives and their journey and then be a part of celebrating those around them

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## OUR VISION

At Arethusa College our vision is to lead the way in engaging students in exceptional, lifelong, educational journeys within communities that meet the students where they are at; empowering and equipping them to reach their full potential.

We do this by creating educational communities, innovative programs, that facilitate **Real Connections, Real Learning** and **Real Futures**.

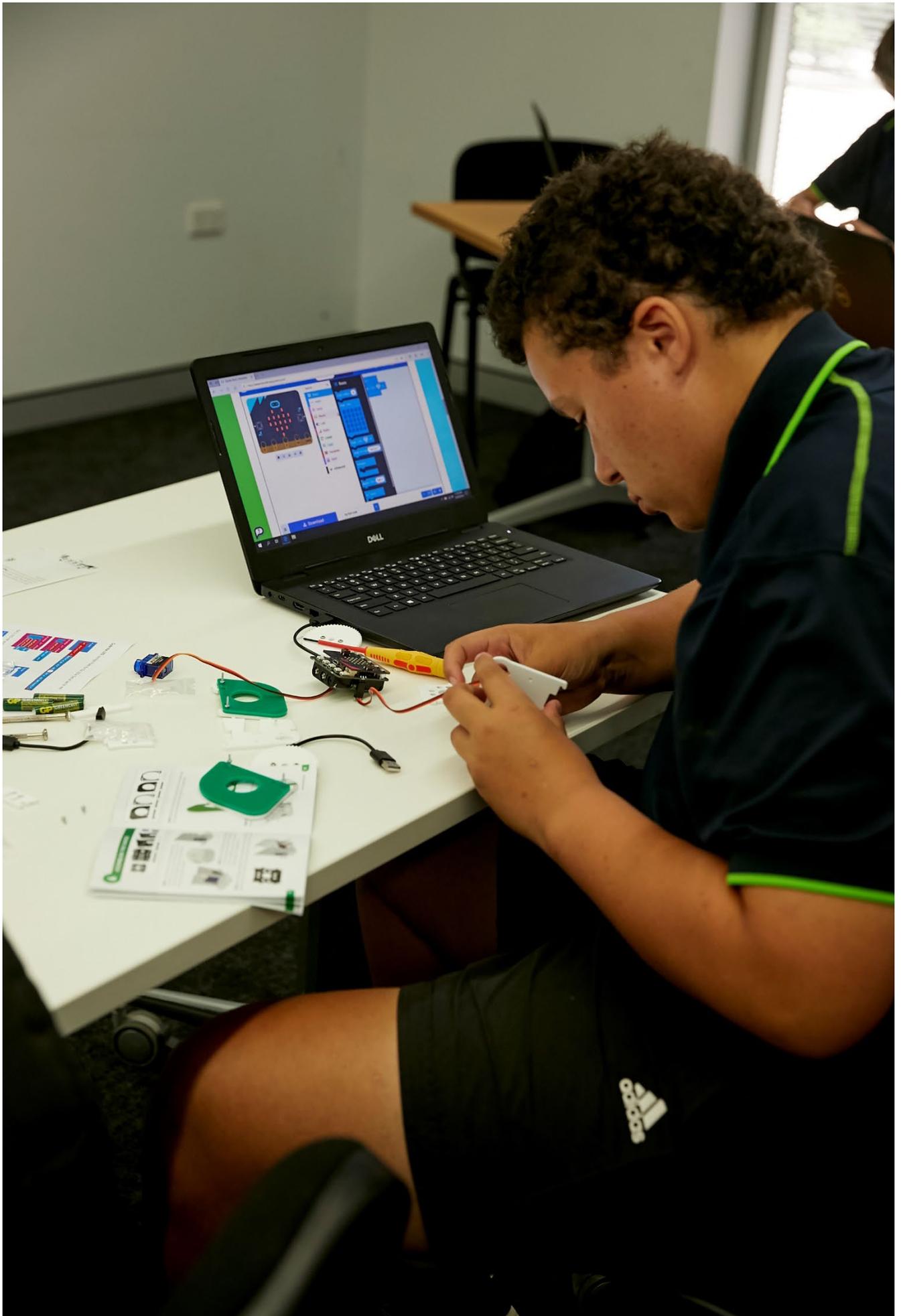
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## WE VALUE

Arethusa College's values acknowledge that we are inspired and empowered by the love of Christ and His Kingdom. That we, as an organisation, are motivated to do what we do because of what Christ has done for us, and we do it for the outcomes and benefit of the students we serve. We do this so that they can become all that they were created to be.









Here at Arethusa College we offer students from Year 7-12, alternative educational and vocational pathways to assist them to experience positive educational outcomes. Taking a flexible and innovative approach to education, we empower young people and prepare them for life now and for the future.

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## STUDENT SHAPED LEARNING

### WE ASPIRE TO:

- Maximise student learning outcomes
- Fan the flame of students' love for learning
- Individualise and personalise learning
- Engage our students
- Innovate and experiment

### WE WILL:

- ✓ Be flexible and agile in our response to student needs
- ✓ Develop curriculum and a pedagogy that reflects our priorities to see all students succeed
- ✓ Use data, research and consultation with all stakeholders to achieve our objectives
- ✓ Discover students' passions and gifts, celebrating and building on them
- ✓ Get it wrong until we get it right
- ✓ Experiment with boutique campuses and assess their ability to better engage our students
- ✓ Share what we have learnt with other educators
- ✓ Facilitate vocational experiences and pathways





Students at Arethusa College will find it is more than just a school. They will find a community that supports each young person to dream, investigate, explore and reach their potential. Arethusa College respects and encourages differences.

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## COMMUNITY OF BELONGING

### WE ASPIRE TO:

- Value all members of our community
- Celebrate our diversity
- See the potential in all young people
- Provide a safe and supportive environment
- Unconditional positive regard for all

### WE WILL:

- ✓ Welcome all students despite their history
- ✓ Provide a fresh start
- ✓ Be trauma informed in our practices
- ✓ Work together for each others' benefit
- ✓ Be unified in our uniqueness
- ✓ Commit to seeing each other succeed





We believe strongly in the potential of all young people and commit to developing leadership by the students, for the students.

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## DEVELOPMENT OF INFLUENCERS

### WE ASPIRE TO:

- Leadership by the students, for the students
- See our graduates lead in their chosen fields
- Develop leaders from within our staff
- Develop leaders that other schools seek
- Model what is possible when we ***Believe, Expect*** and ***Celebrate*** our students

### WE WILL:

- ✓ Act as a research and development hub for the education sector and Special Assistance Schooling
- ✓ Host professional development opportunities
- ✓ Make links with other schools committed to doing school differently with a view to learning from each other and sharing resources
- ✓ Consult widely and generously when requested
- ✓ Invite alumni to continue to partnership with us and invest into student's success stories
- ✓ Build relational links with Business and Industry



## Learning about Micro:bits

- Introduction to robotics
- Micro:bit Wave mini construction
- Micro:bit coding



Student and staff wellbeing are cornerstones to all that we do at Arethusa.

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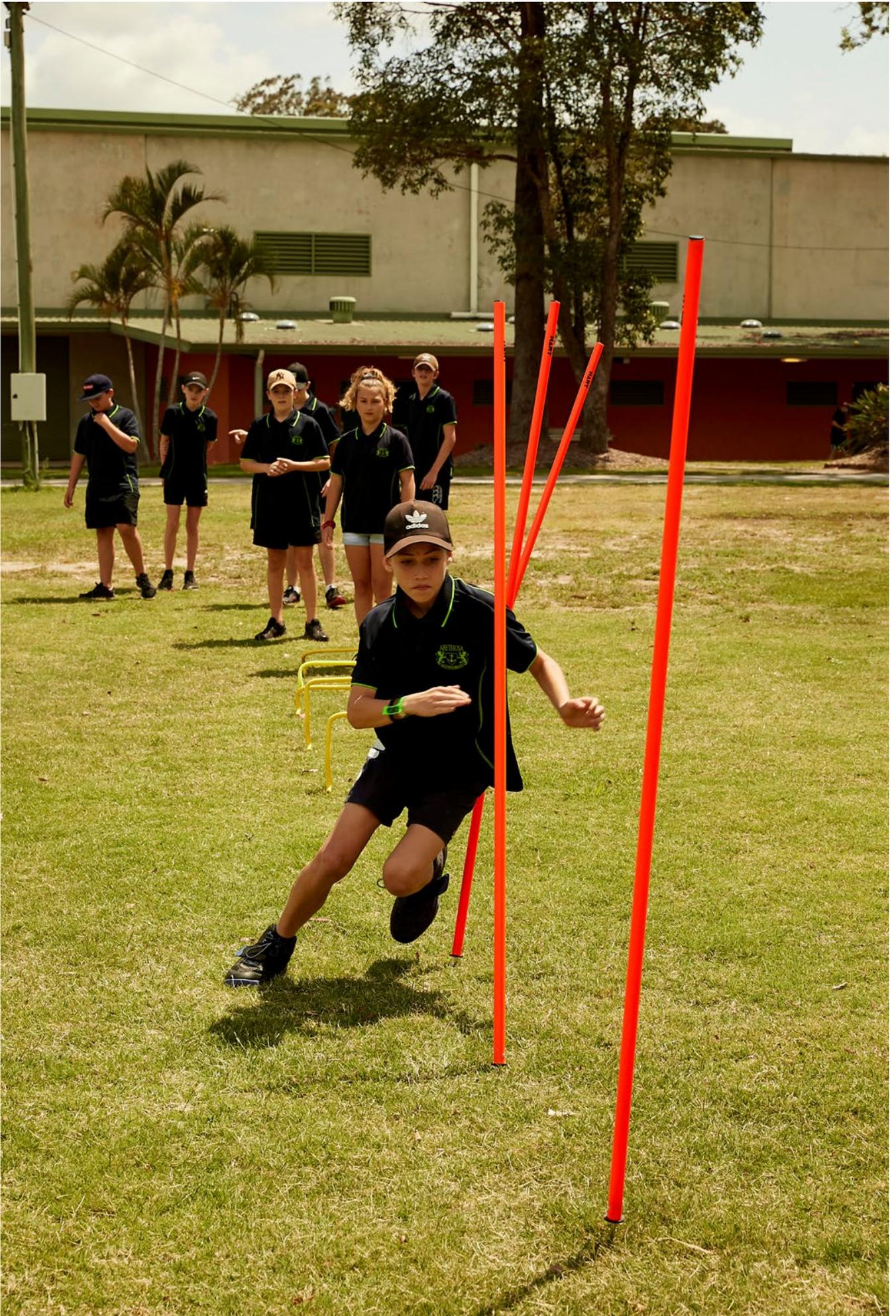
## WHOLENESS AND HEALTH

### WE ASPIRE TO:

- Provide a safe place for healing for everyone engaged in our community
- Develop the whole child – physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual
- Be an employer of choice renowned for its support and development of staff

### WE WILL:

- ✓ Prioritise student and staff wellbeing
- ✓ Implement wellbeing programs that are reflective of participants' needs
- ✓ Offer staff and student counselling services
- ✓ Work with families to maximise wellbeing for all
- ✓ Partner with community services





In unlocking our students' potential, we give our community the great gift of young people working with their talents for the benefit of all.

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## SERVICE HEART

### WE ASPIRE TO:

- Think beyond ourselves
- Think towards others
- Encourage participation and service of the wider community
- Servant leadership

### WE WILL:

- ✓ Build community around our students and for our students
- ✓ Work in service of our community
- ✓ Create work ready students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills that employers seek out and value
- ✓ Work with students' interests and passions to unlock their potential in the service of others





As a young, healthy, and growing school, we wish to develop our capacity in a way that honours the students that we serve.

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# EXPANDING ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

## WE ASPIRE TO:

- Healthy and sustainable growth
- Resourcing that prioritises student outcomes
- Innovative program development
- Cutting edge technology
- Buildings that prioritise student learning and reflect the esteem with which we view them
- Build the capacity of all those employed at Arethusa College

## WE WILL:

- ✓ Develop leadership pathways within our College
- ✓ Partner with universities, industry, business and community leaders to deepen and broaden our capacity to serve our students
- ✓ Uphold and develop the best of governance principles and practices
- ✓ Invent and evolve models and space for service provision

