

Media Statement

21 May 2024

STUDENTS WELCOME HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PRESENTATION

Earlier today, students at Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) attended a presentation by internationally recognised speaker and author, Jason Evert, and provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on this initiative.

The presentation, which was entirely optional and subject to parental consent, was offered in multi-mode which enabled participation across multiple CSBB schools.

While these discussions about personal relationships and sexuality can be challenging and highly sensitive, it was evident from the feedback of those who participated, the vast majority welcomed the opportunity.

A number of students commented that the presentation was positive, informative and nothing like the reports circulating in the media, especially social media.

Comments included: "Everything I've heard that was negative about Jason was untrue, thanks Jason"; "very engaging and informative"; "broadened my knowledge about relationships"; "some odd language but good points"; and "helped me with my self-worth".

Director of Schools, Danny Casey said he was delighted that so many students found today helpful. He said, "This initiative was always about our students. In teaching young people about healthy relationships, it is important to empower students to make good decisions and respect themselves, their peers and their faith."

CSBB is grateful for the support of all our parents in the work we undertake to deliver authentic, professional Catholic education. We are particularly grateful to the parents of students who attended today's presentation and the encouragement they provided to our local principals and their staff.

Mr Casey said, "We are fortunate to have compassionate, faith filled and highly committed leaders and staff who are doing all they can for the students entrusted to their care to come to know Christ, to love learning and to be the best they can be.

While we are always grateful for feedback, in recent days some of our colleagues have been subjected to inaccurate and disrespectful comments by individuals, including some outside the school community, and even interstate. This has

caused significant stress for a number of our staff and CSBB has arranged appropriate support.

I thank all our staff for the dignity and good grace in the way they have responded to the past challenging few days”.

As part of our Mission to empower our students, CSBB will continue to develop multiple initiatives in close collaboration with parents and our clergy including opportunities to engage local, as well as international guest speakers, especially those aligned with Catholic Church teachings.

ENDS

For information regarding this release contact:

Katrina Lee 0403 950 652

Email: Katrina.Lee@bbcatholic.org.au

General Information

At Catholic Schools Broken Bay, our vision is to provide 'authentic, professional Catholic education, delivered with care and compassion'. The vision is underpinned by our exciting and robust Towards 2025 Strategy which places students at the centre of everything we do, and which brings schools and Parishes together to work as one. The Towards 2025 Strategy commits our system of schools to being at least as good as the very best, to maximise the learning growth of every student, and to inspire hearts and minds to know Christ and love learning. Covering an expansive geographical area which includes the Central Coast and Sydney's Northern Beaches and North Shore, Catholic Schools Broken Bay is a system serving 44 Catholic Schools with around 17,000 students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Further information on Towards 2025 is available at the CSBB website.

[Our Strategy - Towards 2025 - Catholic Schools \(csbb.catholic.edu.au\)](https://csbb.catholic.edu.au)