

**Wayne Chester**

Principal

Leongatha Secondary College

03 December 2019

**RE: Application for Senior School Leader**

Dear Mr Chester,

As a dedicated and motivated student, I am extremely interested in applying for the esteemed position of Senior School Leader.

As well as attending the College, I work at YMCA South Gippsland SPLASH and volunteer with the VICSES Leongatha Unit. These positions have assisted me in developing key leadership and communication skills which will reinforce my passion and commitment to actively represent the school and community.

My mentors and employers have commended me for my high level of team skills and strong work ethic. With ambition and dedication to the College makes me an ideal candidate for this position, and will be a positive role model within our community, improving environmental issues within the College and improving opportunities within the school for other students.

Thank you in advance for considering me for the position and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss my application.

Kind Regards,

Jade Rhoden

## **Demonstrated commitment to the College.**

Throughout my time at Leongatha Secondary College, I have displayed a high level of commitment to the College through my involvement in various extracurricular activities. Most recently, my participation in the school production as a technical assistant not only provided much-needed practical support behind-the-scenes but also provided me with the opportunity to offer personal support to those students overcome with stage fright. Many students confided in me before performing and I utilised my interpersonal skills to provide them with reassurance and encouragement. In 2018 I was selected as a Peer Support leader which reinforced the importance of being a positive role model and how simple kindness and a familiar face can make a difference to younger students. During my role as a Peer Support leader, I represented the student community as friendly and approachable. 2018 also saw my participation in regional BrainSTEM where we developed a project to teach students to code in their Year 10 Science class, as it is a skill that will be needed in the future. I represented College when I participated in the Gnurad-Gundidj School for Student Leadership where I developed many valuable team and leadership skills, including communication, strategic thinking, responsibility, and people skills. I have been able to utilise these skills to give back to the College on many occasions. My commitment to the College is perhaps best exemplified by having been heavily involved in the SRC since Year 7. Each year I have continued to make meaningful contributions to SRC meetings, volunteer at fundraisers and report back to the SRC on the ideas gathered at conferences. I was also involved with the South Gippsland Schools Music Program for four years participating in weekly band practice, instrumental lessons, performing and representing the school on the local and broader community showing my dedication to the College through my contribution and participation in extra-curricular activities. Not only am I committed to the College as a whole, but I am also deeply invested in the future of students at LSC. I was heavily involved in the organisation of a road rescue demonstration with the local SES precisely because I wholeheartedly believe that students are entitled to a wide range of opportunities to gain valuable leadership and technical skills and make informed decisions about their future by being exposed to various career and volunteer pathways. My commitment is so ingrained that I did not hesitate to volunteer my time in 2015 to guide prospective students and their parents around the school. It was with great pride and genuine belief that I informed school guests of the benefits of attending LSC and spoke at the presentation about life in Year 7.

Due to my sense of responsibility towards the College, I endeavour to improve the school community through the improvement of the school's environmental footprint. Such as the minimisation of litter and the implementation of more recycling bins. I believe the enhancement of our schools' environmental footprint will create a better learning environment and increase the student's respect of the school. Furthermore increasing the participation of members and changing the operation of the SRC, making it more student-driven and teacher-facilitated in the decisions made and discussions had. I want to help, through the SRC, create leaders of tomorrow. I want to see a change within the SRC as too often younger students are left without a constructive voice in the school, I believe that the SRC should be building younger students up to become leaders looking to improve the community rather than a sole participants in a bake sale, although volunteers for occasions as such are crucial to the success of fundraising, I have a vision to create an SRC where students are given opportunities to develop their team and leadership skills under the guidance of senior SRC mentors. I believe this will enhance the students development of lifelong skills and building respect between one another while giving them the opportunity to step up and give back to the College. While the role of Senior School Leader is a one-year role I want to build a stronger SRC where students value the skills given to them and continue to mentor their younger peers fostering a welcoming environment for improvement.

## **Demonstrated a successful and consistent application to academic studies**

I am an incredibly driven student and take great pride in my scholarly pursuits. I have been consistently improving my academic performance in preparation for Year 12 and my preferred tertiary education in paramedicine. I have high expectations on myself to exceed my academic goals, as exemplified by having completed Units 3 and 4 of Biology as an accelerated subject this year as well as undertaking a Certificate III in Public Safety. I believe that to achieve academic success, it is critical to be able to identify and address one's

shortcomings, and it is in this way that I will always seek to improve my academic outcomes and achieve an outstanding ATAR

### **Demonstrated organisational skills**

I currently work at the local pool lifeguarding and teaching kids to swim, and volunteer with VICSES and Leongatha Lyric Theatre. These commitments require a high level of organization and devotion, which must also be balanced with my obligations as a full-time student. In recognition of this, I routinely study at home after school to meet upcoming assessment deadlines, which allows me to continue to enjoy my paid and volunteer work commitments. The ability to prioritise and maintain various responsibilities will also be relevant to the role of Senior School Leader. Using my organisational skills, I will continue to balance my commitments so that I may always apply myself wholeheartedly to representing the school and improving the school community.

### **Demonstrated ability to relate well to others.**

I work well with many different groups of people. At work I lifeguard, teach swimming and run parties, which all require me to be able to successfully engage, connect and communicate with people from a range of backgrounds and ages. This is also true regarding my involvement with VICSES where I communicate effectively with other volunteers and the local public. I work best within a team environment which will be a valuable quality in the Senior School Leadership team. Within the school community, my personable nature has meant that new students have felt comfortable enough to ask me for directions to classes and my friendly and familiar face has meant that students that I assisted during the Year 7 transition to this day continue to converse with me when we cross paths.

### **Leadership Experience**

My leadership experience over the last 4 years has ranged from within the school community when I was a Peer Support leader, SRC member and assisted during Year 7 information evenings as well as outside the community with my involvement with VICSES and my current role at work. The role of Peer Support Leader required me to engage with younger and often shy or worried students and assist them during their transition, whereas the Year 7 information evening required public speaking skills and clarity in communication. My attendance at the Gnurad-Gundidj School for Student Leadership has given me key skills such as my sense of responsibility, openness to critical feedback and allowed me to improve my public speaking skills, as demonstrated through my involvement with our community learning project 'Leading the way to acceptance'. My involvement with VICSES has provided me with the opportunity to expand my horizons and realise that I can be a leader within the community without an official leadership title. I believe that the qualities I now possess as a result of my leadership experience, as well as my passion to continually develop as a person, will allow me to successfully work with other school leaders to represent the school and to be a positive role model to both the student body and the local community.

The following referees can be contacted to support my application.

Ben Heath - SG SPLASH

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