

Good Evening

My name is Vanessa and I am the mother of Charlotte who is in year 8 at Canterbury Girls. I was asked to speak tonight on why I selected Canterbury Girls for my daughter and my impression of the school to date. Despite feeling extremely anxious about speaking in front of so many people I felt compelled to do so as I am just so impressed with Canterbury Girls and feel I need to share my love of this school with you so you too like me make the right choice for your daughter in her educational pursuits.

I would like to give you a brief background about myself so that you can appreciate my decision process in selecting Canterbury Girls.

I am a psychologist and have worked as a school counsellor for the department of Education for 13 years in a vast number of schools. I also work part time as a Psychologist in a youth service in Redfern and have done so for the last three and a half years. I work with adolescents every day and am acutely aware of the importance of school and the necessity for high schools to be engaging, strong in student support and expectations.

My profession certainly worked against me when choosing a high school for my daughter. I had knowledge about schools and had clients who did not want to go to school. This of course exacerbated my anxiety about choosing the right school for my daughter.

My dilemma was that I had a great local High School where my son was going but unfortunately it did not offer opportunities in the performing arts. My daughter went to Darlington P.S and was immersed in the

performing arts since pre-school. She loved to perform and articulated that she wanted to go to a high school that catered for this. I chose to investigate Canterbury Girls, which offered a very comprehensive performing arts program. I came to the Opening night and was so impressed with not only the school but also the students. To my surprise and admittedly great relief Canterbury Girls offered the complete package. Strong in performing arts with a great reputation, strong academics and strong in student welfare. I too sat where you are tonight and thought something felt very different about this school. It was genuine and it was real. The students who were there on the night were happy and clearly loved school. My relief was overwhelming. The girls were age appropriate, they were not trying to be something they were not, they loved what they did and they loved their school. Big seller for me!!

My daughter was invited for an interview for the performing arts class. We walked into the school and were received by amazingly helpful and friendly office staff. I was so impressed at the sense of normalcy in the school. The students were not pretentious, they were not grown beyond their years, they were not so cool they could not acknowledge us and they were laughing and happy.

This clearly met with my desire and wish for my daughter not to grow up too fast. To celebrate being a child. Not to feel pressured by other students to become older than her years or to be so cool that she stopped talking to me!

When my daughter was accepted we were elated. Despite the fact that she would be going there without any of her peers from primary school.

Starting year 7 is anxiety provoking for any parent and I felt it. My anxiety was unfounded. My daughter from the first day took to high school like a duck to water. She joined everything, wanted to be involved in everything and was so passionate about school that I was just elated.

Despite her ongoing passion to be in everything and do everything at school and the endless stream of notes, I could not be happier. My daughter is happy. She loves school. Canterbury girls has provided her with opportunities to flourish and grow. Canterbury Girls and the opportunities it provides keeps her inspired and engaged in her educational pursuits and her passion for performing arts.

I cannot impress on you how happy I am with this school. I am so impressed with the diligence of the teaching staff who are so committed to achieving the best for their students and are genuinely committed to their job. I am also impressed with the complete dedication of the deputy principal Mr. Anderson who constantly dedicates his time to achieve positive student outcomes through the development of programs to meet the needs of students for their success. Last but certainly not least, Sue Holden, the Principal who knows every girls name in the school, who knows every girls background and circumstance, and who genuinely cares about each and everyone of her students as if they were her own. The compassion, care, commitment and dedication of all the staff at Canterbury Girls is beyond outstanding. It is an amazing school!

I have an enormously happy, well adjusted, engaged and motivated daughter who loves to go to school and comes home every afternoon with stories to tell about her day and what she has now signed up for next and what I have to pay!!

I cannot impress upon you enough how amazing this school is. I am so proud that my daughter attends this school and I am so proud that public education again reflects the best education your child can have.

Thank You