

Extended Responses

Why do you want to attend the awards ceremony?

Sophie: I love working at TC and have always said when people ask me why I have been here so long that every day is different, it would certainly be different on a trip to Sydney! I coordinate and run one of the programs mentioned in our application, the student employability skills program. I am proud of how this program has developed and provides students with real-life learning opportunities, in applying for jobs, interviewing, and onboarding.

'ILPs developing' is also in the [award] application and I am a key part of the team that leads ILP and Subject Selection. I have been a part of the team that has developed resources (Subject handbook Website, Power Bis, Interactive spreadsheets, PD presentations) that help provide staff with extensive knowledge to help students in the course counselling process. I also check all students' programs post-subject selection to ensure students and families have made sensible choices that can lead to good pathways which I believe is an important step in helping maintain our consistency of practice.

As I also oversee communications it would be a great opportunity to share with our extended community via FB, Instagram and also via TCNEWS.

Michelle: I'm interested in coming to this event to support and celebrate TC. Having been part of the core leadership group for the past 2.5 years, I feel I have had an active role in many of the projects listed as part of our application for this award. This includes my implementation and leading of the Entry English and PE PBL project and my co-leading of our EMS plan through PLCs. I would be grateful to be able to discuss these projects with other educators, as well as celebrate the success of projects I have invested so much in over the last few years. Being able to return to this work and reflect on it in a formal capacity would allow me to revisit this exploration of work as we look to expand these programs in 2023 and beyond. Further, hearing what other innovative schools that have been nominated are focusing on will also be meaningful for my own leadership moving forward, so I can potentially take away some things to bring back to TC.

On a more individual level, I would love to be able to support and celebrate Meg Bailey. Working as Meg's mentor in the TMF program for the last 6 months has allowed me to observe and help foster her growth as a leader within the school. It would mean a lot to me to be able to celebrate the amazing work she has done as I continue to support her through the TMF program this year.

I would also love to chat with other educators about how their libraries run in this modern age!

Iona: I wanted to go for a few reasons, as a leader in the school I wanted to go as a proud representative and advocate of TC; I wanted to share our unique vision with other attendees

and experience other views from different nominated schools, and finally to celebrate what an amazing success this is for the school community.

Wendy: As Meg's nominee and someone who works closely with her, I'd really love to be there to celebrate her achievement. As someone in our leadership team, I'd also appreciate being part of the whole school award as its nomination includes many projects I contribute to or lead.

Stephanie: To be able to be there to support one of our incredible staff members receiving an award and to be part of a momentous occasion if we are to receive the award for TC.

Mia: It would be a memorable experience to be a part of this occasion in celebrating our school and teacher nominations (and hopefully WIN). It will be an opportunity to come together and show our appreciation for the dedication and commitment that goes into fostering a culture of learning and growth. I hope to be inspired by the stories and accomplishments and be part of an event that highlights and celebrates the importance of education. It is also an opportunity to continue to build collegiate relationships with my peers and network with other educators to improve learning outcomes for our students.

Ceri: Having been a member of TC for 11 years, I would love to be a part of celebrating so many of the great things we do and the wonderful people who work here. I am extremely proud of what we are and where we've come and have watched a lot of change and growth occur in my various roles.

What difference has TC made in your career?

Sophie: I started working at TC in 2011 straight out of uni and have never left! I love how TC has given me the opportunity to work alongside great staff members and let my job evolve so I have been able to have so many great experiences. I've been the Resource Centre Manager, I did the Head of House role before we moved to communities and now I manage communications, student course planning & student employability!

Michelle: TC has encouraged me to think about education in different ways than I did when I was in school. It's motivated me to explore leadership opportunities in education so that I can be at the forefront of making school a more enjoyable experience for young people.

Iona: I've learnt so much about the different ways education can be undertaken and that the 'one-size' fits all method certainly doesn't work. Whilst I'm not a teacher, I still can see the engagement students have with being at school which is amazing to see, it's very different to other schools I've been at! I've had incredible opportunities to up-skill at TC and to help others achieve their goals which have grown my career immensely.

Wendy: TC has given me lots of opportunities to try new ideas, innovate in our programs and make a difference in our student outcomes. I have been involved in developing the Solutions science course, the point-of-need Entry and FLE maths program, the Entry and FLE PBL's and

the rollout of our EMS. I have also had lots of opportunities to grow as a leader in the school from Science learning area leader through to my new role as Acting Assistant Principal. I now get to spend time helping mentor other leaders in our school, particularly our Learning Area and EMS leaders.

Ceri: Being part of student wellbeing and Community - it has allowed me to get to know a range of students outside of the classroom, I love problem-solving so trying to help families find solutions to challenges at school is very rewarding.

Mini: When I started at TC I was relatively new to teaching after a long career working on my own as a designer, children's book illustrator and author. Working with others has given me a sense of community and I have benefited so much from collaborating with both students and staff. The unique approach to student voice here keeps me on my toes as we are continually developing new learning tasks that are broad and interesting enough to appeal to students passions and skills. Sometimes it's easy to forget that students are not the only learners in a school! TC has also offered a number of leadership and professional development opportunities that have allowed me to challenge myself, grow, and learn.

Mia: TC really makes you think outside the square! You are consistently innovating your teaching approach, lessons and content. I feel encouraged to experiment and try new things in my classes and have definitely been a part of events and things that you don't see at other schools!

What contribution have you made to TC that is most meaningful to you?

Sophie: One of the things I am most proud of is the upskilling I have done in tech and I now manage the website. Through this process I created the Subject Selection Website which is an integral part of the Course Planning Process and so much better and interactive than a static PDF document! Also working alongside Tim to improve our ILP platform for subject selection.

Michelle: Getting the Entry English and PE joint PBL project up in 2022 was a huge cross-curricular project that I invested lots of passion into. Seeing it come to fruition was really cool. Working to get a school library up and running in 2023 has also meant a lot to me.

Iona: The most meaningful thing to me is my connections with others at the school. I've only been in this role for a short time and I'm constantly learning, but I think mentoring and sharing my knowledge and experience, creating new processes to better help the running of the school and creating a supportive environment where everyone in the community feels welcoming is the best contribution I could achieve.

Wendy: The biggest impact my contributions have had has been the development of the Entry and FLE maths programs but I think my biggest impact long term will be the importance of

teaching Expanded Measures of Success (EMS) skills to support the development of the whole learner.

Mini: I hope that my major contribution to TC is to develop relationships with students so that they develop and value creative thinking and feel proud of what they can achieve.

Mia: Working within the Community Teams has been and continues to be a meaningful role to me at TC as I get to know a lot of students, and families and work together with lots of staff to be able to support everyone achieve their best. I have also loved seeing media grow as a subject!

Ceri: Being part of student wellbeing and Community - it has allowed me to get to know a range of students outside of the classroom, I love problem-solving so trying to help families find solutions to challenges at school is very rewarding.

What do you think may distinguish TC from another awardee?

Sophie: We are unique! I always say every day at TC is different and we are really trying to make everyone's experience the best it can be. I have currently been working with the International Team on recruitment, and talking to students their main feedback about TC is it is so great to be able to choose your own subjects right away, this definitely distinguishes us from other schools at an Australian and international level.

Michelle: TC is genuinely a place that tries to challenge the traditional ways of doing education. It is also a place where all individuals have opportunities to thrive. I think this sets us apart from other state schools that may be working towards this but not consolidated it in the way we have.

Iona: I think it's all the amazing things that make TC what it is - our subjects, our student-centred focus, our community and the feeling that everyone is excited to contribute and be a part of it!

Wendy: I think TC is really unique because of the extent of our student agency and trust in our staff to try new things and innovate.

Ceri: We are not a one-size-fits-all school, we cater to such a diverse range of abilities and interests which I think is rare in a school setting. We as a school do not accept that the traditional school system is the right one for everyone, and continually work with students and families to figure out what is possible in education.

Mia: We challenge the status quo and push boundaries! We aren't afraid to experiment and are always seeking to improve.