



# World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 25th October 2024  
worldteachersday.com.au

Teachers make a difference

## Supporting and encouraging students through their academic journey

When Carly Valente was in Year 10, the Head of Sport asked her if she would coach a basketball team at her school. Her coaching continued throughout high school and her team even won the premiership. This passion for coaching led to a 15-year teaching career, where she is now Head of House and a Senior Health and Physical Education teacher at Moreton Bay College (MBC).

"I enjoyed coaching and working with younger students, and I was successful at it, so the experience gave me the confidence I needed to become a teacher," she said.

Carly said it was her senior science teacher who inspired her to be the teacher she is today.

"My teacher showed genuine care for my learning and personal development, motivating me to reach my potential as a student," she said.

"One pivotal conversation with her particularly stands out. She asked me to stay behind after class, questioned my engagement and encouraged me to take my studies seriously.

"This moment marked a turning point in my education. I began to prioritise my studies, placing sports as a secondary focus.

"Mathematics was not my strong suit and despite not being a maths teacher, she volunteered to tutor me during lunchtimes.

"Now as a teacher, I understand how rare and precious uninterrupted lunchtimes are. I am incredibly appreciative of the sacrifices she made to support me.

"This experience has inspired me to devote time and genuine care for every student I teach, ensuring they feel supported and encouraged in their academic journey."

For Carly, every day presents a new challenge and she finds it incredibly fulfilling to know she is making a difference in her students' lives.

"Every day is different, offering variety and the opportunity to play a role in shaping students' educational and post-schooling endeavours," she said.

"What makes it rewarding is past students making contact to thank me for the impact I had on their educational journey."

When asked what advice she would give students thinking of studying teaching, Carly commented that teaching is challenging, but immensely rewarding.

"Don't be afraid to ask for support. Collaboration and mentorship are key to growth and success in this profession."

### Carly Valente

Moreton Bay College – Wynnum QLD