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Mentor-student bonding

 BY SALLY LEE
 07 JUN 2011 02:31 PM






VIVIANNE Lee and Tanya Barnett are polar opposites.

Miss Lee, a year 11 student from Mary MacKillop College, is a shy and soft-spoken girl.

Ms Barnett's personality is "outgoing and out there", as she described herself.

But the unlikely pair have been meeting for the Max Potential mentoring program since May.

"As a coach and mentor, it is my responsibility to meet with my student and go to her school and meet with her," Ms Barnett said.

"Vivianne is in the middle of exams at the moment so I also had to make sure that the program doesn't get in the way and overload her."

Max Potential not only teaches leadership skills to students but also to its mentors.

"I joined because being a mother myself I hope this program will help me when my own kids reach their teenage years," Ms Barnett said.

"There was nothing like this around when I was back at school so it's such a great opportunity."

Miss Lee, 16, hopes the program would help boost her confidence.

"I became interested in it [the program] because I want to become a leader," she said.

"I'd like to be a nurse, and in nursing you have to give orders so I wanted to build on my confidence to do that."

Students participating in the 22-week program will meet with their mentors once a week.

At the end of the program, the young adults involved will be part of a community project which will be showcased at St Johns Bowling Club.

Max Potential was developed by Future Achievement Australia and is supported by ClubsNSW.



Leading the way: Student Vivianne Lee at the second meeting with her mentor and promotions co-ordinator of St Johns Park Bowling Club, Tanya Barnett.

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