

# St Francis Catholic College



## Overview

St Francis Catholic College (formerly Catholic Regional College Melton) is a multi-campus, co-educational secondary school. Our Melton West Campus opened in 1980 and caters for 1200 students in Years 7 to 12.

Our Cobblebank Campus has 600 students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in 2025 and will grow to accommodate up to 1500 Year 7-12 students by 2028.

The College provides education for students in the Melton, Melton South and Bacchus Marsh parishes and embraces the charism of St Francis of Assisi.

## Vision

Our vision is to have every student come to know that each has an inherent human dignity as they are all made in the image and likeness of God.

## Motto - Faith in Action

Our story is an ever-evolving one. Linked to the ties of our recent past, as Catholic Regional College and bound by the newly adopted charism of St Francis of Assisi, our motto calls us to be beacons in our world and provide hope for the future.

We inspire our students to live the gospel values they have learned in whichever path they choose beyond their years at the College.





# Principal's Message







**Thank you** for considering St Francis Catholic College as the school of choice for your child. The College has provided quality secondary Catholic education for families in the western suburbs of Melbourne since 1980.

As a faith-based community, St Francis Catholic College prides itself on providing a welcoming and supportive community offering inclusive educational pathways that are flexible and designed to meet the needs of all students. Our wellbeing programs are designed to develop a student's resilience and a positive growth mindset.

St Francis Catholic College graduates are confident young people equipped to face the challenges of a future yet to be discovered. They have a strong sense of community, act on their faith through our social justice programs, and are well-prepared to become active contributors to our global world.

Our well-respected staff develop diverse learning programs based on the Victorian Curriculum, designed to equip students with the 21st-century skills of creativity, communication, critical thinking and collaboration.

At St Francis Catholic College, we add a fifth C – that of Catholicity. This emphasis on both academic endeavour and a rich spiritual life ensures the development of the whole person and produces students who are called to act on their faith.

Our facilities continue to expand to meet the growth in the student population.

Our Cobblebank Campus opened in 2023, offering new facilities and educational opportunities in one of Australia's fastest-growing corridors.

Construction of the Creativity Hub (Stage 2) at Cobblebank Campus is well underway and expected to be completed in 2025. This will provide our students with exceptional Food Technology and Materials Technology (wood and metal) facilities, including a hospitality kitchen and dining area. The hub will also include Art, Visual Communication and Design, robotics, STEM and general project-based learning spaces.

Work on Stage 3, our senior learning building, has also begun and is expected to be completed in early 2026. As part of our master plan for sports facilities at the campus, we have installed an oval and more courts, cricket nets, and infrastructure are planned for the coming years.

High demand for places at Melton Campus has led to the expansion of our Year 7 cohort to nine streams in 2025 and the construction of a new Year 7/8 Learning Hub.

The new building provides general-purpose learning and food technology areas aligned with an alfresco dining and learning space. The project-based learning spaces allow for more creative and integrated units in the junior curriculum.

St Francis Catholic College enjoys the support of our primary feeder schools from the Parishes of Bacchus Marsh, Melton and Melton South. We look forward to continuing students' educational journey in our secondary context.

As Principal, I look forward to building on the strong foundations established in the past 45 years and partnering with you as first educators as we continue to nurture the thriving learning community at St Francis Catholic College.

*Marlene Jorgensen*

**Principal**



# Mission

At St Francis Catholic College, our mission is that students come to understand that they are deeply loved by God.

We want to equip students with the skills and disposition that allow them to flourish and make a meaningful contribution to our local and global society.

We will develop in our students a desire to be models of Christ, called to place their faith into action.

We will challenge our students to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, walk in his footsteps and in the words of St Francis to “preach the Gospel at all times and where necessary use words”.

The College nurtures the personal, spiritual, and academic growth of each individual in its community in an atmosphere of faith, care, challenge and encouragement.

We foster the growth of personal worth and develop the gifts of students through the pursuit of prayer, knowledge, communication and service.

While respecting individual differences, we challenge each other to use our talents to benefit all in our community.

We develop in students an appreciation for quality education and teach each to embrace inclusion.

We also promote personal excellence, self-discipline, resilience and a sense of responsibility. This is displayed in our respect and concern for the wellbeing of all.

In fulfilling our mission, St Francis Catholic College - the students, parents and staff - will be a visible and ongoing sign of God's presence in the world.





# Faith



At St Francis Catholic College, faith and its development is at the core of our community. We aim to offer witness to the Lord's message in the interactions between all members of our College community.

Our programs encourage our students' faith to grow and provide them with a Christ-inspired strength and purpose as they ready themselves to move into the world outside of school.

Our junior years Religious Education program has an emphasis on scripture and the Catholic tradition and its practices. In Years 10-12, all Religious Education studies are under the VCE banner where students investigate world religions, focus on contemporary and ethical issues of our modern society and explore Mark's Gospel.

There are many times we gather as a community to celebrate our relationship with God, including the Opening College Mass, St Francis Feast Day, Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Year 12 Graduation Mass. Students also take time to explore their faith at their respective year level's Reflection Day and we celebrate Mass for each of our house patrons' feast days.

Faith in action is witnessed through our community service program and many activities of outreach undertaken by our Social Justice group, such as the annual Winter Sleepout and fundraising for a variety of causes including Caritas, Vinnies and McAuley Women's Services.

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**You shall love the  
Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
and with all your soul,  
and with all your mind.'**

**This is the greatest and  
first commandment.  
And a second is like it:**

**'You shall love your  
neighbour as yourself.'**

**On these two commandments  
hang all the law and the  
prophets.**

”





# Student Wellbeing

At St Francis Catholic College, we work together to provide a friendly, safe, and welcoming environment. We focus on the development of the whole person - spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional.

We recognise that 'each human life is of unique value, loved by God, with his or her own gifts' [10], eXcel. Developing and fostering positive interpersonal relationships within the College is essential to our core values.

Our College welcomes all who seek a Catholic education regardless of their ability or economic status.

Our students are characterised by the respect they have for themselves and each other. They learn to act with courtesy, integrity, and concern for their own and others' safety and to be inclusive and accepting of all students.

They are provided with many opportunities to develop friendships, support others and grow into positive members of our own and the broader community through participation in Mass, extra-curricular activities, year-level camps, and our house structure.





# Building relationships *across year levels*

The College's house structure fosters connections and understanding between year levels and enhances each student's sense of belonging to the College.

At Melton Campus, each of our eight houses comprises of seven Mentor Groups made up of students from Year 7 to 12. Mentor Groups meet each morning to prepare and organise for the day ahead. Students remain in the same Mentor Group with their House Mentor for the duration of their time at the College.

Currently, at Cobblebank Campus, each of our eight houses has three Mentor Groups made up of Year 7 - 9 students. As the campus grows, it will have the same mentor group structure as our Melton Campus.

Working in smaller groups with a House Mentor enables each student to be known and valued and to develop a close bond with students from all year levels. There are many opportunities to develop House spirit through various competitions and learning experiences throughout the year.

Students remain in their year-level cohort for subject classes, excursions, camps, and reflection days.

Our whole school approach to student wellbeing is built on the foundation of our core wellbeing values of Empathy, Community, and Endeavour. The values are lived within College life, each day by our students. To explicitly develop expected student behaviour, we have implemented Positive Behaviour 4 Learning, a College-wide approach to develop a positive, safe and supportive learning culture.

Through the House structure and a knowledge-rich curriculum, our students develop a deep sense of belonging and inclusion. They are known and valued by our staff at the College, and students at risk are identified early and offered intervention programs with planned targeted strategies that provide the required support, to enhance student learning.

St Francis Catholic College offers a comprehensive suite of student services to cater for the wellbeing needs of our students and families. Our Student Wellbeing Practitioners include registered psychologists and counsellors who to assist with our students' emotional and social issues.

We emphasise a deep, authentic partnership with all members of the College community, students, parents, and teachers to ensure the best academic outcomes.





# Learning and Teaching

Students at St Francis Catholic College have access to a wide range of engaging experiences and pathways throughout their learning journey at the College.

Contemporary learning is at the forefront of the opportunities we provide, including developing skills in innovation, creativity, critical and ethical thinking, teamwork and collaboration.

Digital technologies foster a connection to the broader community and our global society.

Underpinning our work are the core values of instilling a love of lifelong learning, creating a sense of hope and nurturing strong aspirations in every student.

With an expectation of excellence, students are challenged and encouraged in their learning opportunities at each year level and pathway. In partnership with families, students develop responsibility for their learning to achieve personal and academic success.

The Victorian Curriculum, introduced across all learning areas in Years 7 to 10, acknowledges that student needs and interests will vary and allows for planning a curriculum that responds to this.

The capabilities have been embedded into the curriculum of the relevant learning areas. Combined with the content, they provide the knowledge and skills students need to live successfully in their world.

Some students will benefit from more help in their learning journey, and the College has developed a whole-school approach to support these students. Opportunities for extra support in learning include the assistance of learning support officers in the classroom, the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Pathway Program, and after-school Mathematics and Homework clubs. VCE teachers run tutorials at lunchtime, and the Tutor Learning Initiative supports Year 7-10 students in literacy and numeracy.

Our Mathematics Program caters to individual needs with targeted differentiation. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves in every classroom through the scaffolding of activities that foster higher-order thinking and creativity.

In the contemporary learning environment at St Francis Catholic College, students have a digital device and access to specialist computer laboratories to enhance IT and design-related programs. The Melton Campus Lumination Lab provides virtual and augmented reality experiences.

Access to the internet and technical support are provided to all students to support learning and eLearning using their devices.

Our Melton Campus offers an elite-level sports academy catering to athletes from all sporting codes.

The Elite Sports Academy (ESA) allows students to focus on strength and conditioning, supplementing the sport they are participating in outside the College. The course consists of a fully structured program from Year 10 to Year 12. Students complete a VET Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.

Our Athlete Development Program (ADP) at Melton Campus is designed for students in Years 7 and 8 to participate in foundation-level strength and conditioning training to benefit their sports performance.

It is offered as an extracurricular activity, with students able to participate once per week in a training session under the guidance of the Academy Strength and Conditioning Coach, with the support of an Academy teacher.

In Year 9, the ADP allows students to experience the Elite Sports Academy (ESA) environment during a semester-based elective. Towards the end of Year 9, applications for the ESA will open, and all students will be encouraged to apply if they would like to continue with the program.



# Nurturing personal, spiritual and academic growth

## Years 7 and 8

A successful transition to secondary school is integral to a young student's future.

The curriculum in Year 7 at St Francis Catholic College is diverse and caters to student needs and interests, including those who need extra support and those who require extension.

Each House Mentor Group and core classroom is carefully constructed to promote positive relationships between new friends and old while ensuring that achieving excellence is always a priority.

We aim to engage all students in an innovative curriculum that nurtures their love of learning, develops their self-worth, and encourages aspiration and ambition.

They develop knowledge and skills that broaden their understanding and are supported by digital technologies.

Core subjects include English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Humanities, Science, Health and Physical Education, Art, Design and Technology - Wood, Digital Technologies, Italian and Music.

Our Year 8 program continues to offer range and scope across all domains focusing on students further developing their confidence and enthusiasm as learners. The core subjects continue to build student skills and knowledge in an engaging and challenging academic environment.

Core subjects include English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Humanities, Science, Health and Physical Education, Italian, Visual Communication Design, Drama, Design and Technology – Food and Fibre.

Learning continues with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills through targeted teaching approaches.







## Year 9

Our vision for Year 9 students is that they learn, grow, discover, create and achieve their goals. The Gadai Learning Program was introduced as a response to the differing learning and pastoral needs of Year 9 students and incorporates My Journey.

A separate learning program with a core team of staff, emphasising strong relationships, and a different teaching and learning model promotes greater openness to learning, a strong sense of connectedness, engagement, and self-confidence.

While students continue to extend their knowledge in core subjects, they also choose from a range of electives to explore their interests and develop their talents.

To support their personal development, students participate in the year-long My Journey program, which uses a rite of passage framework, career and leadership discussions and community connections to deepen their experiences of the important transition from childhood to adulthood.

The program encourages ongoing development of self-awareness and builds strong, honest and respectful relationships with peers, parents and teachers.

## Year 10

Commencing in Year 10, students can select from a pathway that suits their academic or practical skills and interests.

For students interested in pursuing a VCE course of study in Years 11 and 12, the College offers a number of elective subjects in Year 10 that introduce the concepts and content they can expect to explore in their final two years. Some students are invited to begin Unit 1 and 2 VCE subjects in Year 10.

For students seeking a more hands-on senior pathway and would like to pursue the Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major (VCE VM) in Year 11, Year 10 provides an opportunity to choose from applied learning electives and Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects.





## Years 11 and 12

Our students can pursue a learning program in a combination of the following in their final years of schooling: the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major (VCE VM), or Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC). This is based on interest and ability.

St Francis Catholic College offers more than 30 VCE subjects and around 10 VET subjects. Subjects vary from year to year depending on teacher availability and student interest.

VET subjects can be combined with either VCE or VCE VM pathways of study. They provide a nationally recognised qualification that can be used to gain employment or lead to further study at a TAFE institute after completing secondary school.

Many VET subjects also provide credits towards the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

## Western Edge Cluster

The College is a Western Edge Cluster (WEC) member, which provides quality VET programs for secondary school students.

The cluster comprises nine Government, Independent and Catholic schools, providing a wider breadth of learning opportunities for all our senior students.

Students completing VCE VM have access to VET programs on offer both in and outside the College.

Visit [www.wec.vic.edu.au](http://www.wec.vic.edu.au) to read more about the courses available.





# Extra Curricular

St Francis Catholic College has a comprehensive co-curricular program that encourages involvement, leadership, community spirit, physical engagement, artistic endeavour, teamwork and social justice.

Our programs affirm students, acknowledge their gifts and talents and cater for the diverse ways in which they learn.

The Performing Arts department seeks to provide a range of co-curricular performance works in which students can participate. The performing arts program aims to enrich students' lives through an understanding and appreciation of the creation and performance of music, dance and dramatic performances.

There are events, performances and large-scale productions offered each academic year and all students with a passion for the arts are encouraged to be involved.

We are also committed to providing opportunities for students of all ages and abilities to seek further physical activity. The College is an affiliated member of the Sports Association of Catholic Coeducational Secondary Schools (SACCSS) and as such, offers an exciting range of sports competitions. These include Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Tennis, Golf, Premier League: Years 7 - 12 (AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Netball, Soccer, Volleyball and Senior Hockey).

Outside of SACCSS competitions, the College also hosts inter-house competitions for swimming and athletics as well as an evolving lunchtime activities program.

As a vital and vibrant part of the community, St Francis Catholic College seeks to live out its ethos, to provide an environment that nurtures and encourages Catholic values. The College endeavours to lead students to see that they have a responsibility to the broader community and so encourage them to become members of society who are active, worthwhile and effective.

With this in mind, community service is expected of our students. They are encouraged to seek opportunities to engage in selfless Christian acts of service in the local and broader community.

Students can also develop their leadership potential in two ways: as College leaders or members of the Student Representative Council (SRC). College leaders apply and are selected by staff and students to represent the school in an official capacity, as ambassadors, hosts and spokespeople. The members of the SRC represent the student body.

