

# 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 350 students in Years 7 and 8 in 2024 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.

**Faith  
In  
Action**





# 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 new Cobblebank Campus opened in 2023 with 145 Year 7 students. Over the next five years, the campus will accommodate up to 1500 Year 7 to 12 students.

We have progressed Stage 2 of the Cobblebank Campus Masterplan, which will see the construction of a Creativity Hub to cater for the Arts and Technology (Food and Wood). The plan

includes the provision of a commercial kitchen, which will allow the College to expand its VET offerings to students.

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

The new building will provide general-purpose learning and food technology areas, aligned with an alfresco dining and learning space. The project-based learning spaces will allow for more creative and integrated units to be offered 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 44 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.

“

**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, moral, emotional, intellectual, physical, and social.

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 personal relationships within the College is paramount to our fundamental beliefs.

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

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 have 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 has seven Mentor Groups made up of a mix of students from Year 7 to 12, who meet each morning and for pastoral periods once a fortnight. 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 two Mentor Groups made up of Year 7 and Year 8 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.

The wellbeing approaches, emphasised through our Core Wellbeing Values of Empathy, Community and Endeavour, and our Student Engagement Framework, highlight primary prevention and guidelines for students to live the fundamental values of our College.

We build structures that facilitate belonging and inclusion, promote wellbeing and early intervention programs, and plan interventions that target students identified as at risk.

St Francis Catholic College offers a comprehensive suite of student services to cater for the wellbeing needs of our students and families.

Our Student Support Services, College psychologists and wellbeing counsellors employ a holistic approach 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 Year 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, English as an Additional Language (EAL) Pathway Program, and Mathematics and Homework clubs. VCE teachers run tutorials at lunchtime and the Tutor Learning Initiative supports Year 7-10 students.

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. Access to the internet and technical support is provided to all students to support learning and eLearning using their device.

**Our students describe their learning experiences at the College as diverse, vibrant and inclusive.**

**They are encouraged to be curious, open-minded and develop their strengths.**

The College also has an elite-level sports academy to cater for athletes from all sporting codes.

The program 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 9 through to Year 12. Students complete a VET Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.





# 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 sense of self-worth and encourages aspiration and ambition.

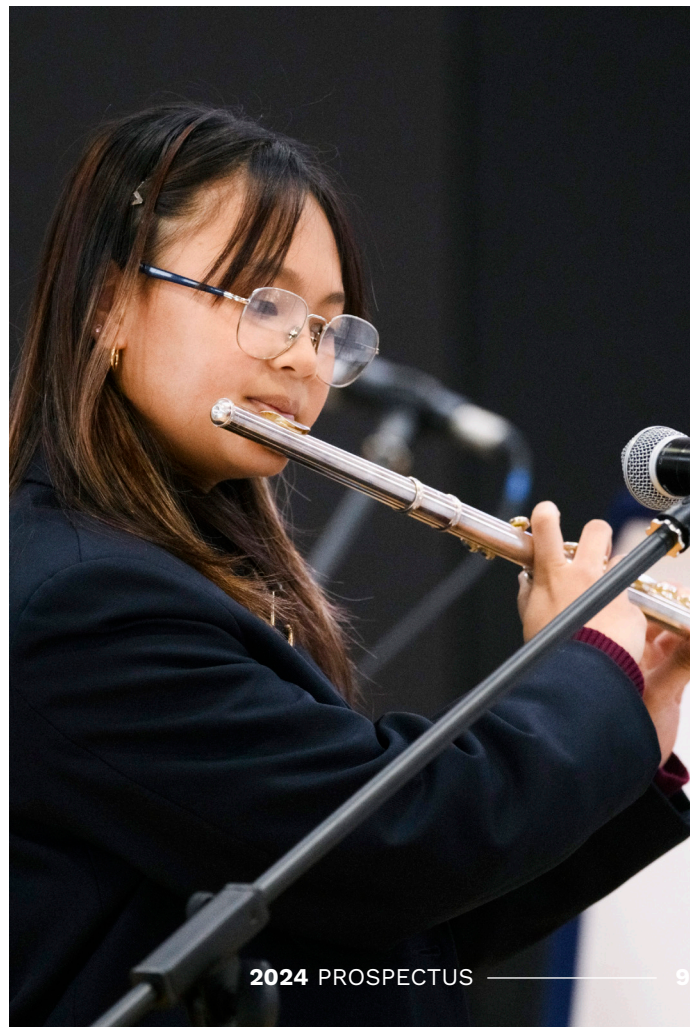
They develop knowledge and skills that broaden their understanding and are supported through the use of digital technologies.

Core subjects include English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Humanities, Science, Health and Physical Education, Art, Product 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, Food Studies, Fibre (Textiles).

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.

Having a separate learning program, with a core team of staff, emphasis on strong relationships, and a different model of teaching and learning, 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 Rite Journey program, which uses a rite of passage framework 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. It is taught in same-gender classrooms allowing for role modelling, greater focus and freer discussion.

## 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 Year 11 and 12, the College offers a number of subjects in Year 10 that introduce the concepts and content they can expect to cover in their final two years. Some students are also invited to begin a Unit 1 and 2 VCE subject in Year 10.

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





## Years 11 and 12

Our students can pursue a learning program in any or 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).

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).

Support in finding the right VET option is provided by our VET Coordinator and our Pathways and Careers Team.

Our Pathways staff offer all students support, advice, information and opportunities so they feel confident making decisions that lead them to the post-secondary education, training, and employment they wish to pursue.

## Western Edge Cluster

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

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

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.

