

St Francis Catholic College

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.

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 local community.

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 six years at the College.

**Faith
In
Action**



Principal's Message





Thank you for considering St Francis Catholic College (formerly Catholic Regional College Melton) as the school of choice for your child. The College has provided quality secondary co-educational 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 which 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 welcomed 150 Year 7 students in 2023. Over the next five years, the campus will accommodate up to 1500 Year 7 to 12 students.

High demand for places at our Melton West campus has led to the expansion of our Year 7 cohort to eight streams.

In 2022, the College completed the refurbishment of the original library at the Melton West Campus, converting the space into a purpose-built, collaborative and recreational area for staff.

Our working parties progressed Stage 2 of the Cobblebank Campus Masterplan, which will see the establishment 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.

We have also progressed the detailed design development for Stage 2 of projects at our Melton West Campus. A new Year 7/8 Learning Hub will provide general-purpose learning and food technology areas, along 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 43 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



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. The Parish Priests of Melton, Melton South and Bacchus Marsh serve as chaplains at our College.

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 other religions, focus on contemporary and ethical issues of our modern society and closely explore Mark's Gospel closely.

There are many times we gather as a community to celebrate our relationship with God, including the Opening College Mass, Celebration Day, Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Year 12 Graduation Mass. Each House celebrates with a Mass on their respective feast day.

Students also take time to explore their faith at their respective year level's Reflection Day.

Faith in action is witnessed through our Community Service Program and many activities of outreach undertaken by our Social Justice group, including Winter Sleepout, Social Justice Day, and fundraising for a variety of causes including Caritas 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 new house structure.

Building relationships across year levels

The College introduced a new House Structure in 2023.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Each 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.



Cobblebank Campus

St Francis Catholic College Cobblebank Campus welcomed 150 Year 7 students and 16 staff in 2023.

Drawing on the rich history and strong foundations established in the past 43 years at our Melton West campus, the College will offer new facilities and educational opportunities for the growing population in Melbourne's north-west corridor.

Our College is recognised for its focus on faith, wellbeing and inclusive learning pathways – all of which will be offered to a new generation of St Francis Catholic College students at Cobblebank Campus.

We are delighted to offer our established wellbeing and learning structures in a new contemporary educational space.

Situated on Bridge Rd, our new campus has been designed to complement the Melton South landscape while incorporating our Catholic identity and modern, state-of-the-art facilities.

Stage 1 features a two-level, general-purpose building with generous classrooms and breakout zones with varied seating for collaborative learning. Administration offices, staff room, and teacher work areas are also accommodated.

Each level includes 1500 square metres of floor space with flexible, light-filled, co-joined rooms that can be opened to create larger areas.

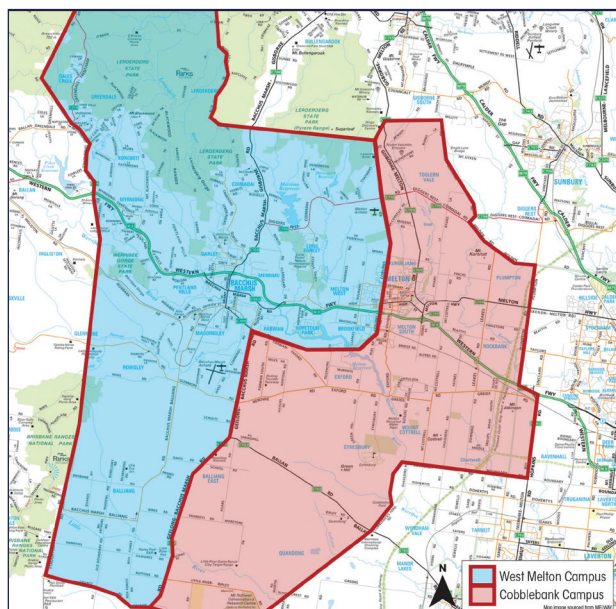
Our specialist facilities are housed in a second two-storey building with music and drama rooms on the ground floor and science and art facilities on the first floor.

A key design feature of the new College is a landscaped cloister that forms the heart of the campus. Surrounded by buildings and pathways, the area provides shelter from the

elements and a place for students and staff to meet, talk, learn and gather.

Stage 2 will see the construction of our creative hub. On the lower level, students will have access to Food Technology and Materials Technology (wood and metal) facilities including a hospitality kitchen and dining area.

Level 2 will include spaces for Art, Visual Communication and Design, robotics, STEM and general project-based learning.



New families

Families who reside in the red zone must enrol their child at Cobblebank Campus. Families who reside in the blue zone must enrol their child at the Melton West Campus.

Current families

If you live in the red zone but have a child who currently attends the Melton West Campus, their sibling can be enrolled at Melton West.





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 to become members of society who are active, worthwhile and effective.

With this in mind, community service is expected of our senior 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.

