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FOR YEAR 7  
2018**



# **The Martyn Program**

**FOR YEARS 7, 8 AND 9**

The Martyn Program was launched in 2016 for Year 8 students. Since then it has expanded and in 2018 is an option for students entering Years 7, 8 and 9. It allows students and their parents to make a choice between the Martyn Program and the traditional curriculum pathway, based on the individual learning style and interests of each student.

## Which subjects are studied?

Martyn Program students undertake project-based and self-directed learning experiences across three integrated subjects:

- Literacy/Humanities
- STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)
- Body/Mind/Spirit

These subjects encompass the curriculum areas: English, Humanities, Science, Technology, Health & Physical Education and Religious Education.

Martyn Program students also undertake some core subjects in common with their entire year level:

- Pastoral Period
- Physical Education practical classes
- Mathematics
- Languages
- Year Level Electives

## What is the key focus?

The Martyn Program allows students to choose the direction of their learning and caters for students with a wide range of interests and abilities.

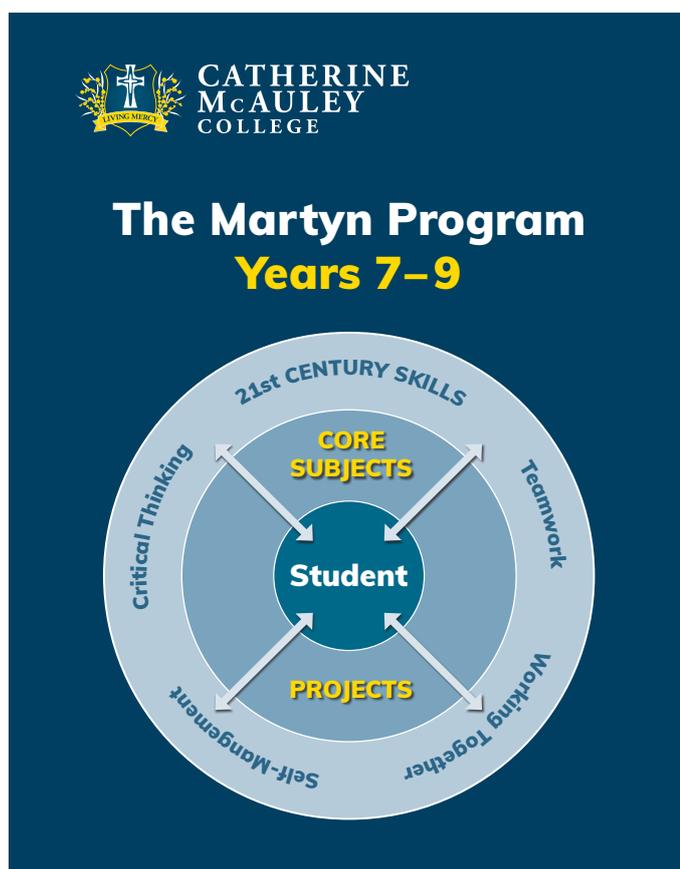
Staff teach classes in teams, with a strong focus on developing core skills.

## How is the Martyn Program different?

In Literacy, for example, students work on many short pieces, allowing them to develop their writing. Core work is covered, as in the traditional curriculum, but the learning and teaching approaches are different.

In Year 8 Literacy/Humanities the students study the novel *The Hunger Games* and complete written tasks including an essay. There is also a Humanities focus on the geography of the games.

Year 9 students study the film *Life of Pi*, where they research a personally chosen topic in relation to the film. It might be Siberian tigers, boats, the Indian Immersion or anything else relevant to the content of the film.



## Honouring our history

The Martyn Program was named after Mother Aloysius Martyn who arrived in Bendigo from Ireland in January 1876. She was a proactive, visionary and dedicated woman who worked hard to establish Catholic schools in this area. On arrival she assumed responsibility for a school at St Kilian's for 460 students up to the age of 13. In the same year the sisters opened the St Aloysius Select School, a fee-paying school which became St Mary's College and is now part of St Mary's Campus where our Years 10 – 12 students are located.

## What interests you?

### GROUP PROJECTS

Semester 1 is dedicated to group projects that develop the students' skills in collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking.

### PERSONAL PROJECTS

In Semester 2, each student works on their Personal Project, chosen from their area of interest. They develop a folio and display the final product at the Martyn Expo in Term 4. Students can expect to do a lot of work on their Personal Project at home, as it runs parallel to the core work they are doing.



## What do students think?

"I have loved choosing what work I wanted to do and enjoyed going above and beyond, to do the things that I love." **Charlotte**

"The Martyn Program has helped boost my confidence with my work and I have liked trying something new." **Connor**

"The project was really fun and I liked the fact that we got to do one with other people as well as one by ourselves." **Olivia**

## Responding to student learning

We constantly refine and develop the program according to the needs and interests of our students.

Our team of teachers always reflect on how to best cater for the students' learning. Regular meetings allow in-depth discussion about ideas for the development of courses and what is engaging and developing the students' interests, skills and knowledge.

## Community Partnerships

The Martyn Program is moving into our third year of a partnership with the Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG), supported by the City of Greater Bendigo.

Students are given a real-world problem to work on, helping endangered species. So far, our students have made nesting boxes for some of the endangered species along the O'Keefe Rail Trail. This allowed students to learn a lot about the wildlife and information such as why the holes in the boxes need to be a certain size. We now have six nesting boxes in the bushland at the edge of the school property and students assisted in monitoring activity of the wildlife.

We are grateful to Colin Smith and Tom Devlin from JCAG for supporting us with this project.



## What is the Martyn Expo?

The Martyn Expo is a highlight of the year, when all students display their Personal Projects to the College community. The Expo is outstanding and can have over seventy Personal Projects on show, exhibiting high quality work on a fascinating range of topics.

The partnership between the teaching team and students has clearly created a program where students are able to develop their skills and become more self-directed, engaged and articulate about their own learning.

## Want to know more or register your child for the program?

**Mrs Leah Cordedda**

Martyn Program Coordinator

☎ 5449 3466

✉ [lcordedda@ccb.vic.edu.au](mailto:lcordedda@ccb.vic.edu.au)

🌐 [www.cmc.vic.edu.au](http://www.cmc.vic.edu.au)

