



Learn to Think and Think to Learn

At the heart of the learning and teaching experience offered at Catherine McAuley College are the words of one of literature's most celebrated authors – Virginia Woolf:

“There is – no gate, no lock, no bolt, that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.”

Her words are testament to the liberating power that education offers our young people, a mission we take seriously as educators at Catherine McAuley College. We are confident in our belief that by offering powerful learning opportunities that encourage learners to become critical, creative thinkers and ethical upstanding citizens. Our College community together – staff, students and families – ultimately makes the best case for hope and optimism.

Deep Learning

As a team of professionals, educators at Catherine McAuley College have embarked upon a journey to re-imagine modern education. Framing our classroom practice is the philosophy of Deep Learning, a contemporary educational approach that aims to achieve two goals by nurturing young people to:

1. Learn how to learn: so that students are equipped to assume responsibility for their own learning. Encouraging a self-awareness in each individual to know how they learn best, where their learning is going and the steps they need to take to continue to grow.
2. Learning for transfer: enhancing the ability of students to take concepts, knowledge and skills from one specific field and applying it to unfamiliar settings, new contexts or problem-solving scenarios, just as the 'knowledge economy' jobs of the future will demand.

Put another way, Deep Learning is a very deliberate strategy at Catherine McAuley College to foster the life skill of intellectual agility, so that upon graduation our learners are ready to take their place in the world as self-motivated young men and women of Mercy, capable of self-regulating, reasoning and problem-solving, at the same time working and communicating effectively with others.

Learning at our Coolock Campus (Years 7-9)

At our junior and middle years program at Coolock students are immersed in learning that is inspiring, meaningful and connected. Specifically, this involves three interrelated learning experiences:

- Foundation Learning: A focus on the core concepts, knowledge and skills of English and Mathematics to develop and further hone the literacy and numeracy that underpins all other aspects of learning.





- **Hands-on Learning:** A focus on practical, applied and experiential learning opportunities in specialist subject areas such as: Physical Education, Languages, Science, Technology and The Arts.
- **Integrated Learning:** A focus on 'truth-seeking' through our new Veritas program – Latin for Truth. This focuses on exploring, investigating and interrogating thought-provoking themes through the interconnections we find in Religious Education, Pastoral Care, The Humanities, Health, Digital Technologies and S-T-E-A-M (Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts and Mathematics).

Learning at our St Mary's Campus (Year 10)

During our senior years program at St Mary's, students select from a wide range of electives across multiple learning areas. They may consider accelerating into Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) subjects or take an applied learning pathway through our Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) stream.

Alongside these options, Year 10 students will also undertake two integrated subjects that follow on from the Years 7-9 Veritas program – Virtues and Extended Investigation.

- **Virtues:** Explores the concepts of self, humanity, and society.
- **Extended Investigation:** Explores the nature of research, evidence, analysis and critical thinking.

Both these subjects allow and encourage students to make links to their pathways planning for Years 11-12 and beyond, as well as making learning connections to Year 10 camp and work experience. They can contextualise our Catholic values with the opportunity to 'Think Global and Act Local'; many students have conducted their own research and have worked within the Bendigo community to address a range of social justice issues.



Positive, Safe, Innovative Learning Environments

The future of work will be increasingly collaborative and global, so it is more important than ever for students to be able to interact and plan collaboratively. Our learning spaces reflect this environment and invite students to share their thinking with their peers and teachers.

The learning spaces that students interact in are often regarded as the 'third teacher'. Throughout this year we have been planning for the new learning spaces in the Sr Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre at Coolock. This includes the purchase of drones, 3D printers, writable surfaces and a range of other items that will provide our students with access to cutting-

edge technology, so that they can be familiar with the effective use of these prior to stepping out into the workforce.

We have refurbished much of the Backhaus building at St Mary's with modular furniture that encourages movement and collaboration. This furniture has differing heights and writable surfaces that encourage collaboration.

The College has removed traditional bells which allows students to make their way to classes using their own initiative. Students and teachers are noticeably more relaxed, with students arriving earlier to classes, and taking ownership of their schedule.