



DISCOVER MORE IN 2024

Expand your Horizon



PROSPECTUS 2024



RESPECT JUSTICE COMPASSION HOSPITALITY SERVICE COURAGE

College Prayer

Loving God,

We ask you to bless Catherine McAuley College
and challenge us to act in the spirit of Catherine.

May we inspire all in our community to be learners impelled to thrive and serve.
Guide our community to live our Mercy Values and the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.
Amen



We Welcome You

Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy and was committed to education and serving the poor. Her teaching reflected her faith in God and belief in the Gospel. Students at Catherine McAuley College are encouraged to be lifelong learners, impelled to thrive and serve in a supportive environment.

Catherine McAuley College has been woven into the fabric of Bendigo since 1876 when Sister Aloysius Martyn and the Sisters of Mercy first arrived in Sandhurst, from Ireland. Drawing on over 145 years of heritage and tradition, we are inspired by the pioneering spirit of our founders. Our College Direction 2020-2024 commits to continuing their legacy of service, offering an outstanding Catholic education to the families of Central Victoria and working towards a secure sustainable future.

We are dedicated to developing students who are independent, critical and creative thinkers, with a passion for learning and striving for excellence. Our students are empowered to see themselves as positive agents of change, who are called to participate actively and ethically in society as young people of Mercy.

Our programs are inclusive and learning settings are innovative, stimulating and continue to evolve from our master plan. The Sister Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre at the Coolock Campus features performing arts and STEAM spaces while the Sister Anastasia Vanderfeen Building at St Mary's has a commercial kitchen and Allied Health learning spaces.

To accommodate growing enrolments, the multi-storey West Wing at Coolock opened in 2022. The building provides bright and expansive learning spaces and houses a whole year level. It is surrounded by high activity multi-purpose courts and areas of green lawn for quieter recreation.

In 2023, the Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct will open for the benefit our students and the local community. This major development is a high-quality state-of-the-art junior sporting hub with irrigated sports fields, indoor basketball courts and cricket nets, AFL and soccer fields alongside netball courts. The precinct will support educational use during school hours and community use outside school hours. The initiative is a partnership between Catherine McAuley College and the City of Greater Bendigo in the provision of school, community and sporting facilities.

Partnerships are valued at Catherine McAuley College, to support outstanding learning opportunities and better facilities for our students and the community. As well as with the City of Greater Bendigo, the College also has partnerships with Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University, Cricket Australia, Danihers and Carter & Co.

Our future is exciting, so we invite you to visit and discover all the opportunities on offer for your child to thrive and expand their horizon at Catherine McAuley College.

Mr Brian Turner, Principal

"We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us."

- Catherine McAuley



We Empower You

Innovative programs and building developments at Catherine McAuley College create learning opportunities designed to support the many different educational pathways for students. The future of employment is increasingly collaborative, so it is vital that students learn to work together, interact and develop a range of independent and co-dependent skills.


At Coolock, the state-of-the-art Sister Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre features a performance area, specialist classrooms for music and performing arts, and vibrant learning spaces to support integrated learning across the 'STEAM' areas – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. The industry-leading Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct will provide the latest technology and equipment to support physical education learning in the areas of cricket, football, soccer and netball. In addition, the area is complemented with fresh green spaces and an indoor gathering area for the entire school.

At St Mary's, students have opportunities for diverse specialisations tailored to student pathways. Our modern commercial kitchen provides opportunities for Food Technology and Hospitality, incorporating a canteen and indoor-outdoor dining areas. A purpose-built Allied Health area includes a simulated hospital ward for practical learning. Allied Health is a major growth area and our iGen partnership with Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged and Australian Catholic University (ACU) provides an entry into the health and business industries and real intergenerational experience.

Studies in Agriculture and Animal Care at our Trade Training Centre support learning and skill development in this high-demand vocational pathway. Together with the sporting precinct development, the College will be able to offer a range of applied learning courses with ACU and our other partners.

The College Masterplan includes many exciting developments across both campuses in the coming years. Facilities at both campuses will continue to evolve and integrate with existing infrastructure, providing students with the learning resources and pathway opportunities to be prepared for their future direction.

These buildings are complemented by an integrated approach to learning that engages and inspires our students to discover their way in a dynamic contemporary environment. Learning Leaders ensure progress across Years 7 to 12 in all subjects.



**We prepare you to thrive in a
challenging and technologically
advanced world**



We Inspire You

Catherine McAuley College is built on the Mercy Charism inspired by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy and is actively engaged in the community of the Sandhurst Diocese. Like Catherine, the teachings of Jesus and the Gospels inspire us in our words and actions and support the Mercy Values of service, courage, compassion, hospitality, respect and justice.

The Gospel values and teachings are fundamental in the integrated programs of Veritas and Virtues, which support students in developing a greater understanding of issues and the connection to all areas of the curriculum. Outreach, community service and awareness of the needs of others are integral parts of the program undertaken across all year levels.

Students are supported in developing a meaningful, contemporary connection to their faith through social justice activities, prayer, liturgies, community service and Mercy in action. Inspired by Catherine McAuley's courage and determination to educate, empower and serve the poor, students are offered opportunities to engage in activities to support both local and global projects, including the Seeds of Justice conference, leadership days, Bendigo Foodshare, Vinnies, Mercy Works and the Caritas Challenge.

A framework for respectful relationships within the College community is offered through the codes of conduct, so that students can develop pro-social behaviour which reflects the Mercy Values fundamental to the culture of the College. Behaviour expectations for all can be summed up as "be respectful, be responsible and be kind".

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path is the College theme for 2023. The first part of our theme, "your word is a lamp to my feet" means action – Jesus' words impel us to take action, to be people that see a need and act on it. His words move us, guide and steer us, and keep us on the right path. We know without Jesus' guiding light, we will stumble and fall, but with it, we will have light and know which path to take.



"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."

- (Laudato Si', Paragraph 14)

Living Mercy day to day



We Support You

As an integral element of an inspiring and rewarding education, Catherine McAuley College offers a formative and responsive student pastoral care program. We nurture our students in a safe environment, to become confident and independent young adults. We acknowledge that all students grow and develop differently, therefore our structures and programs support students' academic as well as social and emotional learning.

Each student has a Student Advocate, who actively monitors and supports their learning and wellbeing. Student Advocates work in collaboration with students and families in their group to develop an understanding of their learning through regular reflection and goal setting.

Individual support for students may also be provided by Year Level Leaders, whole school, and Interdisciplinary Learning Leaders. A Student Services Coordinator ensures that appropriate resources and expertise is available to students who need additional support. Other supports are provided by the Learning Diversity and Wellbeing teams, Educational Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Koorie Education Workers and Careers Practitioners.

Catherine McAuley College is an inclusive community that is enriched through cultural diversity, empathy and understanding. All members are expected to be respectful and considerate, be of service to others and to care for the Earth.

The transition program ensures that we have a thorough student profile prepared in partnership with you for your child when they start in 2024. All students are given individual support through orientation and the enrolment process to ensure a smooth transition.



**We nurture
your confidence**



Where are you heading?



We Prepare You for Your Future

Catherine McAuley College provides an integrated, broad and challenging academic curriculum which fosters a passion for learning, develops independent, critical thinkers and focuses on excellence for all students.

Integration

At Catherine McAuley College we engage students in an integrated curriculum that is reflective of the skills that will be required in jobs of the future. Students learn to research, design and adapt to a range of real-world problems. Students develop their own learning strategies and processes so that they can adapt to new problems, situations and curriculum. Above all, our students learn how to learn and to be innovative.

Applying skills beyond the classroom

Through community partnerships, students have the opportunity to experience learning that is authentic and realistic. These real-life experiences are critical, for instance students learn about biology and agriculture in a working agriculture space. They learn about allied health in local hospitals and aged care through the iGEN program and partnerships with Mercy Health and Australian Catholic University.

Supports and Interventions

There are a range of targeted interventions to support students in developing their literacy and numeracy skills which see students gain confidence to collaborate more readily with their peers and to achieve success across their subjects. Interventions are regularly reviewed through ongoing assessment and feedback to ensure they effectively target individual and group needs.

iGEN: Intergenerational Learning

A partnership between Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University and Catherine McAuley College.



iGEN Learning
InterGenerational Education Nexus

Year 10 students in the iGEN program engage with residents of a local aged care home, Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged. They undertake pre-education modules including infection control, ageing, dementia and Mercy Model of Care. Attending Bethlehem twice a week, students engage with residents in a wide range of activities, including gardening, cards, painting, exercise, reading the newspaper, cooking and bingo.

Research into the benefits of this program is being conducted by ACU in preparation for the next phase; semester-long programs catering for a range of pathways in the health and business sectors.



STEAM

Employment in the fields of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) is increasing rapidly, as is the need for workers who have combinations of these skills. Our Coolock Campus has a dedicated STEAM space that enables students to apply and develop their skills. Students learn to use a range of modern equipment, including drones, 3D printers and design spaces and make use of their knowledge in a range of applications during their studies.

Agriculture and Animal Studies

The Coolock Campus hosts a dedicated Trade Training Centre, focused on developing students' skills in Agriculture and Animal Care. Students engage in these programs at a range of year levels, including having the option of completing senior certificates in Years 10-12.

Co-Curricular Learning

Music, debating, sports, performing arts, visual arts, academic competitions, justice camps, Tournament of Minds and the Frayne Speech Festival are examples of co-curricular opportunities on offer to appeal to the wide range of student interests. The College successfully competes in state and national competitions. We encourage students to have fun, extend their knowledge and skills and discover something new.



**You have many
opportunities to be heard**



We Listen to You

Student voice is of great importance and we are always looking for ways to increase participation. This can improve individual student's confidence and more significantly, connection to the College.

There are many opportunities for students to become involved in leadership from Year 7 to Year 12, working with and for the school community. Students are empowered to actively participate and develop their capacity to lead.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) provides a structured opportunity for students to raise issues, make recommendations and improve understanding and communication between all members of the College.

Students are consulted about significant developments and the future direction of our College. We nurture a culture that encourages and supports individuals and groups to create change, challenge themselves and others, inspire action and share ideas and opinions.

Inspired by our 2023 theme, *May your word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path*, students are encouraged to take action, to be people that see a need and act on it as we work together to build community and create a sustainable future. They will be implementing activities as part of the reGEN partnership, which challenges us to care for our environment, reduce our carbon footprint, minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and reduce our impact on climate change.

The SRC is also involved in planning, organising and leading liturgies, assemblies and whole-school events such as Mercy Day and Caritas Ks. Students are the driving force for securing a sustainable future for our community.





We Celebrate You

The Sister Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre at Coolock provides contemporary specialist facilities for music, drama and the visual arts, fostering creativity and increased participation in the arts. College students have regularly been included in the Season of Excellence Top Class performances and exhibitions.

Music

The College provides a high-quality instrumental music program, accessible to all families. Every Year 7 student begins their studies in music with an intensive practical program including learning an instrument and participating in class ensembles.

Learning an instrument beyond Year 7 is a co-curricular activity, providing small-group tuition and large ensemble experiences. Instruments include saxophone, percussion, trumpet, flute, euphonium, guitar, trombone, clarinet, piano and voice. Students have a range of opportunities to showcase and develop their musical talents through instrumental ensembles, Stage and Concert Bands, choirs and the Rock Band.

Drama

Students perform in year level drama nights and a highlight of the performance calendar is the fully-staged College production. The most recent show was Monty Python's *Spamalot* (School Edition), performed in the stunning Ulumbarra Theatre, and students are preparing in 2023 for a performance of *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. There are many opportunities to connect with the production, such as performing, backstage, lighting, costumes and promotion.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions and awards evenings display student work including art, ceramics, photography, media, graphics, textiles and fashion.



We Encourage You

At CMC, sport enables students to develop both physical and emotional skills encouraging participation, confidence and success. We provide opportunities at a variety of levels for students to participate.

Catherine McAuley College offers a selection of individual and team sports, represented at local, state and national levels. The College is one of the most successful regional schools in Victoria, with multiple individuals and teams qualifying in State finals each year across a wide variety of sports.

House competitions in swimming, athletics and at break times through the school day provide great competition and friendly rivalry.



**Great competition
and friendly rivalry**





Enrolment enquiries & tour bookings:

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