



# DISCOVER AND THRIVE IN 2025

*Choose your Pathway to Success*



PROSPECTUS 2025



# RESPECT JUSTICE COMPASSION HOSPITALITY SERVICE COURAGE

## College Prayer

Loving God,

We ask you to bless Catherine McAuley College Bendigo  
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

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At Catherine McAuley College Bendigo, a supportive environment encourages students to be lifelong learners, to discover and thrive as they find their pathway to success. Inspired by Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, our College is committed to education and service in a faith-filled community.

Since 1876, when Sister Aloysius Martyn and the Sisters of Mercy first arrived in Sandhurst, from Ireland, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo has been part of the community of Bendigo, helping generations of young people to experience personal success. Drawing on nearly 150 years of heritage and tradition, we are inspired by the pioneering spirit of our founders to continue 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. We are dedicated to evidence-based learning where growth and academic success is constantly measured and celebrated. Dedicated learning spaces promote visual and performing arts, STEAM, vocational training and encourage pathways to higher learning.

Bright and expansive learning spaces that accommodate growing enrolments and innovative educational approaches are complemented by attractively designed passive and active recreation areas. Substantial development is anticipated in coming years to provide specialist learning opportunities at Coolock for more year levels, making the most of the gift of space that we have at Junortoun.

The Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct 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, serving both our school and local community. The precinct supports educational use during school hours and community use outside school hours.

Partnerships are valued at Catherine McAuley College Bendigo, to support outstanding learning opportunities and better facilities for our students and the community. As well as the partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo to provide excellent sporting facilities, the College also has partnerships with Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University, Cricket Australia, Liverpool FC, 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 choose their pathway to success at Catherine McAuley College Bendigo.

**Mr Brian Turner, Principal**

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*“We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.”*

- Catherine McAuley



# We Empower You

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Innovative programs and building developments at Catherine McAuley College Bendigo 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 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 provides the latest technology and equipment to support physical education learning, including 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 offers 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**

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# We Inspire You

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Catherine McAuley College Bendigo 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.

An education in the Mercy tradition invites us to take up a challenge – one that encourages us to develop fully our own God given talents. At the same time, it enkindles within us a desire to assist others, so that they too may have life and have it to the full. The Gospel values and teachings are at the center of the Religious Education program at Catholic McAuley College Bendigo. The subject supports students in developing a greater understanding of issues and connects 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 Caritas Australia Project Compassion.

*In Mercy we serve* is the College theme for 2024.

For Catherine McAuley, 'In mercy we serve' was a call to embody the spirit of mercy in every aspect of life, particularly in the service of others. It encapsulates the transformative nature of mercy and the commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those who are less fortunate. This theme seeks to inspire each of us to be inspired by the Gospels and to follow Catherine's legacy to engage in compassionate and practical service to the world.



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*“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)





RESPECT

JUSTICE

COMPASSION

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

COURAGE

## Living Mercy day to day





# We Support You

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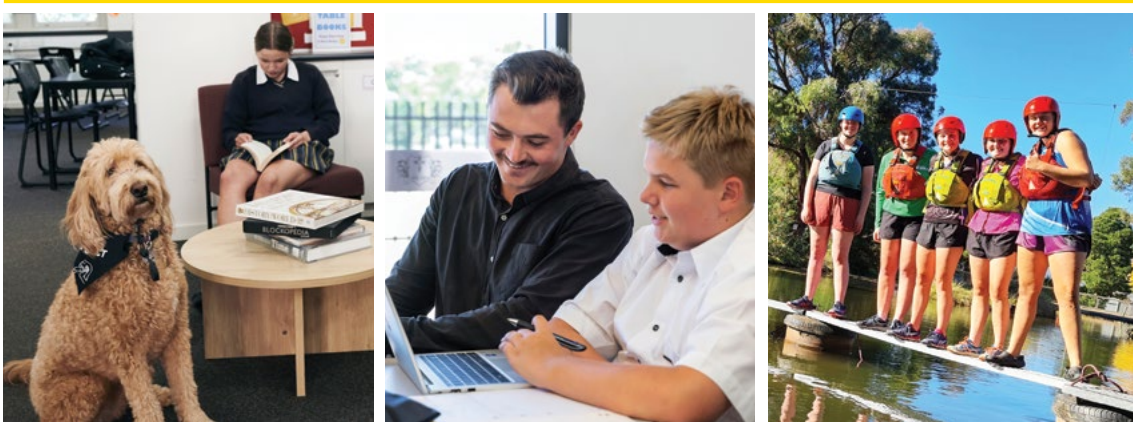
As an integral element of an inspiring and rewarding education, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo offers a formative and responsive student pastoral care program. We nurture our students in a safe environment, to become confident and independent young adults. We acknowledge that all students grow and 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 Learning Leaders and Whole School Learning Leaders. Learning Diversity Leaders ensure that appropriate resources and expertise are 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 Bendigo 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.

In the transition program, we work with you to prepare a thorough student profile for your child when they start in 2025. All students are given individual support through the orientation and enrolment process to ensure a smooth transition.





**We nurture  
your confidence**

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**Where are you heading?**



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ench Five



# We Prepare You for Your Future

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Catherine McAuley College Bendigo 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.

## **Innovative Learners**

We engage students in an integrated curriculum that is reflective of the skills that will be required for 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**

Community partnerships provide students with authentic and realistic learning which is critical to their development. 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 Bendigo.*



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.







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## STEAM

Employment in the fields of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) are 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, laser cutters and design spaces and they 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 to 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. Students are encouraged to have fun, extend their knowledge and skills and discover something new.



**You have many  
opportunities to be heard**

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# We Listen to You

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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, foster house spirit, make recommendations and improve communication between all members of the College.

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.

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 2024 theme, *In Mercy we serve*, students are encouraged to become proactive agents of change, individuals who identify needs and respond with compassion. Together, we strive to foster a sense of community and pave the way for a sustainable future. Through our efforts, we aim to cultivate a culture of stewardship and responsibility towards each other and our planet, ensuring a brighter tomorrow for all.









# We Celebrate You

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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 *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* performed in the stunning Ulumbarra Theatre. 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

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At Catherine McAuley College Bendigo, 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.

Our 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.

The new Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct provides school and community joint-use sporting facilities at the Coolock Campus. The partnership with Liverpool FC International Academy delivers programs within our Physical Education curriculum and provides skill development opportunities to the community beyond school hours.





**Great competition  
and friendly rivalry**

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**Enrolment enquiries & tour bookings:**

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**St Mary's (Years 10-12)**

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