

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Senior Pathways



*Be Challenged,
Be Supported,
Be Yourself*

150 
1876-2026
celebrating the past
educating for the future



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of Mercy, we acknowledge and pay our respects to the Dja Dja Wurrung and their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and respect that the land we live, learn and play on is traditionally owned by the Djaara People of the Kulin Nation.

We thank them for their continuing care of the land, flowers, animals, trees, mountains and waterways.

Together, we seek to learn more about Djaara cultures and histories, walking beside first nations peoples towards reconciliation.

COLLEGE PRAYER

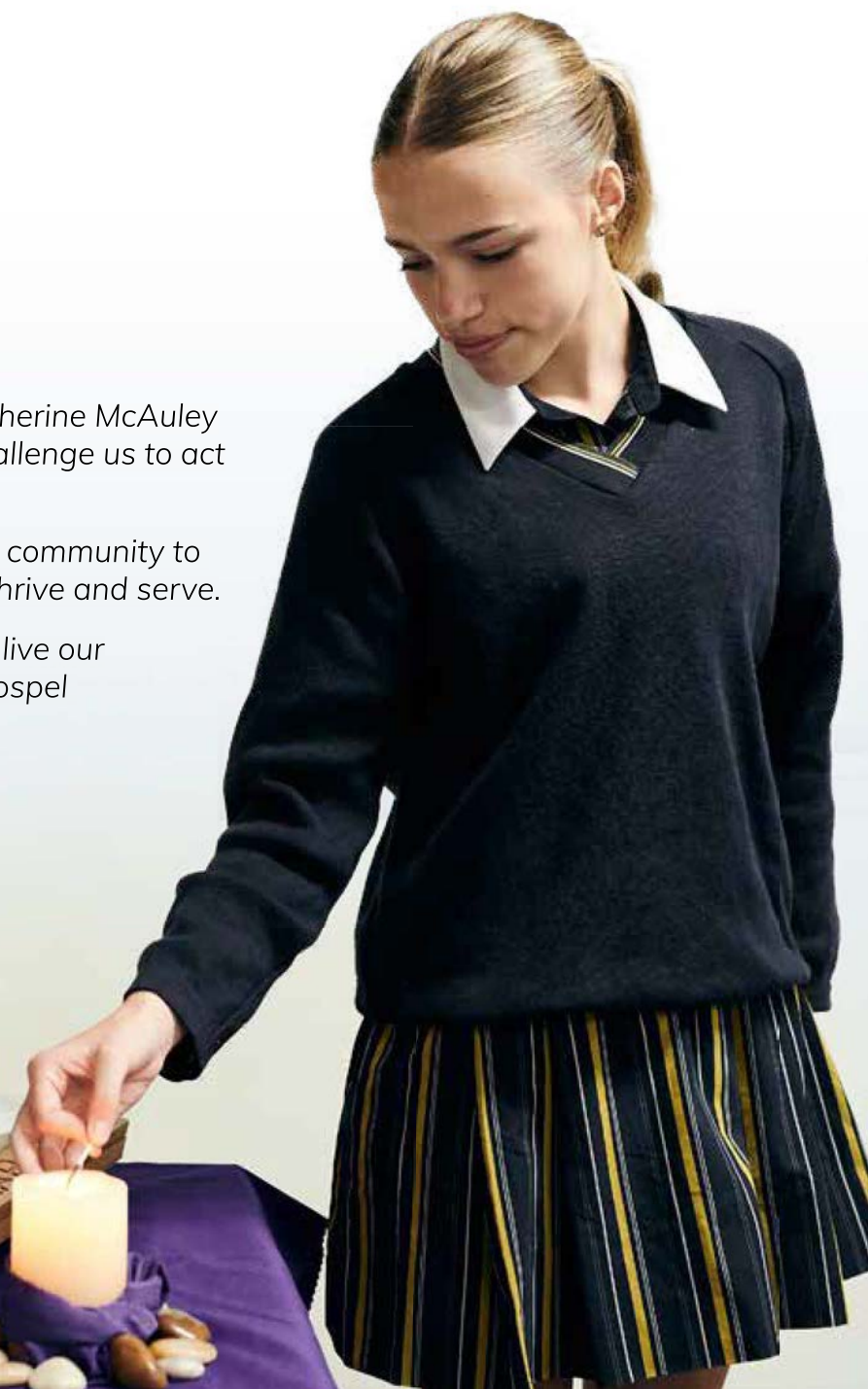
Loving God,

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



Find your purpose through learning for life

A message from our Principal, Mr Brian Turner



With 150 years of delivering educational excellence, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo is passionate about arming students with the skills they need to thrive and serve. 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.

As we celebrate our sesquicentenary in 2026, 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.

Become a positive agent for change

We are dedicated to developing students who are independent, adaptable, critical and creative thinkers, with a passion for lifelong 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.

Innovative educational approaches

Our inclusive programs and innovative learning settings are stimulating and continue to evolve from our master plan. We are dedicated to evidence-based learning where growth and academic success are constantly measured and celebrated.

Dedicated learning spaces promote visual and performing arts, allied health, STEAM, agriculture and vocational training, and encourage pathways to higher learning.

Our contemporary learning spaces accommodate growing enrolments and innovative educational approaches and are complemented by attractively designed passive and active recreation areas.

Partnering to deliver learning for life

Partnerships to support outstanding learning opportunities and facilities for our students and the community are valued at our College. We are a Mercy Education Limited school, a dynamic community of Catholic schools working towards a bold and courageous future.

We also partner with:

- Mercy Health
- Australian Catholic University
- Cricket Australia
- Liverpool Football Club
- Richmond Football Club Korin Gamadji Program
- Danihers
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Local businesses and community organisations

Our future is exciting, therefore we invite you to learn more about all the opportunities our senior pathways offer to help students thrive – and choose their pathway to success – at Catherine McAuley College Bendigo.

Mr Brian Turner, Principal

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CMCB Difference

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, allied health, STEAM, agriculture, vocational training and encourage pathways to higher learning.

Students will become known and valued members of the CMCB community. CMCB is committed to helping students achieve their highest possible ATAR scores and improving their subject results. The additional support and value provided by joining or remaining at CMCB will be reflected in their VCE outcomes.

The St Mary's Campus, catering to Years 10–12, is a dedicated senior campus conveniently located within walking distance of Bendigo's Central Business District.

Belong to something bigger

For many students, the senior years at CMCB is a culmination of thirteen years of primary and secondary education together as a community. Traditions add depth and meaning to College life, marking important milestones in each student's journey. Graduates leave CMCB with lasting friendships, cherished memories, and a clear sense of direction.

Choose your own pathway and shape your learning

CMCB offers a diverse range of pathways across the three senior years to suit the goals and aspirations of every student. These include:

- Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)
- VCE Vocational Education and Training (VCE VET)
- VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)
- School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT).

This flexible approach ensures that each student can pursue a path aligned with their individual interests and future ambitions.

At CMCB, students benefit from a broad range of study choices, more independence, and more responsibility, empowering them to take ownership of their learning journey.

Acceleration

Acceleration enables students to complete six VCE/VET subjects, all of which contribute to their ATAR, compared to the traditional five subjects typically studied in Year 12.

Year 10 students can begin their 3-year Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) journey by choosing from more than fifty VCE and Vocational Education and Training (VET) course options offered, to allow students to accelerate their studies from Year 10 onwards.





Subject Selection

Extensive support and intervention are provided, as well as a wide range of opportunities designed to expand students' thinking and assist them in making informed choices about their educational and career pathways. [See page 9.](#)

Career Planning

Career planning is initiated through guided subject selection and is further supported by expert advice from the College's professionally qualified careers practitioners. [See page 11.](#)

Extra help

Help clubs are available for each subject, run during lunchtime and after school. These sessions are optional and are offered by teachers who are genuinely invested in students' success.



Wellbeing


A structured and collaborative support system of teachers with learning leaders strengthens the partnership with home to support individual student needs, recognise achievements and provide targeted assistance. This cohesive team is dedicated to knowing each student and responding to their unique needs. The morning routine - including prayer, acknowledgement, and administrative tasks - takes place during the first classroom session of the day.

Additional support is provided by a comprehensive Allied Health Team, which includes a Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Counsellors, Koorie Education Workers and Multicultural Education Aide.

An Inclusive Community

CMCB is an inclusive community enriched by cultural diversity, empathy, and mutual understanding. All members are expected to demonstrate respect, consideration, a spirit of service to others, and care for the environment.

“Don't let people talk you out of your goals, as the biggest regrets in life are the things we didn't do.”



“Finding interest in a class absolutely altered how I saw school.”

Year 12 difference

- Built-in study periods within the timetable allow for flexible and focused learning.
- A dedicated Year 12 space, equipped with a kitchenette and zones for private study and relaxation, offers a comfortable environment to recharge.
- Modelling leadership and learning for junior students is encouraged, with Year 12s fostering a strong sense of community and mentorship.
- Retreat early in the year is a life-changing experience for all Year 12s. The program unites students and their teachers and prepares them for the challenges of Year 12.
- Custom-designed rugby tops ensure Year 12 students stand out from the crowd.

Valued and Known

Every student at CMCB is part of a community where relationships are prioritised. Regular year-level gatherings and house activities foster a strong sense of belonging and connection.

Teachers know their students as individuals, understanding their unique story and tracking their academic progress to offer personalised pastoral care and guidance. They ensure their students are on the right path, providing encouragement and direction tailored to each student's goals and aspirations.

Grow as a person, not just as a learner

At CMCB, the senior years are a transformative time when students begin to discover their own identity, shaped by meaningful connections and strong values.

The College offers an individualised approach to learning and teaching, with a focus on developing transferable skills and preparing students for life beyond school.

A wide range of structured pastoral care programs and events are designed to build confidence, encourage reflection, and foster resilience while offering students greater independence and responsibility.

Students are guided, encouraged, and challenged, through a culture grounded in shared values with an emphasis on community and connection.

Opportunities are aimed at helping students grow into capable, compassionate adults.

- Camps, retreats, and encounter days
- Faith and liturgical events
- Leadership opportunities
- Community and social justice events such as Mercy Day, Caritas and fundraising
- Co-curricular activities – including sports, productions, music, arts exhibitions, and more

Faith

Catholic faith-based education at CMCB provides students with meaningful opportunities to develop leadership skills and connect with like-minded peers.

Inspired by Catherine McAuley's courage and commitment to education, empowerment, and service to the poor, students are offered opportunities to contribute to both local and global causes and in doing so form a contemporary and personal connection to their faith.

They are guided to be aware of the needs of their community and the environment, working together to build a just world in the true spirit of Mercy.



reGEN “Caring for our common home”

reGEN is a principle that underpins everything we do. As a reGEN school, CMCB provides the opportunity for students to be immersed in a culture that has environmental and social justice concerns at the forefront and values concern for nature, justice, society and students' sense of inner peace.

Uniform

Students at CMCB wear their uniform with pride, reflecting a strong sense of unity and belonging. The uniform represents a connection to a respected and admired school community, serving as a symbol of shared identity and values. It promotes equality and enables all students to participate fully in College life.

Year 12 students are consulted in the design of their rugby top, which distinguishes them as leaders within the school and celebrates their final year and unique journey.



“Building a relationship with teachers is a fantastic way to find academic and personal guidance throughout secondary school.”





Student Leadership

Student voice is highly valued at CMCB, and the College is continually seeking ways to enhance opportunities for student participation. Encouraging student involvement not only builds individual confidence but also strengthens their connection to the school community.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) provides a structured platform for students to express their views, raise concerns, foster house spirit, make recommendations, and enhance communication across all levels of the College.

Leadership opportunities exist at all year levels, culminating in the team of Year 12 Captains.

- College Captains
- Faith Captains
- reGEN Captains
- Sport and Community Captains
- Arts Captain
- House Captains: Backhaus, Champagnat, Djaara, MacKillop, McAuley and Vincent

Fire Carrier Project



Students are invited to be FIRE carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education). FIRE Carriers lead the school's journey towards reconciliation. The core values of the FIRE

Carrier Project are spirituality, cultural recognition and awareness, practical reconciliation and justice, and ecological stewardship.

"Together with our amazing leadership team, our goal is to work together to create an inclusive and supportive environment for the people around us."

2025 College Captains

Subject Selection Support

Students have input into their subject choices from as early as Year 8. The subject selection process forms an important step in the CMCB educational journey, guiding students towards future learning pathways and career opportunities.

Supported by teachers, careers practitioners, and their parents/carers, students are encouraged to select subjects that align with their interests, strengths and goals, in a staged approach that encourages self-reflection and informed decision-making.

By thorough engagement in subject selection, students can create a meaningful and personalised learning experience that builds a strong foundation for success in their senior years and beyond.

Subject Selection Evening

Students going into Year 10, the VCE and VCE Vocational Major, with their parents and carers, are invited to visit displays, discuss their programs with teachers and attend the relevant information session.

“The help and support I received throughout my education was not only massive for my academic success, but also for my personal development.”

Planning for Year 10

In Year 9, classroom pathway sessions are scheduled during Term 2 to help prepare students for the subject selection process. Students are also invited to attend the Subject Selection Evening with their parents and carers.

Session Details

1. What is? VCE, VCE VM, VET and VPC
2. Careers and exploring further study
3. Preparing students for subject selection

Individual Pathway Counselling

Following these, each Year 9 student participates in a compulsory individual pathway counselling meeting with their parents/carers early in Term 3.

Planning for VCE

As part of the preparation for commencing VCE, all Year 10 students receive guidance to explore their interests and consider their future pathways through:

- Fortnightly career planning assemblies
- Subject information sessions
- Subject Selection Evening
- Individual pathways counselling meeting.





“Many students find that being able to participate in, contribute to and lead group activities in applied learning subjects allows them to find their strengths and to develop a satisfying individual pathway to employment and further learning.”

“We are encouraged to use analysis and critical thinking across our subjects.”



“The opportunity for fieldwork is a great component of senior subjects.”

Career Planning Support

Empowering students to take ownership of their future

Careers Expo

Each year, CMCB hosts a comprehensive Careers Expo Evening featuring over 50 exhibitors, including representatives from Victorian universities, TAFE institutions, industry experts, local businesses and trades, employment services, and the creative industries. This event provides students with valuable insights and networking opportunities to help shape their future pathways.

Careers Services

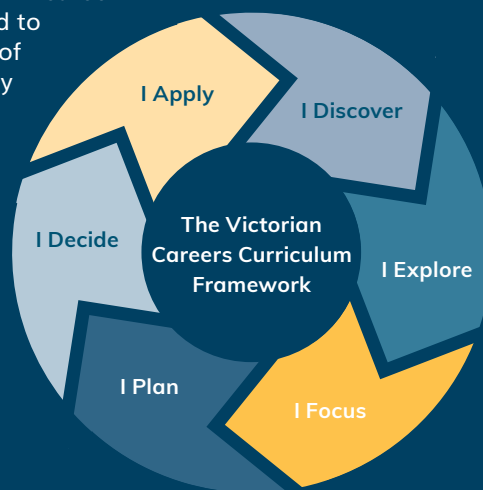
The experienced Careers Team provides support with:

- Career counselling
- Career coaching, education and planning
- Employment services, job placement and job hunting strategies
- Resume and cover letter preparation
- Coordinating work education and school-based apprenticeships
- Vocational assessments
- Subject selection advice
- Course information



Careers Support

Careers support at CMCB is delivered through an embedded careers curriculum, dedicated assemblies, group workshops and individual appointments ensuring students receive consistent and relevant guidance throughout their senior years. Recognising the importance of career education and counselling for all young people, the College follows the Victorian Careers Curriculum Framework. This framework provides a structured progression from Year 7 to Year 12 in career learning, tailored to meet the needs of students at every stage of their development.



CMCB Career Tools Website

The Career Tools website is a comprehensive student-focused website designed to support the delivery of the CMCB Careers program. It provides access to general careers information, engaging videos, and insights into the “how, what and why” of various professions.

With guidance from the College, students will build their own individual careers website, tailored to their interests and goals. This personalised site is filled with valuable resources - from financial planning advice to career-building strategies - empowering students to take ownership of their future.



Study Support



Elevate Study Skills Program

Within the classroom, the College has implemented the Elevate Education study skills program, grounded in seventeen years of global research into student performance. Elevate has identified the habits that distinguish top-performing students, and its seminars and resources are designed to help students of all abilities adopt these habits. This leads to more effective learning outcomes and improves overall academic performance. Students sequence through all of the program across Years 11 and 12.

Assemblies

To further support students, CMCB offers fortnightly assemblies at each senior year level. These sessions focus on career planning and study skills, ensuring students are well-informed and equipped to make confident decisions about their future.

The assemblies are led by students and also provide shared time together as a community. They are a forum to celebrate student achievements, birthdays and discuss year level events.

“Career Planning and Study Skills sessions improve academic performance and ensure students are equipped to make confident decisions about their future.”



ELEVATE & ASSEMBLIES

Short, sharp, targeted sessions across the year.

YEAR 10

- Work Values
- Achieving Success
- School Subjects and Careers
- Exploring Pathways
- Senior Subject Selections
- Study Patterns
- Career Investigator
- Careers of the Future
- Work Experience Preparation

YEAR 11

- Elevate: Study Sensei
- Elevate: Time Management
- Elevate: Memory Mnemonics
- Exploring Pathways
- Technical and Further Education (TAFE)
- Apprenticeships
- Higher Education
- Expos & Open Days
- Exam Preparation
- Researching Courses (VTAC)
- Subject Selection

YEAR 12

- Elevate: Student Elevation
- Elevate: Ace your Exams
- Elevate: Finishing Line
- High Achievers Program

Extra Support

Headstart

At the conclusion of the academic year, CMCB runs a two-week Headstart program designed to prepare students for the year ahead. During this program, students begin their next academic year early, allowing them to become familiar with the expectations, content, and structure of their upcoming subjects. This proactive approach helps ease the transition and sets a strong foundation for academic success.

Revision

The College offers students a wide range of access to revision exams, providing valuable opportunities to consolidate their learning, practise exam techniques, and build confidence ahead of formal assessments.

Exam Support

The College runs a practice VCE Exam schedule during the September school holidays as a final preparation for students. These are coordinated and supported by VCE teachers and senior staff.

Special Provision

If it can be demonstrated that student achievement in an exam will be adversely affected, they may be eligible for special exam adjustments and arrangements will be made by the Pastoral Care Director.

Scholarship guidance

Careers Practitioners assist students with scholarship applications.

Employment opportunities

Local employers in a wide range of industries regularly reach out to the CMCB Careers Team, when looking for casual, part time, or full time employees and apprentices. Students can access promotion of current local vacancies.



Study Scores and Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking (ATAR)

Students at CMCB receive both group sessions and individual counselling to help them understand how study scores are calculated and why they matter. These sessions explain how study scores reflect student performance relative to others across the state, offering insight into how scores are distributed on a scale from 0 to 50.

The College ensures that students are well-informed about the broader context of study score calculation, helping them interpret their results and understand how these scores contribute to their ATAR and future opportunities.

Change of preferences

Students can change their university course preferences between offer rounds as many times as they wish.

After VCE results are released, the Careers Team offer support and counselling to Year 12 students who may want to change their preferences.

Pathways Support

Learning job-related skills in real-world settings.



Work Experience

Through work exposure, students are able to explore potential future career pathways and gain valuable insight into the options available to them, supporting more informed and confident decision-making about their futures.

Work experience plays a vital role in helping students understand the evolving nature of the workforce, the differences between various occupations and industries, and the skills and personal qualities required for success in both work and life. It offers students the chance to identify and practise these skills in diverse environments, reinforcing the relevance and importance of their ongoing learning.

Structured Workplace Learning

Some courses at CMCB include compulsory work placements as part of their curriculum. In particular, Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses require students to complete at least one week of work placement per year in an industry relevant to their course. The Careers Team and VET teachers guide and encourage students in their choices. Placements are organised by the College to provide students with the opportunity to learn and practise specific, job-related skills in real-world settings.

School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBATs)

Apprenticeships and traineeships at CMCB combine practical, hands-on experience in the workplace with formal training and assessment toward a VET qualification. A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship allows students to simultaneously engage in school, paid work, and VET studies.

Students typically spend at least one day with their employer, while the remainder of their time is spent at school.

As a school-based apprentice or trainee, students:

- have paid part-time work
- work towards completing Year 12
- can access additional support for their studies
- work towards a nationally recognised qualification.

Tertiary Education

Students who wish to go on to further study, such as university or Technical and Further Education (TAFE) are supported by the College with the application process.



VTAC support

CMCB offers individual and dedicated support for Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) applications.

VTAC is an independent, shared admissions service that facilitates access to tertiary education and further study opportunities and pathways for learners in Victoria and beyond. It serves as a central application point, streamlining the process of gaining entry into courses for both students and tertiary institutions.

The College also supports students with interstate applications.



Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) Applications

If a student has experienced circumstances that have affected their studies, CMCB provides support in considering an application for equity schemes and scholarships.

They enable institutions to take into account the impact of personal circumstances when making selection decisions and allows for special consideration for course entry.

Find out more: SEAS support



USI application

Anyone undertaking education or training with a provider outside the school system is required to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). CMCB supports students in applying for a USI.

This reference number creates an online record of the student's training and qualifications attained in Australia. A USI is essential for eligibility to receive a qualification or statement of attainment.

Staff Support

The College offers many teams to support students throughout their senior years at St Mary's.

Careers and Pathways Team

The Careers and Pathways Team is committed to providing an extensive range of opportunities for students at CMCB, to best prepare them to achieve their goals in their chosen pathway. They work closely with students, offering them one-on-one career/pathway meetings to help with decision making in subject selection and future pathways. The Team is dedicated to helping students achieve their desired pathway by offering:

- Career counselling
- Career coaching/education/planning
- Employment services/job placement/job-hunting strategies
- Resume and cover letter preparation
- Coordinating work education, school-based apprenticeships
- Administering and interpreting vocational assessment
- Subject selection advice
- Oversight of the VCE, VCE VET, VCE VM programs
- Offsite arrangements for VET programs

Meet the Team:

- Pathways Learning Director: Mr Kieren Prowse
- Careers Practitioners: Mrs Mehgan Dickson and Mrs Dianne Davies
- VASS / VET / Pathways Administrator: Ms Samantha Hoyle

Allied Health Team

The College offers access to a multidisciplinary Allied Health Team to support students.

Meet the Team:

- Psychologist: Ms Ebony Lynch
- Occupational Therapist: Ms Claire Murray
- Speech Pathologist: Mrs Stacey Greblo
- Healthcare and First Aid Coordinator: Mrs Monica Westbury
- Koorie Education Workers: Mr Stephen Korp and Mrs Renee McCaig
- Multicultural Education Aide: Ms Paw Shee
- Counsellors: Ms Jo Giudice, Mrs Amanda Leonard, Ms Chloe Mansbridge and Ms Joanne Porter

Pastoral Care & Year Level Teams

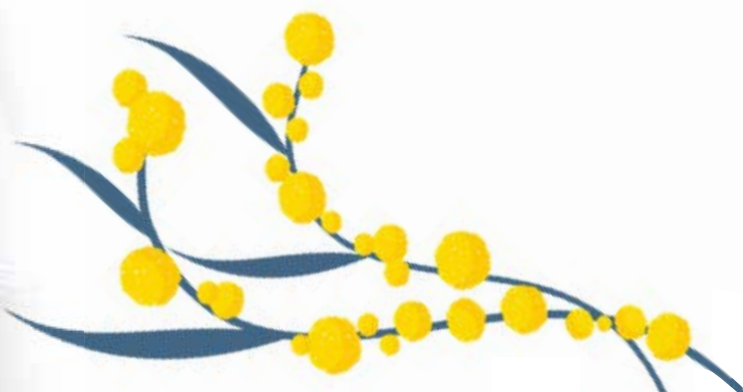
Year Level Coordinators (YLCs) lead, facilitate and are responsible for all the associated student needs, activities and programs at each year level. Students are kept informed by YLCs who will also ensure that all students have the appropriate resources and opportunities to thrive and serve. YLCs lead the faith development at their year level.

Meet the team:

- Year Level Coordinators:
 - Year 10: Mrs Lisa Darlow & Mr Shane McConvill
 - Year 11: Ms Ashlee Burke & Mrs Jo MacDonald
 - Year 12: Ms Kate Watts & Mrs Karen Lichnovsky
- Year Level Administrator: Mrs Bekk Tyrrell

VCE Teaching Team

Catherine McAuley College Bendigo is proud to have a team of skilled and experienced teachers who possess deep knowledge of their disciplines and a strong understanding of how to foster student success. The teachers are dedicated to promoting individual and collective expertise across the VCE Teaching Team to drive improved outcomes for students across all areas of study.



Learning Leaders

The College has Learning Leader (LL) roles across a range of learning areas. The LL is responsible for teachers who work in their learning areas, to design, promote, and improve the curriculum across the College. They ensure that the learning is integrated, differentiated and designed to develop students' skills for future pathways. The LLs will ensure there is collective ownership of learning goals and outcomes, for both the individual student and whole College.

Meet the Team:

- Year 10 Year Level Learning Leader: Mrs Sally Nicholson
- Arts: Mr Peter Hughes
- Technology: Mr Dean Carmody
- English: Ms Sarah Gross
- Humanities: Ms Kim Carter
- Maths: Ms Janene Crowle
- Science: Mrs Karinda Hogan
- Physical Education and Health: Mrs Natalie West
- Literacy: Ms Lia Shaw
- Languages: Ms Geraldine Coles
- Religious Education: Mrs Bern Casey

Learning Diversity Team

The Learning Diversity Team is responsible for the wellbeing and learning needs of all funded students and those with additional learning needs. They advocate on their behalf and ensure the students are appropriately supported in their learning, wellbeing and pathway. Learning Diversity Leaders (LDLs) are responsible for providing the data and evidence for student transition. This may include relevant testing, clinical assessments, Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) status, and information from Student Support Groups (SSGs). LDLs arrange appropriate intervention support, student placement, and the development and implementation of Personalised Inclusion Plans (PIPs) and Personal Learning Plans (PLPs).

Meet the Team:

- Pastoral Care Director: Mr Matthew Smith
- Learning Diversity Leader (St Mary's): Mrs Amy Dickens
- Student Diversity Support Administrator: Mrs Angie Loukas

Student Learning Support Team

The College offers a team of Student Learning Support staff who work in partnership with teachers assisting students to engage with their learning.

COMMON ACRONYMS

ATAR	Australian Tertiary Admission Rank
GAT	General Achievement Test
SAC	School Assessed Coursework
SAT	School Assessed Task
SBAT	School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships
SEAS	Special Entry Access Scheme
STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
Units 1 and 2	Typically Year 11 Level
Units 3 and 4	Typically Year 12 Level
Units 3/4 Sequence	A full year's course at the Year 12 level which constitutes one subject. Success in SATS/SACS in 3/4 sequences lead to study scores from which a student's ATAR is calculated.
USI	Unique Student Identifier
VASS	VCE Administrative Software System
VCAA	Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority
VCE	Victorian Certificate of Education
VCE VM	VCE Vocational Major
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VPC	Victorian Pathways Certificate
VTAC	Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre



VCE

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is the certificate that students in Victoria receive on satisfactory completion of their secondary education. The VCE provides diverse pathways to further study or training at university or TAFE and to employment.

The CMCB approach to learning and teaching focuses on transferable skills and life beyond school. With forty VCE and VM subjects to choose from and fourteen VET certificates there are a wide range of subjects and pathways to further study, apprenticeships and employment.

Year 10 Program Structure

Learning at the senior campus, St Mary's, begins in Year 10. Students have the opportunity to diversify their programs, with a range of subject options, allowing them to explore their personal interests and develop their skills further in their areas of passion and interest.

In Year 10, students study seven subjects per semester. These are broken down into core and elective blocks.

Core

Students select from the following:

- 1 English core subject per semester
- 1 Mathematics choice per semester
- Year 10 Religion and Society Unit 1 or iGEN per semester

Electives

- Students then complete 4 elective subjects each semester.
- We encourage students to select one VCE or VET acceleration subject for the full year, and to select a diverse range of elective subjects from different learning areas from the Year 10 elective list. Students may choose to instead select 2 additional elective subjects in Year 10.

Year 10 iGEN: Intergenerational Learning

In partnership with Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University (ACU) and Mercy Education, CMCB and Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged have developed the iGEN program which offers a unique opportunity for Year 10 students and aged care residents.

The students participate in an innovative intergenerational program designed to develop a range of personal and life skills that will enhance opportunities and pathways for the future. The engagement and connection between the residents and students enriches their lives and contributes to improved understanding of how positive relationships can impact health and wellbeing.



2024	College Dux 99.2	Dux Proximus 98.5
2023	College Dux 95.25	Dux Proximus 94.9
2022	College Dux 99.35	Dux Proximus 99.10
2021	College Dux 99.35	Dux Proximus 97.70

Year 11 Program Structure

In designing their individual program at CMCB, the expectation at Year 11 is:

- Students undertake 12 - 14 VCE or VCE VET units for the year including 2 units of English and 1 unit of Religious Education over the year. Students would usually select sequenced units in their subjects to achieve the 12 - 14 units required.
- All students undertake Unit 2 Religion and Society for the duration of the year.

Year 12 Program Structure

In designing their individual program at CMCB, the expectation at Year 12 is:

- Students undertake 10 VCE or VCE VET Units 3 and 4 subjects, including 2 units of English and an accepted Religious Education subject for the year.
- Students select 5 Units 3 and 4 subjects to complete for the year. These must be a sequence.

All students within a Year 12 VCE program are required to select one of the following Religious Education subject options:

- Units 3 and 4 VCE Religion and Society. This selection is included as one of the 5 Units 3 and 4 subjects to be completed for the year. Year 12 students undertaking this option will have two study lines for the entire year.
- Students select the school-based Religious Education option, Living Mercy, for Semester 1. Students undertaking this option will have one study line during Semester 1 and move to two study lines for Semester 2.



"Students celebrate their achievements with their peers."



"Push yourself out of your comfort zone, as challenge is the only path to self-growth."



"We can take a leadership role in the College production and use our experience to help the younger students."

"We can choose from a wide range of electives with pathways to further study, apprenticeships and employment."





VCE Vocational Major

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) is a vocational and applied learning program within the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. It offers students choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests while developing the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, employment, and life.

The VCE VM prepares students for a range of post-school pathways, including apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university (via non-ATAR pathways), or direct entry into the workforce.

This pathway provides students with the best opportunity to achieve their personal goals and aspirations in a rapidly-changing world by equipping them with the skills, knowledge, values, and capabilities to become active and informed citizens, lifelong learners, and confident, creative individuals. It empowers them to make informed decisions about their future through real-life workplace experiences.

Applied learning is central to the VCE VM. It teaches skills and knowledge in the context of real-life experiences, allowing students to learn by doing, experiencing, and applying their skills in practical, meaningful ways.

Completing the VCE Vocational Major

To be eligible for the VCE Vocational Major, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units, including:

- 3 VCE VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3/4 sequence)
- 2 VCE VM Numeracy or VCE Mathematics units
- 2 VCE VM Work Related Skills units
- 2 VCE VM Personal Development Skills units, and
- 2 VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours).

As part of the VCE VM program, students must complete a minimum of three other Unit 3/4 sequences. Units 3 and 4 of VM studies may be undertaken together over the academic year to allow for integrated learning experiences.

Students have the flexibility to include other VCE studies and VET programs in their course plan and may also receive structured workplace learning recognition. Most students will complete between 16 to 20 units over the two-year duration of the program.

It's important to note that students will not receive a Study Score for VCE VM subjects. The only external assessments applicable are the General Achievement Test (GAT) and any scored VCE VET programs a student may undertake.



VCE Vocational Education and Training

The College partners with Bendigo Senior Secondary College and Bendigo TAFE to form a consortium that offers a broad range of Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificates.

VET programs are vocational studies approved by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) as suitable for senior secondary students. These programs equip students with practical skills and industry-specific knowledge. The certificates earned through VET are recognised industry qualifications, with many providing pre-apprenticeship training.

By including a VET subject in their study plan, students can achieve both their VCE and a nationally recognised industry qualification. In addition to preparing students for direct entry into the workforce, VET programs can lead to further study, including credit towards future VET certificates or university courses. Results from some VET programs may also contribute to the calculation of a student's ATAR score.

Students also have the option to pursue VET qualifications full-time or in combination with employment after leaving school.

Catherine McAuley College Bendigo offers the following VET certificates from Year 10:

- Cert II Agriculture
- Cert III Allied Health Assistance
- Cert II Animal Studies
- Cert II Automotive Studies
- Cert III Beauty Services
- Cert II Building and Construction
- Cert III Business
- Certificate III Community Services
- Cert II Cookery
- Cert III Early Childhood Education and Care
- Cert II Electrotechnology
- Cert II Engineering Studies
- Cert III Sport and Recreation
- Certificate II Visual Arts



Subject Pathways

CMCB Subject
Course Guide:



SUBJECT OPTIONS	Year 10	Year 11 Units 1 & 2	Year 12 Units 3 & 4
English: Core	English Foundation English	English English Language Literature	English English Language Literature
English: Elective	Advanced English		
Religious Education	Religion and Society Unit 1 Religion and Society Unit 1 & iGEN	Religion and Society Unit 2 (VCE) Religion and Society Unit 2 & iGEN (VCE) Religion and Society Unit 3 and 4 (VCE)	Living Mercy Living Mercy: Christian Art Living Mercy: Christian Leadership Religion and Society Unit 3 and 4 (VCE)
Applied Learning/ VCE-VM	Work Preparation	Work Related Skills Personal Development Skills Literacy (or English option) Numeracy (or Maths option)	Work Related Skills Personal Development Skills Literacy (or English option) Numeracy (or Maths option)
Humanities	Geography History Law and Order Commerce	Accounting Business Management Geography History Legal Studies Politics Sociology	Accounting Business Management Geography History: Revolutions Legal Studies Politics Sociology
Mathematics	Foundation Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods	Foundation Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics	Foundation Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics
Health + PE	Health and Human Development Physical Education 1 and 2 Advanced Physical Education	Health and Human Development Physical Education Outdoor and Environmental Studies	Health and Human Development Physical Education Outdoor and Environmental Studies
Arts	Art Visual Communication Drama Media Music	Art Making and Exhibiting Visual Communication Design Media Drama Music	Art Making and Exhibiting Visual Communication Design Media Drama Music Contemporary Performance Music Repertoire Performance
Languages	French Indonesian	French Indonesian	French Indonesian
Technology	Digital Technology Systems Electronics Food Technology Product Design and Tech Textiles Product Design and Tech Wood	Applied Computing Systems Engineering Food Studies Product Design and Technology (Textiles) Product Design and Technology (Wood)	Software Development Systems Engineering Food Studies Product Design and Technology (Textiles) Product Design and Technology (Wood)
Science	Biotechnology Chemistry Environmental Science Physics Psychology Understanding the Human Body	Biology Chemistry Environmental Science Physics Psychology	Biology Chemistry Environmental Science Physics Psychology
VET	Cert II Agriculture Cert III Allied Health Assistance (scored option) Cert II Animal Studies Cert II Automotive Studies Cert III Beauty Services (partial completion) Cert II Building and Construction (partial completion) Cert III Business (scored option) Certificate III Community Services Cert III Early Childhood Education and Care (partial completion, must be 16 as of 1 February 2026) Cert II Electrotechnology Cert II Engineering Studies (scored option) Cert II Cookery (scored option) Cert III Sport and Recreation (scored option) Certificate II Visual Arts (Units 1 and 2 in 2026)		



“VET Agriculture gives me hands-on experience in showmanship, animal handling and presentation in the Trade Training Centre pavilion.”

“We offer seamless 3-year senior learning pathways so students can start working towards their Year 12 pathway in Year 10.”



“The Vocational Major is a way that we can use real-life applications in our learning.”



Respect
Justice
Compassion
Hospitality
Service
Courage

**Enrolment enquiries
and tour bookings:**

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For all other enquiries:

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