

## ***Why choose St Francis for your child?***

There are numerous reasons why you should be considering a St Francis Catholic College education. Our College is a Catholic comprehensive College offering education K-12 this means we are a one-stop-shop for your family. Regardless of the age of your child, all members of your family will be able to attend our college. We care that students give their personal best every single day. We offer learning experiences that surpass traditional primary and high schools. The values you have in your family home are the values of our college. We aim to develop students who are respectful, courteous, compassionate, honest and reliable. We want them to be proud of their achievements, their family and their college.



Kindergarten students begin their St Francis Catholic College experience with a playgroup over several weeks in Term 4, the year before they start. We provide many toys and this is a fantastic opportunity for young children to come together, and meet each other and develop new friendships. It provides a great opportunity for teachers, students and parents/carers to meet and helps greatly with the transition to 'big school'. We follow this up with two one to one interviews with your child to best discover where they are at with their learning and development before they commence classes. Kindergarten students also benefit from a 'Kinder buddies' program when each child is paired with an older primary student.

Our primary-aged students have opportunities to experience state of the art specialist facilities such as Science Laboratories, Food Technology Rooms, Music Rooms and Dance & Drama workshops. Students have access to specialist teachers and senior students to support your child and their learning. Students in K-6 participate in science experiments, Food Technology practical experiences, they use specialist equipment such as laser engravers, 3D printers, robotics, photography equipment, a range of musical instruments and specialised sporting equipment not offered in traditional primary school settings.

Students transitioning into Year 7 remain in their familiar school setting, not having to leave siblings and friends. Transition points such as the journey from primary to high school are far less significant with the college gradually introducing specialist teachers, facilities, emphasising high expectations and increasing academic standards. The college works hard on increasing student resilience and having students take greater responsibility for their organisation and learning.

Our numbers double from Year 7 and existing students are encouraged to welcome and act as mentors for new students. This is a great opportunity for students to exercise their leadership skills. All Year 7 students are inducted into the College House System which strongly encourages teamwork and leadership skills; this is evident in Term 1 at the Year 7 camp as well as the numerous carnivals and events.

We make no excuse that we have very high expectations of students with a focus on their Pastoral Care. There are a number of leadership opportunities available to students in Years 4, 8, 10 &

12. Middle and Senior Year students assist juniors with their learning and pastoral care (e.g Year 10 Mentor program with Year 4) and assist in organising games and activities. Students are always encouraged to be excellent role models. Senior student leaders and House Captains (Junior, Middle & Senior) also have formal specific roles to support students.

Students in Years 7 & 8 can volunteer for the Colleges 'Eddies' program. Eddies are students who give up their break times to receive training and are rostered to assist in the playground. They wear high visibility vests and support young students who may be isolated on the playground, have difficulty engaging socially or are arguing about the rules of playground games. The 'Eddies' are an additional set of eyes and ears on the playground and are role models for junior students. The 'Jeddies' (Junior Eddies) are volunteer student leaders from Year 4 who also assist.

Opportunities abound for students in Year 7-12 who have a full range of specialist facilities and broad range of subject electives on offer. No matter what your child is passionate about, there are opportunities for them to succeed at St Francis. We have tremendous opportunities for a wide range of academic and sporting pursuits and we seek to be a hub for the local community groups who may be able to support our extra and co-curricular program. We have developed a relationship with music tutors, academic tutors, sporting clubs, dance studios, physical culture groups, aviation cadets and community groups who offer a range of options for students and their families to pursue their passions on top of a comprehensive range of events and clubs offered by our staff who volunteer their time.

Our graduate statement is our starting point. We have backward mapped learning experiences from Pastoral Programs, leadership and faith experiences from Kinder to Year 12 to ensure your young person has the best opportunity to be successful. We aim to work in partnership with families so that our graduates are:

- Faith filled people, called by the Gospels to be inclusive and respectful with open hearts and minds.
- Successful, holistic and lifelong learners who are creative and critical thinkers.
- Confident, resilient and empathetic members of our community.
- Responsible global citizens with a strong sense of belonging, stewards of the Earth and of service to others.

There are various video links on our website that further outline who we are, our expectations and our hopes.

We thank you for showing interest in our College and we look forward to speaking with you in the future.

Warm regards



Matthew McMahon (College Principal)