



**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

# The Senior Prospectus



**Years 11 & 12  
at MacKillop**

**Information  
for 2025**

# Learn about the Year 11 & 12 experience at MacKillop

We want students to have a smooth transition into Years 11 and 12 at MacKillop, whether you're new to the school or already here. This book provides you with the information you need to hit the ground running in the senior years.





## Your favourite years at MacKillop.

**97%** of students from the Class of 2023 said Years 11 and 12 were their favourite years at MacKillop. [Find out how to make the most of Years 11 and 12 on page 4.](#)



## A course for every interest.

You get to **choose the subjects** that you want to study, so your classroom will be filled with students who share similar interests. [View the wide range of courses on page 10.](#)



## Work with teachers who know you.

**99%** of the Class of 2023 said their teachers did their best to make Year 11 and 12 a positive experience. [Learn about the relationships you'll form with your teachers on page 12.](#)



## Achieve your personal best.

ATAR seekers **do well** at MacKillop. In 2023, all students performed above their predicted score and our high achievers excelled. [Ari Gilchrist \(2023 Dux\) reflects on page 15.](#)



## Enjoy lots of opportunities.

From the wide range of courses and programs to the huge number of co-curricular activities, clubs and committees, there's **something for everyone** at MacKillop. [Have a look at your options on page 16.](#)



## The welcoming community.

Around **40** new students join us in Year 11 each year and there are **record numbers** enrolled in Years 11 and 12 (2024). [Learn why community is a big part of the senior years on page 20.](#)



## It's a safe setting.

**98%** of MacKillop's Year 12 students said they felt safe and supported here. [The Pastoral Care program plays an important role in that – as seen on page 21.](#)



## Form stronger friendships.

**91%** of the Class of 2023 said they planned to remain friends with their cohort. [In Years 11 and 12, you'll form a closer bond with your year group, as students explain on page 22.](#)



## Hit your targets.

Whether your **ultimate goal** is university, apprenticeships, or a pathway to the workforce, MacKillop will help you get there. [Where can MacKillop take you? Find out on page 24.](#)



# A message from the Principal

The Vision of St Mary MacKillop College proclaims that we are a learning environment where excellence in education is valued.

Excellence at MacKillop is much more than talking up the achievements of our students at the top end of the Year 12 results. Excellence at MacKillop means that the best possible outcome for a student has been achieved. All ATAR seekers from 2023 achieved a score at or above their predicted range and a huge number of students received early offers to university. Just as importantly, the College issued a large number of vocational certificates through our highly-regarded Vocational Education program. This is what excellence at MacKillop looks like.

The key to this success is the suite of courses that allows each student to prepare for a meaningful life beyond Year 12. Our students take these courses with teachers who hold the academic care of their students as paramount. Critically, our teachers build relationships of integrity, affirmation and mutual respect with students and their families.

MacKillop is a large, dynamic school possessing energy, opportunity, and first class resources. I believe that faith, courage, individual achievement and the enjoyment and pride that comes from a shared identity make co-educational senior schooling a worthwhile experience. Size in the senior years brings a diversity of choice and a richness of resources and talents, which add to the whole experience for our students.

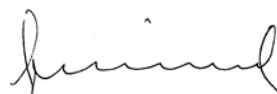
Graduates of the College proceed to tertiary studies or the workplace as confident young women and men possessing initiative, self belief, and a readiness to participate as active citizens. They can make decisions that are good for themselves and others.

St Mary MacKillop College seeks to authentically adhere to the values of the Gospels: faith, hope, and love. We draw our mission from the life, example, and teachings of Jesus Christ and our distinctive pastoral and social justice emphasis from the inspirational work of our patron, Saint Mary MacKillop. We see in Mary MacKillop a person who responded with total commitment to God; a person who dedicated her life to the service of others.

For those of you already at MacKillop, you have benefitted from a rich investment by your teachers and families in your education and in your growth towards being splendid young adults. Like the thousands of graduates before you, you will now have an opportunity to contribute back to the school and the wider community as a senior student at this very good school.

For those of you considering joining MacKillop for your final high school years, you will find us a respectful and inclusive community that appreciates and welcomes many new students for who they are and what they can contribute. I think you will find our energy and diversity irresistible.

I recommend our Year 11 and 12 program to you. It will, if you fully contribute to it, equip you with the knowledge, skills and understanding to embrace the changes that this century will bring and provide you with the faith and courage to lead a life of self worth and of value to others. I hope to see you here in 2025!



**Michael Lee**  
Principal





“ Graduates of the College proceed to tertiary studies or the workplace as confident young women and men.

# How to make the most of Years 11 & 12 at MacKillop



## *Set your goals & choose your pathway*

Where do you want to be by the time you leave MacKillop? There's no shame in setting ambitious goals and reaching for them! Set a goal or pathway and work towards it. This is your opportunity to do what you want to do and to learn what you want to learn. Let us help you achieve your goals!



## *Celebrate achievement*

There will be lots of College celebrations: retreats, carnivals, MacKillop Day, special assemblies, lunches, excursions, trips away, the Year 12 Breakfast, and your Graduation Formal. Make the most of these events, and remember to stop and celebrate your achievements with your friends along the way!



## *Get involved*

Being in Year 12 will provide you with so many chances to get involved in the College and wider community. So do it! Lend your hand to charity, sing your heart out at the carnivals, reach out to someone, join a club or committee, and try something you've never done before. Getting involved in the community is a rich experience and these things will form some of your fondest memories of your time at MacKillop.



## *Balance your workload*

It's important to find the balance between your studies, social life, sport, work, family, and other external commitments. Having a balanced workload will help you manage stress and will ensure maximum enjoyment in Years 11 and 12 at MacKillop!



## *Ask for help*

Never be afraid to be the person who asks too many questions! This is how we learn and grow. The College's Learning Commons program gives students the opportunity to seek help from specialist teachers. The teachers at MacKillop want the best for you, so ask them for help!

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## *Broaden your perspective*

Meet new people and try new things – it's as simple as that! Perhaps you might take a class in something you've never tried before, or talk to a student you've never engaged with? No matter what, never stop learning new skills and gaining more knowledge – these things will be priceless in the future.

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## *Give it your all!*

It's a cliché, but you can only get out what you put in. Be honest with yourself. You've got two years to set yourself up for the foreseeable future, so make the most of it (and those two years will fly by). Give yourself the best chance to achieve your goals. You will never regret the effort you put in!



## *Build relationships*

There will come a time during Years 11 and 12 when you will need to depend on your teachers, friends, or family for support. The relationships you build with your teachers and peers during your time at MacKillop will help to sustain you in the tough times – and will make celebrating the good times that much better!

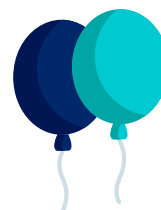
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## *Keep your options open - to a point*

You might want to give yourself a 'Plan B' (or even a 'Plan C'), but don't forget that options only exist if you make an honest effort. We want to work with you to give you options for the future, and the more you try your best, the more options you will have upon graduation.

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## *Enjoy yourself!*

Your overall enjoyment will come from the satisfaction of achieving your goals, the time spent with friends, taking advantage of opportunities, and celebrations along the way. Don't take your College years for granted – make sure you enjoy yourself!



# Senior Studies at MacKillop

## The Senior School

The Senior School provides study pathways for students planning careers and tertiary study. The College offers a rich curriculum catering to the diverse needs of senior students. All curriculum development and assessment occurs under the auspices of the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS). The strong pastoral signature of the Middle School and Bridging School are maintained in the Senior School. The staff and facilities available provide students with excellent opportunities for academic achievement and personal growth and development.

## Subjects and Courses

In Years 11 and 12, students can choose from a wide variety of Tertiary (T), Accredited (A), Vocational (V), Modified (M), and Higher Education (H) courses. Only T and H courses qualify students for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Students need to study a minimum of **five courses across Years 11 and 12**. At the completion of Year 12, students who meet requirements are awarded a Senior Secondary Certificate, which records the work completed for Years 11 and 12 and the level of achievement in each unit of study. The Senior Secondary Certificate is issued by the BSSS.

## Curriculum Mission Statement

The curriculum at St Mary MacKillop College is undertaken in an environment where each person is valued and respected as an individual whose personal growth is of paramount importance.

The curriculum provides excellence in education by:

- Teaching and fostering Catholic ideals.
- Ensuring that learning is relevant, rigorous, inclusive and accessible for all.
- Developing the skills and desire for individual life-long learning.
- Building 21st Century learners who value innovation, with developed skills in collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity.
- Empowering students to take responsibility for their decisions.
- Building students' confidence and self-esteem through success.
- Enabling students to understand how they learn.
- Emphasising the development of spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and creative capacities.

Our staff fulfill the role of teacher, mentor, carer, guide and challenger. They help to motivate students and develop in them a love of learning.









# The Senior Academic Program



## The Tertiary (ATAR) Package

Students wishing to enrol at university must complete a tertiary package and sit the ACT Scaling Test (AST) to gain an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). To undertake a tertiary package, MacKillop requires students to study **at least five tertiary courses** in Year 11. Tertiary courses are academically demanding and are designed to prepare students for university studies. To be eligible for an ATAR, students must complete at least 20 units over a minimum of four semesters and not exceeding five years. Upon the successful completion of a tertiary package, students will receive a Senior Secondary Certificate and a Tertiary Entrance Statement, which also provides the student with their ATAR.



## The Accredited (Non-ATAR) Package

Students undertaking an accredited package may study a range of courses, and are not eligible for an ATAR. Accredited courses prepare students for study at CIT, TAFE and other providers, and are designed to deliver a general senior education. Upon the successful completion of an accredited package, students will receive a Senior Secondary Certificate.

## Academic Support

The College is committed to providing academic support on the Senior Campus to assist students. In order to assist students with their studies, specialist teachers occupy the Learning Commons space. In addition, a range of additional tutorials are conducted by staff on a regular basis with additional support at peak assessment times. The Learning Commons is open before and after school to provide research support and access to information and IT facilities.

The senior learning structure is a high accountability learning model where students take responsibility for their learning. This is great training in independence for the world of work and university. Students are encouraged to meet with their class teachers, who provide individual help with class work, assignments, and building content knowledge and skills.



All senior students complete a study skills program at the start of Year 11. All senior students who are seeking university entrance are required to participate in the targeted AST program aimed at preparing them for the Writing Task, Short Answer Response and Multiple Choice components of the AST. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory and has played a significant role in ensuring our students are fully prepared for the AST.

The Academic Resource Centre gives students easy access to key staff and has provided additional study spaces, meeting and collaboration rooms, and a new cafeteria.



# Vocational Education

MacKillop offers a broad range of vocational courses that equip students for the workforce, and/or further training. Generally, vocational courses are hands-on and practically based.

In addition to the Vocational subjects, Australian School-based Apprenticeships (ASBA) are available. Historically, MacKillop students have been involved in industry areas of Automotive, Building and Construction, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Community Pharmacy, Aged Care, Spray Painting & Panel Beating, Landscaping, Plumbing, Electro Technology and Business. Students who undertake vocational studies may participate in work placements and may qualify to receive a nationally recognised certificate.

Vocational courses lead to nationally recognised training certificates and direct employment. They also prepare students for CIT, TAFE, and (depending on the unit) university. Vocational courses can provide students with credit for further study, which can reduce the duration of study at CIT/TAFE.



There are 12 different Vocational Certificates available to MacKillop students in a wide range of courses.



MacKillop presented 87 VET qualifications (Certs I, II, or III) and 92 Statements of Attainment to the Class of 2023.



The Trades Training Centre provides Hospitality and Construction students with modern, industry-standard facilities.



## *The Vocational Pathway*

**Ruby Mitchell  
Class of 2022**

**For Ruby Mitchell, MacKillop's Trades Training Centre and ASBA program opened up options in a range of pursuits.**

"I'm really happy with what I was able to study within vocational education at MacKillop in the senior years. I was able to gain industry experience through my Australian School-Based Apprenticeship, which I took part in one day per week. It was a Women in Construction pathways program that enabled me to do electrical, carpentry, project management, landscaping, and plumbing. At school, I took courses in Construction and Hospitality through the College's Trades Training Centre to gain vocational certificates and qualifications.

Now that I've left school, I'm doing a full-time carpentry apprenticeship and I'd love to build my own home one day. The vocational pathway at MacKillop gave me lots of options and opportunities, and it has also given me a head start in my career."

# Courses

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a white lab coat, is smiling and looking through a microscope. The background is a brick wall with a human anatomy model visible in the distance.

## Select from a wide range of subjects.

Did you know? All Colleges in Canberra are required to teach BSSS courses. Different schools give their courses different names, which can confuse students when they look at what schools offer. At MacKillop, we're proud of the wide selection of subjects we offer our students for Years 11 and 12. For more information about courses, check out the Senior Handbook on our College website.



## Religious Education

- Religious Studies (T/A)

## Careers

- Pathways to Work and Learning (A/V)

## Creative Design & Technology (Food and Textiles)

- Hospitality (T/A/V)
- Design for Textiles & Interior (T/A/V)
- Social and Community Work (T/A/V)

## English

- English (T)
- Literature (T)
- Essential English (A)

## Humanities & Social Sciences (HASS/SOSE)

- Accounting (T/A)
- Business Services (A/V)
- Business Studies (T/A)
- Economics (T)
- Geography (T/A)
- Global Studies (T/A)
- History, Ancient (T/A)
- History, Modern (T/A)
- Legal Studies (T/A)
- Psychology (T/A)
- Sociology (T/A)

## Industrial Design & Technology

- Construction Pathways (A/V)
- Engineering Studies (T/A)
- Furniture Making (A/V)
- Industrial Design (T/A)

## Information & Communication Technology

- Computer Science (T/A/V)
- Information Technology (T/A/V)

## Languages

- Beginning and/or Continuing French (T)
- Beginning and/or Continuing Japanese (T)
- Beginning and/or Continuing Italian (T)



## Mathematics

- Specialist Mathematics (T)
- Specialist Methods (T)
- Mathematical Methods (T)
- Mathematical Applications (T)
- Essential Mathematics (A)

## Performing Arts

- Dance Studies (T/A)
- Drama (T/A)
- Music (T/A)

## Physical Education

- Exercise Science (T/A)
- Health & Wellbeing (T/A)
- PE Pathways (R)
- Physical Education (A)
- Sport, Recreation & Leadership (A/V)
- Sports Development (A)

## Science

- Biology (T/A)
- Chemistry (T)
- Earth & Environmental Science (T)
- Human Biology (T)
- Physics (T)

## Visual Arts

- Design & Graphics (T/A)
- Media (T/A/V)
- Photography (T/A)
- Visual Art (T/A)

## Registered Units

The College offers a range of registered units. These may include units in the following areas:

- ACT Scaling Test
- Leadership
- Study Skills
- Public Speaking
- Performance
- Religious Service

Most accredited courses can be modified as 'M' courses to cater for the needs of all students. A full description of each senior course is available in the Senior Handbook. Course offerings will depend on student demand and teacher availability.

# Work more closely with teachers who know you.

MacKillop graduates identify the dedication, care, and support of their teachers as major reasons for their success in Years 11 and 12. The teachers of our senior courses are specialists in their fields - many of them have industry experience or extensive academic background in the subjects they teach. You'll study Science under the guidance of teachers with PhDs, learn how to cook from former chefs, have your PE lessons run by elite athletes, take Literature with published authors, learn from qualified lawyers in Legal Studies, and you'll be taught Tech subjects by former architects, engineers, and builders.





## Teachers at MacKillop

**Milly McCabe**  
**Year 12, 2024**

"I love the community and friendly atmosphere at MacKillop and a crucial part of that is the relationship between each student and their teachers. These relationships only get stronger in Years 11 and 12.

Our teachers work extremely hard for us and they always want to get the best out of us. They are very knowledgeable in their subject areas, they are friendly and supportive, and you get the sense that they genuinely care about you because they are always there for you and happy to help.

In the classroom, my teachers are able to cater for the different learning styles students have. They do their best to make classes engaging and to use different tools and methods to keep lessons interesting. My teachers always come around and check in with students to make sure they understand everything in the lesson, but they can usually tell if you need a bit more support or if you require some extension work for a greater challenge.

Now that I'm older, I can see that I've developed some really respectful relationships with my teachers and these have played a crucial role in my success. I'm grateful for all the work they have done to support and challenge me over the years. I owe them a lot!"





# Achievement at MacKillop



If you want academic achievement, MacKillop is the place to be. If you want to achieve your sporting goals, MacKillop is the place to be. If you want to set yourself up to begin a trade or join the workforce, MacKillop is the place to be.

Success in all its forms is celebrated at the College. Whilst the primary focus for MacKillop is on teaching and learning, the success of our students in all aspects of life serves as a source of pride for the College community. Students at MacKillop achieve in academic life, vocational studies, sport, the arts, cultural pursuits, and in the wider community. This achievement provides students with opportunities to progress down their chosen pathway once they graduate at the end of Year 12.

## High flyers



**99.90**

In recent years, MacKillop students have achieved some of the highest ATARs in the Territory, including James Crispin's **99.90**.



High flyers do well at MacKillop, especially those in the ANU and UC H Courses. In recent years, a number of MacKillop students have **topped their H Courses**, including those in tough subjects like Specialist Mathematics and Astrophysics.

## Personal bests



**100%**

of students seeking an ATAR in 2023 received an ATAR **above** their five-mark predicted range. We're good at getting the best out of our students.



**95%**

of our ATAR seekers in 2023 said they were **happy** with their results. In addition, **91%** of ATAR seekers who applied for an **early offer** to university received an offer prior to the release of ATARs.

## Vocational achievement



MacKillop issues among the highest numbers of **Vocational Educational Certificates** in the ACT to its graduates, giving them a head start at CIT or in apprenticeships. MacKillop is regularly one of the Top 5 schools in this area.



**99%**

of the Class of 2023 had **secured further study or employment** by February 2024. Around 35% chose not to go to uni, opting to start apprenticeships, join the workforce, or study at CIT/TAFE instead.

## Celebrating community



It's now tradition for Year 12 to participate in the Cancer Council's Relay for Life. The College regularly tops the Relay's **fundraising charts**. In 2024, Year 12 collected a massive \$74,000, raising the second largest total in Australia.



The Year 11 and Year 12 cohorts of 2024 are the two **largest** senior year groups the College has ever had. The vast majority of students choose to remain at MacKillop for the senior years, and they identify the community, sense of belonging, opportunities, and teachers as the things they like most.



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# Academic Achievement

**Ari Gilchrist**  
College Dux, 2023

**Ari's ATAR of 99.65 enabled him to study a PhB at ANU in Mathematics and Computer Science.**

"My results were higher than I expected, so I'm very happy and very proud of my achievements. I think the environment at MacKillop helped me to succeed. In Year 11 and 12, I studied double Specialist Mathematics and double Information Technology/Computer Science. Those were my favourite subjects and they were the ones that contributed to my ATAR. Being a very large school, there's a lot of people to talk with, work with, and collaborate with. My teachers were really high quality and my Mathematics and Computer Science teachers definitely helped me a lot. I would like to thank those teachers for putting the content in a way I could really understand and giving me great advice regarding my ATAR."



# Opportunities and Co-Curricular Activities



Each student at MacKillop has the opportunity to become the kind of person they want to be – it's our job to give them the best platform to achieve this.

While most opportunities are provided by the classroom experience, MacKillop considers education to be broader than just a sound curriculum. Together with parents, we strive to provide a balanced education that not only prepares students academically but also physically, socially and spiritually.

Supporting the formal curriculum, the College provides a range of co-curricular opportunities for students to further explore their interests and talents. Since co-curricular activities are usually conducted out of normal school hours, students are able to work with their peers in a less formal environment. These valuable opportunities are made possible by the generous support of teachers, parents, and friends of the College.

The College has a long tradition of involvement in sports, debating, public speaking, musicals, Duke of Edinburgh Award Program, Astronomy Club, liturgy, camps, retreats and youth ministry.

## Opportunity

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"I have been lucky to have experienced a lot during my time at MacKillop. In the senior years, I'm noticing even more opportunities for students both in and outside of the classroom. In terms of my studies, I have been able to select from a huge range of classes, and there was an overwhelming number of options available to me for Year 11. I have been part of the PE Pathways program for elite athletes and I have enjoyed competing in sports carnivals and gala days. I have held student leadership roles on the SRC, competed in academic competitions, been on a number of interstate camps and excursions, and I'm looking forward to going on an overseas trip with the school in the future as well. If you like performing arts, students can take part in Musical, Variety Night, dance crews, instrument ensembles, tuition, the Drama Club, and choir. We have extension programs and a club for almost anything – including debating, sustainability, astronomy, robotics, and more! There really is something for everyone at MacKillop!"

**Phoebe Vassallo**  
Year 11, 2024



## College Services

The College provides a number of services for its senior students. Students are given assistance with career decision-making, including work placement, throughout Years 11 and 12. The College has staff to assist students and parents with career advice. Advice on all aspects of course selection, university pre-requisites, tertiary training requirements and specialist career decisions is available from the Careers and Vocational Education Coordinator and the Senior Studies Coordinator. The College also holds an annual Careers Expo for its students to meet with universities, CIT, employer groups, apprenticeship centres, and industry groups. Students are able to speak to representatives from these organisations to gain valuable first hand information about career opportunities.

A number of programs are also available to students in Years 11 and 12. Year 11 students undertake a Senior Study Program, which aims to build students' study skills, together with skills in managing their mental health over the course of their senior studies. Tertiary students in both year groups participate in the AST Program. Year 12 students are able to act as mentors for students on the junior campus through the Cross-Campus Program.

Course advice and counselling are available to students in the lead up to Years 11 and 12, as well as throughout the senior years. Teachers and assistants provide specialist support for students requiring assistance with basic skills, study skills and learning skills. Students with special needs may receive in-class support, as needed.

## Conferences and Seminars

Students are able to attend events to learn about or contribute to a range of topics, such as: leadership, sustainability and the environment, sport, careers, personal development, teamwork, law, the arts, and science.



## Extension Programs and Competitions

Programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Science and Engineering Challenge, Tournament of the Minds, RoboCup, ANU STEM Program, ANU Titration Competition, National Mathematics and Science Competitions, Debating, and a range of clubs at the College offer opportunities for extension and for exploring new interests.

The College works with external agencies to enable talented or high performing students to study concurrently with each institution while at school. Two of these programs are the ANU Extension Program and the UC Accelerated Pathways Program. These courses are designated H courses and the score can be used in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

The College also offers a number of Registered Units for students in Years 11 and 12, which provides them with a chance to gain points toward their Senior Secondary Certificate and take part in co-curricular activities.

## Performing Arts

The College performs a musical each year and has a proud history of critical acclaim. Students are also able to perform dance, music, drama, or comedy pieces at assemblies, special events, concerts, Variety Night, and in competitions. Students are able to learn musical instruments through the In-School Instrument Tuition Program. There are band programs, dance groups, drama clubs, and student choirs. In recent years, the Choir qualified for the grand final of the Australian A Cappella Championships, our ensembles have enjoyed lots of success in a range of competitions, and the College gained a regular spot at the Canberra Comedy Festival.







## The Sport Program

Students enjoy participating in competitive and social sports including swimming, cross country, athletics, netball, softball, basketball, squash, cricket, tennis, hockey, beach volleyball, and the various codes of football. The College competes in carnivals and events organised by the Associated Southern Colleges and School Sport ACT. We have a proud history of success in these competitions. MacKillop students are also given the opportunity to participate in fencing and judo outside of school hours.

Elite athletes in Years 11 and 12 can focus on their chosen sport through the Sports Development course, which is part of the PE Pathways program. These are aimed at the development and support of elite athletes. Many students at MacKillop have gone on to participate in their sport at the highest level. Since the College does not field sporting teams on the weekend, students are free to represent their club.

*Sport*

**Lachlan Collier**  
**College Sports Captain**

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“We have a really big culture around sport at MacKillop and there are heaps of things students can get involved in, particularly in Years 11 and 12. The biggest thing to note is that there’s something for every level.

Our school teams participate (and usually do quite well) in gala days, which give students the chance to test their skills against other schools, play with friends, try new sports, and have fun. There are lots of sports, including rugby, cricket, soccer, Oztag, volleyball, tennis, and so much more.

Our sports carnivals are huge community days with events for serious competitors and fun novelty events as well.

Elite athletes can take part in the PE Pathways Program. For me, this program frees up time outside of school so I can focus on my commitment to rugby. We have access to strength training, plyometrics, fitness, recovery, skill building or you can use the lessons to focus on study. The teachers have a lot of expertise and are committed to helping you achieve your sporting goals.”







## Exchange Programs and Study Tours

MacKillop students have the opportunity to visit the College's sister schools in Italy, France, and Japan, and are able to host students from these countries. The College sends study tours to locations around the world, including New Zealand, the United States, South-East Asia, and other locations in Australia. Senior students at MacKillop can also take part in the World Challenge program.



## Camps and Retreats

Camps and retreats provide invaluable opportunities for students to associate with each other and with staff in an informal learning environment. These activities also allow students to further explore areas of their development such as teamwork and personal faith. Year 11 and Year 12 each take part in overnight retreats, which are typically held outside of Canberra.



## Leadership

Formal leadership opportunities exist for students on the Student Representative Council with additional opportunities for students in Year 12. Students participate in the leadership of the College, a particular portfolio, or one of the Houses. The SRC oversees our Outreach Program that fundraises for local and national charities and organises events for students, including fundraisers, fashion parades and Variety Night.



## Opportunities for Senior Students

As leaders of the school, Year 12 students are provided with a range of opportunities exclusive to the Graduating Class. These opportunities include: visiting students at the Padua Campus through the Cross-Campus Program, participating in group fundraising events like the Relay for Life, running the St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol, creating the College's Annual Magazine, and taking part in graduation events.



# The College Community

## Community Culture

The community culture is highlighted by senior students as an important aspect of Years 11 and 12 at MacKillop. Senior students are responsible for leading the College community and generating the vibe and energy that students at MacKillop have come to know and love. The students of Year 12 in particular play a big role in the organisation and running of school events.

MacKillop's community extends much further than the confines of the school. The College connects with local primary schools, charities, the universities, sporting groups, retirement villages, and other external agencies, providing students with opportunity and the chance to make connections in the wider community.

## Celebrations and Events

Community events at MacKillop add to the College's dynamism. The College holds a number of community events, such as MacKillop Day, sporting carnivals, charity events, year group gatherings/meals, masses, mentoring events, liturgies, assemblies, social events, information sessions, and special graduation events for Year 12. These events add richness to the community, and, in turn, the experience of the student.

MacKillop regularly celebrates the achievement of its students in a range of pursuits. This helps students to become motivated, proactive, contributing members of the community.







# Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an important aspect of the College. Every student is valued as a unique individual. Pastoral care encompasses a commitment to the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of all students. It underpins what happens in each class and the interactions between all members of the College community. Students are nurtured and supported within a safe environment. Pastoral care is critical to enhancing academic outcomes, supporting students in their journey into adulthood and assisting in their personal development so that they may reach their full potential.

Our pastoral structures provide quality learning experiences, leadership, and mentoring opportunities that are centred on building relationships of trust and respect between all members of our College community.

## Programs and Support

The Pastoral Program at MacKillop is a key aspect of the pastoral care and wellbeing of students. The content covers important elements of welfare and the healthy development of adolescents and young adults, complementing and enriching the formal curriculum. Themes of Pastoral Program include: Study Skills and Organisation, Safe Behaviours and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Community Service/Leadership.



Other specialised programs are also run from time to time, in addition to the extra-curricular life of the College, that support and enhance the development and wellbeing of students with their specific needs. The College also provides counselling services to all students and families. A Defence Force Transition Mentor and a Mentor for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are both available.

## Retreat Program

Retreats are integral to community building and faith formation at St Mary MacKillop College. They are prepared and run by the Pastoral Team responsible for each year group. The Year 11 Retreat occurs in Term 1 or 2. Physical, creative, liturgical and reflective activities are provided to enable students to see themselves as part of the community and their responsibilities within the community. The Year 12 Retreat occurs in Term 3 and its focus is on the transition from school to beyond. It also engages students through a program of activity, creativity, liturgy and reflection.

## Links between home and College

MacKillop recognises that parents/carers are the primary educators of their children and aims to work in partnership with them.

A number of formal and informal opportunities exist at the College to assist teachers and parents/carers to work together in the education and wellbeing of their children. Parents/carers are always welcome at College and campus functions such as liturgies, assemblies and information evenings. Communication between College and home is also of high importance. Through publications such as newsletters, mail-outs, and the College website, the College is able to inform families of College news, upcoming events, important information and relevant issues. Staff can be accessed easily via phone or email. Parents/carers are able to log into the Compass Portal and the Canvas learning management system to keep up-to-date with their child's assignments and assessment.

Formal progress interviews involving student, parents/carers and subject teachers are conducted at the beginning of Terms 2 and 4. At the end of each semester, a formal report for each student is shared with families to provide an overview of student achievement and progress.

# Student Experiences

Want to know what Years 11 and 12 are like at MacKillop?  
Students past and present talk about their senior experiences.

## Joining MacKillop for Years 11 & 12

"What drew me to MacKillop was the emphasis on the support they would provide to new students and the fact that lots of people talk about how welcoming the environment is. While it was challenging to start at a new school, the staff and teachers in particular were amazing and I found that the supportive environment helped me to settle into Year 11 at MacKillop.

After one term, my favourite thing about MacKillop has been the large range of opportunities here and the fact that there are so many subjects to choose from. I'm studying things that I never thought I would!"

LULU,  
YEAR 11

## Courses and opportunities

"Once you get to your senior years, and you get to choose your courses and pathway, the school really supports you with what you want to do. For me, that was in the area of Construction, but no matter what pathway you wish to take, there will be opportunities for you to pursue that at MacKillop in Years 11 and 12.

You're able to focus on subjects you're good at, things you want to do in the future, and classes you enjoy, with people who share the same interests. It's your last two years of school, so everyone's there to learn, stay engaged, put the effort in, and to try and enjoy it as well."

JOSH,  
CLASS OF 2022

## What it's like in Years 11 and 12

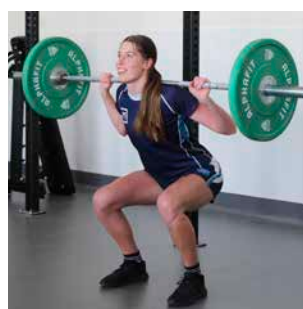
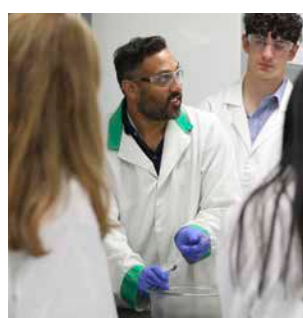
"There's a noticeable change between the junior and senior years. Firstly, the way your cohort interacts with each other is so much better. Our bonds and friendships have strengthened so much, especially in Year 12. You realise that time is precious and you want to make the most of your time together, which helps create a really good atmosphere.

In terms of your studies, you have a lot more freedom and you get to take ownership over your pathway. I'm seeking an ATAR and I'm able to take the subjects that really interest me. I have always enjoyed the relationships I've been able to form with my teachers and those relationships have only gotten stronger in the senior years."

HARRY,  
YEAR 12







## Foundation for the future

**95%**

of students from the Class of 2023 said MacKillop's Year 11 and 12 experience prepared them for life after school and helped to get them where they are today.

## The start of something special

**97%**

of students from the Class of 2023 claim to be happy with their current pathway and situation after completing Years 11 and 12 at MacKillop.

## Good vibes, good memories

**98%**

of students from the Class of 2023 said that, overall, they enjoyed their time as a student of the College.

# What's your pathway after Years 11 & 12?

*Some recent graduates share their experiences*



*James Crispin*

**Doctor/Medicine**

"After graduating from MacKillop, I came to Monash University to study Medicine. I completed my Honours year in 2023, and now I'm on work placement with just one more year to go until I'm a doctor."



*Kofi Owusu-Angah*

**Musician & ARIA Winner**

"MacKillop placed me in an environment that showed me the important balance between discipline and creativity; if I didn't learn this balance, I wouldn't be where I am today."



*Chelsea Agno*

**Artist**

"I think it's important to find your passion as a student and put your energy into subjects you enjoy. My teachers were all huge influences and they were always really supportive of my style and what I wanted to do."



*Josh Haynes*

**Plumber**

"I completed an ASBA in Years 11 and 12 and was fortunate to be named the ACT Australian School-Based Apprentice of the Year. I'm now continuing with my plumbing apprenticeship and I'm enjoying every minute."



*Sebastian Kris*

**NRL Player**

"I've always looked up to the Raiders, growing up here in Canberra. They've been my favourite team for many years. To be able to put that jersey on myself is a dream come true. I've worked very hard to be where I am."



*Sophie Pieper*

**Teacher**

"I had really strong relationships with my teachers at MacKillop and I've always loved working with kids so I eventually got into teaching. I realised I like being the stepping stone to someone else's success and helping others reach their goals."



*Tyler friend*

**Airforce Pilot**

"I always knew I wanted to be a pilot, but I needed to work hard to achieve it. My teachers were outstanding in mentoring me through Years 11 and 12 and I received an offer to join the Air Force to train as a pilot. I've been flying for years!"



*Sophie Highmore*

**Performer**

"I got into NIDA to do Musical Theatre and now I'm doing a Bachelor of Performing Arts at Actor's Centre Australia. During school, I took part in lots of productions and musicals, and I even won a CAT Award."



*Ploy Maniyom*

**Model**

"I'm currently studying Software Engineering at uni, but I've also had a lot of work in modelling - I've had the opportunity to work with Marie Claire, Marcs, Orono, General Pants, and Mecca."



*Lewis Haskew*

**Journalist**

"I graduated from MacKillop in 2014 before studying Journalism at UC. Since then, I've worked as a journalist and reporter for Hit 104.7, WIN News Canberra, K Rock Geelong and now Mix 106.3."



*Naomi Watton*

**Psychologist**

"I got into university and studied a Management/Psychology degree, not totally knowing what I wanted to do. That's when I realised I enjoyed Psychology, and now I really love this area of work."



*Noah Cairnduff*

**Chef**

"I received a Cert II in Hospitality at MacKillop and went on to become a Chef. Since then I've represented the ACT in the Nestle Golden Chef Competition and I've worked at some amazing restaurants."



Students educated at MacKillop go on to be doctors, scientists, business owners, politicians, public servants, builders, architects, tradespeople, teachers, journalists, lawyers, artists, actors, musicians, professional athletes, performers, authors, and more. Students who do well in post-secondary courses are people who are able to think critically, who can write and speak with coherence and intelligence, and who have an understanding of the world and their place in it. At MacKillop, we want students to set ambitious goals and we want them to work with us through Years 11 and 12 along their chosen pathway. It's our aim to provide all students with options for the future. These recent graduates show that, no matter what your goal, MacKillop can help you achieve it.



*Bwalya Chifuntwe*

**Lawyer**

"I studied a double degree in Commerce and Law. I worked as a Legal Officer for the Community Services Directorate before getting into criminal law, where I deal with Supreme Court criminal trials and sentencing."



*Leo Kaczmarek*

**Photographer/Videographer**

"I studied photography and media at MacKillop in Years 11 and 12. I went from taking photos at parties and nightclubs to shooting internationally for musicians and music festivals. I want to get into movies and large-scale media production."



*Danielle Hatch*

**Marketing Specialist**

"At MacKillop, I studied subjects like graphic design, visual arts, and photography. I achieved a Bachelor of Communications in Advertising and I now work at Ivy Social, a boutique social media consultancy."



*Michaela Leonard*

**Walleroo/Physio**

"Since my time at MacKillop, I have studied a Bachelor of Physiotherapy and post-grad studies in Veterinary Physiotherapy. I also play for the Western Force and Wallaroos, and I have had the privilege of captaining Australia."



*Charly Thorn*

**Fashion Designer**

"Ever since I was young, I dreamed of being a fashion designer. MacKillop gave me the chance to meet the right people in the industry. I have showed my designs at international shows like Vancouver Fashion Week."



*Ismail Hammoud*

**Small Business Owner**

"Following my graduation from MacKillop, I went on to finish a Degree in Commerce at the ANU. I'm currently running a food truck with a childhood friend, whilst also working full time in the Public Service."



*Dr Tara Darmody*

**Scientist**

"When I was at MacKillop, my teachers instilled in me my passion for science. After school, I completed my PhD in the field of breast cancer gene regulation, and now I'm working as a genetic counsellor."



*Zac Cunningham*

**Real Estate/Auctioneer**

"I have a passion for business and I landed a real estate job after I graduated Year 12. I have transacted over \$35m of residential property here in the ACT and I am also an auctioneer. I love helping my clients in their property journey."



*Taylor Peart*

**Entrepreneur**

"After uni, I started a marketing agency and moved to Bali to work and live my dream lifestyle. I sold the business and became a business and mindset coach, podcaster, and the co-founder of a virtual assistant agency."



*Emily Thompson*

**Carpenter/Builder**

"I completed a number of Vocational Certificates through the Trades Training Centre at MacKillop. Now, I've completed my apprenticeship and I'm a qualified carpenter, working on a range of commercial and residential projects."



*Michael Caruana*

**Radio Host/Podcaster**

"After studying Sports Media, I worked as a radio host in Canberra and I'm now at WaveFM in Wollongong. It's funny because I did MacKillop's radio ad when I was in Year 11 - that's when I first saw a pathway into radio."



*Carmen Rush*

**Public Servant**

"After working different jobs, I got into the Career Starter Program with the Department of Finance. I get study leave and have been doing a Bachelor of Communications and Media part time."

# Frequently Asked Questions

*Mr Lee answers your questions about Years 11 + 12*



## **QUESTION: I'm already a MacKillop student. What changes can I expect in Years 11 and 12?**

**ANSWER:** The biggest change you will notice is the much stronger relationships with your teachers, which will be more supportive, frequent, and individual. The senior years at MacKillop offer students a level of independence, freedom, ownership, and responsibility. Students have more choice with their subjects, which typically advances their enjoyment, dedication, and achievement in the classroom. Each year, the graduating class is most praiseworthy of the strong sense of community and its sustaining nature upon each of them. Here at MacKillop, they are extremely positive about the relationships of mutual respect they enjoy with their teachers and they appreciate the independence afforded to them by the school.

## **QUESTION: I'm going to be new to the College. Will I be welcome?**

**ANSWER:** MacKillop prides itself on being a Catholic school for all. The faith tradition of your family will be respected and honoured. The College welcomes many new students into Year 11 and they quickly become active and contributing members of the community. MacKillop respects the contribution each student can make to building an inclusive, welcoming community that promotes personal growth, student achievement and relationships of integrity, affirmation and mutual respect.

## **QUESTION: What if I'm thinking of a different Year 11 and 12 environment?**

**ANSWER:** It is true that in the ACT many students consider a change of learning environment for their final years. Some students choose to leave MacKillop at the end of Year 10, but a growing number of students come to MacKillop for Years 11 and 12. The advantage of staying on is that you are known, and you know us. At MacKillop, you can expect high academic achievement, the capacity to welcome new people and the chance to complete your final years with your peers and friends.

## **QUESTION: Where can I find more information about courses?**

**ANSWER:** The Senior Handbook provides all the information students need to know about assessment, courses, AST, ATARs, and senior studies at MacKillop. It is available in the Publications Section on the College website, [www.mackillop.act.edu.au](http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au). For existing MacKillop students, a series of presentations and interviews will take place to help you select the right subjects. Students can also consult with the Senior Studies Coordinator, Careers Advisor, Faculty Coordinators, or the Assistant Principal Academic Care. New students to the College will be invited to meet with curriculum staff, who will guide them through subject selection.

## **QUESTION: What if I'm good at sport?**

**ANSWER:** MacKillop has a proud tradition of providing elite athletes with a solid platform to achieve their goals on and off the field. MacKillop understands that athletes spend many hours out of school training and competing. The College works with clubs and elite sporting agencies to develop the athlete whilst providing them with support and an academic program that presents them with many options for the future. The PE Pathways Program and Sports Development course, led by staff who have vast experience at an elite level, is the most recent initiative to help students create a pathway in their chosen sport.

## **QUESTION: What does the ATAR median really tell us about student and school performance?**

**ANSWER:** The ATAR median is the middle mark achieved by the graduating class of each of the ACT college cohorts who pursued a tertiary package. The median is only one measure of the success of a school and can be skewed through the profile of the cohort – socioeconomic background of the school, restrictive enrolment practices, fees, and subject availability. At MacKillop, our median is almost always among the highest in Catholic education and in the local area. MacKillop students who pursue a tertiary package regularly achieve among the highest ATARs in the ACT and, importantly, are allowed to pursue a tertiary package even though their expectations of a high ATAR might be limited. A number of students gain access to university in courses that have cutoff entry scores below the median and MacKillop believes their post school options should not be restricted because of the impact of their likely ATAR on MacKillop's median. MacKillop students regularly achieve higher ATARs than they anticipated because of the quality of their senior experience and the culture of achievement that each of them contribute to at MacKillop.

It should also be remembered that students at MacKillop regularly achieve among the highest number of VET Certificates of the ACT Colleges and go on to have successful careers in a variety of industries, having received a first-class head start in MacKillop's wide variety of industry courses.





# The Senior Campus

*The St Peter's Campus. Isabella Plains*

The first thing you'll notice about the St Peter's Campus is how open it is, with blocks of classrooms linked by courtyards and external walkways. The open feel of the campus suits the older students – more freedom, more trust, and more responsibility.

The St Peter's Campus, formerly the home of St Peter's Catholic College, accommodates students in Years 10, 11 and 12. It is still sometimes known informally as 'The Isabella Campus' or 'The Senior Campus'.

## Facilities

Specialist facilities on the Isabella Campus include a STEM laboratory, three commercial kitchens, textile and art rooms, modern science laboratories, industrial technology/engineering workshops, gymnasium, strength and conditioning rooms, basketball courts, oval, drama and dance rooms, photography studio and dark room, music rooms with a recording studio, the Learning Commons Library, and the Trades Training Centre.

The Trades Training Centre's industrial kitchens and construction hangar allow students to work towards Vocational Certificates in the fields of Hospitality and Construction while they complete their Senior Secondary Certificate. Many other VET Certificates are available through the range of courses offered by MacKillop in Years 11 and 12.

In recent years, the College opened its Academic Resource Centre, which gives students easy access to key senior studies staff and provides additional study spaces, a presentation theatre, meeting and collaboration rooms, and a new cafeteria. MacKillop also refurbished the B and C classroom blocks to bring them up to standard with the general purpose classroom facilities on campus.

In 2024, the construction of MacKillop's new Performing Arts Centre will be complete.



# The Senior Uniform



## SENIOR GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM

- Pleated tartan skirt or tailored navy slacks/shorts with College monogram
- White senior over-blouse with College monogram
- Teal jumper
- Traditional, leather lace up, black, polishable school shoes with non moulded heel and less than 2cm high
- Plain short white socks
- School cap/plain navy broad brimmed hat
- Navy spray jacket with College crest
- College blazer (optional)



## SENIOR BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM

- Tailored mid-grey school shorts or trousers
- Chambray shirt with College monogram
- Teal jumper
- Traditional, leather lace up, black, polishable school shoes with non moulded heel and less than 2cm high
- Black belt
- Grey or black socks (if shorts are worn, socks must be grey)
- School cap/plain navy broad brimmed hat
- Navy spray jacket with College crest
- College blazer (optional)



## SENIOR GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM

- Pleated tartan skirt or tailored navy slacks with College monogram
- White senior over-blouse with College monogram
- Teal jumper
- Traditional, leather lace up, black, polishable school shoes with non moulded heel and less than 2cm high
- Teal kerchief
- Opaque navy tights (optional)
- Plain short white socks
- School cap/plain navy broad brimmed hat
- Navy spray jacket with College crest
- College blazer (optional)



## SENIOR BOYS WINTER UNIFORM

- Tailored mid-grey trousers
- Chambray shirt with College monogram
- Teal jumper
- Traditional, leather lace up, black, polishable school shoes with non moulded heel and less than 2cm high
- Senior school tie
- Black belt
- Grey or black socks
- School cap/plain navy broad brimmed hat
- Navy spray jacket with College crest
- College blazer (optional)



A gender-neutral uniform option has also been approved and will be available in the near future.

## SPORTS/PE UNIFORM

- Navy shorts/track pants with College monogram
- Navy sports polo with teal/white stripes
- Navy track jacket (winter) with College monogram
- White sports socks
- Lace-up tennis shoes or joggers
- Navy school cap/plain navy broad brimmed hat



# Contact Us

## *Senior Campus contacts*

**College Principal**  
**Campus Head, St Peter's & Deputy Principal**  
**Assistant Principal Academic Care**  
**Assistant Principal Pastoral Care**  
**Assistant Principal Faith Leadership**  
**Director of Student Wellbeing**  
**Teaching & Learning Coordinator**  
**Senior Studies Coordinator**  
**Careers & VET Coordinator**

Mr Michael Lee  
Mr Lachlan McNicol  
Mrs Erin White (Acting)  
Mr Paul Durham  
Mrs Clare Kinnane  
Mr Braden Longo  
Mrs Caroline Winslade  
Mr Colby Cruwys  
Ms Karen Hundy

## *Contact details*

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<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au">http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/mackillop.act">http://www.facebook.com/mackillop.act</a>
<b>Instagram</b>	@mackillop_act
<b>Wanniassa/Padua Campus</b>	Mackinnon Street, Wanniassa
<b>Isabella/St Peter's Campus</b>	Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains

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