



**MacKillop**  
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

# ***Senior Prospectus***

**Information for 2020**

# Principal's

## Welcome

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. Excitingly, all of the College's tertiary students from the Class of 2018 achieved an ATAR above their estimate with our Dux achieving one of the top ATARs in the country. Just as importantly, the College issued a huge 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. Also, the provision of teachers who hold the academic care of their students as paramount and, critically, the relationships of integrity, affirmation and mutual respect between teachers, 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.

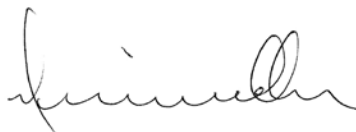
Graduates of the College proceed to tertiary studies or the workplace as confident young women and men possessing initiative, self belief, and a readiness to participate. They can make decisions that are good for themselves and others.

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 gave her life in 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 women and men. Like the thousands of senior students 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 tolerant 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.



**Michael Lee**  
Principal



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



# How to get the best out 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 that 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 system in the IRC gives students the opportunity to seek help from specialist teachers. The teachers at MacKillop want the best for you, so ask them for help!



## 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.



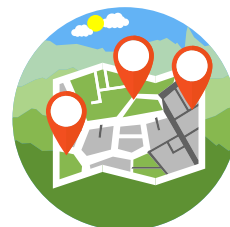
## Give it your all

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!



## 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.



## 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!

# Why MacKillop for Years 11 & 12?

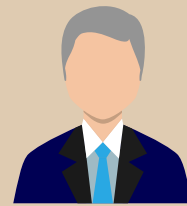
## 7 REASONS TO CHOOSE MACKILLOP

There are many reasons thousands of students have chosen MacKillop for their Year 11 and 12 experience. Here are seven of the very best.



### *You can achieve 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. Students come to MacKillop with many different talents and dreams, which MacKillop's teachers seek to nurture and encourage. MacKillop's achievements in cultural, sporting, and academic life serve as a source of pride to the student body, teaching staff, and the wider community.



### *The great teaching*

A school can be no greater than its teachers, and MacKillop prides itself on employing the very best. With teachers committed to engaging, challenging, and encouraging each and every student to develop their love for learning, it's no wonder the students often say that MacKillop's strength is truly found in its talented staff.

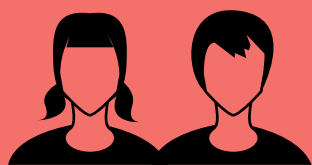
The College's NAPLAN and Year 12 results show that MacKillop students achieve remarkable progress throughout their time at the College. Students do well at MacKillop!

### *The wealth of opportunity*

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

MacKillop students are provided with an extensive range of courses. The successful Bring Your Own Device program enables students to access a plethora of online resources on a device they are familiar with. New programs and added support have been provided so that students can access even more assistance to achieve their potential.

With the impressive Trades Training Centre, the Learning Commons, brand new science laboratories, and an Academic Resource Centre as well as a host of academic opportunities, sports and arts programs, and other extra-curricula activities, our students have more opportunities than ever before. There's something for everyone at MacKillop!



## It's a co-ed school

Learning is a lifelong experience. Co-education is normal, healthy, and the way life-long learning occurs: learning in kindergarten and early childhood centres is co-educational, most K-6 primary schools are co-educational, and CIT and university are both co-educational, as is the work place. Why would you not have it in those critical secondary school years?

Boys and girls learn together at MacKillop, promoting opportunities for collaboration, a mutual respect for gender difference, and a learning community that best reflects the society our students belong to and are being prepared to one day lead.



## The safe community

MacKillop is a large school but its population is spread across two campuses. The senior campus is a peaceful learning environment where students are able to focus on their studies and access teachers for assistance.

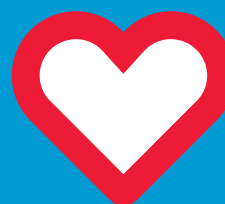
The College boasts a Pastoral Care program that has been held in high regard by teachers, students, and parents alike. It promotes an open school that is welcoming, respectful of differences, enthusiastic about different talents, and where students can speak openly about their concerns and where they can expect that they will be helped. There's an energy at MacKillop that is fun, safe, and truly irresistible!



## We're Catholic

At MacKillop, we're faithful to the Gospels, attentive to the example of Jesus Christ, and challenged by the life and work of our patron, St Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to educating all kinds of students – those on the margins, indigenous students, and people from many different cultural and religious backgrounds – and her work continues at our school.

We are not perfect at MacKillop but we endeavour to be just, loving, faithful, inclusive of all, and joyful in each other's company. MacKillop is a Catholic school for all!



## Students love MacKillop

MacKillop students love their school (and the feeling's mutual, really). When MacKillop bids farewell to its Year 12 cohort, they leave knowing they were deeply loved by their teachers and their friends. MacKillop students are enthusiastic, generous, proactive, intelligent, and have a good sense of humour. They become young women and men who proceed to tertiary studies or the workplace with confidence, possessing initiative and the ability to make informed decisions.



# Senior Studies

## 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), and Higher Education (H) courses. Only T and H courses qualify students for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). 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.







## *Teachers and the transition to senior studies* HARRY DUBÉ • YEAR 12 2019

"My teachers have helped make high school at MacKillop interesting and fun and the relationships that students are able to have with the teachers, especially in Years 11 and 12, are amazing. I was always going to stay at MacKillop for the College years and the teacher-student dynamic was one of the major factors.

I have always felt as though my teachers have been invested in my success throughout the years. They know me on a personal but professional level, which means they know the best ways to teach me. My favourite teachers at MacKillop are always engaged in classes, open to different learning styles, always available to take questions or provide additional help, understanding of the topics they teach, and can appreciate school-life balance to help get the best out of us. The teachers at MacKillop have helped me develop my interests and have provided me with opportunities to learn so many different things."



## The Academic Program



### The Tertiary 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. The remaining course could be either a tertiary or accredited course. Tertiary courses are academically demanding and are designed to prepare students for university entrance, CIT, TAFE and other providers. To be eligible for the AST, 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 Package

Students undertaking an accredited package may study a range of courses, but will not be 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 IRC is open before and after school to provide research support and access to information and IT facilities.



From 2019, our lesson structure includes a tutorial for each subject. Students meet in one of the learning commons areas and have expert teacher assistance to provide help with class work, assignments, and building content knowledge and skills. This tutorial structure is a high accountability learning model where students take responsibility for their learning. This is great training for the world of work and university.

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.

A new Academic Resource Centre, set to open in June 2019, will give students easy access to key staff and will provide 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, St Mary MacKillop College students have been involved in industry areas of Automotive, Building and Construction, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Landscaping, Spray Painting/Panel Beating, Community Pharmacy, Aged Care, 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.



There are 14 different Vocational Certificates available to MacKillop students in Years 11 and 12, in such areas as IT, performing arts, business, sport, and community service.



The Trades Training Centre has provided increased opportunities for students in Hospitality and Construction with its industry-standard facilities.



MacKillop has a reputation for issuing among the highest numbers of Vocational Education Certificates in the ACT to its graduates, giving them a head start in apprenticeships or CIT.

## Vocational Pathway



### EMILY THOMPSON FOURTH-YEAR APPRENTICE

**Emily was able to complete a number of vocational certificates at MacKillop, some of which gave her a head start in her pursuit of a career in carpentry and construction.**

"As a MacKillop student, I was able to gain the experience of doing an Australian School-Based Apprenticeship at the same time as working in the Trades Training Centre. I gained vocational certificates in carpentry and fashion, received the Senior Secondary Certificate, and this year I am a fourth-year carpentry apprentice in only my third year out of school. I received quality advice from our Careers Advisor and I feel that my choices at MacKillop helped give me a head start in my career."

**Senior**

**Courses**





## Religious Education

- Religious Studies (T/A)

## Careers

- Pathways to Work and Learning (A/V)

## English

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

## Food and Textiles

- Hospitality (T/A/V)
- Textiles, Fashion & Design (T/A/V)
- Social and Community Work (A/V)

## Information & Communication Technology

- Information Technology (T/A/V)

## Mathematics

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

## Modern Languages

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

## Performing Arts

- Dance Studies (T/A)
- Drama (T/A)
- Music (T/A)
- Live Production and Services (A/V)
- Music Industry (C)

## Physical Education

- Exercise Science (T/A)
- Health & Wellbeing (T/A)
- Physical Education (A)
- Sport, Fitness & Administration (A/V)
- Sports Development (A)



## Science

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

## Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE/HASS)

- Business (T/A)
- Business Services (A/V)
- 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)

## Technology

- Design Technology and Graphics (Technical Drawing) (T/A)
- Engineering Studies (T/A)
- Furniture Construction (A/V)
- Construction Pathways (A/V/C)

## Visual Arts

- Graphic Art (T/A)
- Media (T/A/V)
- Photography (T)
- Visual Art (T)
- Visual Art and Design (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
- Religious Service

All accredited courses can be modified as 'M' courses to cater for the needs of all students. A full description of senior courses is available in the [Senior School Handbook](#). Course offerings will depend on student demand and teacher availability.

# Achievement at

## MacKillop

### Academic Achievement

JAMES CRISPIN  
COLLEGE DUX 2018

**During Years 11 and 12, James took on a challenging academic program, which included subjects like Specialist Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry. After finishing as College Dux, James' ATAR of 99.90 enabled him to study Medicine at Monash University from 2019.**

"We had a number of success stories from my year group – some of my friends are studying things like Engineering, Veterinary Science, Actuarial Studies, Law, and Physiotherapy. The relationship I had with my teachers was incredibly critical to my success. They were invested in me, checked up on me regularly, and cared about my academic success and me as a person. I put in lots of hard work but the AST results of our year group also made a difference. The AST program at MacKillop definitely helped our year group to do so well. Huge thank you to my teachers who helped and supported me, and to my friends who competed with me and motivated me to do my best. I'm incredibly happy with my results!"





## Growth and Achievement of Year 12

Students have a range of potential pathways after Year 12. Many students opt to go on to university, others seek further education at CIT, some go straight into the workforce, and some take on apprenticeships. Does MacKillop set its students up to progress to their chosen pathway? Quite simply, yes:



**100%**

of students seeking an ATAR from the Class of 2018 received an ATAR **above** their predicted five-mark range - some by as many as 17 percentage points.



**99+**

Once again, a student from MacKillop achieved one of the top ATARs in the territory in 2018. The highest achieving students do well at MacKillop.



**100%**

All of our Year 12 tertiary students achieved an ATAR that would get them into university. Many students gained early entry.



**100%**

of the Class of 2018 achieved a Senior Secondary Year 12 Certificate.



**99.90**

That was MacKillop's highest ATAR in 2018, achieved by James Crispin. High achieving students do well at MacKillop!



MacKillop has a reputation for issuing 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 was one of the top schools in this area in 2018.



**95%**

of students from the Class of 2018 claim to be satisfied with their current situation after graduating from the College.



**Teachers**

MacKillop graduates identify the dedication, care, and support of their teachers as major reasons for their success in Years 11 and 12.





## Opportunity and

## Co-curricular

*There's something for everyone at MacKillop.*

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.

## *The wealth of opportunity*

SOPHIE HIGHMORE • CLASS OF 2018

"At MacKillop - especially during the senior years - there are classes, programs, activities, and so many other opportunities to suit every interest. During my time at MacKillop I represented the school in sport and debating, was involved in the school musical every year, performed at Variety Night and assemblies, competed in the Australian A Cappella Competition, travelled on an overseas study tour, took part in the World Challenge in Vietnam and Cambodia, represented my peers as a student leader, participated in extension programs, and volunteered for charity. I was supported in my external Performing Arts commitments and I was able to take interesting classes that prepared me for my career. This year, I have started studying at NIDA. It's rare that people get accepted straight out of school, but MacKillop supported me in that passion. MacKillop was the best school - I enjoyed my time there and I'm grateful I was able to experience so much in just six short years."





## 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 Science and Engineering Challenge, Tournament of the Minds, RoboCup, ANU STEM Program, ANU Titration Competition, National Mathematics and Science Competitions, and Debating, offer opportunities for extension and for exploring new interests.

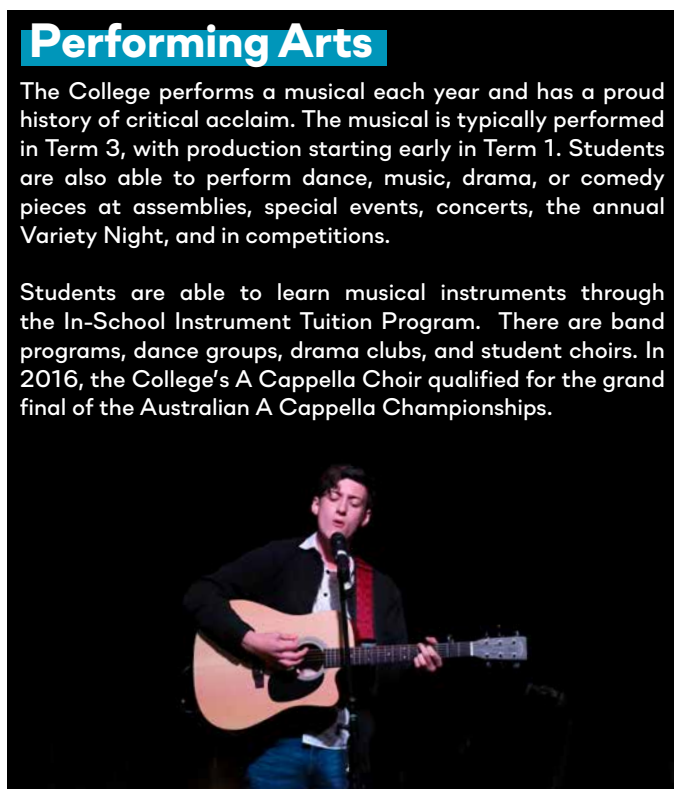
ANU Extension and the Canberra School of Music are external agencies that work in conjunction with MacKillop to enable talented or high performing students to study concurrently with each institution while at school. The ANU Extension courses are designated H courses and the score can be used in the 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. The musical is typically performed in Term 3, with production starting early in Term 1. Students are also able to perform dance, music, drama, or comedy pieces at assemblies, special events, concerts, the annual 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 2016, the College's A Cappella Choir qualified for the grand final of the Australian A Cappella Championships.





## Sport

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 the sport of fencing outside of school hours.

Elite athletes in Years 11 and 12 can focus on their chosen sport through the Sports Development course and 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.



## Opportunities in Sport

LAUREN PHILLIPS • YEAR 12 2019

**"I love sport and I've had so many opportunities to pursue that passion here at MacKillop. You can represent MacKillop in lots of different sports – from all the popular sports to some emerging ones, like beach volleyball and ultimate frisbee.**

**We have a number of development programs for elite athletes and a large number of students have represented Australia in their chosen sport. I have been fortunate to be part of the PE Pathways and Sports Development programs, which have helped in my pursuit of a career in cricket and supported me through a challenging academic package.**

**The sporting culture of MacKillop is amazing and there are opportunities in sport for all students, whether they want to play for fun or compete at the highest level."**





## 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 also sends study tours to locations around the world, including New Zealand, the United States, South-East Asia, and other locations in Australia.



## 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.



## 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, Campus 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 Year 12

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 Wanniasa 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 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, Masses, mentoring events, liturgies, assemblies, social events, and information sessions. These events add richness to the community, and, in turn, the experience of the student.

The College's community extends much further than the confines of the school. The College connects with external agencies, allowing sport, other educational organisations, community groups, the AFP, health groups, and mentoring programs to contribute to the development of each student. The College also lends its support to local primary schools, charities, the universities, and other external agencies, providing students with opportunity and the chance to make connections in the wider community.

## Celebrating Achievement

Success in all its forms is celebrated at the College. The success of our students in cultural, sporting, and academic life serve as a source of pride to the College community. MacKillop understands that many students are successful in ventures outside of school and it encourages each student to nurture their talents and share them with the community.

Celebrating achievement on a regular basis helps MacKillop 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 and pastoral care encompasses a commitment to the spiritual, physical, emotional and mental well-being 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 well-being 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 Well-being, 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 well-being of students with their specific needs. The College also provides counselling services to all students and families. A Defence Force Transition Mentor and an Indigenous Contact Teacher are 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

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

A number of formal and informal opportunities exist at St Mary MacKillop College to assist teachers and parents to work together in the education and wellbeing of their children. Parents 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 are able to log into Canvas to keep up-to-date with their son or daughter's assignments and assessment.

Formal progress interviews involving student, parents 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 emailed home. This report provides an overview of student achievement and progress throughout the semester.





# *The Senior Years*







# Student Experiences

## The Senior Years

CHRIS CARUANA + GABRIELLE PETERSEN  
COLLEGE CAPTAINS 2019

"The senior years at MacKillop have been amazing! In the junior years, it's more about trying different things and finding out what you like and what you're good at. When you're in the senior years, your personality has developed, you have an idea of what you want to do once you finish school, and you get to focus on subjects you enjoy with students and teachers who want to be in those classes. Year 12 has been an amazing experience so far and the community aspect has only gotten stronger.

The teacher-student dynamic is just a whole new level once you start senior studies. You get so much closer to them and there's a really big drive for you to do better. Because you're building for life beyond school, the teachers really understand that and understand the pressures we face."



## New students at MacKillop

CHELSEA LUNT + SAM SERGO  
YEAR 12 2019

"We were excited to join MacKillop for Years 11 and 12 because we had heard good things about the school and when we got here it was really welcoming and it was easy to fit in. Everyone was really nice and it's good that you can be yourself and you won't be judged.

There's a lot of diversity here – heaps of different people, lots of opportunities, and good facilities. The subjects here offer a lot and we were happy with the range of choice. The teachers are good – they always help you out and they made it easy for us to settle in. You can send them emails and they reply quickly.

MacKillop definitely offers a lot of variety, has good facilities, and is just an all-round good school."



**96%**

of students from the Class of 2018 say they enjoyed their time at MacKillop. 87% said their favourite year at MacKillop was either Year 11 or Year 12.



**97%**

of new students to MacKillop say that it was easy to make new friends upon starting.



**98%**

of parents agree that MacKillop is good at celebrating student achievements.



## Years 11+12 - and beyond

"I absolutely loved my senior years at MacKillop. I really liked being one of the older students and being able to lead and mentor younger students. I think the closeness of my year group over Years 11 and 12 was what really made it for me, and I had such amazing teachers who dedicated so much time to helping me and who gave me the drive to do so well.

The senior years prepared me well for life at university. In Years 11 and 12, you have study periods and you need to learn to self-motivate and balance class, assignments, extra-curriculum, and external commitments. I am studying an Arts/Science double degree at ANU, and though I feel 10 times busier now, the skills I learnt at MacKillop have helped ensure I can keep up with all my responsibilities!"

AISSLING KINSELLA  
CLASS OF 2018



## The MacKillop Journey

"I chose MacKillop for the senior years because I had a support network and connection established and I knew what was expected of me. As a junior, I looked up to Year 12 and you could see how much MacKillop meant to them.

The thing I enjoyed most about Year 11 and 12 was the bonds I formed with my teachers and how close our year group became. Having now left school for university, I have come to much more appreciate the effort, care, and attention the staff gave each and every student. I'm studying a Bachelor of Arts in International Security and whilst it is a new challenge I feel that the nurturing environment at MacKillop has prepared me well. My hope for the future is that I am able to work at a job I love and contribute positively to my community."

TOM COUPER LOGAN  
COLLEGE CAPTAIN 2018



**94%**

of parents agree that the teachers at MacKillop take an interest in their child.



The past six Year 12 cohorts have been the six largest year groups to graduate through MacKillop. The College is finding that more students are choosing to stay with MacKillop in the senior years.



Year 12 students identified the Year 11 and 12 Retreats as two of their biggest highlights at MacKillop. They said that both events brought their year group closer than ever before.

# Where can MacKillop

## take you?

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.



**Dr Tara Boulding**

Cancer Researcher

"My teachers instilled in me my passion for science, and also helped me achieve a high ATAR. Since school, I have been researching breast cancer cells and proteins for my PhD, which I received this year."



**Kofi Owusu-Ansah**

Musician/Recording Artist

"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."



**Geoff Ryan**

Primary School Teacher

"I was able to study a broad range of courses which allowed me to discover my passion of becoming a teacher. My teachers knew me by name and gave me the best education and support that they could."



**Bec McConnell**

Two-time Olympian

"I've now been fortunate to represent Australia in Mountain Biking at the last two Olympics and the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Elite athletes can do well at MacKillop!"



**Lewis Hasken**

Journalist

"I graduated from MacKillop in 2014 before studying Journalism at UC. I landed a job reading the news on Hit104.7 after university and now work as a reporter for WIN Local News here in Canberra."



**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."



**Khial Gilmartin**

**Plumber**

"I was able to experience a number of different trades through the Trades Training Centre at MacKillop before I finally settled on a career in plumbing."



**Naomi Walton**

**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."



**Adam Spaleta**

**Small Business Owner**

"I started at university but realised that it wasn't for me and decided to start my own business. MacKillop gave me skills to manage that change. It's great to be able to work for yourself!"



**Dr Yvette Fahey**

**Dentist**

"I didn't have plans after Year 12 but, after gaining employment as a Dental Assistant, I became motivated to become a Dentist. I love my job, and I am grateful to MacKillop for giving me good foundations to follow my dreams."



**Luke Evans**

**Auctioneer/Real Estate**

"I got into real estate after doing work experience. I progressed from personal assistant, to sales consultant, to senior consultant. I now call auctions and manage 70 offices. I love every minute of it."



**Emma Mitchell**

**Lawyer**

"After MacKillop, I completed a Bachelor of Law & Arts at ANU and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice. Now, I work as a lawyer specialising in medical negligence and public liability claims."



**Reece Inkpen**

**Chef**

"The vocational courses at MacKillop helped me develop the skills I needed to become a chef. These skills have taken me all around the world. I've even worked at a two-Michelin-Star restaurant."



**Charlotte McFadzean**

**Public Servant**

"I joined the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science through the Career Starter Program. I also got a good ATAR at MacKillop and will study Business and International Relations at ANU later this year."



Ask our

Principal

## Frequently Asked Questions



### 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. Increasingly, students are returning to MacKillop in Year 11 having tried other institutions. 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, [mackillop.act.edu.au](http://mackillop.act.edu.au). This handbook is updated in time for the Year 11 Information Night that takes place in May. Curriculum stalls will be available at the Information Night for students to talk with their teachers about the courses offered in the senior years. Students can also consult with the Senior Studies Coordinator, Faculty Coordinators, or the Assistant Principal Academic Care.

### 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, published annually by the BSSS, 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 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 media laboratory, two commercial kitchens, textile and art rooms, brand new science laboratories, industrial technology workshops, gymnasium, strength and conditioning room, basketball courts, oval, drama and dance rooms, photography studio and dark room, music rooms with a recording studio, a newly-refurbished Information Resource Centre, 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.

A new Academic Resource Centre, set to open in June 2019, will give students easy access to key staff and will provide additional study spaces, meeting and collaboration rooms, and a new cafeteria.





# 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 Kea 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 Kea 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 Kea 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 Kea jacket with College crest
- College blazer (optional)



## 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

**College Principal  
Business Manager**

Mr Michael Lee  
Mrs Louise Davidson

### **Padua Campus, Wanniasa (Years 7 - 9)**

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Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Cross Campus)  
Assistant Principal Faith Leadership (Cross Campus)  
Director of Student Wellbeing  
Teaching & Learning Coordinator**

Mr Paul O'Callaghan  
Mrs Maria O'Donnell  
Mr Lachlan McNicol  
Mr Jonathan Moyle  
Mr Paul Durham  
Mrs Clare Fletcher

### **St Peter's Campus, Isabella Plains (Years 10 - 12)**

**Campus Head  
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