



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

The Senior Prospectus



**Years 11 & 12
at MacKillop**

**Information
for 2024**

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 2022 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.

97% of the Class of 2022 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 2022, all students achieved at or above their predicted score. High achievers do well, too. James Crispin (99.90) explains on [page 15.](#)



Enjoy lots of opportunities.

96% of students from the Class of 2022 said MacKillop gave them great opportunities during Years 11 and 12. [Have a look at your co-curricular options on page 16.](#)



The welcoming community.

97% of Year 12 students said MacKillop encouraged them to be good community members. [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.

93% of the Class of 2022 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 2022 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.

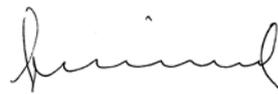
Graduates of the College proceed to tertiary studies or the workplace as confident young women and men possessing initiative, self belief, and a readiness to participate as active citizens. They can make decisions that are good for themselves and others.

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 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 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 2024!



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!



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!



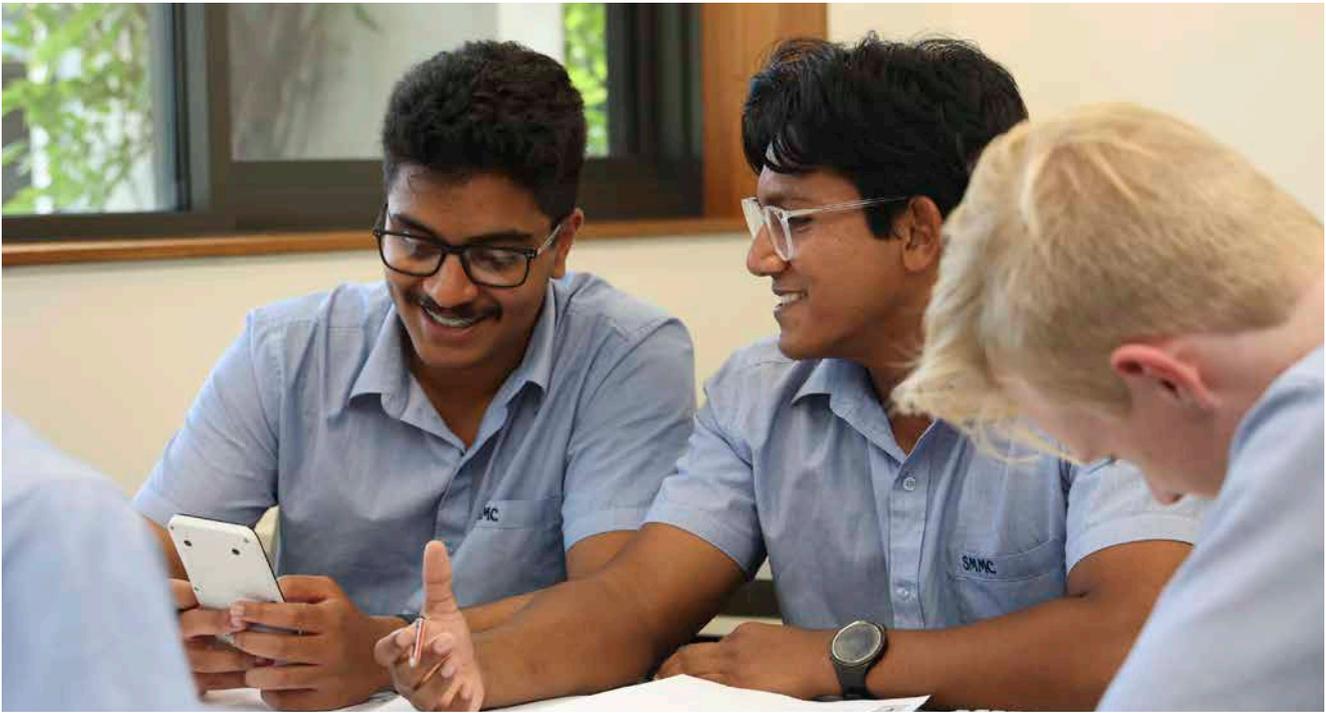
Keep your options open - to a point

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!



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. 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 (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.



Students meet with their class teachers, who provide individual help with class work, assignments, and building content knowledge and skills. This 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.

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 new 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 14 different Vocational Certificates available to MacKillop students in a wide range of courses.



MacKillop presented 91 Vocational Certificates and 81 Statements of Attainment to the Class of 2022.



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 man with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat, safety glasses, and blue nitrile gloves, is focused on a task in a chemistry laboratory. He is leaning over a workbench, holding a glass flask with a purple liquid. In the background, there is a metal lab stand with several white clamps. The overall scene is brightly lit, typical of a school laboratory.

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)

English

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

Food and Textiles

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

Humanities & Social Sciences (HASS/SOSE)

- Accounting (T/A)
- 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)

Information & Communication Technology

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

Mathematics

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

Physical Education

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

Science

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

Technology

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

Visual Arts

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

Registered Units

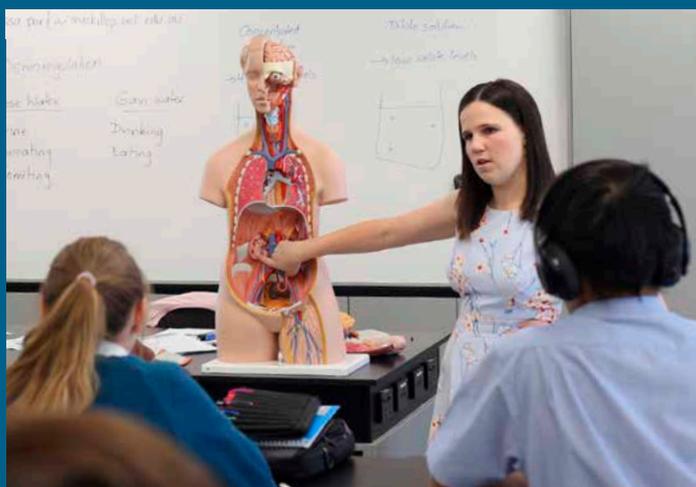
The College offers a range of registered units. These may include units in the following areas:

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

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 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

**Emily Rasheed
Class of 2022**

"The teachers were one of my favourite things about MacKillop. They were clever, always prepared for their lessons, prompt with marking and feedback, were always trying to help us improve, and they encouraged us to work hard and do our best. My teachers were very supportive and approachable and they got the best out of us by making sure that we got the best out of them. They also encouraged us to get involved in a range of things to broaden our perspectives.

In the classroom, my teachers kept us engaged, tried to make learning fun and interesting, and they taught for a range of learning styles. They knew if they needed to give you more support or if you required additional work to extend your skills. They wanted us to ask questions and it genuinely felt like they were invested in us and wanted us to succeed.

Over the years, I learnt the importance of developing strong, respectful relationships with my teachers. Now that I've finished Year 12, I'm thankful to my teachers for the effort they made to connect with us, for the attention they gave to all students, for making us want to come to class, and for pushing us to do our best!"





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 2022 received an ATAR **at or above** their five-mark predicted range. We're good at getting the best out of our students.



70%

of our ATAR seekers received **early offers** from universities. All ATAR seekers achieved a high enough ATAR to enter university.

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 2022 had **secured further study or employment** by February 2023. Around 35% chose not to go to uni, opting to start apprenticeships, join the workforce, or study at CIT instead.

Community Achievement



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 2023, Year 12 collected a massive \$72,000, raising the second largest total in Australia.



98% of students from Year 12 said that MacKillop **encouraged them to care for others**. We're happy to say that our students respond well to this, with high rates of participation for fundraising/charity events.



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, where he is currently completing his Honours year.

"We had a number of success stories from my year group – some of my friends went on to study 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 was incredibly happy with my results!"



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

Katie Bissett
Performing Arts Captain



“The opportunities at MacKillop jump up another level when you enter the senior years. In terms of your classes, you have the chance to drive your own learning with subjects that interest you. In an extra-curricular sense, there are so many activities, competitions, and programs. I love performing arts and there are heaps of opportunities in that area, such as Musical, instrument ensembles and choirs, Variety Night, dance crews, and Drama Club. In fact, there are clubs for so many different things, including sustainability, astronomy, Dungeons & Dragons, debating, drones, and so much more. We also have lots of activities and programs for sport. As a senior student, we are able to go on lots of international trips, camps/retreats, and excursions – both in Canberra and interstate. In Year 12, many of us have enjoyed being leaders and we’ve taken the opportunity to interact with students on the Padua Campus through things like Homework Club, After-School Sport, and the Cross-Campus Program. There’s an extraordinary number of opportunities for every interest!”



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

**Luke Olivier
College Sports Captain**

“

“The sporting culture at MacKillop is really big, inclusive, and fun and this only gets better in the senior years with lots of opportunities to take more ownership and to get involved!”

Our carnivals are huge community days and our school teams participate in gala days, which give students the chance to test their skills, play with friends, try new sports, and have fun. We often do really well in those competitions!

As a senior student, we have interesting PE subjects like Exercise Science, Health & Wellbeing, and Sport & Rec.

Elite athletes can take part in the PE Pathways/Sports Development Program, which is a specialised program to help you develop in your chosen sport. You can do strength training, plyometrics, fitness, recovery, skill building or you can use the lessons to focus on study given the training load most athletes have outside of school. 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 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, 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 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 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

St Mary MacKillop College 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 St Mary MacKillop 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 Canvas 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. This report provides an overview of student achievement and progress throughout the semester.

Student Experiences

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

What it's like in Years 11 and 12

"I really enjoyed the junior years at MacKillop, but the senior years are just so much better. The atmosphere in the senior years has been really supportive and our year group has really come together, especially in Year 12.

From Year 11, you have a freedom to take your learning in any direction you want, whether your goal is to get into university, start a trade, or join the workforce. That means you come to school doing what you want to do, which makes it really enjoyable. Even though we are studying harder subjects, our classes almost feel more relaxed. You form really strong relationships with your teachers, which leads to a great dynamic in the classroom."

BILLY,
YEAR 12

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

Joining MacKillop for Years 11 & 12

"For me, I was a little scared to start Year 11. I came from a small school so to come to a large school like MacKillop was a little daunting. But I found it quite inclusive and welcoming, which made it easy to settle in. I found it easy to bond with the people in my classes, and then I met their friends at recess and lunch so it wasn't long until I felt comfortable and part of the community.

I chose MacKillop because of the range of subjects and opportunities and the support I would have with my sport. I have enjoyed the independence and freedom in Year 11 and 12, and the trusting relationships we have with our teachers."

CHARLOTTE,
YEAR 12





Foundation for the future

96%

of students from the Class of 2022 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

99%

of students from the Class of 2022 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 2022 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



Dr Tara Darmody

Scientist

"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."



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 seven 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, Orotan, General Pants, and Mecca."



Lewis Haskeew

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, and in Melbourne at K Rock Geelong."



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."



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."

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."



Gabby Petersen

Brumbies Player

"I was in PE Pathways for netball and touch. It was a great support system. I tried rugby and now I play for the Brumbies in the Super W. I have also been involved in a number of Wallaroos training camps."



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 in 2015, I've gone 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 Gvette Fahy

Dentist

"I didn't have plans after Year 12 but, after gaining employment as a Dental Assistant, I decided to become a Dentist. I love my job, and I'm 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."



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

"I went to uni and studied Sports Media before working at Hit 104.7 and Mix 106.3, where I host a show and read the news. 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. 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, 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, brand new 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 2023, the College will begin construction on a new Performing Arts Centre.



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 Maria O'Donnell
Mr Paul Durham
Mrs Clare Kinnane
Mr Rohan Langford
Mrs Caroline Winslade
Mr Colby Cruwys
Ms Karen Hundy

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Instagram @mackillop_act

Wanniassa/Padua Campus Mackinnon Street, Wanniassa
Isabella/St Peter's Campus Ellerston Avenue, Isabella Plains

St Mary MacKillop College is a Registered Training Organisation. RTO 88003.

