



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

The Prospectus
Information for 2020



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

The College

Prospectus 2020

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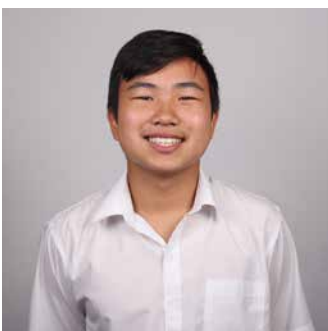
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Principal's

Welcome

THE KEY TO ANY GOOD SCHOOL is its commitment to engaging, challenging and encouraging its students to develop their love for learning. I am sure that the 21st century will be one of constant change. The ability of the individual to embrace and manage change, to think critically, to communicate with others with integrity, clarity, and imagination, and to recognise their interdependence with all who share the planet will be paramount to a successful life.

St Mary MacKillop College 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 the MacKillop co-educational secondary schooling a worthwhile experience.

Graduates of MacKillop 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.

The College strongly promotes within its students a preparedness to accept responsibility for their actions and thus be a model of courage and maturity to others.

In the past few years, MacKillop has extended its exceptional facilities. New library and learning commons areas at both campuses, brand new science laboratories at the Senior Campus, and refurbishments of other areas of the school have added to our teaching and learning programs. At the Senior Campus, the College is in the process of developing an Academic Resource Centre and plans to construct a Performing Arts Centre. The recently built Trades Training Centre has dramatically increased the range and quality of industry delivery in the area of vocational education.

The Bring Your Own Device program and the ACU Teacher Education Program run at both campuses. These offer unique opportunities to both students and teachers across the College.

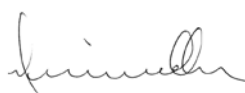
St Mary MacKillop College seeks to authentically adhere to the values of the gospels: faith, hope, and love. We draw our mission from the life, example, and teachings of Jesus Christ and our distinctive pastoral and social justice emphasis from the inspirational work of our patron, Saint Mary MacKillop.

We see in Mary MacKillop a person who responded with total commitment to God; a person who gave her life in service of others. She challenges us to be people who dare to search for the truth; people who can take a stand for Christian values in a secular world; people who dare to make a difference to the world in which they live, with "Faith and Courage", our College motto.

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 for the College community.

As the proud provider of Catholic secondary education to the Tuggeranong Valley for over 20 years, the College continues to warmly welcome any students and their families who wish to positively contribute to our College.

All of us at MacKillop are keen to be part of your secondary educational experience; it will last you a lifetime.



Michael Lee
Principal



All of us at MacKillop are keen to be part of your secondary educational experience; it will last you a lifetime.

What are you looking for in a school?

At MacKillop, we use experience, student data, and parent and student feedback to ensure that we are the school our community wants and needs.



GABRIELLE PETERSEN • COLLEGE CAPTAIN

Why I chose MacKillop

"I remember when I was looking at schools for Year 7. I wanted to go to a school that would give me opportunities and where I would feel welcomed, valued, and cared for by the teachers. Coming from a public primary school, I wanted to know that I would make friends easily if I joined a Catholic school.

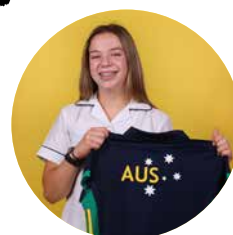
At Try MacKillop Day, I met lots of new people, the subjects looked really interesting, and I remember looking at the all of the students with admiration. I was excited to go to MacKillop and mum was happy with my decision, too!

I have loved my time at MacKillop. I have really enjoyed the community aspect, interesting classes, leadership opportunities, representing the school in sport, and meeting my best friends. Even though it's a big school, I have always felt valued here. I am grateful every day that I chose to come to MacKillop!"

As parents, we want...



STUDENTS TO GROW IN A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.



OUR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE IN A RANGE OF PURSUITS.



A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.



TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.



OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO HOLD GOOD VALUES.



STUDENTS TO BE KNOWN, RESPECTED, AND CARED FOR.



FOR ALL STUDENTS TO BE PREPARED TO FACE THE FUTURE.



OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO BE HAPPY.

As a student, I want...



SCHOOL TO BE FUN AND INTERESTING.



TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.



TO BE SUPPORTED IF I MAKE MISTAKES.



GOOD TEACHERS WHO INSPIRE ME.



TO HAVE MY MIND OPENED TO NEW THINGS.



TO GAIN CONFIDENCE AND ACHIEVE AMBITIOUS GOALS.



TO HAVE NEW AND VARIED EXPERIENCES.



TO BE ENCOURAGED TO BE MY BEST SELF.

At MacKillop, we want these things for you, too.
And we work hard to make them happen.

Who we are...



A Catholic school for all.

58% of our students are Catholic. We welcome people from other faith traditions.



Canberra's largest secondary school.

With around **1850** students enrolled at MacKillop, we're still Canberra's largest secondary school.



A Josephite school.

We're one of the newest schools connected to the **Josephites'** long and proud history of education in Australia.



A welcoming community.

We welcome close to **400** new students across all year groups to MacKillop each year.



Expert educators.

There's **182** of us on the staff, including the College Executive, coordinators, teachers, and support staff.



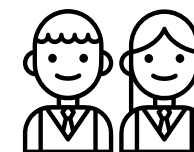
A place of opportunity.

There's something for everyone at MacKillop. Now, we're seeing more **opportunity** at MacKillop than ever before.



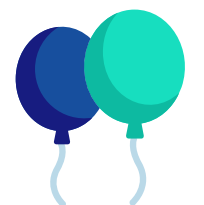
A safe setting.

97.5% of MacKillop parents agreed with the statement, "**This school is a safe place for my child.**"



A co-ed environment.

The **co-ed environment** adds to the depth of MacKillop's community and offers students a range of opportunities.



We celebrate success.

Student **growth and achievement** is at the heart of what we do – and we like to celebrate that here at MacKillop!



Our Vision

Want to know what MacKillop stands for? Nothing says more about us than our College Vision.

The College Vision was updated as part of the 20-Year Celebrations in 2018 in order to honour the legacy of the Sisters of St Joseph.

St Mary MacKillop College is a dynamic welcoming community based on the gospel values of Faith, Hope and Love and upon the legacy of the Sisters of St Joseph.

It is a learning environment where excellence in education is valued.

Members of the community are nurtured and empowered to face the future with faith and courage.



Our Story

A brief history

In 2018, St Mary MacKillop College celebrated its first 20 years under the banner of MacKillop. MacKillop formed in 1998, when Padua High School and St Peter's Catholic College amalgamated to become MacKillop Catholic College.

While its official start was in 1998, MacKillop's story goes back 40 years to 1978, when Padua opened to provide a Catholic secondary school option in the Valley. Padua was located in the suburb of Wanniasa and catered to students in Years 7-10. In 1989, St Peter's opened a few kilometres from Padua in the suburb of Isabella Plains. St Peter's offered places to students in Years 7-12. The two schools enjoyed a healthy rivalry until the amalgamation in 1998, with Padua becoming the Junior Campus and St Peter's becoming the Senior Campus.

In its inaugural year, under the guidance of Foundation Principal Sr Noelene Quinane, the school took out the ACT Rock Eisteddfod, celebrated a number of community events like the Opening Mass and the Mary MacKillop Feast Day, and established a strong focus on social justice. These events formed a solid platform for the new school.

As time passed, the College continued to go from strength to strength. The development of the highly-regarded Pastoral Care and Teaching and Learning programs became the driving force for improved student outcomes.

At the end of 2009, it was announced that Mary MacKillop was to become Australia's first saint. Under the authority of the Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, MacKillop Catholic College changed its name to St Mary MacKillop College for the start of the 2010 school year.

Over the years, the College has grown in size, prominence, and reputation. Great interest in the school led to MacKillop becoming the largest secondary school in the ACT. In keeping with the College Vision, it has upheld a proud tradition of excellent academic results, a welcoming and safe environment, and has maintained its reputation as a Catholic school for all – not just a school for Catholics.

Faith & Community

The College Community

The two-campus setup provides students with age appropriate learning environments.

As a whole school, the College meets on four occasions each year: at the Opening Mass, the Athletics Carnival, the Swimming Carnival, and on MacKillop Day. To build community, Year 12 students are able to take part in the Cross Campus Program, where they spend time at the Wanniassa Campus mentoring students in Years 7-9. An afternoon sports program, run by senior students at the junior campus once per week, also provides an opportunity for cross-campus interaction.

MacKillop in the Community

The College's community extends much further than the College grounds. The College connects with external agencies, such as sporting clubs, 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, universities, and other external agencies, providing students with opportunity to make connections in the wider community.

Community Events

Community events at MacKillop add to the dynamism of the College. The College holds a number of community events, such as MacKillop Day, sporting carnivals, charity events, Masses, performance nights, mentoring events, liturgies, assemblies, social events, dinners, art exhibitions, and information sessions. These events add richness to the community and the experience of the student.

Celebrating Achievement

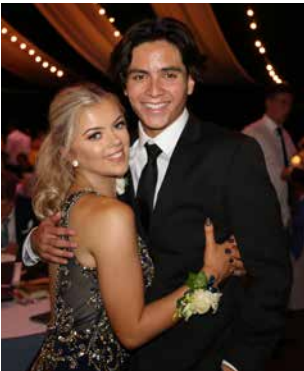
Success in all its forms is celebrated at the College. The success of our students in cultural, sporting, and academic life serve as a source of pride to the College community. MacKillop understands that many students are successful in ventures outside of school and it encourages each student to nurture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

A focus on Social Justice

Inspired by Mary MacKillop's famous saying, "Never see a need without doing something about it," MacKillop has always had a strong focus on social justice.

Students lead and contribute to annual fundraising efforts for Caritas' Project Compassion and the four House charities. Students are also encouraged to participate in collections and campaigns for a range of organisations. Senior students are able to help the city's homeless by distributing meals through the St Vincent de Paul Night Van, and it has become tradition for Year 12 to participate in the Cancer Council's Relay for Life. The College also participates in the World Challenge, which takes students to communities in other parts of the world to help those in need.





Co-education

ALLI BRUCE
YEAR 12, 2019

"Co-education is a big part of the MacKillop experience. Having spent all my early life in a co-ed environment, it was a natural choice to go to a co-ed school for my high school years. The atmosphere is very relaxed and there's a good vibe at MacKillop where we all respect and support each other.

In the classroom, we're always sharing our unique experiences and perspectives with each other and we're able to learn in so many different ways. I can't think of a better way to have prepared for my life beyond school. After all, the 'real world' will be co-ed!"



Co-education

Boys and girls learning together.

At MacKillop we set ourselves the challenge of being welcoming to all who wish to be with us, whatever their faith tradition, talents, abilities, backgrounds, culture, and interests.

The MacKillop community reflects the diversity of Australian society; this is the world our students will live in and contribute to.

Childcare centres are co-ed, most primary schools are co-ed, and so are universities, work places, training centres, and all of the professions; so is MacKillop. Why, then, would we restrict our community to only one gender?

Mary MacKillop's vision for education was that her schools provided learning for all – that vision continues at our College.

Our commitment to co-education as a foundation for the future is strengthened by the fact that schools that have opened since the 1950s have all been co-ed. Indeed, many single-sex schools in Australia and around the world are moving to co-education (including some in our city).

A powerful belief underpinning co-education at MacKillop is that all students learn differently – it's not a case of all boys or all girls learning the same. Our teachers use a range of pedagogical strategies in their teaching and a wide range of assessments. A differentiated approach to instruction is central.

Co-education brings a healthy energy to our school; a respect for gender difference, a maturity and confidence in learning together, and a broad range of social, co-ed, extra-curricular opportunities that foster a healthy, tolerant learning environment.

At MacKillop, our commitment to the belief that we are all different means there is no aim to produce the typical 'MacKillop boy' or 'MacKillop girl'. Students can just be themselves.

Co-education reflects the working, cultural, and social patterns of adult life and is fundamental to MacKillop's desire to be a Catholic school for all.





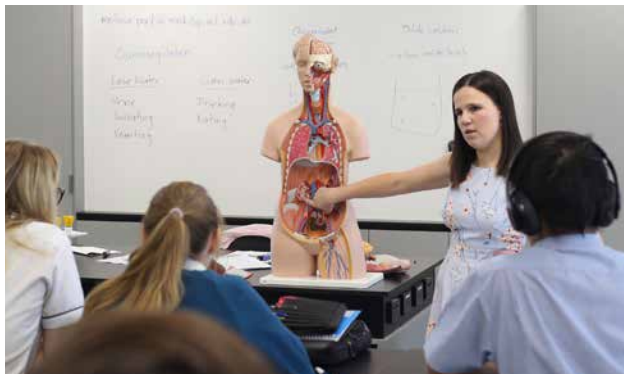
Teaching & Learning

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, developing 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.



Learning Areas

Students coming to MacKillop will be given opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of learning experiences across:

- Religious Education.
- Language.
- Information Technology.
- Aesthetic and creative studies.
- Humanities, English, and cultural studies.
- Mathematics, Science and Technology.
- STEM.
- Health and Physical Education.
- Vocational Education.

Learning Enhancement

While the standard classroom employs progressive and effective techniques to provide for mixed abilities, the College also acknowledges the specific needs of students requiring enhanced learning opportunities. Opportunities exist for students to be accelerated in their learning pathways, to participate in extension programs, and to pursue areas of interest and targeted elective choices.

The College's new enrichment program, **Infinite at MacKillop**, complements the differentiated approach to learning by providing a challenging, student-centred way of learning, valuing academic excellence and ensuring that students are able to reach their individual potential.

To meet student academic needs, the College offers an accelerated package of learning to some students. This may mean that students study a subject or two beyond their age grade level. The possibility for this exists across Year 7-10 classes. Some Year 10 students may also be able to access senior courses under this acceleration model.

Academic Support

A Learning Commons approach exists on both campuses in the libraries. This offers students access to assistance and guidance with their schoolwork and assessment. At the Senior Campus, students can access specialised teacher assistance during study lines, in tutorials, and before and after school. This model helps students to build their independence as learners. At the Junior Campus, assistance is offered through the Homework Club in the afternoon. Tutorial assistance is also provided by a number of faculties at peak assessment times. Teachers are also happy to offer support as requested.

Curriculum:

Years 7-9

Integrated Humanities

In Year 7 students study Integrated Humanities (IHum). IHum is the integration of Religious Education, English and Studies of Society and the Environment. Integrating these subjects offers a holistic approach to learning. A significant benefit for students is that the transition into High School is made easier by reducing the number of teachers and subjects.

Core Subjects

All students in Years 7 to 10 study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Physical Education, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, and Pastoral Program. Digital Technologies/STEM is a recent addition for Year 8. This selection ensures students are engaging in a broad educational package in these key years.

In Years 9 and 10, students study the core subjects, plus a range of electives that provide pathways into senior units.

Electives Range

To foster different skills and talents, MacKillop offers students a wide choice in elective subjects with specialist teachers and facilities. These include STEM, Food and Textiles Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Modern Languages, Performing Arts, Technology (industrial), and Visual Arts. In Year 7, students experience each of these electives for a term. From Year 8, students are encouraged to make subject choices that build on their strengths and interests.



Year 7

The Year 7 program of study is based upon transitioning students from primary to secondary school through a very carefully structured and integrated approach to pedagogy. Year 7 students are placed in a pastoral class belonging to one of the Houses: Gurabang, Meup Meup, Mindygari or Ngadyung. This pastoral class remains together for Integrated Humanities. The curriculum offered to Year 7 meets the requirements of the Australian Curriculum in the core areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business. Students also undertake studies in Religious Education, Cultural Studies, Modern Languages, Visual Arts, Food and Textiles, Performing Arts, Physical Education, and Technology.

Year 8

In Year 8, all students undertake the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, and Digital Technologies/STEM, as well as studying Religious Education and Physical Education. Year 8 students are able to choose from a range of elective courses.

Year 9

In Year 9, students have a greater choice of courses. All students undertake the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business as well as studying Religious Education and Physical Education. The range of elective courses in Year 9 has expanded in recent years.

Enrichment & Challenge

The College seeks to address the needs of all students. In Year 7, students are placed in mixed ability classes for all subjects except where smaller support classes are offered to students who require additional assistance in Mathematics. Within all classes, the teacher seeks to challenge and extend individual students and support others who need additional help with their studies by differentiating. Students with learning difficulties may also receive assistance in the classroom from Inclusive Learning teachers or assistants.

In Years 8 and 9, students are in mixed ability classes for all subjects. In addition, there are support classes for Mathematics and English because literacy and numeracy are crucial. Differentiated classroom strategies are used to extend students. In Years 8 and 9, students have a great deal of choice as to units studied. In this way, they are able to select units that suit their abilities and interests.

The College also offers new STEM-focused electives with a Year 8-10 pathway.



Curriculum: Years 10-12

Year 10

The senior campus provides a variety of curriculum options. In Year 10, students study Religious Education and complete the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science, History, and Physical Education. Students are also able to choose from a wide range of available electives. Students select units that suit their abilities and interests. It is important for Year 10 students to have a sound understanding of their academic strengths so that, when they arrive at their senior studies, appropriate choices can be made. Year 10 students undertake formal counselling together with their parents in order to help inform their course decisions regarding senior studies.

Senior Studies

In Years 11 and 12, students undertake a program of study designed to provide a 'flexible pathway' to the workforce or tertiary study. Students can choose from a wide variety of Tertiary (T), Accredited (A), Vocational (V), and Higher Education (H) courses. Studying any of these courses at a Senior level will qualify the student for an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate. Only T and H courses qualify students for an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

All courses offered in Years 11 and 12 are accredited and approved by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies. All students in the ACT must study English and it is currently compulsory for MacKillop students to study Religious Studies in Year 11. Australian Curriculum English, Mathematics, Science, and History courses are offered in Years 11 and 12.

Students undertake tutorials for each of their subjects, where they work independently with access to expert teacher assistance.

Students with aspirations to attend university are offered a wide range of tertiary subjects. Students can also select from Accredited and Vocational subject areas including Information Technology, Fashion, Hospitality, Media, Music, Business Administration, Furniture Construction, Construction Pathways, and Sport, Fitness, and Administration. Individual packages are developed to meet the needs of each student.

The Vocational Program

In addition to the Vocational subjects, ASBA (Australian School-based Apprenticeship) Programs are available. Currently, MacKillop students are involved in areas of Automotive, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Retail, Spray Painting/Panel Beating, Community Pharmacy and Aged Care. Students who undertake vocational studies may participate in work placements and may qualify to receive a nationally recognised certificate.

External Programs

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 agency while at school.

Year 12 AST Program

All Year 12 students who are seeking university entrance participate in a program aimed at preparing them for the ACT Scaling Test (AST). This includes workshops related to the Writing Task, Short Answer Response and Multiple Choice Tests. Students in Year 11 also sit AST Trials so they know what to expect from the AST.





Years

7-10

Courses

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEAR 7

Core Subjects

- Integrated Humanities
 - Religious Education
 - English
 - Geography
 - History
 - Civics and Citizenship
 - Economics and Business
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Modern Languages
- Cultural Studies
- Food & Textiles Technology
- Performing Arts
- Technology
- Visual Arts

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEAR 8

Core Subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Civics and Citizenship
- Economics and Business
- Physical Education
- Digital Technology
- STEM & PBL

Elective Choices

- Food & Textiles Technology
- Modern Languages (French/Japanese/Italian)
- Performing Arts
- Technology
- Visual Arts
- Creative Maths
- Media Arts
- Maths and Science Roadshow (STEM)

BRIDGING SCHOOL YEARS 9 + 10

Core Subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Physical Education

Elective Choices

- Integrated SOSE
- Food & Textiles Technology
- Geography
- Economics and Business
- Civics and Citizenship
- Humanities
- ICT
- Modern Languages
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Visual Arts
- STEM & STEAM*

***STEM & STEAM** integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Arts:

- Photovoltaics
- Radio Astronomy
- The Kitchen Garden
- Science Roadshow
- Project Based Learning Unit

Years

11 & 12

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 and Fashion (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)
- 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)
- Live Production and Services (A/V)
- Music Industry (C)

Physical Education

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

Science

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

Studies of Society & Environment (SOSE)

- Business (T/A)
- Business Administration (A/V)
- Economics (T)
- Geography (T/A)
- Global Studies (T/A)
- History (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/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
- Extensions
- 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

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 students achieve in a range of areas and these achievements, in cultural, sporting, and academic life, serve as a source of pride to the student body and the wider community.

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. From Medicine and Engineering to NIDA and Construction, students from the Class of 2018 completed Year 12 at MacKillop with the ability to pursue their passions and dreams. 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 five-mark predicted 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 very well at MacKillop.



All of our Year 12 tertiary students achieved an ATAR that would get them into university. Many students gained early entry. It's great that all of our ATAR seekers can access a place at university if they wish to!



100%

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



99.90

That's MacKillop's highest ATAR by James Crispin (2018). This is the second-highest possible rank a student can achieve.



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 5 schools in this area.

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. 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!"



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."





Great Teaching

Enjoy Great Teaching at MacKillop

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 results show that students who enrol in Year 7 at MacKillop achieve remarkable growth by the time they are in Year 9 – the kind of progress that continues into their senior years. The "like school" NAPLAN data reflects brilliantly on the quality of our academic environment, as do our Year 12 results. In 2018, all students wishing to go to university gained entry. Students do well at MacKillop!



What are our teachers like?

MacKillop has a wide range of talented teachers with different cultural and educational backgrounds. We have many teachers who have completed PhDs, teachers who are elite or semi-professional athletes, published authors, practising artists, experienced builders, award-winning chefs, lawyers, scientists, performers, and more. Our teachers range from the young and enthusiastic to the vastly experienced.

They are united in their dedication to the Catholic mission of the College, the achievement of optimum results for their students, the creation of a positive learning environment, and to ensuring that no child slips through the cracks in this large, vibrant school.

The College invests a lot of money on a professional learning program for the staff to ensure they each have the skills and knowledge to improve the outcomes of all students.

Teachers at MacKillop

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 are amazing. I have always felt as though my teachers have been invested in my success throughout the years. They can tell if I've been struggling with assessment or classwork and they follow up with you and give you the opportunities and advice to succeed and improve.

You get to know your teachers on a personal but professional level, which means they get to learn about you and find the best ways to teach you.

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."



Meet Our Teachers

Meet Mr Lehmensich

Mr Eugene Lehmensich is a past student of MacKillop. He worked as a primary school teacher in a number of the local Catholic schools before returning to MacKillop as a staff member. He is now a Nationally Certified 'Highly Accomplished' Teacher.

Mr Lehmensich teaches STEM, Technology, Science, and Humanities. He also leads the College's Infinite Program for academically gifted students.

"I enjoy teaching at MacKillop because it gives me an opportunity to work in a school that challenged me to grow, initially as a student and now as an educator. I am honoured to work with an incredibly talented group of teachers. The students here are fantastic; the greatest part of my job is watching them develop new skills."

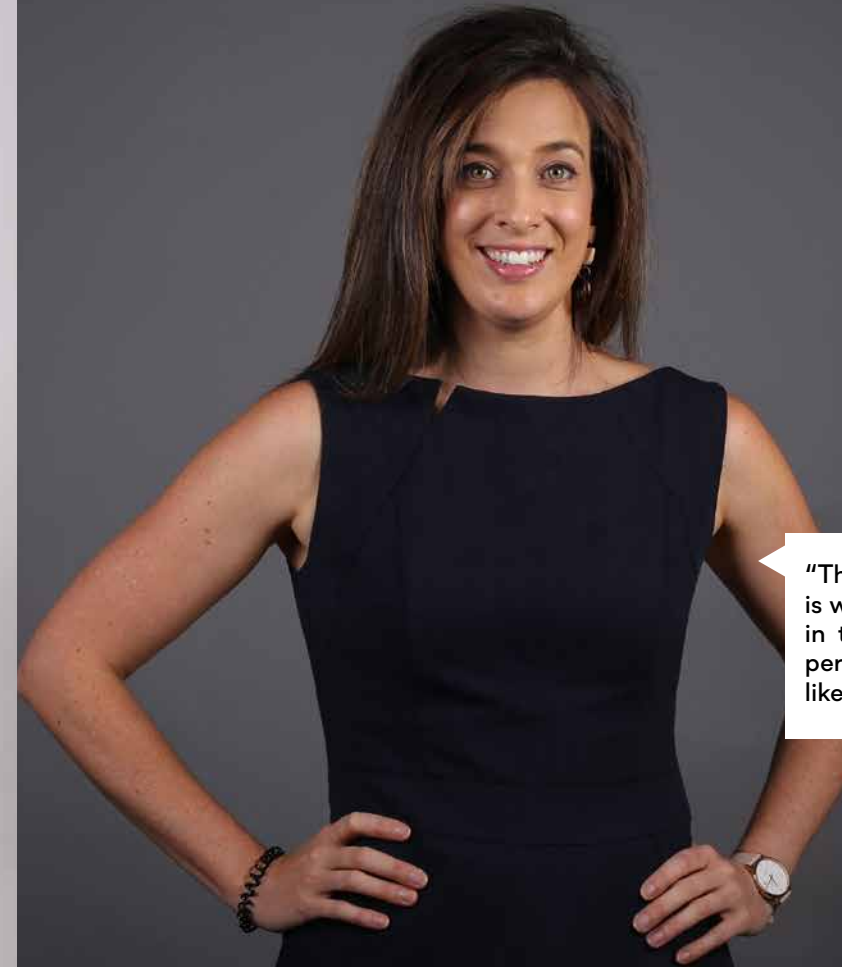


Meet Ms De Ambrosis

Ms Lyndall De Ambrosis is currently the College's Year 12 Coordinator. She also helps to organise MacKillop's community projects, where she takes students into the wider community to help schools, charities, and other community groups.

Ms De Ambrosis plays a number of musical instruments and even teaches music in her spare time. She also helps out with the College Musical each year. Despite this talent in the area of performing arts, Ms De Ambrosis is a trained Maths teacher, which she teaches at the Senior Campus.

"The dynamic and welcoming community at MacKillop is what brought me back here after living and working in the US for a few years. The strong, positive and personal relationships with both staff and students is like no other, which is what I love most about this place."



Meet Dr Pert

Originally from Canberra, Dr Melissa Pert spent a number of years in Melbourne, where she achieved a PhD in Genetics and Developmental Biology. After teaching for four years in Melbourne, Dr Pert decided to return home and joined the staff here at MacKillop.

In doing so, Dr Pert added her name to the rather impressive list of MacKillop staff who have managed to attain a doctorate, the highest level of academic degree one can achieve.

Dr Pert is now in her second year at MacKillop, where she teaches Biology and Science at the Senior Campus.

"I like that the students at MacKillop are down to earth and are always willing to have a laugh with you. We have awesome science labs and I can teach real world science here. Class is always fun, and this is a really friendly place to work."



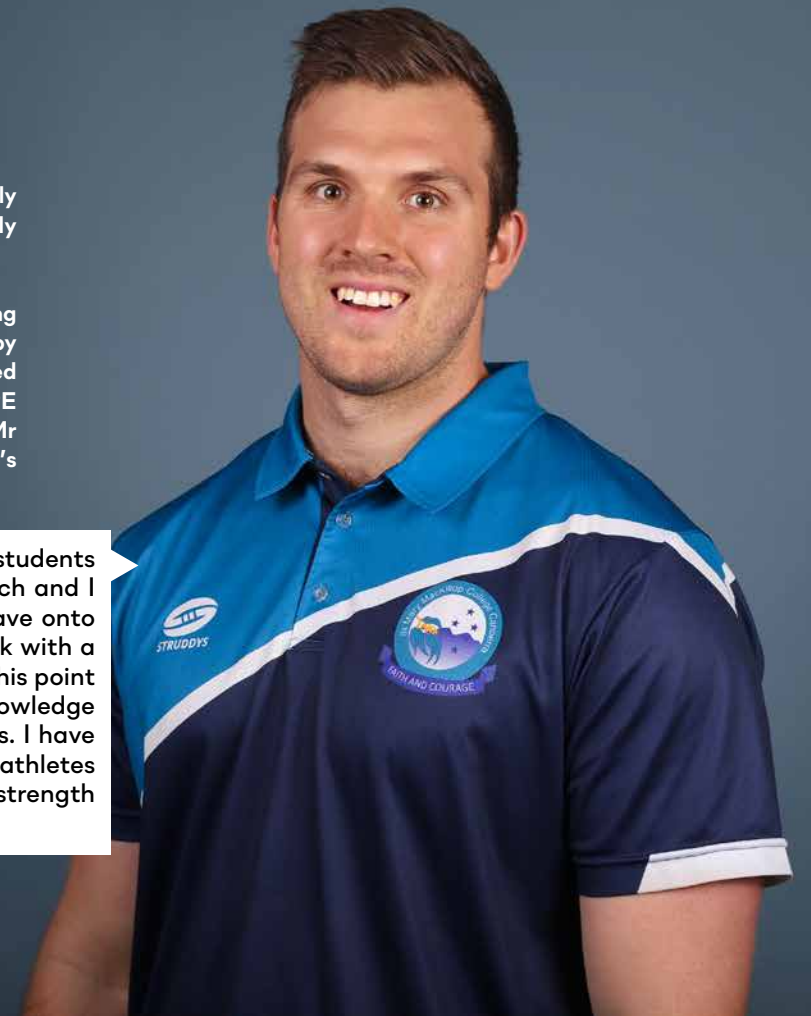
Meet Mr Lenarduzzi

Mr Dominic Lenarduzzi came to MacKillop as an early career teacher and has since become a Nationally Certified 'Highly Accomplished' Teacher.

Having had a career as an elite athlete in both cycling (Italian Track Cycling representative) and rugby (Brumbies U20s), Mr Lenarduzzi has been appointed to the roles of Director of Athletic Performance and PE Pathways Program Facilitator. In these positions, Mr Lenarduzzi is helping to guide and develop MacKillop's (and Australia's) next generation of elite athletes.

"I am passionate about teaching and engaging students in their learning. I love the subjects that I teach and I aim to impart the passion and knowledge I have onto my students. I am fortunate to be able to work with a supportive and collaborative staff who share this point of view. I want to provide students with the knowledge and skills that they need to be lifelong learners. I have a particular interest in supporting student athletes within the College, with my background as a strength and conditioning coach and ex-athlete."

These people are just four of the many talented and dedicated teachers on MacKillop's staff.





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 for that.

While most opportunities are provided by the classroom experience, MacKillop considers education to be broader than just a sound curriculum. 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, liturgy, camps, retreats and youth ministry.

The wealth of opportunity

SOPHIE HIGHMORE • CLASS OF 2018

"At MacKillop, 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."



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, among others, offer opportunities for extension and for exploring new interests.

Camps and Retreats

Camps and retreats provide an invaluable opportunity 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. Years 7, 10, 11, and 12 typically take part in camps/retreats. Some subject areas, such as Physical Education and Performing Arts, also have camps for their students for some units of learning.

Conferences and Seminars

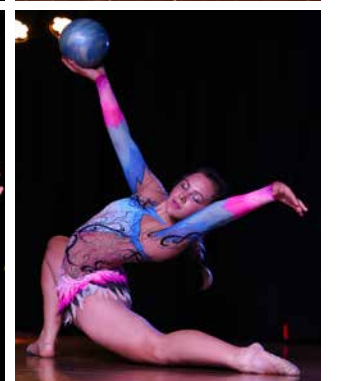
Students are able to attend events to learn about or contribute to a range of topics, such as: leadership, study skills, sustainability and the environment, sport, careers, personal development, teamwork, law, the arts, and science.



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 senior and junior 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. In 2019, students performed 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.

The College also has an After-School Sport Program and regularly holds competitions at lunch time.

MacKillop students are also given the opportunity to participate in the sport of fencing. The College runs a program at MacKillop outside of school hours in conjunction with the ACT Fencing Association.

Students who excel in a particular sport are able to take part in the PE Pathways program, which is aimed at the development and support of elite athletes. Many students at MacKillop have gone on to play their sport at the highest level. Since the College does not field sporting teams on the weekend, students are free to represent their club.



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.



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."



Leadership

Formal leadership opportunities exist for students from Years 7 to 12 on the Student Representative Council. 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.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care: The Support Network

Pastoral Care at St Mary MacKillop College 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 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 in enhancing academic outcomes, supporting students in their journey through adolescence 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.

Structure

All students belong to a Pastoral Care Class and these are organised by year group. Within each Year group all Pastoral Care Classes are aligned with one of four Houses: Mindygari, Gurabang, Meup Meup and Ngadyung.

Each Pastoral Care class meets together with their Pastoral Care teacher every morning. Students have contact with this teacher on a daily basis and develop strong rapport with them over the course of the year. The Pastoral Care teacher is concerned with the holistic wellbeing of each student. The Pastoral Care teacher is the first point of reference for students if they have any concerns and for parents if they have enquiries of a general nature.

Pastoral Care Coordinators provide leadership and direction to each year group and work closely with the Pastoral Care teachers. They are available to assist with any issues that students may experience and will work to try and resolve such issues in a positive way.



Pastoral Program

The Pastoral Program at MacKillop is a key aspect of the pastoral care and wellbeing of students. For Years 7-10, a one-hour session is timetabled into each student's program in every two-week cycle. The content covers important elements of welfare and the healthy development of adolescents and young adults, complementing and enriching the formal curriculum. Each term is dedicated to a particular theme. The themes are: Study Skills and Organisation, Safe Behaviours and Well-being, Relationships, and Community Service/Leadership.

Quality Conduct

Quality conduct honours the dignity and needs of all individuals in the community including students, staff and parents. Restorative practices are followed at MacKillop, which means we see each individual as being in a relationship with every other person in our community. If something goes wrong in a relationship we work to restore it. This restorative approach to learning, managing behaviour and resolving conflict educates and supports students through building and maintaining quality learning relationships and connectedness. Students learn and understand that rights come with responsibilities and that poor decisions and inappropriate behaviour have consequences.

Additional Programs

A number of programs are conducted for students that add to the Pastoral dimension of St Mary MacKillop College. These include Seasons for Growth, The Young Carers Group, and the Drumbeat Program. 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. Qualified counsellors, employed by CatholicCare, work within the school across both campuses assisting students with a range of personal issues.



Links Between Home and College

St Mary MacKillop College recognises that parents are the primary educators of their children and we aim 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. These occasions help provide parents with a taste of the life of the College as well as an opportunity to meet and speak with each other and staff. This informal interaction is integral to the life of the MacKillop community.

Formal communication between College and home is important. 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.

Parents are able to log into Canvas to keep up-to-date with their son or daughter's assignments and assessment and the College now uses Turnitin for assignment submission and feedback.

Staff can be accessed easily via phone or email.



Formal progress interviews involving student, parents and subject teachers are conducted in Terms 2 and 4. Within this forum, student progress and related matters are discussed in an atmosphere of collaboration. At the end of each semester a formal report for each student is prepared and emailed home. This report provides an overview of student achievement and progress throughout the semester.

The College Board is a key body in the administration of the College. Its membership consists of staff and parent representatives and feedback from Board meetings is published in the College Newsletter.

St Mary MacKillop College is part of the wider Catholic community within the Tuggeranong Valley. Parish Priests are actively involved in the school and provide invaluable support in the classroom, on retreats and in other aspects of the sacramental life of the College.

To further support students, professional counsellors, a Defence Force Transition Mentor, and Indigenous Contact Teacher are available at both the Wanniasa and Isabella Campuses. A Careers Advisor offers support to students at Isabella.



Padua: The Junior Campus

As people approach the Padua Campus in Wanniasa, they are greeted by the iconic dark blue entranceway and the words, "Faith and Courage," the College motto.

The Padua Campus, once the home of Padua High School, accommodates students in Years 7, 8, and 9. It is still sometimes known informally as 'The Wanniasa Campus' or 'The Junior Campus'.

As the oldest year group at Padua, Year 9 students are provided with the opportunity to play a significant role in the leadership of the campus.

Facilities at Padua

To support the breadth of curriculum offered at the Padua Campus, an excellent range of facilities exist. These include a state-of-the-art Information Resource Centre, the award-winning College Chapel, STEM teaching facility, modern science laboratories, recently renovated music rooms, a theatrette, gymnasium, newly refurbished kitchens, technology workshops, art and textiles rooms, a weights room, basketball and tennis courts, and an oval.

St Peter's: The Senior Campus

The first thing you'll notice about the St Peter's Campus in Isabella Plains 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 at St Peter's

Specialist facilities on the Isabella Campus include a brand new academic resource centre (with lecture theatre), 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, music rooms with a recording studio, a newly-refurbished learning commons, 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.



School Uniform

+Uniform

Boys

JUNIOR BOYS' SUMMER UNIFORM (Years 7-10)

- Tailored mid-grey school shorts or trousers
- White shirt
- 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 BOYS' SUMMER UNIFORM (Years 11&12)

- 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)



JUNIOR BOYS' WINTER UNIFORM (Years 7-10)

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



SENIOR BOYS' WINTER UNIFORM (Years 11&12)

- 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

Girls

JUNIOR GIRLS' SUMMER UNIFORM (Years 7-10)

- Teal check summer dress or tailored navy slacks with College monogram
- White 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 GIRLS' SUMMER UNIFORM (Years 11&12)

- 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
- Plain short white socks
- School cap/plain navy broad brimmed hat
- Navy Kea jacket with College crest
- College blazer (optional)



JUNIOR GIRLS' WINTER UNIFORM (Years 7-10)

- Pleated tartan winter skirt or tailored navy slacks with College monogram
- White 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 GIRLS' WINTER UNIFORM (Years 11&12)

- 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)



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

Ask Our Principal

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Will my child be welcome?

A: MacKillop celebrates the fact that we offer more places in Year 7 than any other secondary school in Canberra. Around forty per cent of our students belong to a faith tradition other than Catholic, over 30 primary schools are represented at MacKillop, and our low fee structure and significant financial support of families means that we are a genuinely inclusive community.

Q: Will there be a place for my child?

A: While MacKillop would love to accept every applicant, the College is directed by Catholic Education to strictly adhere to the Catholic Education Commission's Enrolment Protocols. Although people wanting a place at MacKillop are strongly urged to submit an application, and the College has recently made offers to students of all priorities, it is wise when applying for any Catholic Secondary School to nominate a second school of choice. MacKillop occasionally has waiting lists for Year 7, so we urge every family interested in joining the College to get their applications in before the end of the Enrolment Period (for the main intake of Years 7 and 11).

Q: What projects does the College have in plan for the near future?

A: In recent times, MacKillop has completed several projects that have enhanced the resources at the College's disposal. These include the Academic Resource Centre (with a cafeteria and lecture hall), STEM teaching facility, Trades Training Centre, the refurbishment of the Libraries at both campuses, a brand new Science building at Isabella, and new Science classrooms at Wanniasa.

In 2019, development will commence on Stage 2 of the STEM facility at Wanniasa, while the Theatrette will be upgraded in the near future. The College also has plans for a Performing Arts Centre at Isabella. None of these projects should cause any disruption to teaching and learning at MacKillop.

Q: How will I be included in my child's education?

A: Parents are listened to at MacKillop! Of course we have regular academic and pastoral reporting, information evenings, a College Board with strong parent representation, open assemblies, welcoming liturgies, newsletters, and websites, which are all available to parents. A parent can expect to be able to meet with and talk to their child's teachers, have phone calls promptly returned, emails responded to, interviews arranged, and to have their questions, hopes, concerns, and anxieties listened to and acted upon. At MacKillop, we recognise parents as the first and best teachers of your children.

Q: How will the faith life of MacKillop benefit my child?

A: The faith tradition of your family will be respected and honoured. MacKillop respects the contribution each student, teacher, and their families can make to building an inclusive, welcoming faith life that promotes the life, teaching, and example of Jesus Christ and the Church He gave us. At the heart of a MacKillop education is the idea of a loving God; the trust, affection, consideration, and sacrifice we show each other are some signs of the presence of the Kingdom of God in all of us.

Q: What does the school do about bullying?

A: Sadly, bullying is found everywhere in society and MacKillop students can experience it in sporting teams and local clubs, part-time employment, in the world of cyber and analog relationships, and at school. At MacKillop, bullying is approached in a forthright and open manner; we talk about what bullying is, help students identify bullying, work to build a culture where it is safe to tell and challenge, provide counselling support, communicate with parents, and include restorative practices, which are aimed to build a climate of trust, respect for difference, and inclusion. Bullying is not typical of the MacKillop experience but we don't pretend that it doesn't exist. Were parents to detect incidents of their child being bullied, they are warmly encouraged to approach the school immediately and with confidence.

The MacKillop Experience

Feedback from students and parents



98%

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



96%

of students from the Class of 2018 said they enjoyed being at school during their time at MacKillop.



96%

of Year 7 2018 said that it was easy to make new friends upon starting at MacKillop.



94%

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



93%

of Year 7 2018 said they felt comfortable around their teachers.



94%

of parents say that they can easily make contact with their child's teacher.



A smooth transition

DARIUS BEW
YEAR 7, 2019

"I was a bit nervous to start high school because I wasn't sure if I would be able to do it – I thought the work would be hard and that I would struggle to make my way around the school. The first day was really good and helped a lot. We were able to see what the school was like without Year 8 and 9 around. It was still challenging and I did get lost a few times, but people were happy to help. Making new friends on the first day was really easy.

Overall it has been a pretty smooth experience. High school is different to primary school but you get new opportunities to build confidence in yourself and to develop your maturity. The assignments and homework have been manageable but a good challenge – you just have to keep on top of it. Now that I have been at MacKillop for a few weeks I have settled in. I'm surprised by how well I'm doing so far!"

Ask Our Students

Student Experiences



Chris Caruana
College Captain

Q: Why should I choose MacKillop for Years 7-12?

"MacKillop is an amazing school! I've had so many opportunities at MacKillop. Our community is inclusive and we like to build each other up. We do well academically, thanks to the amazing facilities and our passionate teachers. I am very glad that I chose MacKillop and I'm proud to be the College Captain for 2019. I highly recommend MacKillop to anyone looking for a high school for 2020."



Maia Wei
Year 7, 2019

Q: Were you nervous about starting high school?

"I was nervous about assignments and making new friends because I thought everyone would already have their friendship groups, but it was really easy to make new friends. The teachers really help and give you lots of time to complete tasks and they are happy to answer questions. I really enjoy high school and I like the work we are doing and all the resources that you can use. It's fun!"



Peter Londo
Year 7, 2019

Q: Can you tell me a little about I-Hum (Integrated Humanities)?

"In Integrated Humanities we study English, Religion, Economics, Business, Geography, and History. It's a fun subject with heaps of engaging activities. My teacher is nice, fun, energetic, and she is always encouraging us. You spend a lot of time with your I-Hum class so you get to know each other well, which has helped us get used to high school. I've made heaps of new friends in I-Hum!"



Flynn Gibbs-Patterson
Performing Arts Captain

Q: Is there bullying at MacKillop? How is it handled?

"Because we have such a welcoming and caring environment, bullying at MacKillop is a very rare thing. But if it does happen, students know that they can tell their teachers or coordinators and the issues will be heard and handled promptly. The issues are always treated seriously by staff. I think we have a culture where it's spoken about and handled really well – we don't pretend it doesn't exist."



Kellee Aviga-Williams
Year 12, 2019

Q: What if I'm not Catholic? Will I be welcome?

"It doesn't matter if you're not Catholic, of course you'll be welcome! There are lots of people in my grade who are not Catholic and some are not religious at all. We are an accepting, diverse, welcoming community that values different perspectives. And in our Religion class, we are learning about all of the religions – we don't just focus on Christianity. After all, we are a Catholic school for all!"



Noah Cairnduff
Year 12, 2019

Q: What kind of relationships do you have with your teachers?

"The relationships you have with your teachers will develop a lot as you go through the school. I still seek advice from the PC teacher I had in Year 7! The teachers are always there for you and they're approachable and friendly. They're good at explaining things and you can always go to them for help. Teachers at MacKillop genuinely care and they try their best to make school interesting for us."



Ihsan Ahmed
Year 8, 2019

Q: What are your classes like?

"There are some pretty fun classes at MacKillop. I have a range of classes. At the moment my elective is Media Arts. For me, the most interesting subjects include Physical Education, Media Arts, Science, and Music. On top of that, there are other electives, such as Food, Tech, STEM, Art, Drama, and Dance. I'm looking forward to trying Creative Maths – it's a fun version of maths where you do puzzles and look at shapes."



Amy Scott
Year 9, 2019

Q: How tough is the homework and assignment load?

"In Year 6 I was told that there would be lots of work, but when I came into Year 7 I found that the teachers ease you into the assignments and homework. As you get older, the workload increases, but so does your ability to do the work! You just need to manage your time and ask for help if you need it. We have things like Homework Club where teachers can help you with your homework and where there are no distractions."



Lilly Vassallo
Year 10, 2019

Q: What is the MacKillop community like?

"My favourite thing about MacKillop is the community! Everyone feels welcome straight away and you feel like you fit in. You still get to connect with students at the other campus, and there's always an amazing atmosphere at whole-school events like the carnivals and MacKillop Day. I remember my first swimming carnival in Year 7 – it stood out to me that everyone got along so well and there was such a great energy!"



Zoe Evans
Year 12, 2019

Q: What if I'm good at sport or have a particular talent?

"If you're good at sport or performing arts, MacKillop has programs like PE Pathways/Sports Development and PCoPA. The teachers are really supportive in those programs. The extra-curricular activities, such as the musical, are great ways for students to pursue and nurture their talents. In recent years, there has been a focus on the academic programs. If you've got a particular talent, the College is really accommodating to every individual."



Miguel Sanchez
Communications Captain

Q: Lots of people go to MacKillop. Is MacKillop too big?

"No! The size might seem daunting at first, but don't forget that we are spread over two campuses. There are lots of people with different backgrounds and interests, so there is a good chance that you'll meet like-minded friends. Because it's a big school, there are lots of opportunities. Eventually you will get to know everyone in your year group and make friendships that will last a really long time – even beyond high school!"



Sarah Purcell
Class of 2018

Q: Do academic students do well at MacKillop?

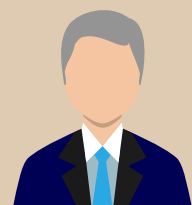
"You just need to look at the results of my peers to know that students can achieve academically at MacKillop. Our Dux was able to get the second-highest ATAR in the country! Results in past years show that MacKillop students are often among the top performers in the ACT. There's a culture of friendly competition at MacKillop that helps all students achieve their best. Personally, my ATAR enabled me to study Engineering at ANU."

Why

MacKillop?

7 REASONS TO CHOOSE MACKILLOP

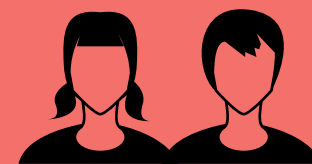
There are many reasons thousands of students have chosen MacKillop for their secondary school experience. Here are seven of the very best.



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!



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 a mutual respect for gender difference, cohesive intellectual energy, 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, meaning the learning environment is relatively small.

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!



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 and the wider community.

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 for that.

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.

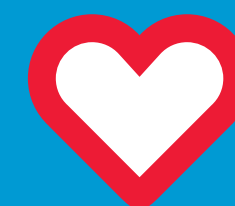
With the impressive Trades Training Centre, a new Academic Resource Centre, brand new science laboratories, a STEM Centre, recently refurbished libraries, as well as a host of academic extension programs, sports and arts programs, and other extra-curricula activities, future and current students have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



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.

Contact Us

College Principal
Business Manager

Padua Campus, Wanniasa (Years 7 - 9)
Campus Head
Assistant Principal Academic Care (Cross Campus)
Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Cross Campus)
Assistant Principal Faith Leadership (Cross Campus)
Director of Student Wellbeing
Teaching & Learning Coordinator

St Peter's Campus, Isabella Plains (Years 10 - 12)
Campus Head
Assistant Principal Academic Care (Cross Campus)
Assistant Principal Pastoral Care (Cross Campus)
Assistant Principal Faith Leadership (Cross Campus)
Director of Student Wellbeing
Teaching & Learning Coordinator
Senior Studies Coordinator

Postal Address PO Box 1211
Tuggeranong ACT 2901

Phone (02) 6209 0100

Fax (02) 6296 2383

Email enrolments@mackillop.act.edu.au

Website <http://www.mackillop.act.edu.au>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/mackillop.act>

Instagram @mackillop_act

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

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

Mr Michael Lee
Mrs Louise Davidson

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

Ms Sandra Darley
Mrs Maria O'Donnell
Mr Lachlan McNicol
Mr Jonathan Moyle
Mrs Monica Bailey
Mrs Jane Cronan
Mr Colby Cruwys

