

# A Welcome guide to St Monica's College



Embrace the Future  
Honour the Past

## Welcome to St Monica's College

It is with great joy I welcome you to our community. St Monica's College is the oldest school in the Cairns region with a very long tradition of responding to the educational and social needs of the times.

The College was administered by the Sisters of Mercy for over a hundred years. It incorporates their traditions of providing an excellent education for girls in the context of a Catholic school which values above all, the quality of relationships and the development of the whole person.

Students are known and cared for at St Monica's College and in this supportive environment, our students are encouraged to develop their diverse gifts and talents. Students, teachers and parents develop a strong sense of belonging to the community and enjoy participating in the many rituals, liturgies and special celebrations which mark the pattern of our days at St Monica's. It is a happy, safe and welcoming place where students share in the responsibility for contributing to the happiness and wellbeing of their classes and their school.

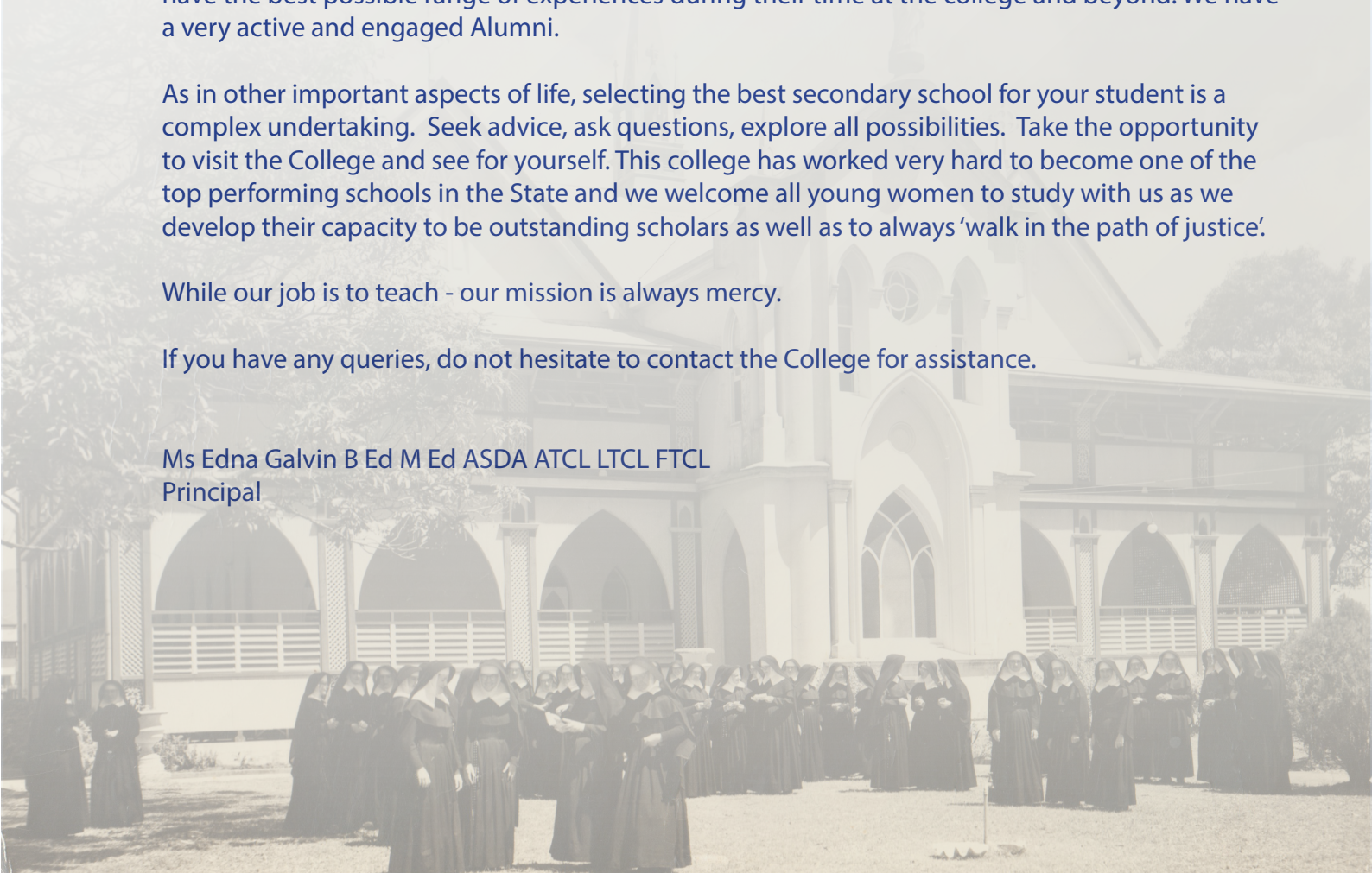
St Monica's College is a school which is known for innovative curriculum design and catering for individual difference in learning. Teachers are committed to providing learning experiences which are challenging, exciting and help students to develop a love of learning and the skills to become lifelong, independent learners. Strategies which focus on girls' learning styles are specific and are used in the classrooms to develop confidence and a strong self-belief that they can make a difference to society in their chosen field. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure the students have the best possible range of experiences during their time at the college and beyond. We have a very active and engaged Alumni.

As in other important aspects of life, selecting the best secondary school for your student is a complex undertaking. Seek advice, ask questions, explore all possibilities. Take the opportunity to visit the College and see for yourself. This college has worked very hard to become one of the top performing schools in the State and we welcome all young women to study with us as we develop their capacity to be outstanding scholars as well as to always 'walk in the path of justice'.

While our job is to teach - our mission is always mercy.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact the College for assistance.

Ms Edna Galvin B Ed M Ed ASDA ATCL LTCL FTCL  
Principal



# 'At St Monica's College We Embrace the Future



## About Us

St Monica's College is a Catholic College in the Mercy Tradition providing Education for young women from Year 7- 12.

## Our Mission

Walk in the Path of Justice

At St Monica's we honour our Past and Embrace the Future



And Honour the Past'

# PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is an extremely important and valued aspect of life at St Monica's. It is an expression of our philosophy and vision. It integrates the academic, social and spiritual dimensions of the College and promotes belonging to a community which values above all, the development of each person and the quality of relationships.

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – PASTORAL

- Responsible for overseeing the care and welfare of the students and the behaviour management program of the college
- Liaising with the boarding school at Chavoin House at St Augustine's College
- Supervising and coordinating the Student Representative Council
- Overseeing St Monica's College's Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program

### YEAR LEVEL LEADER

- Ensures each student's experience of school is a positive and constructive one
- Works with students on behaviour management issues and study plans
- Organises pastoral care based activities including activities days, camps and social functions
- Liaises with parents under the direction of the leadership team on all matters relating to the academic, social, spiritual and physical wellbeing of students

### COLLEGE COUNSELLOR

- Available to talk to the students, parents and carers on any confidential issues as they journey through their adolescent development
- Available to provide career information and guidance to the student's and college community
- Works proactively on issues such as self esteem, conflict management and managing anxiety etc
- To promote mental health and wellbeing within St Monica's College community



## HOMEFORM TEACHER

- Responsible for the care of the students in their homeform group
- Ensures that each student meets her responsibilities regarding attendance, punctuality, uniform and generally makes a positive contribution to the college
- Monitors each student's learning journey through contacting and reporting to parents
- Is the first point of contact for the parents of the homeform group

## PASTORAL CARE STRUCTURE

- There are 32 Homeform (or Pastoral Care) groups
- Each group is made up of approximately 24 students from each year level
- Each group is under the guidance and care of a Homeform teacher who is with the same group as they move through the College over six years
- These groups meet daily. The Homeform group is also a member of a College House with eight Homeroom groups forming each of the four Houses at St Monica's

## PASTORAL CARE ACTIVITIES

- Daily – Pastoral Care (Homeform Time) is a time for prayer, to celebrate successes and birthdays and to disseminate information
- Extended Homeform sessions – held once a week to allow activities or discussions on a variety of issues eg. Mental health, self image, conflict resolution, current events and mission and justice issues
- Activities Days – continues personal development education of the students. eg- drug and alcohol education
- Leadership Activities – St Monica's has a very collaborative senior leadership structure with College Captains and House Captains and Vice-Captains. The Student Representative Council has elected members from each year level. This body is very active in student affairs and organises such functions as College dances, socials and various fundraising activities
- Camps – to provide alternative learning experiences in a different environment

## PASTORAL CARE RELATED DOCUMENTS

- St Monica's College Code of Conduct
- Safe School Policy (Anti Bullying & Student Protection)
- St Monica's College Uniform Policy
- St Monica's College Assessment Policy



*Walk in the Path of Justice*

# ST MONICA'S BOARDING

A partnership of St Monica's and St Augustine's Colleges

St Monica's College students are offered the possibility of boarding at St Augustine's College in Chavoin Residence and attending St Monica's for all their secondary classes.

This opportunity is offered on both a weekly and full-time basis.

The students attend St Monica's for all their normal secondary education. Their boarding programme is the responsibility of St Augustine's. There is a separate Girls' Residence - Chavoin House - under the Supervision of female staff. The girls and boys are together for meals, evening study and organized recreation and other activities. The boarders follow similar evening and Weekend Schedules. The girls have access to the extensive St Augustine's facilities, e.g., library and I.T. facilities, music centre and Swimming pool.

The girls come to and from St Monica's College daily on a bus provided by St Augustine's.

This initiative was established in response to requests from families of students of both Colleges.

The families have indicated they are interested in:

- The attraction and convenience of having their sons and daughters in the same location for boarding;
- The benefits of education in a city School; wide curriculum choice; well developed co-curricular offerings; extra facilities; the broadening of horizons and opening opportunities that a smaller country town cannot provide; and, at the same time
- Single-gender education for in-School time.

Obviously, St Monica's and St Augustine's are uniquely placed to be able to meet these three hopes.

## SOME FURTHER INFORMATION

St Augustine's College is conducted by the Marist Brothers who operate six boarding schools across Australia, four of which are co-educational. The Brothers have had a strong commitment to boarding education since the time of their Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat. There is a strong emphasis on the sense of family in the Marist tradition. For further information, please consult St Augustine's College Website: [www.sac.qld.edu.au](http://www.sac.qld.edu.au).

To be eligible to be enrolled as a boarding student at St Monica's, girls would need to meet the enrolment criteria for both St Monica's and St Augustine's and be accepted by each Principal.

For enrolment enquiries contact the Enrolment Secretary at St Monica's College - 4042 4800.



## BOARDING FEES 2020

(GST inclusive)

Full time boarder \$5,362.50 per term (\$21,450 per year)

Weekly boarder \$4,370.00 per term (\$17,480 per year)

### INCLUSIVE FEE

The boarding fee is all-inclusive - there are no "hidden extras" other than for separate activities outside the College that parents or students may organize for themselves.

Included are:

- Full accommodation
- (Each residence is air-conditioned)
- Three meals each day, plus a morning Snack
- Supervised evening study, with tutorial assistance available if required
- Computer and internet access in the Residences
- Organised after-school activities
- Full laundry service
- Bedlinen
- Transport to and from School activities, and Sporting and other commitments during the week and on Weekend
- Weekend day-trips (for full-time boarders), boarders camps (Terms 1 and 4)
- Services of College nurse and College infirmary, if required

For students' individual pocket money and incidental expenses, it is recommended that a float of \$200 is entrusted to the Residence Coordinator who would administer it on behalf of the parents.

## CURRICULUM OFFERED

Year 7 Subjects are:

- Religion (including Social & Emotional Learning – SEL) (Year Study)
- English (Year Study)
- Mathematics (Year Study)
- Science (Year Study)
- Humanities (Year Study)
- Health & Physical Education (Semester Study) (Semester Study)

One Term rotations of:

Visual Art / Music, Dance / Drama, Italian, Japanese, Food Technology / Digital Technology, Information Communication Technology

Yr 8 Subjects are:

- Religion (including Social & Emotional Learning – SEL) (Year Study)
- English (Year Study)
- Mathematics (Year Study)
- Science (Year Study)
- Humanities (Year Study)
- Health & Physical Education (Semester Study)

One Term rotations of:

Visual Art / Music, Dance / Drama, Italian, Japanese, Materials Technology / Digital Technology, Information Communication Technology

Yr 9 Subjects are:

- Religion (including Social & Emotional Learning – SEL) (Year Study)
- English (Year Study)
- Mathematics (Year Study)
- Science (Year Study)
- Modern History (Semester Study)
- Health & Physical Education (Semester Study)

Plus four semester electives from the following:

Business, Geography, Music, Visual Art, Drama, Food Technology, Textile Technology, Health & Physical Education Elective, Information Communication Technology, Graphics, Japanese and Italian.



## Yr 10 Subjects are:

- Religion (including Social & Emotional Learning – SEL) (Year Study)
- English (Year Study)
- Mathematics (Year Study)
- Science (Year Study)
- Modern History (Semester Study)
- Health & Physical Education (Semester Study)

Plus four semester electives from the following:

Business, Geography, Modern History (elective), Visual Art 1, Visual Art 2, Dance, Drama, Food Technology, Textile Technology, Health & Physical Education (elective), Information Communication Technology, Graphics, Italian (Sem 1), Italian (Sem 2), Japanese (Sem 1), Japanese (Sem 2), Music (Sem 1), Music (Sem 2).

## IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL SUBJECTS ARE:

### General Subjects:

Accounting	Biology	Business
Chemistry	Dance	Digital Solutions
Drama	Food & Nutrition	Geography
Health	Italian	Japanese
Legal Studies	English	Literature
General Mathematics	Mathematical Methods	Specialist Mathematics
Modern History	Music	Physical Education
Physics	Psychology	Study of Religion
Visual Art		

- Music Extension is a Yr 12 subject only offered to students studying Music
- English & Literature Extension is a Year 12 subject only offered to students studying English or Literature

## APPLIED SUBJECTS:

- Religion & Ethics
- Essential English
- Essential Mathematics
- Fashion
- Visual Arts in Practice

## CERTIFICATE COURSES:

- Certificate III IDMT
- Certificate III in Business (in partnership with Binnacle Training)
- Certificate III In Fitness (in partnership with Binnacle Training)

In Special circumstances QCAA subjects not offered at the school may be offered through Distance Education.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION:

The Vocational Education Program offers a variety of pathways.

Students who wish to aim for a Queensland Certificate of Education and remain ATAR eligible can select four General subjects plus

- an Applied subject
- a certificate III course (or higher) offered by the College or external Registered Training Organisation

Students who wish to aim for a Queensland Certificate of Education can choose a combination of General, Applied and Vocational Subjects, and a school –based traineeship or apprenticeship depending on employer availability.

## LEARNING ENRICHMENT

Each student is valued at St Monica's College and it is the role of the Learning Enrichment Program to offer learning opportunities for each individual. Programs for students with disabilities, learning difficulties or ESL backgrounds are established by the Learning Enrichment Coordinator. Some learning experiences and assessments are negotiated between the Learning Enrichment Coordinator, Curriculum Middle Leader and class teachers to cater for individual learning needs.



# St Monica's College

## 'The One'

### CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities which complement and extend the school curriculum.

#### PUBLIC SPEAKING

The College has several junior and senior debating teams which participate in the regional competition. Debating is an excellent way to develop public speaking skills, research skills and teamwork. These teams, through the competition, have the opportunity to express their views, beliefs and attitudes on a range of issues from a young adult perspective. Our students also participate in Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition and the Lions Youth of the Year. Students work closely with teachers to prepare for these competitions.

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

As part of our vision to integrate faith and life, the college has a strong commitment to social justice. The college motto, 'Walk in the Path of Justice' reflects our Mercy heritage and is a constant reminder of our challenge to make the Good News real in the world. As a community we have an ongoing commitment to key Catholic social justice organisations and charities including Caritas and their Project Compassion appeal, Catholic Mission, the St Vincent de Paul Society, Mercy Works (the social action arm of the Sisters of Mercy) and Rosies. Students are encouraged to work to support these, along with a number of other charities and appeals. It is hoped that all students would come to appreciate that free and generous giving of one's time, energy and money to others in need, is a normal part of life. Senior students have the opportunity to log their social action and community service involvement and to receive certification of this upon exit of the college.

#### CAMPS, RETREATS, ACTIVITIES DAYS

Students have the opportunities to participate in a range of activities involving personal and community development in settings outside the classrooms. These opportunities provide personal development education, outdoor education, careers education, team building, leadership activities, social and spiritual development and concentrate on the whole person.

The options vary for each year level and range from single days, to overnight, two nights and two days and three nights and three days.

## LANGUAGES EXCHANGES

Two languages, Italian and Japanese, are offered in the curriculum. These languages are very popular elective choices for our students. St Monica's College has a sister school agreement with a school in Yokohama and an arrangement with a number of schools in Bologna, Italy. Every two years, students participate in reciprocal exchange visits with students in Years 10, 11 and 12 given the opportunity to spend the June or September holidays in either Japan or Italy. Longer exchanges can also be arranged as part of this program.





# DEVELOPING MUSICAL ABILITY

## PERFORMING ARTS

### MUSIC

Music is a subject which forms part of the curriculum from Years 7 to 12. The QSA subject Music in Years 11 and 12 contributes to tertiary entrance. The College also offers a Music Instrumental Program. Students have the option of learning individually or within a group, from specialized music teachers. Instruments may also be hired from the school and tuition is available in:

String (violin, cello)	Brass (trumpet, trombone etc)
Drumkit/Percussion	Piano
Woodwind	Theory of Music
Voice	

### DRAMA

Drama is studied as an elective part of the curriculum. In the junior years, students engage in play writing and production: study the elements of drama; clowning; performing for children; Shakespeare, issues based on college drama productions and performing scripted plays. In Years 11 and 12, Drama is a QSA subject which contributes to tertiary entrance.

### DANCE

Dance is currently offered to Years 11 and 12 students and is a QSA subject which contributes to tertiary students. Students are required to study and submit assessment in areas of Choreography, Performance and Appreciation over the two year course.

## PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

### ANNUAL MUSICAL/PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION

A College Musical or a large performing arts production, is held every year. This is a collaboration between St Monica's College and St Augustine's College.

The performers gain an insight into acting, dancing and singing on stage, with all students encouraged to participate in some area, be it on stage, sound, lighting, backstage, front of house, publicity. The Catherine McAuley Centre is equipped with a modern lighting and sound system which enables students to become proficient in these areas.

### BANDS/ENSEMBLES/CHOIR

The College has several bands, two College Choirs. and several musical ensembles including two hand bell ensembles. Students are encouraged to join these groups who practise weekly and perform at different events throughout the school year.

### CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE SOIREE

This is held every year at the beginning of Term 4 to celebrate the excellence of students in the combined areas of sport and culture. Medals in gold, silver and bronze are presented to the students as well as awarding a cultural and sporting student of the year.

### ST MONICA'S LIVE

The College Awards Presentation evening provides an opportunity to showcase the talents of students in music, art, design, dance and drama as well as acknowledge academic success. It is one of the highlights of the annual school calendar and is always a spectacular show with maximum student involvement.

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Complementing the academic development of the student, Health and Physical education plays an essential role in fostering teamwork and co-operation, building resilience and an awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

Health and Physical Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for one semester in years seven to ten. It is also studied as an elective part of the curriculum in years nine and ten. Students have the opportunity to complete a variety of practical units including Snorkelling, Life Saving, Underwater Hockey, Water Polo, Aquathlon and Triathlon and Non-competitive games; Ball games, Dance and Fitness.

Theory units include Identity & Relationships, Fitness, Health Communities, First Aid, Sports Injuries, Body Systems, Risky Behaviours & Safe Choices, Anxiety & Resilience, Sociology, Exercise Physiology, Ethics & Integrity and Tactical Awareness.

The senior subjects offered include Physical Education, Health Education and Certificate III in Fitness.

The college also offers a large range of sporting activities that are played both in school time and as extracurricular activities. Students have the opportunity to play in Interschool Sports Competitions that takes place each year. The Interschool sports that are offered at St Monica's College include netball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and touch football. Students not playing in the interschool competition participate in a rotation of Activities that include laser tag, Jump Mania, yoga, skating, swimming, gymnastics, dance, self-defence, walking and a variety of modified sports.

There are three major sporting events held each year, and all students are encouraged to participate. These are the Swimming Carnival, Cross Country Carnival and Athletics Carnival. Students are allocated to one of four school house teams, which encourages co-operation, participation and fosters teamwork.

Throughout the year St Monica's College enter a number of regional, state and national sporting events and are always very competitive at sporting championships. These include:

- North Queensland All School Hockey Tournament
- Green Island Swim Challenge- as part of Ironman Cairns
- Vicki Wilson Netball Championships
- Queensland All School Intermediate and Senior Volleyball Championships
- University of Queensland Surf Challenge
- Queensland Senior Schools Tennis Tournament
- T20 All School Cricket Bash
- Northern 7's Rugby Union Championships
- All Schools Futsal Championships North Queensland All School Touch Championships



# CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

## RESPECT YOURSELF means:

- To believe in your own potential and respect your own self worth
- To participate to the best of your ability
- To develop your own personal integrity – be reliable, responsible and trustworthy
- To accept responsibility for your own behaviour, accepting the consequences and attempting to grow from your experience
- To dress correctly – wear your uniform with pride

## RESPECT OTHERS means:

- Listening to others and valuing their ideas
- Being supportive, understanding and helpful to others
- Recognizing that others' needs may come before your own
- Building appropriate and positive relationships
- Trying to be sensitive to others' feelings
- Acknowledging the talents, gifts and efforts of others
- Making genuine and honest attempts to restore communication and rebuild relationships after misunderstandings and disagreements
- Respecting the personal belongings of others

## RESPECT OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT by:

- Recognizing all students have a right to a safe and stable learning environment
- Looking after school equipment and sharing it
- Taking pride in and caring for the grounds, buildings, resources and furniture - reporting damage of College facilities
- Being responsible for your learning and allowing all others to learn the best they can

## ENACT OUR VALUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, MERCY AND COMMUNITY by:

- Looking for a solution to a problem situation instead of being negative
- Acknowledging and responding to the needs of others
- Promoting social justice
- Being willing to forgive others
- Being optimistic, friendly and welcoming
- Positively being involved in College community activities.

OUR COLLEGE VALUES: FAITH, INTEGRITY, SELF BELIEF, COURAGE, MERCY, COMMUNITY

# FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

## ST MONICA'S CATHEDRAL

St Monica's College is centrally located in the Cairns CBD, one block from the sea front (Cairns Esplanade). It is adjacent to St Monica's Cathedral, renowned for its beautiful stained glass windows, The Creation Windows and the Peace windows. The Cathedral is used for all college liturgies, performances, some assemblies and our Annual Sacred Song Competition.

## SISTER MORRISSEY HOUSE

This is the College Administration Building which was the former Convent of the Sisters of Mercy. It has been renovated and refurbished in 2002 and now houses the College reception area, offices, students services including Counselling, First Aid facility, staff rooms and meeting rooms. This building is heritage listed and has beautiful woodwork, staircases and the Convent bell. It was built from 1912 to 1914.

## CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTRE

This is the College multi-purpose Hall/gymnasium which was constructed in 1999. It is extensively used for Physical Educational, Performing Arts events, College Assemblies, College dances, Awards Nights and special events. The Centre is fully air conditioned and has sound and lighting equipment which students learn to use.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The College has a one to one Laptop Program for Years 7 through to Year 12. The College has a comprehensive computer infrastructure, wirelessly accessible throughout the campus. All computers and software are regularly updated. Students receive a new laptop in Year 7 and then again in Year 10.

## DUNGARVAN LIBRARY

The Dungarvan Library, is a luxurious facility, which fills the ground floor of our Sister Agnes Building. It consists of a teaching area, a research area and fiction reading lounge as well as a computer laboratory. The library has very extensive print, audio and video resources and computer access. It is a very well equipped and student friendly area which supports student learning. As well as a large general area, there are two seminar rooms for audio visual presentations.

## SISTER CECILIA BUILDING

This building is also heritage listed and was renovated and refurbished in 2000. It was the original high school block for St Monica's College and was built in 1941. Sister Cecilia Centre houses four classrooms, offices and staff facilities.

## SISTER AGNES BUILDING

Our outstanding Performing Arts Department is housed on the top floor of the Sister Agnes Building. Our Performing Arts facilities comprise of: a Dance studio, with a sprung floor; a Drama studio and two Music rooms. All areas have operable walls, which allow us to open up the space for a diverse range of experiences, presentations and performances, plus general learning areas and breakout zones. The Sister Agnes Building also houses outstanding visual Art facilities and a specialist Learning Enrichment environment.

The Science Department has a specialist floor in our Sister Agnes Building, which consists of laboratories, demonstration rooms and Science general learning areas plus a comprehensive fully equipped Preparation Room. Our new Sister Madeleine Building will also house science rooms.

## SISTER MADELEINE BUILDING

To be opened in 2020 - a new building providing outstanding new Art, Science, Food Technology, Hospitality, Language and Literature facilities in a 21st Century setting. This new building will complement the already existing classrooms for these academic and vocational subjects.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

All learning spaces are air-conditioned and equipped with IT Technology. Our College canteen operates every school day. Each student is issued with a locker so that her belongings can be stored securely. The College is surrounded by lawn areas and tropical gardens and makes extensive use of its central location to take students to sporting venues, theatres and restaurants which are very close.

## SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their student's education and the management of the College. Their involvement in the following groups is much appreciated by the College staff.

## THE COLLEGE BOARD

The College Board, based on a 'shared wisdom model', sets policies that determine future directions in aspects of the life of the College. It monitors the College's actions and ensures that what is happening is in harmony with its Catholic educational responsibility as expressed in the College Mission Statement. The college board plays an invaluable role at St Monica's College.

## THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents and Friends Association plays an integral role in building community and provides a means for parents to show interest, express any concerns, discuss and give feedback on issues related to education and to our College community. Through a family levy and other activities, it raises funds to support the College's needs.

# 'At St Monica's College We Build on Tradition'

