

Penola
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EST. 1995

**REAL
LIFE
LEARNING**







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Welcome

to our Real life Learning Journey

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'At the heart of our school are the Gospel values, the role model provided by Jesus Christ and the Charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.'

REAL JOURNEY

On behalf of our students, staff and parents, welcome to the Penola Catholic College community. I trust that the information provided in this prospectus and on our College website, provides you with a greater understanding of the unique essence and spirit of Penola.

We are a Catholic co-educational College situated on two campuses in Broadmeadows and Glenroy. We are pleased to offer the opportunity for boys and girls, brothers and sisters to be educated within our close knit, caring Catholic secondary environment, which is committed to living the values of your family.

We educate the young people of the north-western region of Melbourne in the Josephite tradition of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We are a Catholic school supported by the seven Member Parishes in the north west of Melbourne, being the parishes of Broadmeadows, Dallas, Fawkner North, Glenroy, Hadfield, Gladstone Park and Oak Park. We are part of the Church in every sense and the faith development of our community is our first priority in partnership with our parents. At the heart of our school are the Gospel values, the role model provided by Jesus Christ and the Charism of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Our College is committed to educating the whole person within a real life learning environment which empowers students to realise their dreams and their God-given potential. Our broad curriculum offerings allow students to pursue both academic and vocational pathways. We strive to recognise the gifts and talents of each student and provide a significant number of opportunities through our extensive co-curricular program, which immerses students in real life learning settings from music halls, to sports fields, to the great outdoors and even the streets of Rome!

A defining characteristic of our school community is our sense of welcome. We look beyond ourselves to ensure that everyone feels welcome, valued and included as we endeavour to create a sense of belonging for all at Penola. We welcome all faith traditions who seek and respect our values. We work together to create outstanding young women and men who model these values locally, nationally and abroad. Our pastoral care of students defines our community and is driven by our Student Services Department and its highly committed and experienced educators, counsellors, mentors and advisors.

As your journey begins I hope you will feel a sense of belonging and see in the school you have identified for your son or daughter a place where they will make new and enduring friendships, thrive upon their learning experiences and participate fully in the myriad of opportunities that will allow them to discover their unique strengths and talents.

A wide range of VCE, VET and VCAL options are available to enable each student to clearly define their real life learning pathway. Our exceptional learning facilities are continually being updated to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and I am confident that you will be impressed by what we have to offer.

I thank you for your interest in our College. Please consider joining me for an interactive Principal's Tour which are conducted each month throughout the year. Details of tours can be found on our website. I look forward to sharing the Penola Catholic College experience with you.

**Principal
Mr Chris Caldow**

Chris Caldow



'The College's traditions, values and educational philosophy are inspired by the example of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who inspired by her readings of Jesus of the Gospels, ministered through education and social services to those in need.'

REAL TRADITION

Penola Catholic College is a co-educational secondary school with a mission to cater for the spiritual, educational and formative needs of young men and women who seek the Catholic values of the College.

Penola Catholic College was founded in 1995 from the amalgamation of Geoghegan, Sancta Sophia and Therry Colleges and continues to celebrate and share the traditions and stories of the three schools.

The College's traditions, values and educational philosophy are inspired by the example of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who inspired by her readings of Jesus of the Gospels, ministered through education and social services to those in need.

The name Penola Catholic College was chosen because of its strong link to Mary MacKillop and the work of the Sisters of St Joseph's who established a babies home on the school's current site in 1901. Penola, a small town in regional South Australia was the site of Saint Mary MacKillop's first school, opened to educate children in need.



Catholic schools provide an excellent holistic education centred on the student and engaging them in authentic, purposeful learning. Learning brings hope. It is a journey of endless possibilities engaging students to ask questions about contemporary life. It engenders a hope that is based on the certainty of God's promise of his love and care for us. This is the Good News of God's kingdom, which Catholic schools are called to proclaim as part of the Church's mission of evangelisation.

Most Rev Denis J Hart DD
Archbishop of Melbourne

REAL FAITH

Penola is a vibrant Catholic faith community, proclaiming and giving witness to the Good News of God's kingdom. Our faith is evident in the actions and words of our students, staff and parents and provides a supportive environment that enables each student to have life and have it to the full. This holistic approach to education creates opportunities for students both inside and beyond the school gates.

Penola Catholic College is an inclusive school community and actively welcomes students from other faith backgrounds who seek the values inherent within a Catholic school which operates in the spirit of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary MacKillop's enduring message is "Never see a need without doing something about it" and this lives on within the culture of Penola Catholic College.

Students participate in Religious Education from Years 7 to 12 and enjoy an environment where they are provided with the knowledge, experiences and skills to explore and develop their faith and to meaningfully engage with their parish community.

Social justice teaching is integral to the development of students at Penola. Students at the College actively engage in service learning programs such as St Vincent de Paul activities, retreats, working with the homeless, visits to local nursing homes and involvement in local charities. The annual walkathon raises a significant amount of funds which are distributed to local, national and international charities.



In welcoming students, the College respects the uniqueness of each child and will strive to provide a learning environment which is friendly, safe and fun-filled. Diversity is a hallmark of Penola and is recognised and celebrated within the life of the College.

REAL VALUES

Penola Catholic College is an inclusive, welcoming and happy community where each student is challenged, supported and inspired to achieve personal excellence. Our approach to Pastoral Care is based on the promotion of the Kingdom of God among all members of the College community, through shared beliefs and practices and interpersonal relationships which model care and support.

In welcoming students, the College respects the uniqueness of each child and will strive to provide a learning environment which is friendly, safe and fun-filled. Diversity is a hallmark of Penola and is recognised and celebrated within the life of the College.

Girls and boys make strong connections with peers and teachers and will form life-long friendships as they make the seamless transition between Junior, Middle and Senior schooling.

In seeking to explore and celebrate our living Catholic tradition, we are committed to modelling the values of:

- Respect
- Justice
- Compassion
- Reconciliation
- Inclusivity
- Questioning and Enquiry
- Critical thinking
- Sustainability

Pastoral care at Penola Catholic College focuses on the development of the whole person. Each student participates in a pastoral care lesson in addition to time spent within their home group. Vertical and horizontal pastoral care programs are presented to maximise student wellbeing and sense of belonging to our school community.

St Mary MacKillop

God loves courageous souls

Courage, trust in God

Keep young as long as you can

We must teach more by example than by word

Never see a need without doing something about it

**Help one another
and bear
with one another
as God does
with each of us**

Trust in God



**Never see
a need
without
doing
something
about it**

All depends on prayer

All in

for courage, should do with them



‘Our community extends from students to staff, parents, parish, other faith traditions, commerce and industry and all partners who share our commitment to enhance the learning outcomes for students.’

REAL COMMUNITY

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Penola Catholic College community. At all times, we follow his example in embracing Gospel values, demonstrating care and concern for all and building a community that is safe, secure and just. Our community extends from students to staff, parents, parish, other faith traditions, commerce and industry and all partners who share our commitment to enhance the learning outcomes for students.

At Penola, parents are acknowledged as the primary educators of their children and are invited to enter into meaningful partnerships with the school. This is facilitated in a number of ways including:

- Membership of the Parents and Friends Association
- Active usage of the Penola Parent portal
- Attendance at parent meetings, College events and gatherings
- Support for the College’s Co-curricular Programs
- Participation in the College’s market research program.

This involvement helps to create a strong home-school partnership which research highlights will significantly improve student learning outcomes, student motivation and wellbeing.

Commitment to the College community is also evident within the student leadership program. Penola believes that all students have a capacity to lead and actively encourages students to contribute to the life of the College by taking on leadership roles within a program which supports and enables students to develop their confidence and skills. Training is provided to all students and leadership positions are available at all year levels and in a range of areas including College Leadership, Student Council, Christian Service and Co-curricular areas such as music, public speaking and sport.



‘There is no difference between living and learning... it is impossible and misleading and harmful to think of them as being separate.’

John Holt

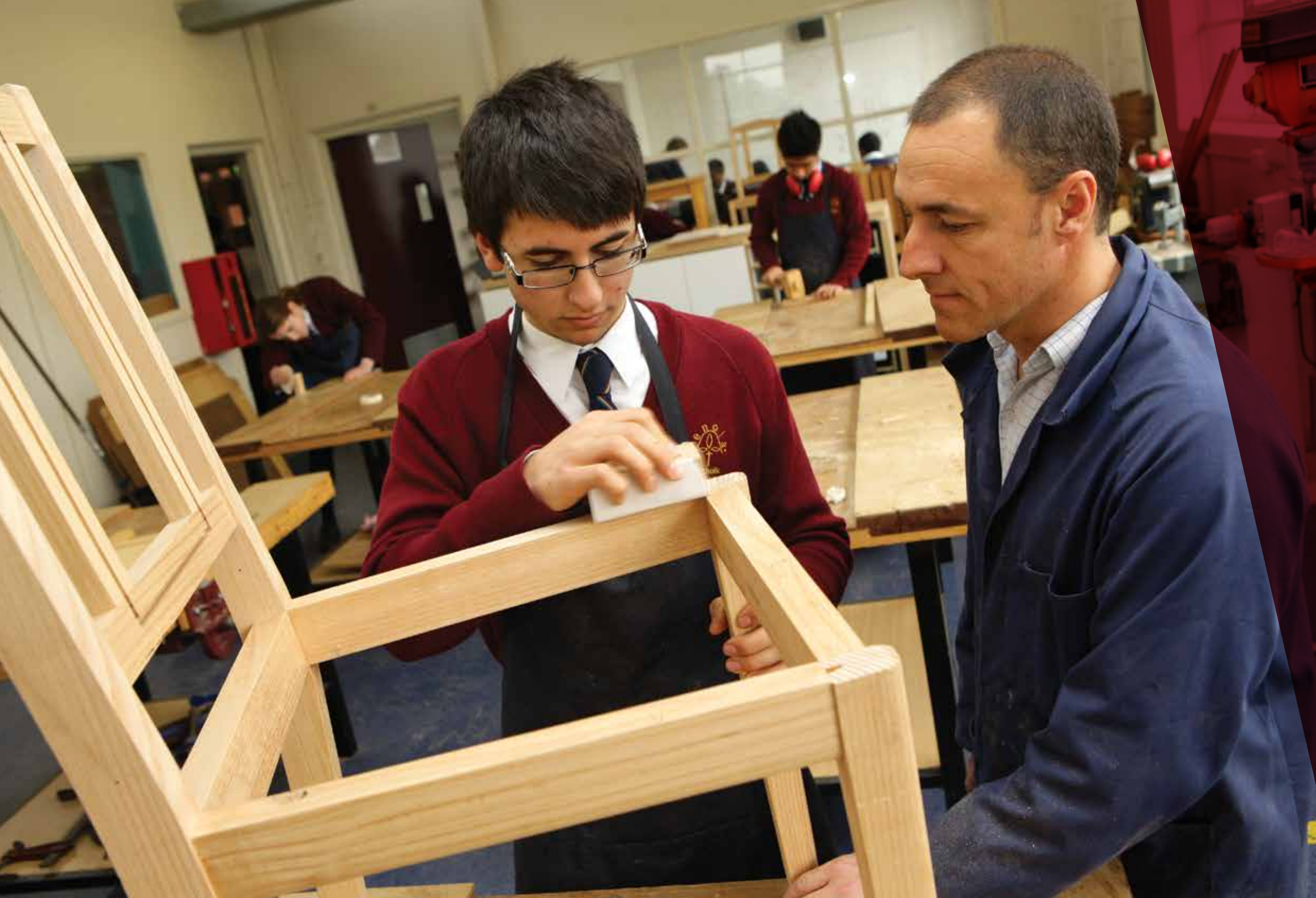
REAL LIFE LEARNING

Penola Catholic College provides students with real life learning opportunities and experiences that will prepare them for the ‘business of living’! It is evident in the way learning is structured and delivered which results in students engaging in an individual learning pathway that will enable them to experience personal success within their chosen fields of endeavour.

The breadth of learning and vocational opportunities available at Penola is unparalleled and provides students with unique insights into their future work and study options. Learning occurs within a dynamic, diverse and creative real life environment which seeks to inspire, challenge and engage each student. Penola focuses upon developing strategies which engage students and help them take responsibility for their learning, encouraging their development as independent learners and their capacity to work effectively in groups.

Technology is promoted and integrated into all aspects of teaching and learning. Establishing the basis for strong literacy and numeracy skills is fundamental to the Penola curriculum.

Years 7 -10 students study a broad range of subjects in line with Australian Curriculum requirements including English, Mathematics, Visual and Performing Arts, Technology, Science, Humanities, Religious Education, Languages, Health and Physical Education.



‘Senior School begins at Year 10 and students are able to commence the process of defining their individual pathway from the extensive range of subjects offered at Penola Catholic College.’

REAL LIFE LEARNING

The College's innovative Year 9 Program, taught both inside and outside of the purpose designed McCormack Centre, focuses upon project based learning and the development of critical thinking.

Senior School begins at Year 10 and students are able to commence the process of defining their individual pathway from the extensive range of subjects offered at Penola Catholic College. Students can elect to study within the following programs according to their personal and vocational interests and aspirations:

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Incorporates an extensive range of VCE and VET subjects, allowing students to develop an individual pathway to University, TAFE or the world of work.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

A range of practical subjects that students can undertake as part of their VCE or VCAL studies.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Offered at intermediate and senior level this is an ideal program for students seeking apprenticeships, traineeships or workplace employment at the conclusion of secondary studies. VCAL programs enable students to develop a range of skills that will assist them in transitioning to the world of work or to additional TAFE studies.

Senior students are also able to participate in work experience and placement programs to gain real life exposure to the world of work. Career planning and advice is available to all students within the College.



'At Penola Catholic College, for both boys and girls, co-education provides a real life way of developing young people to take their places naturally in the wider community of men and women.'

REAL WORLD

The ancient Greek philosopher, Plato, said that co-education creates a feeling of comradeship. He advocated teaching of both the male and female sexes in the same institution without showing any discrimination in imparting education.

At Penola Catholic College, for both boys and girls, co-education provides a real life way of developing young people to take their places naturally in the wider community of men and women. It helps to break down misconceptions and stereotypes related to gender and provides an excellent foundation for the development of realistic, meaningful and lasting relationships in later life.

In our co-educational school, both female and male perspectives are explored in such discussions and this is a very important learning experience for all. Students are taught that 'equality' does not mean 'sameness' - that men and women often have different perspectives on the same issues and that each approach has a great deal to offer the other.

Teachers at Penola Catholic College intrinsically know this and will structure learning to ensure it is accessible, engaging and challenging for boys and girls.

Our teachers know how boys and girls best learn and will structure learning tasks and environments that maximise student learning outcomes.

Life does not keep boys and girls separate and one day our students will enter the co-educational workforce - this is at the heart of real life learning at Penola Catholic College.



Programs are delivered by skilled and enthusiastic staff members who reflect the mission and values of the College.

REAL OPPORTUNITY

Co-curricular Learning

The College's extensive co-curricular program provides students with a myriad of rich learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment. Programs are delivered by skilled and enthusiastic staff members who reflect the mission and values of the College.

Performing and Visual Arts

The Arts are a strong and vibrant component of day to day life at Penola. The Music program is renowned for its outstanding bands, ensembles and choirs who regularly perform to appreciative audiences at events such as music nights, concerts, music camp, dance recitals and assemblies. Students can access private tuition as well as the opportunity to be involved in the annual College production, Drama night or Art Exhibition.

Sport

At Penola the sport program encourages students to participate and to achieve personal and team excellence, whilst demonstrating fair play and having fun. The program aims to provide the opportunity for every student to participate in a wide variety of sports and activities, promote physical fitness and a desire to participate in regular exercise, introduce and develop specific skills in particular sports and activities and learn the true spirit of competition and co-operation in sport.

Penola has a proud history of participation and performance and supports students with excellent coaching, facilities and equipment. Inter-school sporting opportunities are complemented by House based intra-school sporting competitions which promote healthy House rivalry, participation and enjoyment.

Outdoor Education

God's outdoor classroom provides students with challenging and rewarding learning experiences that will equip them for the many challenges of the real world. Through involvement in camps and specialist outdoor experiences such as bushwalking, abseiling, rafting, snow experiences, wilderness expeditions and aquatic studies, students learn invaluable problem solving, organisational, team building and personal reflection and resilience skills, as well as learn about the outdoor environment and the importance of sustainable living practices.

Students can study Outdoor Education as an elective subject from Year 9 to 12 within their personal learning pathway.



REAL JOURNEYS

Dr Phong Nguyen

My Penola journey commenced in 2001. Throughout my time at the College I was engaged in a broad range of learning areas ranging from arts and humanities to languages and sciences. By having access to these different subjects as part of Penola Catholic College's curriculum, I was able to determine what I wanted to pursue in studies beyond the school gates. Thanks to the skill and enthusiasm of my science teachers in particular, I graduated in 2006 with excellent marks allowing me to commence a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with Honours at the University of Melbourne.

Subsequently I completed my PhD degree at Monash University. I am currently a scientist working in the field of regeneration specifically looking at how to improve regeneration in blood and muscle after injury.

My life-long learning journey which started as a Year 7 boy at Glenroy continues!

'If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose.'

T.D. Jakes

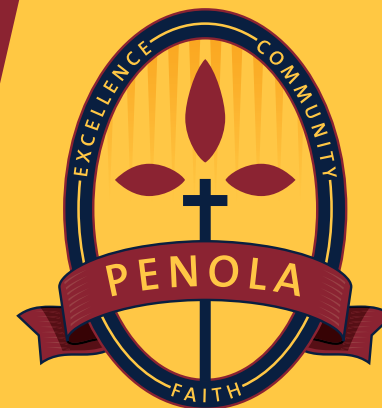
Stevie Marcus

My journey at Penola commenced in 2003. I was immediately taken by the myriad of opportunities for educational growth, personal and spiritual development and the challenge of being all that I could be. I studied a broad range of subjects, immersed myself in school life and took up every opportunity. Penola did not only offer a great education, but also a platform to develop and grow in faith. Equipped with these fantastic learning experiences, my Penola journey led me to pursue a Bachelor of Psychology and Honours at Victoria University. My passion for learning enabled me to become a psychologist, completing a Masters degree at Monash University.

I am currently a provisionally registered psychologist undertaking an internship to gain my general registration. I thank God and my family for the gift of a Penola education. Supported by hard working, inspiring and dedicated teachers I was able to thrive and realise my God-given aspirations. Along the way I made life-long friends and acquired the skills needed to apply my real life learning.







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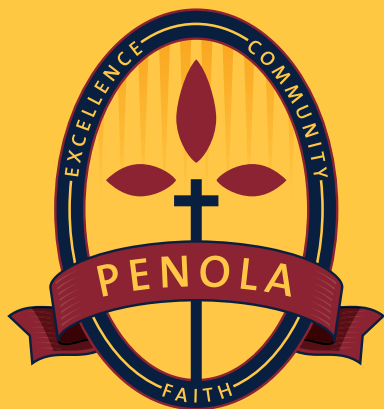
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REAL LIFE LEARNING



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