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this College will have many of the
same aspirations for your son
– to connect with him on all levels.**

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Our Curriculum programs are developed to connect with the needs of our boys in an ever-changing world.

By opening up options for growth and learning we can meet the individual needs of each boy, and provide multiple pathways for each student to pursue. We too will share the joy of working with him as he grows from boy to man.

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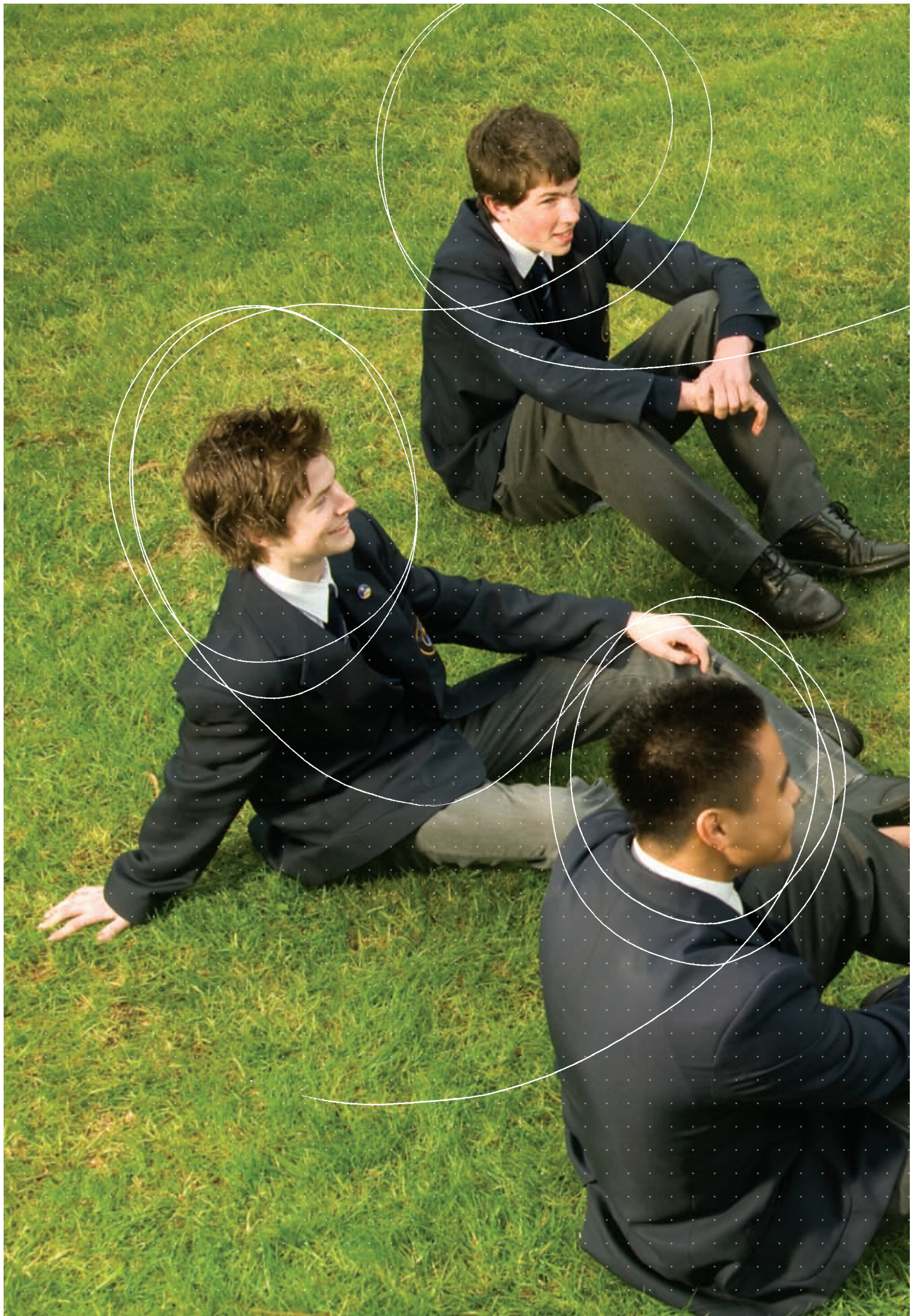
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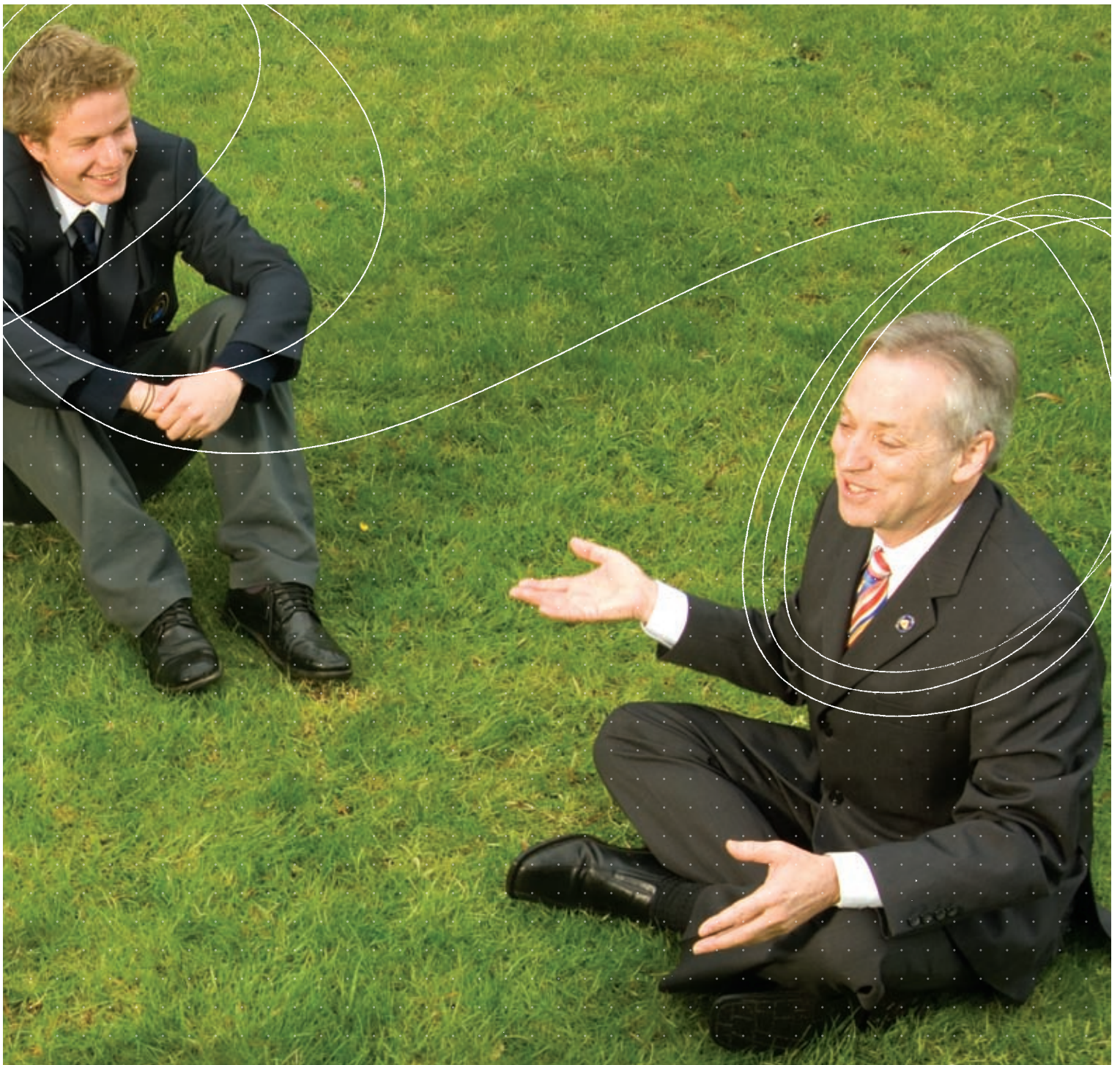
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PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

When you seek enrolment for your son at a secondary school what do you want for him?

For many it is important that the values of the home are supported by the school. For others it will be about opportunities for the future. Some will focus on his transition from boyhood to manhood.

There will be hopes focussed on the development of confidence, assistance to discover a direction in life, or to overcome learning difficulties, or to achieve full academic potential.

Whatever it is that you seek, this College will have many of the same aspirations for your son – to connect with him on all levels.

We too will want him to find a direction in life, to discover his abilities and embrace them to the full. We too will share the joy of working with him as he grows from boy to man.

Importantly you will value the religious opportunities that St Joseph's College offers to all. For you will know that our Catholic identity is essential to our way of working with boys.

So, read through this document, ask questions of current parents that you know, attend one of our many Open Days, come on a tour with our Registrar and look at our website. This way you can truly get to know St Joseph's.

Most importantly, though, you need to understand your son and his needs. Only then can you make a decision about whether or not St Joseph's represents the best option for him. Then we can all work in partnership for the benefit of your son – and truly connect with him.

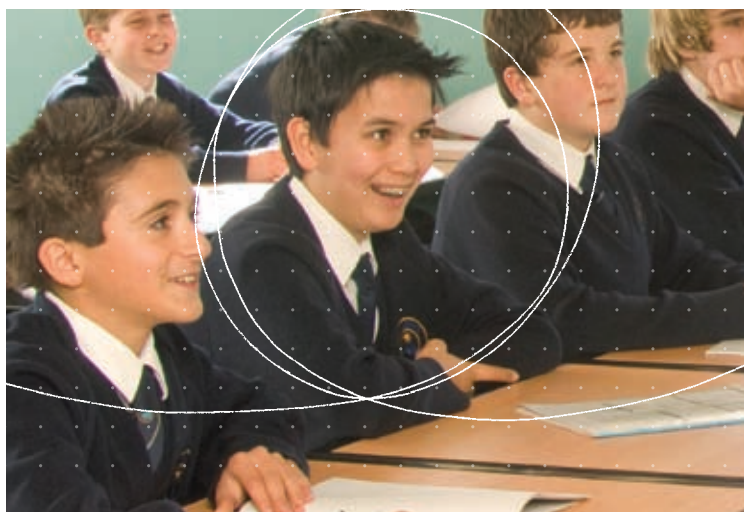


The boy needs to know that he is respected and valued as an individual member of the school community. He needs to feel a sense of connection to school.

This is achieved through the development of strong relationships between teachers and students and teachers and parents.

CONNECTED TO ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

St Joseph's College is a school for boys. We therefore have the luxury of being able to focus specifically on how boys learn. More than this we know that before boys can learn successfully a number of conditions need to be in place.



Identity

Firstly, boys need to be known. Questions like "Who is this boy?" and "What does he like to do?" need to be asked. In other words we need to understand the identity of the young man. Once that is known we can meet him where he is at and use this as a starting point for his educational journey.

Relationships

Secondly, the boy needs to know that he is respected and valued as an individual member of the school community. He needs to feel a sense of connection to school.

This is achieved through the development of strong relationships between teachers and students and teachers and parents.

At St Joseph's we ask the questions: "How do boys form positive relationships?" and "Who does he form positive relationships with?" Boys are provided with the opportunities to form these relationships with teachers in two ways.

Firstly, the educational philosophy of St John Bosco – founder of the Salesian order of Priests and brothers – guides us to adopt a relational, approachable, caring and interested attitude with regard to every interaction we have with boys both in and outside the classroom. In other words, to walk with boys in their journey.

We also develop strong relationships with boys through the programs we offer. For example, at each year level the homeroom teacher teaches their own class for a number of subjects. In this way the boy develops a strong relationship with one person who comes to know them very well.

Learning

Once identity has been established and relationships have been formed then learning can take place. Again here we ask ourselves some questions: "How do boys learn?" and "What does he want to learn?"

These questions direct us to develop educative programs which engage boys in, and connect them to, their learning. We know that boys enjoy learning in real and purposeful ways. We know too that developing academic literacy requires the development of social/emotional literacy. Finally, and most importantly, all of this is achieved within a Catholic environment where Gospel Values and our Salesian Charism are central to the holistic education of the individual.



Our Salesian heritage from St John Bosco that “education is largely a matter of the heart” provides the foundation for the connection to the spiritual aspect of the individual.

Our living example of this heritage is the Salesian community who work at St Joseph's College.

CONNECTED TO SPIRITUALITY

Our Salesian heritage from St John Bosco that “education is largely a matter of the heart” provides the foundation for the connection to the spiritual aspect of the individual. Our living example of this heritage is the Salesian community who work at St Joseph's College. Leading the College through their interactions with students and staff, the Salesians join in celebrating mass together with the school community, caring for and supporting all in the community, and learning together.

Through the Religious Education classroom, the St Joseph's curriculum connects the boys to new knowledge and understanding of faith across five key areas of study:

- + Scripture and Jesus
- + Church and Community
- + God, Religion and Life
- + Prayer, Liturgy and Sacraments
- + Morality and Justice

We celebrate mass on a fortnightly basis, and as a whole College we gather to celebrate Easter and St Joseph's Day with prayers, mass and reflections.

Prayer is a major part of the College's daily life, with staff and students participating in prayer at morning homeroom, briefings, meetings, assemblies, and special commemoration days that occur throughout the year.

CONNECTED TO LEARNING

The Teaching and Learning programs at St Joseph's are developed in the tradition of Salesian education and Don Bosco's Preventative System.

His is a system to be lived rather than lectured. It is the total commitment to developing nurturing and caring relationships with our students.

Our Curriculum programs are developed to connect with the needs of our boys in an ever-changing world. By opening up options for growth and learning we can meet the individual needs of each boy, and provide multiple pathways for each student to pursue. At St Joseph's our teachers walk with the boys on their journey to develop into young men.

The students at St Joseph's are taught to be life long learners and independent problem solvers who accept responsibility for their learning. To this end we have created programs from Years 7 to 12 with concrete links to the world, instilling relevance by creating learning which has meaning and connects with adolescents in the light of our Catholic tradition.

Years 7 & 8

In Year 7 and 8 students begin their journey to become independent and flexible learners. Our Learning Enhancement and Achievement program (LEAP) challenges students to become critical thinkers and creative problem solvers. The program encourages students to apply different processes and ideas to solve problems, and to reflect and evaluate solutions.

Our LEAP program uses integrated units of work to extend our students and develop their higher order thinking skills.

Year 9 - Valdocco Program

The Valdocco Program is an exciting and innovative injection into the Teaching and Learning offerings at St Joseph's. It occurs at an important time in our boys' development and focuses on helping Year 9 boys build a confident sense of themselves as people through programs which offer careful attention to their personal development, literacy competencies and higher order thinking skills.

Valdocco maintains an appropriate emphasis on core teaching subjects such as English, Maths, History and Science as well as fostering the continuation of our boys' spiritual development through Religious Education. It is, however, a program that is separate to the main school and offers exciting unique learning experiences which deliberately target the needs of a Year 9 boy.

St Joseph's is keen to help our students understanding that learning is a life long pursuit.

This is an important theme behind all that the Valdocco Program offers as it caters for students of varying intellectual and emotional stages of development. The Program aims to set and maintain habits of behaviour that will help the boys to function as active and productive members of their communities as well as prepare them for the particular learning challenges they will face in the senior school.

Year 10

In Year 10 we see the transition from junior to senior curriculum. Students are given the opportunity to experience the different types of learning, which enables them to make informed choices and to plan a suitable pathway for their Year 11 and 12 education.

Years 11 & 12 - Learning pathways

In Year 11 and 12, students are given the opportunity to tailor a program to suit their own goals for the future.

Under the guidance of their College mentor, students can choose from two distinctly separate certificates – the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

In the VCE, students can choose from a broad range of subject options. Each individual program is created with the interests and aspirations of each student, to help them prepare for tertiary education.

VCAL provides a hands-on option for students, giving them practical work-related experience as well as literacy and numeracy skills. It also offers the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

Students with outstanding ability are given the opportunity to be involved in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program, which enhances their talent within all learning areas. Operating from Year 7 through to 12, students are challenged to develop their skills to a level of excellence, to continually improve and to achieve an exceptional standard throughout their education.

Occhiena Centre

The Centre is named in honour of Margaret Occhiena, the mother of St John Bosco, who dedicated herself to her son and the boys he cared for.

Following in her footsteps, the Occhiena Centre enhances educational opportunities for the students at St Joseph's. Incorporating Gifted and Talented Education, the Centre also provides support for boys with learning difficulties, special needs and/or disabilities through individualised learning programs. Indigenous and New Arrival Educational Programs are also offered so that each student is given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The students at St Joseph's are taught to be life long learners and independent problem solvers who accept responsibility for their learning.

To this end we have created programs from Years 7 to 12 with concrete links to the world, instilling relevance by creating learning which has meaning and **connects with adolescents** in the light of our Catholic tradition.





We too will want him to find a direction in life and embrace them to the full. We too will want to see him grow from boy to man.



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CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY

Community

A good school needs to recognise that it is a part of a wider community. More than this it needs to understand its place in supporting and connecting with the community.

Most importantly, a good school has an obligation to assist its students in recognising that they can make a positive difference to their community through a model of Christian service. At St Joseph's, students are involved in a variety of community service activities in places as diverse as pre-school and aged care facilities.

Students also develop a social justice awareness through involvement in outreach programs such as The Sacred Heart Mission and Red Cross Blood Donation Drives.

We teach students that they can be positive role models in our community. To this end each year a group of Year 10 students are selected to participate in the Lighthouse Project. This program, run in conjunction with a number of the College's local Catholic Primary schools, provides a chance for Year 10 students to work with Grade 5/6 boys on a number of literacy based projects, including the formation of debating teams.

The Year 10 boys gain a great deal from this experience, leaving with the knowledge that as mentors they can have a strong positive influence over these younger students.

St Joseph's also has a strong relationship with the local Catholic Parish Communities through supporting Sunday Liturgies, Primary School involvement and other significant educative programs.

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For the students to **connect with a career**, St Joseph's College has a pathways team led by the Director of External Programs, a VET and VCAL Coordinator, as well as a resourced Pathways office which is open to all students from Years 7 to 12.

CONNECTED TO A CAREER PATH

Successful career planning involves the development of an awareness of individual skills and abilities, occupations and education/training pathways.

St Joseph's College has a Pathways team; led by the Director of External Programs, a Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Coordinator; as well as a resourced Pathways office which is open to all students from Years 7 to 12. We are also a nationally recognised Career Education Lighthouse school.

Opportunities for students to examine prospective pathways and create a personal and career plan during their time at the College are significant.

Students are involved in structured activities throughout their study mainly through the curriculum Key Learning Areas (KLAs), some of which are:

- + Knowledge of the College's resources and key personnel
 - + Identifying strengths and talents
 - + Exploring pathways to jobs
 - + Careers and vocations at Year 9, which include resume development, writing applications and interviewing techniques
 - + Work Experience at Year 10 level
 - a compulsory two week placement in the workforce
 - + Occupational Health & Safety Training
 - compulsory for all students involved in work experience
- + Subject selection assistance, especially in the later years
 - + Involvement in community based programs
 - + Student and Parent Information sessions
 - + Supporting student involvement in alternative programs, e.g. VET, VCAL and school based apprenticeships
 - + Information sessions from representatives of organisations such as tertiary institutions, the Defence Force, etc
 - + Information sessions to assist in applying for pathways beyond Year 12





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We encourage our boys to explore and connect with a variety of curricula and extra curricula offerings to help shape their identity and assist them in them becoming what St John Bosco would describe as “Good Christians and Honest Citizens”.

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CONNECTED TO SELF

St Joseph's College is a school which provides for the education of the whole person. We believe in the concept of multiple masculinities – that there are many ways of being a man.

We encourage our boys to explore and connect with a variety of curricular and extra curricular offerings to help shape their identity and assist them in becoming what St John Bosco would describe as “Good Christians and Honest Citizens”.

At St Joseph's, boys are given regular opportunities to explore, celebrate and expand their ideas, personal interests and individual learning strengths.

Time is spent helping boys to develop their self esteem and resilience, such as the Rock and Water program.

This innovative program assists boys in dealing with conflict in their lives. It teaches them both the physical skills – breathing techniques, posture, etc – as well as emotional resilience techniques to respond to such issues as bullying, harassment and personal issues.

Further, St Joseph's assists boys to enhance their social-emotional intelligence through:

- + Learning to recognise and manage emotions
 - + Care about others
 - + Make good decisions
 - + Behave ethically and responsibly
 - + Develop positive relationships
 - + Avoid negative behaviours
-

At St Joseph's we believe in providing our students with opportunities to develop a greater understanding and connection with the world we live in.

This can obviously be achieved through classroom based programs. However, we believe this can be better reinforced through real experiences.

CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

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Each year the College sends a number of Year 11 students on a cross cultural experience to the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati.

Here, the students experience first hand traditional village life in a developing country.

These students return from this experience as changed young men, as they develop empathy and understanding for people of another culture.

It also provides them with a greater appreciation of the privileges they enjoy and the responsibility they have to support others who live under more difficult circumstances than their own.

The College also sends a number of students to Italy and Thailand each year. Students live with local families where they develop both language skills and cultural understandings.

Through the internet we are also involved in global learning activities with students in the United States of America (Chicago) and Kiribati (Abaiang).

To further enhance our students understanding of their place in a global society, St Joseph's has developed a strong international student program.

Currently St Joseph's has a number of students from the Asia-Pacific region studying at the College. These students bring an added multi-cultural dimension to St Joseph's which is important in the holistic development of our students.





Embracing and connecting into 21st century learning is a key goal for St Joseph's College. We have integrated Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into the curriculum to enhance engagement and create new and varied learning opportunities.

CONNECTED TO THE FUTURE

Embracing and connecting into 21st century learning is a key goal for St Joseph's College. We have integrated Information and Communications Technology (ICT) into the curriculum to enhance engagement and create new and varied learning opportunities. ICT also provides students with the opportunity to interact with local and global communities in collaborative online projects.

In embracing ICT our teachers are able to improve a student's motivation to learn by creating activities that will improve student engagement.

Tasks can be personalised to facilitate learning at different levels and hence ensure that all students can achieve satisfactory outcomes. Teachers are able to set up learning communities with local schools and communities and also develop links with our sister schools in Asia, the USA and Italy.

We have also begun to integrate interactive white boards into mainstream classrooms and have an extensive wireless network that allows staff and students to access information resources from throughout the College.

Our students at St Joseph's are able to transform and enrich their learning experiences by using ICT to:

- + Develop new thinking and learning skills that produce creative and innovative insights
- + Develop more productive ways of working and solving problems individually and collaboratively
- + Create information products that demonstrate their understanding of concepts, issues, relationships and processes

- + Express themselves in contemporary and socially relevant ways
- + Communicate locally and globally to solve problems and to share knowledge
- + Understand the implications of the use of ICT and their social and ethical responsibilities as users of ICT

Students are also able to access our learning management system, MyClasses, from the College or home. MyClasses aims to support students, parents and teachers in working together to improve student outcomes.

Students are able to access teaching resources, online journals and discussion forums, calendars to support a student's organisation, e-learning folios and to submit work online.

Frequently asked questions

How do I enrol my son at St Joseph's College?

For Year 7 level, simply complete the Enrolment Application and return it to the College with the Application Fee and a copy of your son's most recent school report. Applications for Year 7 close in late February of your sons Grade 6 Year.

For other year levels please contact our Registrar on 03 9758 2000 to check availability of places.

When do I have to pay any money?

When you receive your offer of a place you will be asked to pay a securing deposit which will be deducted from your son's first term tuition fees.

All annual fees are billed in November of the previous year.

How can I pay?

School fees can be paid annually (a discount applies), or via automated payment (direct debit or credit card) on a fortnightly, monthly or term basis. BPay, EFTPOS, cash or cheque are all accepted payment methods.

We are not Catholic. Does this affect our enrolment?

Catholic students do have preference for enrolment at St Joseph's. Depending on availability of places non-Catholic students can enrol. However, we do expect full and positive participation in the Religious Education program of the College.

Is Religious Education compulsory?

Yes, all students who attend St Joseph's College are required to attend Religious Education classes. RE forms part of our core curriculum from Year 7 to 12 with students attending 3 or 4 periods out of a total of 35 periods per week.

What size are the classes?

At Years 10, 11 and 12 level, it really depends on the subjects chosen. Most classes have approximately 22 students per class.

In Year 9, this figure sits around 23. At Years 7/8 students are in core classes of around 28, with a learning aide assisting approximately 70% of the time.

How many of your students go onto tertiary education?

For the past several years we have had a 100% successful VCE pass rate and more than 80% of our students go on to further studies.

Do you have school buses?

Yes, St Joseph's College has several charter bus services which deliver students directly to the College. Please see the enclosed for further information, or visit our website for current timetables.

What if my son needs educational support?

An early discussion with the Director of the Occhiena Centre will be the best place to begin. At a consultation we will determine how we can best meet your son's needs. We will require previous school reports as well as any updated and relevant medical and/or psychological assessments.

My son enjoys being academically challenged. What can St Joseph's offer him?

St Joseph's offers a range of opportunities and programs for students of higher abilities from Years 7 - 12. Students are able to develop their talents and achieve excellence across a range of fields – academic, arts, technology and sports.

The various models of advancement broaden students' experiences and development – facilitating personal, social and abilities growth. Please contact the Director of the Occhiena Centre for more information and to discuss your son's individual needs.

