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DE LA SALLE  
COLLEGE





# Principal's welcome



**Welcome to De La Salle College, a Catholic boys' school in the Lasallian tradition. We have been in Malvern since 1912, providing – in the traditional words of our founder St John Baptist de La Salle – a “human and Christian education” to many thousands of young men.**

Our students, staff and families are very proud to be part of our Lasallian community, where the inherent dignity of each student is recognised and he feels valued, safe, encouraged and there's always someone who believes in him. This is who we are – a community of faith, learning and relationships, where a culture and tradition of personal excellence, friendship and belonging is key. Our contemporary and relevant wellbeing structures, guidelines and processes create a community of solidarity and fraternity.

De La Salle is a school on the move. We understand the critical skills our young men must acquire to be creative, innovative and effective contributors in the 21st century. Students and staff operate in a collaborative academic environment of mutual

respect, challenge and achievement. We educate for a life filled with promise – providing challenge, extension and support – where each pupil is encouraged to identify, develop and use his skills. Through this partnership we cultivate viable pathways for all.

Our College values personalised learning, with an emphasis on entrepreneurship, creativity and improvement. We are proud of our culture of interdependence among all in our school; a clear and unambiguous unity of purpose.

We invite you to join our comprehensive and innovative program where caring teachers drive students' passion, engagement and independence in a global classroom. Through their faith, academic, co-curricula and wellbeing opportunities our students grow and contribute, graduating as compassionate and resilient young men of outstanding character, well equipped to take on the world as leaders in their chosen field. We'd love to have you join us and be part of an exciting journey!

**Peter Houlihan**  
**Principal**

# Being Lasallian

At De La Salle College, we practise the five core principles as set forth by our founder St John Baptist de La Salle:

- 1. Respect for all people: we honour and respect the dignity of all individuals.**
- 2. Quality education: we engage in quality education together as students and staff by thinking critically and striving for personal best.**
- 3. Inclusive community: we celebrate diversity and welcome all members to our community.**
- 4. Concern for the poor and social justice: we are in solidarity with the poor and advocate for those without a voice.**
- 5. Faith in the presence of God: we believe in the living presence of God in our students, in our community and in our world.**











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# Learn without limits

De La Salle College students are part of a contemporary learning community striving for excellence, innovation and creativity. Our commitment to the young men entrusted to our care is to provide a holistic education for life in 21st century society; an education which is engaging, rigorous and inspiring.

## THE LASALLIAN DIFFERENCE

A De La Salle classroom is characterised by warmth, humour, interaction and rigour. At the heart of learning is the student-teacher relationship, with staff working in association with students to create an environment where every student is known and feels comfortable to take risks, be different and share their ideas in the classroom.

Our approach to learning and teaching places the student at the centre of the learning experience, with our teachers providing support, advice, inspiration and challenge both in and out of the classroom. As an open-entry, mixed-ability school, our ongoing emphasis across all year levels is for students to achieve their personal best.

Peace, hope, justice, respect and faith underpin our Lasallian philosophy. We provide our young men with regular opportunities to engage with the wider community and to celebrate the value of others, so that they develop a strong moral compass and sense of compassion for those around them.

## DISCOVERING LIMITLESS POTENTIAL

Our focus on personalised education means that we take the time to understand each student's areas of strength, and the areas they need help with, so that everyone's individual talents and skills are recognised and developed. Because of this distinct approach, our curriculum provides a wide range of academic choice and variety and music, drama, sport, technology, languages and the visual arts play an integral role in our learning program.

We start with getting to know every child in a real and meaningful way. By meeting with each boy before they start with us, we begin learning about who they are as a person – their strengths, their fears, their hopes, and their areas for growth. Then, because education isn't 'one size fits all', our experienced team of staff work collaboratively to develop and deliver a program that meets the unique needs of our individual students. This is enabled through a wide range of learning and teaching strategies including a diverse curriculum, differentiated learning and flexible pacing in the classroom, and specialist support and extension programs.

In Years 10 to 12 further opportunities for creating personalised learning pathways are available. Specialised staff work with students and their families to build a pathway which best suits each individual's strengths, interests and career plans. Students excelling at Year 9 are challenged to accelerate to a Unit 1/2 subject at Year 10 and, because we know every boy is different, we offer VCE/VET and VCAL pathways in addition to the VCE.

The driving force behind success at every year level is our team of passionate teachers who focus on harnessing students' talents to achieve personal excellence. They are committed to fostering a culture of achievement and challenge to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.





# Live a rich school life

**By taking on the variety of personal development and co-curricula opportunities we offer, our students access rich, varied experiences and develop a strong compassion for those around them. They also embrace our Lasallian ethos and values of respect for all, concern for the poor and inclusiveness.**

## PUTTING FAITH FIRST

As a Catholic College in the Lasallian tradition, faith development and spiritual growth are central to a meaningful educational experience for our students. The five core Lasallian principles guide us all, students and staff, in everything we do – from the way we interact with others, to our approach to learning and commitment to being contributing community members. We foster spiritual development through prayer, liturgical celebration, retreat, chapel, sacraments and community service and place considerable emphasis on the importance of faith as part of the learning journey.

Of course, we welcome students from all faiths and value the diversity that brings; adding richness and depth of understanding to our school community. All our students are given the chance to experience, articulate and reflect on their faith and we encourage them to form their view of the world around them, and their place in it, through a spiritual lens.

## CARING FOR EVERY STUDENT

We know that boys learn best when they feel happy, safe and connected to those around them. Our respectful and supportive learning environment means that each student is known and valued as an individual. Fostering an atmosphere in which all members of the community look out for each other really is at the heart of all that we do.

Each student's personal development is supported extensively by our integrated pastoral care program which values positive and respectful relationships. Year Level Coordinators, House Coordinators, Mentor Group Leaders, specialised educational counsellors, Student Progression Coordinators and the Chaplain work together to create individual care programs and ensure every student is supported to achieve their full potential.

Effective pastoral care is the result of a three way partnership between students, parents and staff and regular opportunities are offered for parents to discuss their son's progress with staff. De La Salle is a child

safe organisation and we are committed to ensuring the protection of all children and young people in our care.

## LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCING

An essential component of a full and enriching student experience is having access to exciting co-curricula programs. At De La Salle, our students are challenged to keep their minds and bodies active outside of the classroom by participating in our comprehensive range of co-curricula pursuits including debating and public speaking; drama productions and musical performance; sport; private tuition in singing and musical instruments; band, choir, orchestra and ensembles; overseas exchanges; skiing and weightlifting; community service opportunities; self-defence classes; and participation in state and national academic competitions. It's an exciting way to learn through experiences that make a difference.

Our diverse co-curricula program provides something of interest for every student and we strongly believe that co-curricula involvement underpins our culture of creativity, innovation and excellence.

## AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

At De La Salle, parents and carers play an important role in school life and their involvement is valued. That's why we welcome families into the College regularly for a wide variety of occasions including social events, personal development opportunities with their son, educational sessions and to celebrate student achievements.

Our vibrant community includes not just parents but grandparents, friends, staff, Old Collegians, past parents and the local community. Our active Parent Network is the warm and friendly link between the College leadership and parents, hosting many opportunities for parents to be involved in school life and make meaningful connections to others in the school community.





# Learn today, lead tomorrow

**We prepare our students to enter the world beyond the school gates with the knowledge and self-belief to fulfil their own potential and to become leaders in their chosen field.**

We know that leadership builds self-respect and, through that leadership, a healthy respect for all. This is why we offer a range of formal leadership positions at all stages of College life, including both Class and Primary School Captains in the primary years, Mentor Group Captains in the middle years and House Captains in the senior years, as well as student executive positions at Year 12. Students are also invited to take on leadership roles in co-curricula activities, during assemblies and liturgies, and during chapel and retreats. It's a system that works well for the students, encouraging them to comprehend the many rights and responsibilities that come with leadership and embrace the challenges of navigating them.

But we don't limit leadership to formal positions – we encourage each of our young men to lead by example through being active and committed members of the College community. Meaningful interaction between year levels is fostered through cross-age programs, allowing senior students to act as role models, and we specifically design our educational programs to develop students' confidence and sense of responsibility, as well as their core organisational skills, so that all students may experience elements of leadership.

## **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS**

At De La Salle, leading social change by taking action is of central importance. In keeping with our Lasallian ethos, students are expected to show respect for all people and have a concern for the poor. But it goes beyond words; it's acted on through social justice initiatives where students contribute to the community through volunteer and fundraising work in local and international communities. Through this work they not only develop a deep compassion for others, but key leadership skills including selflessness, problem solving, innovation and initiative.

Opportunities for students to give back to the community include Mission Action Day, a 12 kilometre walkathon for which students seek sponsorship; volunteering with local charities or at various aged care homes; donating to the blood bank; assisting with construction works for underprivileged communities around the world; and working with remote Indigenous communities.

Our aim is simple. We want our young men to broaden their understanding of the challenges facing many people in the global community and to foster a life-long empathy for the needs and views of others. Our students know that their actions make a difference.

## **LEADERS IN OUR FIELD**

From the moment De La Salle was established in 1912, we've aimed to be a leader in Catholic boys' education in Melbourne. To this day we strive to be innovators in all that we do. Many of our exciting educational initiatives stem from our drive to provide the very best education for our students, including our flexible Year 10 curriculum and enriching educational programs such as Years 7-9 Immersion, GATE Extension and Year 9 Inquiry. We are a member of the University of Melbourne Network of Schools and are leading innovation

in areas including experiential learning, student progression, ICT, languages and performing arts. Our teachers are committed to life-long learning and lead by example in the respectful relationships they build with students, parents and with each other.

## **LEADERSHIP AFTER SCHOOL**

On the following pages you will meet four of the many Old Collegians who are leading change in their chosen field of work. We're extremely proud of the connection we continue to have with our alumni – they are a vital part of the past, present and future of our school.



# Alumni achievements

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## Greg Barns (1979) **LAWYER AND ACTIVIST**

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Barrister, author, political commentator and former national chair of the Australian Republican Movement Greg Barns has always been an outspoken champion for human and civil rights. After graduating from Arts/Law at Monash University Greg practised at the Victorian Bar, going on to occupy a number of exciting positions including national president of the Australian Lawyers Alliance and legal adviser to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. He is a passionate advocate for asylum seekers and is a weekly columnist with The Hobart Mercury as well as a contributor to a number of other global publications and media outlets. He has long represented the rights of the most vulnerable. "I hope I have helped people, such as young offenders,

who are at a crossroads move in a positive direction," he says. Greg has also been open in his acknowledgement of the College as a formative influence on his career and personal success; "I am committed to real social justice which I learned at the College." Greg, who joined the Tasmanian Bar in 2003, has written three books on Australian politics and is currently chair of the Prisoners Legal Service in Tasmania and an ambassador for Beyond Blue.



## Paul Gelsumini (2004) **TEN TENORS, TOURING MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND TENOR**

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Paul started at De La Salle in the primary school in 1996 and says that he consistently had access to opportunities to grow as a musician during his time at the College. Paul finds life as a Ten Tenor to be remarkable; "A typical day would be to wake up in a new city after a flight or bus ride, head into a hotel in a gorgeous town and then get straight into the theatre for rehearsals/touch-ups before performing!" Paul has also made television appearances globally with the Ten Tenors, including on Oprah, at the FIFA Opening in Poland, and for Sydney's Carols in the Domain. Paul completed a Bachelor of Classical Music, majoring in Voice and Performance, after which he moved to Italy for private vocal coaching with a Puccini master.

He then undertook a Diploma of Music Theatre before joining the Tenors. Of the College's lasting impact, Paul says that "having the opportunity to discuss and participate in conversation where staff treated students as young adults developed vital tools for adult life including confidence and self-possession."



*"Having the opportunity to discuss and participate in conversation where staff treated students as young adults developed vital tools for adult life including confidence and self-possession."*

**Paul Gelsumini**



## Rohan Laging (1997) **EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN**

A commitment to life-long learning and love of variety paved the way for Rohan to take on two exciting senior roles: staff specialist at The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre, and Emergency Director (Clinical) at John Fawkner Private Hospital. After graduating from Monash University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, achieving honours, Rohan was motivated to continue his study in emergency medicine. He attributes his interest in this area to the huge diversity of the work involved and the broad base of medical knowledge the specialisation requires – it was an exciting challenge. "The tension and time critical nature is completely different from other medical fields," he says. In 2012 he became a

fellow of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and an Emergency Physician, although he continues to pursue further study; "Being the director of a private emergency department has given me scope to undertake further training around leadership and hospital functioning." During his time at De La Salle Rohan travelled by train to and from Williamstown each day and says he made strong connections with other students that have continued to this day.



## Jules Lund (1996) **FOUNDER OF TRIBE/TV AND RADIO HOST**

By the time he was just 23, Jules had hosted his own national radio show, a music television program and the global ESPN X games. Jules' wit and wicked sense of humour have since rewarded him with an impressive list of credits including a nine year stint on Getaway, ten years hosting the TV Week Logies Red Carpet and five years on-air with Southern Cross Austereo. As Australia's leading authority on citizen marketing, Jules Lund is riding a wave of momentum after founding his own tech company, TRIBE. Launched in November 2015, TRIBE is a digital marketplace that connects social media content creators with leading brands to transform word of mouth recommendations. Jules became obsessed with social

media in 2013 while leading 'The Fifi & Jules' Facebook page to become the most engaged brand-page in the country. Jules' social insights have since made him a unique asset, being invited around the country to present to Australia's biggest agencies on the power of 'social influencer marketing'. Of his time at De La Salle, Jules says, "I'll always be grateful for those teachers, particularly in Graphic Design, Photography and Art, that helped me identify an outlet I enjoyed. Twenty years later it's these skills I've returned to in designing the TRIBE app."

# Getting to De La Salle







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