



Mount Alexander College



Prospectus

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Welcome

At MAC, we empower our students with their learning through vertical classes and subject choice. We believe in developing creativity, critical thinking skills and independent learning. Our vertical curriculum creates a deeper love of learning through greater subject choice.

The school has had extensive improvements on the buildings and grounds; however, the quality of the teachers make a great school. We place a high priority on Professional Learning across the school in order to build the capacity of all staff.

The school is as cosmopolitan as Melbourne is and there is no better place to learn about the customs and traditions of other cultures than at school.

We believe that everyone deserves respect, regardless of whether you are an entry-level student, graduate, teacher, principal or parent. We have zero tolerance to bullying of any kind, smoking, alcohol, illegal drugs or violence, and instil in our staff and students a sense of respect for self, others and the environment.

Student wellbeing is the foundation of academic success and we provide a wide range of student wellbeing resources. All students have access to study and social skills, resilience programs, student leadership development, positive school-wide behaviours, mentor programs, house structure and a dedicated wellbeing team.

At Mount Alexander College, excellence is as important as endeavour. All students are able to be their best by being empowered to take control of their learning, encouraged to follow their passions while having fun, and challenged and supported along the way.

"One size does not fit all, and neither should education. I believe student choice and voice is important in empowering students to learn."

Wayne Haworth Principal

"Rather than education being done to students, it is done with students."

Wayne Haworth Principal

Vision and Values

Our school's vision is to provide a safe and supportive community of lifelong learners where respect, success and diversity are valued and where students and staff are supported to realise their potential both within the school community and beyond.

Our vision is to create lifelong learners who value respect, success and diversity and are able to realise their potential.

Our School Values

Community

The provision of a safe inclusive learning environment in which all members of the school community feel a sense of belonging and are valued for their contributions to the school. A sense of community is encouraged through inclusive practices that reflect a respect for individual differences and a celebration of diversity.

Engagement

The implementation of a meaningful, relevant and appropriately challenging curriculum and the provision of co-curricular programs that encourage participation, citizenship and student leadership.

Excellence

The development of a passion to learn and high aspirations through the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. The celebration of personal achievement and success.

Integrity

The promotion and modelling of consistently honest, transparent, responsible and ethical behaviour that upholds these core values and principles.

Student Wellbeing

Mount Alexander College considers the wellbeing of the students to be an essential part of their learning. The primary goal of our dedicated Student Wellbeing and Student Engagement Teams are to ensure students feel safe, engaged and connected at school. The Leading Teaching Student Engagement coordinates the teams.

The school uses a Positive Behaviours Program in all classes. The Expectations Matrix that outlines appropriate behaviours and responsibilities for all students.

Students meet with their mentor teacher on a daily basis. Parents and students should initially contact their Head of House with any concerns.

Buddy Program

The school has a Buddy Program for all Entry students. As part of their leadership responsibilities, members of the Student Leadership Team buddy two Entry students each Friday during Clubs and Societies. The Leadership Team work with the Centre of Multicultural Youth to facilitate this program.

Inclusion Support Program

Mount Alexander College has a well-established Inclusion Program that supports students with additional learning needs. The Student Wellbeing Coordinator coordinates the Inclusion Support Program.

Student Wellbeing Team

Leading Teaching Student Engagement: Lynn Bentley
Student Wellbeing Coordinator: Carmel Nielsen
School Community Nurse: Bernadette Tucker
Youth Worker & Careers Counsellor: Jens Boernemeyer
Careers Development Coordinator: John Horley
Community Liaison Worker: Halima Malikh
Drugs and Alcohol Counsellor: Rene De Sant'Anna
GP In School: Dr Erin Gordon
Practice Nurse: Amelia Tauoqooqo

Student Engagement Team

School Attendance Officer: Frances D'Andrea
Student Wellbeing Coordinator: Carmel Nielsen
Heads of House:
Artemis – Matthew Kilfoyle
Poseidon – Sophie Dalabiras
Apollo – Antonio Dal Forno
Athena – Elizabeth Tran

Student Leadership

Mount Alexander College has a range of leadership opportunities for students to have an active voice and enhance their leadership capabilities within the school community and beyond. The opportunities include leadership roles, scholarships and student engagement programs. Students are at the centre of everything that happens at the school, including in leadership.

Student Leadership Team

There are four houses with four mentor groups in each house. Two students are nominated and elected from each of the mentor groups to form the Student Leadership Team. This team provides a voice for student to discuss issues. The Student Leadership Team assists with house and school-wide activities. The team includes school captains, house captains and student mentor leaders.

School Captains

The school captains, elected by the student body, are student members on the School Council with voting rights in all decisions made by the council. School Captains report to the Student Leadership Team on decisions and issues affecting students, participate in assemblies and represent the school at local and regional events.

House Captains

Each school house has two house captains. House Captains and Student Mentor Leaders are responsible for organising and motivating house members to get involved with house activities.

Student Mentor Leaders

Two students are elected from each mentor group as Student Mentor Leaders. They support the house captains and are supported by their Mentor Teacher.

ICT Mentors

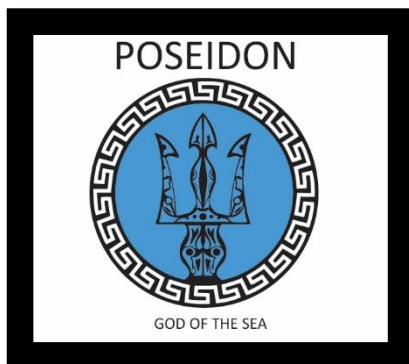
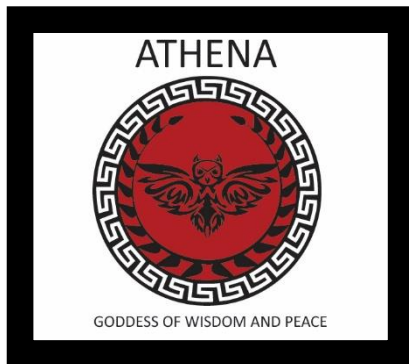
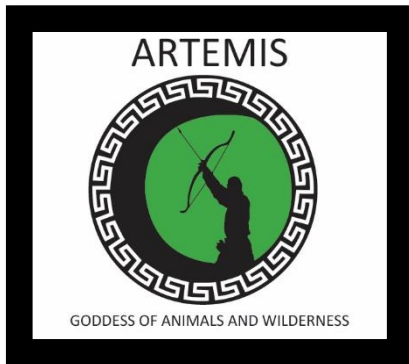
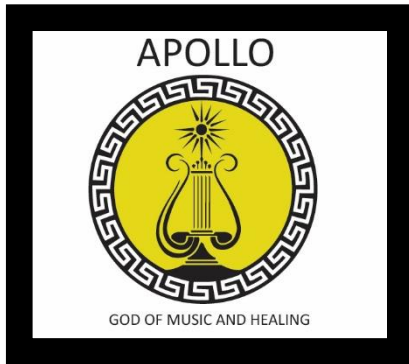
ICT student mentors are chosen and trained to support the student computer technology usage.

Leadership Scholarships and Programs

The school nominates outstanding students for leadership programs and awards. These include the Australian Defence Forces Long Tan Scholarship, Skyline Foundation, Kwong Lee Dow Award, Trinity Summer School, Jessie Peart Award and Rotary Club programs.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for leadership programs such as: The Whitten Project, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Western Chances, iLeaD, Department of Health and Human Services Scholarships, The David Burgess Foundation, Moonee Valley Council Youth Voice Award, UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy, School for Student Leadership and others.

School Houses



Students are placed into one of the four school houses when they begin at Mount Alexander College. The houses provide students support with their education and life goals. Students participate in a range of fun and academic activities throughout the year to earn points for their houses.

Houses are responsible for school activities including school assemblies and the Breakfast Club. At the end of each year, the house with the most points wins the house cup, which is presented at the Awards Night.

The 2016 students chose the house names from the Greek Gods. Jamie Rodger, a 2016 student, designed the house logos.

Mentor Groups

Each house is divided into Mentor Groups with a Mentor Teacher.

Mentor Groups meet for ten minutes at the start of every day. It is an opportunity for students to raise any issues or concerns they have, and for their Mentor Teachers to communicate with the students.

Curriculum



There are over 100 electives available to all students at MAC. All classes are vertical classrooms; they have students from different year levels. All students go through course counselling and create individual learning plans.

Our conversations with students is about their learning, what they would like to learn, the importance of literacy and numeracy and the importance of breadth e.g. have I chosen a science subject, does my plan include the arts, humanities?

The individual learning plans are flexible, change from year to year and require a partnership with the student's parent/guardian. We also work backwards from the senior curriculum to map out their learning.

The English and Maths classes are at the appropriate level for each individual student rather than their chronological age. Entry into pre-VCE subjects is based on students' results and recommendation. However, if a student insists on doing a subject, we do not prevent them from attempting it, as long as it does not interfere with the learning of others or a teacher's capacity to teach the class.

The Student Subject Handbook is available online on the school's website.

Languages

Mount Alexander College offers three languages on site: Chinese, Italian and Japanese for all year levels. Students can also study other languages, supported by the school, through Distance Education or the Victorian School of Languages.

Each year all students also have an opportunity to participate in an international tour. The tours alternate year to year from China to Italy.

Contact the school if you would like to find out more about the language program, or overseas tours.

Senior School

All students are guided through their decision making about VCE or VCAL. The yearly counselling with the students looks at what will be the best outcome for individual success.

Students are encouraged to follow the best pathways for their needs e.g. three year senior school plan, dual enrolment in a VET and VCE, unscored VCE pathway, scored VCE pathway or VCAL. We believe it is important to tailor the senior years to give all our students the best chance of success and look after their wellbeing.

VET

Mount Alexander College is a member of the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster. The IMVC is a unique partnership of 50 schools located in the inner Melbourne region, who have formed a collegial association to build the connection between academic learning and vocational training. The IMVC provides a central service to ensure quality management of programs.

Students can undertake a VET as part of the VCE and VCAL programs.



Co-curricular

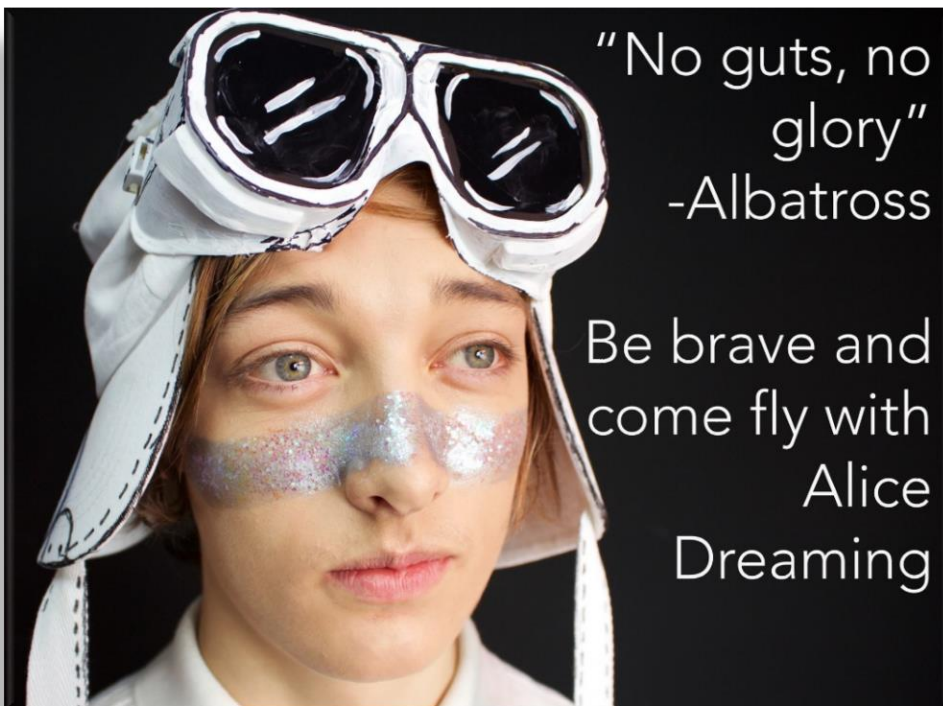
Our co-curricular programs enrich the learning and wellbeing of all our students. All students have the access and opportunity to participate in the many camps, clubs, international programs, Melbourne City Football Club, music lessons and bands, and sporting events – social and competitive. Students at MAC also have the opportunity to be involved in many other co-curricular programs. These change every year as they are adapted to best suit the cohort of students, and the subject electives chosen. These co-curricular activities cover a number of different disciplines.

The Arts and Technology Festival

MAC is committed to developing the whole child and recognises the importance of the arts and technology. We hold an Arts and Technology Festival with students from the arts, technology, music and the Writers Hub class. The students display their work through performances in music, drama performance or slam poetry, demonstrations in technology and art exhibitions.

Science Workshops and Shows

Our science students run workshops for the local primary schools. The science teachers support the students in their preparation for the events that run throughout the year. The science team also run a science show for the community during National Science Week each year. They have also ran highly successful science shows at local community events.



School Production

The school runs a school production every alternate year. In 2017, the school performed *Alice Dreaming*, and in 2015, the school performed *The High School Musical*.

Drama Workshops

In addition to the school production, drama students run workshops at the local primary schools. The drama students attend performances and workshops for their own development.

Literacy Extension

MAC seeks opportunities for students who are keen writers. In 2016 and 2017 artist-in-residence, Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa ran successful poetry workshops and poetry slam competition. She prepares our students for the Poetry Aloud slams at the Melbourne Writers' Festival. We collaborated with the 100 Stories Project in 2017 to write, edit and produce a work of fiction. Students also have the opportunity to attend the Melbourne Writers' Festival.

Competitions

The school regularly recommend students to participate in competitions in a wide range of learning areas including: maths, science, art, writing and technology.

Local partnerships

The school uses partnerships with organisations to develop our students. We actively engage in existing enterprises wherever possible across all subject areas. Some of these include the Arts Centre, ACMI, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne University and Latrobe University. Read more about some other partnerships with Mount Alexander College.



International Students

Mount Alexander College has a dedicated International Student team who work with the International Student Department at the Department of Education and Training, the families and the host families.

The school is a good choice for international students as we are able to offer:

- airport pick-up
- orientation program
- on-site English Language Centre
- two Chinese speaking staff assist students settling in Australia
- assistance with the purchase of books and the establishment of bank accounts
- applications for university studies
- personal counselling through coordinators and the Student Welfare Coordinator
- friendly Homestay accommodation with local families
- International Coordinator visits student's homestay and contact family overseas on a regular basis
- cultural and sporting activities
- quality dedicated teachers
- broad and innovative curriculum
- academic support across all courses
- personalised learning
- English as an Additional Language support
- diverse student body
- student-led learning and curriculum
- clubs include: chess, choir, homework, sports
- study assistance from Melbourne University Ormond College.

Tours

Tours are conducted daily with the Principal. Book a tour to make a time that suits you best by calling the office on 03 9376 1622, emailing the school via mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au, or filling out the tour booking form on the school website.

The school has an open day towards the end of first term in the school year. On the Open Day there are tours of the school, a chance to meet the Principal, students and current parents.



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