



MERCY
REGIONAL COLLEGE



ENROLMENT HANDBOOK

2021

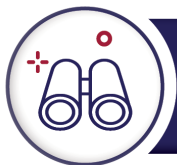


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OUR COLLEGE

OUR VISION



Mercy Regional College serves a wide rural community which values growth and diversity in Catholic Education in the Mercy tradition.

OUR MISSION



In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

OUR CORE VALUES



COMMUNITY

Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.



INCLUSIVENESS

Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual difference.



LEARNING

Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.



CARE

Through the Mercy tradition we commit ourselves to caring for each other.



JUSTICE AND MERCY

Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.



EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.


PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

At Mercy Regional College we acknowledge that the transition to secondary schooling is one of the most significant milestones in any young person's life. From the moment you walk through the gates of Mercy, we trust that your family and most importantly your child feels welcomed and valued. With nearly 50 years of providing quality education to young people of the Western District of Victoria, we are delighted that you have taken the time to inquire about our College and consider being a part of our community. Whilst we treasure and value our traditions and heritage, we are responsive to the dynamic nature of the world in which we live.

At Mercy Regional College we are committed to personalised holistic learning. We strive to create the atmosphere, environment, opportunities, support and pathways for every individual student to flourish and thrive - academically, socially, spiritually, emotionally and physically. We celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of our community ensuring authentic connection, understanding and mutual respect. Everyone is welcomed.

Our school motto is ***“Learning to Care, Caring to Learn”***. Care is at the heart of our Mercy Regional College community. Care for oneself and care for others are things we strive for our young people to understand and have opportunities to both experience and practice. An education at Mercy gives our young people a sense of social justice, a voice and the skills and courage to make a difference in the lives of others. It is an education where the leaders of tomorrow are formed. It is an opportunity to form friendships for life.





At Mercy, we recognise and celebrate that all young people are different, that they have different interests, experiences and gifts. We strive for all to have the opportunity to develop their gifts, skills, character and knowledge so that they are empowered and enabled to reach their unique potential and are prepared for their life journey. Our students' personal strengths are known, cultivated and celebrated through a broad range of opportunities and extracurricular offerings. Everybody is somebody at Mercy. This vision has its source in the person and message of Jesus Christ – to be fully human through the love of God.

We actively strive to ensure our programs are equipping our young people to thrive both in the present and the future. Our graduates are known for strong academic, vocational and trades achievements. Mercy strives for excellence in educational provision. Our staff are committed, innovative and passionate about learning and will go above and beyond to support our students. We also recognise that the sacred privilege of educating young people today is not one that can be achieved without community support and we value greatly our partnerships with families and the community.

We understand that choosing a school is one of the most important things you will do for your child's education and welcome all enquiries about enrolment at Mercy.

With kindness,



Sharon Gillett
Principal

The Mercy Regional College community acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we educate our students, the Djargurd Wuurung and Kirrae Wuurung people of the Maar Nation. We honour and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. We commit ourselves to walk alongside all Aboriginal people in the quest for justice, reconciliation and recognition through the transforming power of education.

COLLEGE CONTACT DETAILS

McAULEY CAMPUS

Street Address: **Henderson Street Camperdown Vic 3260**
Postal Address: **PO Box 152 Camperdown Vic 3260**
Phone: **5593 2011**
Email: **office@mercy.vic.edu.au**

O'KEEFFE CAMPUS

Street Address: **Mackinnons Bridge Road, Noorat Vic 3265**
Postal Address: **PO Box 152 Camperdown Vic 3260**
Phone: **5592 5353**
Email: **office@mercy.vic.edu.au**

COLLEGE OFFICE HOURS

McAuley Campus - 8:30am - 4:30pm

O'Keeffe Campus - 8:15am - 4:15pm



SENIOR STAFF & ROLES

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Principal: | Sharon Gillett |
| Deputy Principal: | Berni Sinnott |
| Assistant Principal – Learning: | Daniel Glennen |
| Interim Assistant Principal – Student Development: | Ben Brisbane |
| College Chaplains: | Fr. Neville Stanislaus & Fr. Michael McKinnon |
| O’Keeffe Community Leader: | Emily Stephens |
| College Social Worker: | Chadley Peerman |
| College Pastoral Worker: | Sharon Suhan |
| Business Manager: | Judith Murfitt |
| Executive Assistant / Enrolments: | Nicole Darcy |
| College Advisory Council Chairperson: | Julie Finney |
| HCSN School Support Person: | Leah Buckle |

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2021

The dates listed below are of upcoming events that will take place during 2021. They are applicable to students seeking enrolment at Mercy Regional College in Year 7 in 2022.

Monday, 2 August

Tuesday, 3 August

Enrolment Interviews

Tuesday, 24 August

Year 7 – 2022 Discovery Day

Monday, 8 November, 7pm

Year 7 – 2022 Parent/Student Information Session

Tuesday, 7 December, all day

Orientation Day for Year 7 – 2022 at the O’Keeffe Campus

Mercy Open Door Transition Program

At Mercy Regional College, our new Year 7 students will have the opportunity to experience life at our College prior to beginning their learning journey at Mercy. We host ***Come & Try*** days and part of the Hampden Catholic School Network Day each year at both O’Keeffe and McAuley Campuses. Our ***Discovery Day*** is held each year in August where enrolled students for Year 7 the following school year are provided the opportunity to spend the day at our O’Keeffe Campus at Noorat. A ***Head Start program*** is offered to students from primary schools with small enrolments. This program offers an extra opportunity for students to get to know other new students from small cohorts or schools transitioning to the College.

In December ***Orientation Day*** allows students to meet other students and teachers throughout the day while participating in engaging activities. Early in Term 1 our transition program continues with ***My Place Week*** which includes a three-day Year 7 Camp at Cape Bridgewater.

FAITH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a Catholic school, Mercy Regional College is committed to the education of the whole person – academically, socially, spiritually, emotionally and physically. The spiritual and faith development of all members of our school community is central with the life and message of Jesus Christ as the exemplar model of life. Our ***Faith and Mission*** program provides opportunities for students to realise, explore and act on issues of social and ecological justice in our local and global communities.

The ***Mercy Way*** works to ensure that every effort is made to bring the needs of our world, our community and our personal lives to a focus through faith and prayer expressed through and leading to action. In this way we live out the call of the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, ***Catherine McAuley***, to see God in all things, to work together to create a just world and to support and respect the human dignity of each other.

Opportunities for the expression of faith and spirituality are provided through the traditional and invitational celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgical experiences. Students are encouraged to reflect upon their faith and spirituality through prayer, retreats and reflection days and all students reflect on historical and contemporary expressions of faith in Religious Education lessons. Participating in awareness raising activities for ***Social and Ecological Justice*** is seen as a contemporary expression of faith. Students wishing to further deepen their action for social and ecological justice are provided with the invitation to apply to participate in one or more of our extended immersion programs - ***Year 8 Kimberley Immersion*** or ***Year 10/11 Cambodia Immersion***.

As a celebration and welcome to our Mercy community, all Year 7 students are presented with a bible (the Catholic Youth Bible) when they begin their education at Mercy Regional College. It is hoped that this bible will become part of the students' journey throughout their time at the College and later into their adult life.



PASTORAL CARE

‘Pastoral Care permeates the total climate of relationships within the Catholic School. It has the individual as its focus and reflects the support, encouragement and the tender care shown and experienced in gospel-based communities’

- Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools, CEOM

Mercy Regional College provides an environment that integrates the Gospel values of love, faith, honesty, integrity, service and justice with daily living and learning. It provides a structure and resources where teachers and other professionals are responsible for the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of individual students and where strong relationships are established between staff, students and their families. During a dedicated subject called **M.E.R.C.Y. (Mindfulness, Empathy, Resilience, Care, You)** students have the opportunity to learn the skills to become resilient, positive and mindful young people.

The O’Keeffe Campus

At Mercy Regional College we recognise the significance of facilitating a smooth and inclusive transition for all students to their secondary school experience. Our Year 7 students come from many primary schools across the Western District of Victoria. Year 7 provides not only an opportunity to begin a new stage in each young person’s education but also an opportunity to meet many new people and form new friendships. To support this transition, all Year 7 students attend our dedicated Junior School campus located at Noorat and all travel to school by bus. It is a new environment for everyone and one that is talked of fondly by former students. This transition opportunity is unique to Mercy Regional College and is integral to our most successful transition program.

The O’Keeffe campus is shared with Year 8 students and the curriculum is designed to meet the individual learning needs of all students whilst providing an opportunity for connection to the environment, local community and to our shared history inclusive of the traditional owners of the land on which we learn.

Homeroom Teachers


Each student is a member of a homeroom within their year level. The **Homeroom Teacher** undertakes a pastoral role where they endeavour to enhance opportunities for the development of the young people in their pastoral group whilst working in partnerships with families. The Homeroom Teacher is the person at the College who best knows your child and their learning and the one to make contact with, if need be. The Homeroom Teacher spends every morning and a dedicated lesson each learning cycle with their pastoral group in M.E.R.C.Y. The Pastoral Care system in Year 7 is overseen by the O’Keeffe Community Leader who liaises closely with Homeroom Teachers and all other teachers to ensure that every student feels supported in all aspects of College life.

Student Wellbeing

Student Wellbeing has as its primary function the support of students within the school. Wellbeing at Mercy Regional College is overseen by the **Interim Assistant Principal – Student Development** and the **Student Development Leader**, who are supported by the **College Social Worker and College Pastoral Worker**. The College Social Worker is available to students for confidential and personal support when required, and acts as a resource for parents, providing information and facilitating contact with community and Government agencies. Our parents have access to an extensive list of agencies to which students may be referred for extended support.

All new students and their families are invited to an introductory interview upon enrolment. Contact is made with all new families by the **Hampden Catholic Schools Network (HCSN) School Support Person** in Term 1 to ensure that families feel welcomed.





After Mercy Regional College partnered with the **'Resilience Project'** in 2018, the program has been further developed throughout our M.E.R.C.Y. lessons in Years 7-10. The Resilience Project aims to encourage positive mental health practices and confidence in students through the development of the strategies of *Mindfulness, Empathy, Gratitude and Emotional Literacy*. The program compliments our Positive Education focus that is incorporated into our whole school wellbeing program.

Positive Education encourages and supports individuals to flourish. Flourishing is seen as a combination of 'feeling good and doing good'. Positive Education practices focus on specific skills that assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness and encourage a healthy lifestyle. Our students benefit from this approach by becoming more resilient, positive and mindful young people who are equipped to face challenges and aspire to be the very best person they can be.

At Mercy, students experience an authentic sense of belonging, connection, inclusion and significance. They are active participants in their own learning as our learning environments promote independence, interdependence and self-motivation.

Student Leadership, Voice and Agency

Students and teachers at Mercy work together to build a culture where student voice, agency and leadership are understood as inter-related factors that contribute to the notion of empowerment and sense of school pride.

An authentic **Student Voice** forum empowers our students to not only communicate ideas and opinions but influence change. Mercy Regional College has a well developed and widely recognised Student Voice program involving students from all year levels who are included in the decision making processes of the College.

Student Agency refers to the level of autonomy and power a student has in their learning environment. At Mercy, our students are encouraged and supported to direct and take responsibility for their learning fostering in them the skills and attributes of independent, self-regulated and motivated learners.

The inherent leadership potential of all students is developed through our social and ecological justice emphasis. All students are provided the opportunity and skills to listen to, understand and advocate for others. Students can choose to extend their leadership skills by nominating for a representative leadership position. In Years 7 and 8 these include **Campus Captains, Year Level Leaders and FIRE Carrier (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education)**. Senior students take on the roles of **College Captain and Deputy Captain, House Leaders and Year Level Leaders** as well as several other portfolio specific positions.

Learning, Inclusion and Diversity

The ***Inclusion and Diversity*** team aims to support, empower and enable students to learn within inclusive learning environments. The team caters to the diversity of students' abilities to promote learning independence.

The Inclusion and Diversity team works collaboratively with the College Wellbeing team and external services, whilst fostering partnerships with families to establish supportive networks. Collectively with health professionals, necessary adjustments are considered to support and engage students in their learning.

The Inclusion and Diversity team meets regularly with families through ***Program Support Group***. Learning plans and strategies to build capacity and cater to the individual needs of the students are shared in those meetings. Adjustments to the program are considered to enable each student to access their learning and to work independently towards targeted learning goals.

The Inclusion and Diversity team supports teachers to differentiate and personalise learning to allow all students to engage in the curriculum. Initiatives are strategically developed for the implementation of targeted learning programs. The Inclusion and Diversity team also oversees the delivery of learning programs for identified gifted and talented students as well as students with English as an Additional Language/Dialect, New Arrivals and Refugees, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) and Out of Home Care students.

Sport

At Mercy, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sporting experiences. We host our own annual House Athletics, Swimming and Cross-Country events, which are a highlight of the school year. With Mercy being a member of ***School Sport Victoria***, students represent the College at Inter-School events at Hampden, Greater Western and State levels. Sports participated in include but are not limited to: *Basketball, Netball, AFL Football, Soccer, Equestrian, Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Shooting, Golf, Lawn Bowls, Cricket, Table Tennis and Chess*.

We are proud of the achievements of our students both in and out of school colours and understand the importance participation in sport plays educationally as well as in the wider community. We always encourage our students to do their best and take pride in participation as well as any successes. The College promotes and celebrates respect, good sportspersonship and a sense of fair play in all sporting arenas.

Camps and Immersion Experiences

The College offers many opportunities for students to enjoy and to extend their capabilities. We provide an overnight experience for all students at each year level. Often memories of these experiences become one of the most distinctive of school life. School camps provide the opportunity for young people to build resilience, confidence, social skills and self-sufficiency and are an integral and meaningful part of any student's learning experience. School camps also facilitate the development of positive relationships between teachers and students.

In Year 7, students spend two nights at Cape Bridgewater near Portland. The camp activities include sand boarding, surfing, caving and bush walking along the Great Ocean Otway Walk. Held in February as part of our extended Mercy transition program, this camp is a great introduction to life at Mercy for our Year 7 students.

Overnight Experiences at other year levels include:

Year 8 Camp

A two-night experience at Camp Cooriemungle in South West Victoria

Year 9 Camp

A two-night experience in Melbourne (replaced by an experience in Halls Gap 2021)

Year 10 Retreat

An overnight experience in Anglesea

Year 11 Camp

A two-day practical experience with a focus on future pathways and careers

Year 12 Retreat

A two-night experience at Cave Hill Creek

The College offers optional interstate and overseas immersion experiences for interested students. In 2021 and 2022, alternative experiences are being offered due to COVID-19.

Central Australia Experience

Availability: Biennially, September

Participants: Year 9 & 10 students

Description: The camping trip takes students to Coober Pedy, Kings Canyon, Uluru, and Alice Springs.

France & Belgium Battlefields Tour

Availability: Biennially, September

Participants: Year 9 - 12 students

Description: This experience is unique to Mercy and holds a special place in our history. Participants visit the sights of Paris, the battlefields of France and Belgium from the Great War of 1914-18 providing an opportunity for our students to walk in the footsteps of the generations that came before us. The trip finishes in London where participants visit some major historic sights.

Kimberley Immersion

Availability: Annually, October

Participants: Year 8 students

Description: The immersion provides an opportunity for students to grow relationships and engage with an Indigenous Australian community through students at partner schools in Katherine, Halls Creek or Kununurra.

Cambodia Immersion

Availability: Biennially, March

Participants: Year 10 & 11 students

Description: Students learn to become greater global citizens through service and justice. They immerse into the culture of Cambodia and travel to Siem Reap to participate in social outreach work.

New Caledonia Immersion

Availability: Triennially, June/July

Participants: Year 9, 10 & 11 students studying French

Description: Students build on their French language skills through full immersion in French culture and language.

LEARNING

The curriculum at Mercy Regional College is guided by *the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority (VCAA)* in conjunction with *the Australian Curriculum*. At Mercy we believe all young people need to develop skills in Literacy and Numeracy whilst being provided the opportunity to develop capability in information and communication technologies. Year 7 to 9 students are equipped with a MacBook to support their learning. Attention is also given to the development of 21st century skills as ways of thinking, learning, working and living. These include critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability and ethical and intercultural understanding. Most importantly learning at Mercy is inclusive, engaging and meaningful.

Below is a brief overview of Learning Domains and the subjects offered in Years 7 and 8. Please refer to pages 23-28 for a comprehensive list of subjects offered at Mercy Regional College in Years 9 to 12.

Religious Education

The College aims to provide the opportunity for all students to recognise and understand their own faith journey. Religious Education is central to the ethos of the school.

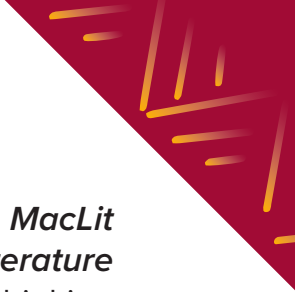
The Religious Education curriculum is based upon *the 'Awakenings' Religious Education Curriculum*, Prep to Year 12, which is mandated for use throughout the Diocese, by the Bishop of Ballarat. The resource of the 'Awakenings' Religious Education Curriculum is to support and enliven learning and teaching in Religious Education. In keeping with the spirit of Awakenings, the Catholic dimension of the school permeates all areas of the curriculum.

Classes at each year level follow a common syllabus and the teachers use a collaborative teaching and learning model.

English

English is a compulsory subject across all year levels and is an essential part of our curriculum. A strong foundation in Years 7 to 10 builds student capacity and our school recognises the importance of literacy and coherent and accurate expression in the articulation of ideas, in particular when moving into Senior School.

The English courses in Years 7 to 10 provide a basis for the development of language and literacy. Mercy Regional College provides additional programs for students



seeking a boost in their learning, these are inclusive but not limited to **MacLit** and **Reading Circles**. All Year 7 students participate in a dedicated **Literature Circles** program which provides a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers.

The development of oral communication is also a significant part of the English Curriculum and this is supported by the College's participation in **Public Speaking and Debating** opportunities.

The craft of writing is nurtured within the English Curriculum and students also have the opportunity to participate in writing competitions.

Mathematics

The Mathematics curriculum enables each student to acquire and develop the skills and concepts necessary for everyday life in a changing society.

From Year 7, proficiency in basic numeracy and written algorithms is a priority. Emphasis is also placed on the development of problem solving techniques appropriate to the individuals' level of mathematics attainment.

In Years 7 and 8 (inclusive of Year 9 in 2021), students are introduced to a new Mathematics learning model called **Maths Pathway**. This program is designed to identify and enhance students' strengths as well as determining and diminishing any gaps in their skills and knowledge. It allows them access to individualised learning modules. Through a combination of explicit teaching, rich learning tasks and targeted mini-lessons, students receive more effective feedback. This innovative program helps to develop mathematical thinking.

Science

All students in Years 7-12 have the opportunity to interpret the world through an introduction to scientific concepts, themes and methods of scientific enquiry. Students at all levels are encouraged to improve their powers of observation and to predict and analyze outcomes. Practical experiments provide the basis of many investigative activities and as a result, students also develop their report writing skills. The use of learning technologies is incorporated into the science curriculum at all year levels.

Humanities

At Mercy, Humanities encompasses the study of *Geography, History, Business and Economics, and Civics and Citizenship*. Students explore the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and investigate responses to different challenges including people's interconnections with the environment.

Through the following topics studied by students in Years 7 and 8; *Ancient Egypt, The Renaissance Period, Geography: Megacities, Geography: Coastal Landscapes, and Civics and Citizenship*, students identify and explain patterns of change and continuity over time. They evaluate the significance of individuals and groups and how they were influenced by the beliefs and values of their society through the use of multimodal texts.

Health and Physical Education

Health and Physical Education is a compulsory study in Years 7 to 10 and aims to promote an understanding of factors that develop, maintain and optimise the physical, social and emotional components of health for individuals, families and communities.

Through involvement in physical activity, students have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the concepts of movement and fitness, including the physiological, biological and socio-cultural dimension.

This is further enhanced through the opportunity to learn through participation in additional elective subjects in Years 9 and 10.

Technology

STEAM

This exciting and innovative subject is taught in Years 7 and 8. STEAM education is an approach to learning that integrates *Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics* in a program designed to develop student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking skills. Students will learn about digital technologies, 3-D printing, robotics, coding and laser cutting as they complete projects which have a real world focus. Our students work towards becoming young people who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration and work through the creative process.



Materials and Food Technology

Both of these subjects are offered throughout Years 7 and 8 for one Semester each year.

During **Materials Technology**, students use a range of materials such as plastics, wood and on occasions soft materials (textiles). Often this is a student's first experience with such a subject. The learning is tailored to the student's level of ability, however, sets the foundation for future learning that can provide a clear pathway into technology and "hands-on" careers. Technology production pieces of our students take pride of place in the annual exhibition of students' work at the **Mercy Arts and Technology Exhibition**.

Food Technology is compulsory study for Year 7 and 8 students, and a popular elective through Years 9 and 10. The subject provides students with the opportunity of understanding diet, nutrition and lifestyle. The pathway into **Certificate II Hospitality** is offered in a professionally developed commercial kitchen and provides broad hospitality options for interested students.

The Arts

There is a rich tradition in **Visual and Performing Arts** at MRC that offers challenging opportunities for students to develop their aesthetic sensitivity and to express their imagination in performance, visual arts activities and research.

Music

Students in Year 7 participate in a semester based unit of **Music**. In Year 7 students learn *Rhythms* whilst reading and writing music. An elective instrumental music program is available for Years 7-12 and allows all students the opportunity to explore their special interests and develop their talents. Individual tuition is offered in *Piano, Guitar, all Strings, Brass, Wind and Percussion* instruments. There is also a wide range of musical co-curricular activities available to students through school choirs and the College Production.

Visual Arts, Media and Visual Communication Design

Students study the semester based unit of **Visual Arts** which includes Art and Visual Communication Design. In Years 7 and 8 students explore tasks designed to build skills in areas including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and design. This encourages students to explore materials and a variety of techniques.

This subject leads into our elective program in Years 9 and 10. At VCE level *Media, Studio Art and Visual Communication Design* are offered. Students elect to work in an area of their choice and complete a folio that demonstrates the development of a mature and individualistic manner of artistic expression.



Drama

Students in Year 8 participate in a semester based unit of ***Drama***. Participation in this area is important for language development and allows the exploration of ideas, characters, plots, problems and issues. In Year 8 the course is varied and challenging. Students look at Drama from the perspective of developing specific audience responses.

Languages

As one of the eight core domains of the Victorian Curriculum, the opportunity to study ***a Language other than English (LOTE)*** is considered to be an essential part of a holistic education. French is studied in Years 7 and 8 as a compulsory full year subject with no prior knowledge of French required. French is also offered as an elective at both Years 9 and 10 leading into a VCE study.

LEARNING IN YEARS 7 & 8

Year 7 is a foundation year for students' secondary study. All students will undertake the same units over two semesters in all of the **Key Learning Areas**; this will ensure that at the end of Year 8 they will be able to make a well informed choice regarding their subject choices for Year 9.

The Year 7 Curriculum aims to:

- ▶ Provide quality education that offers a comprehensive curriculum which meets the abilities and needs of individual students.
- ▶ Be balanced in providing effective learning experiences for both girls and boys.
- ▶ Follow on from previously learnt practices in each subject area as the year progresses.

The following information is based on a timetable structure of six periods per day of 50-minutes duration:

Core Subjects:

Religious Education
M.E.R.C.Y. (Pastoral Care)
English
Mathematics
Science
Health & PE
Humanities
Personal Development
STEAM
French

Semester Based Subjects:

Visual Arts – Art
Visual Communication Design
Music
Drama
Materials Technology
Food Technology

LEARNING IN YEAR 9

Core Subjects:

Religious Education
M.E.R.C.Y. (Pastoral Care)
English
Mathematics
Science
Health & PE
Humanities
Personal Development

Electives Offered:

Visual Communication Design
Design Technology – Textiles
Agricultural Studies
Computer Applications
Drama
Music
Design Technology – Woodwork
Electronics
Visual Arts
Debating
French
STEM
Creative Writing
Food Technology
Media & Digital Imaging
Athletic Football Codes



LEARNING IN YEAR 10

Core Subjects:

Religious Education
M.E.R.C.Y. (Pastoral Care)
English
Mathematics
Science
Humanities
Health & PE
Careers

Electives Offered:

Students can choose up to 4 of the following units.

Introduction to Literature (ENG/LIT)
Ancient History - Myths, Heroes, Religions and War (HUM)
Holocaust Studies (HUM)
Why Democracy Matters (HUM)
\$20 Boss (HUM)
A Teenager in Paris (LANG)
Being an Exchange Student in France (LANG)
Analytical Problem Solving (MATH)
Good Foods, Great Health! (HPE)
Health Insights (HPE)
People and the Environment (HPE/SCI)
Energy for Exercise (HPE)
Ag in Focus (SCI)
STEM (SCI)
Design Technology - Wood, Metal and Plastics (TECH)
Paddock to Plate (TECH/SCI)
Design and Fashion (TECH)
Focus on Folio (ARTS)
Act and Create (ARTS)
Pod Save Australia: Audio and Film Production (ARTS)
For the Love of Music (ARTS)
Think and Brand (ARTS)

MIDDLE SCHOOL PATHWAYS

What are the aims of Middle School Pathways?

The *Middle School Pathways (MS Pathways)* aims to provide students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to make informed choices about pathways to work and further education.

The principles underpinning the MS Pathways are:

- ▶ New accredited pathways for secondary students
- ▶ Tailoring a program to suit students' interests
- ▶ Personal development
- ▶ Development of work related and industry specific skills

In the Middle School Pathways these principles are shown through:

- ▶ The development of knowledge and employability skills that help prepare students for work and for participation in a broader society – family, community and life-long learning.
- ▶ The development of knowledge and skills that assists students to make informed vocational choices and facilitate pathways to further learning and employment.

VCE/VET Options

Mercy Regional College supports students who wish to accelerate their learning by studying VCE or VET programs in Year 10. Students and parents are invited to talk with our *Senior Pathways Leader and Careers Coordinator* to look at what options best suit their individual needs. The offer is made to students in Year 9 during the *Subject Selection Process*.

LEARNING AT SENIOR SCHOOL - VCE/ VCAL/ VET/ SBAT

VCE – Victorian Certificate of Education

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is the main senior secondary certificate in Victoria. It provides a valuable pathway to tertiary study and employment.

A *VCE program* includes a number of different VCE studies (or subjects), with the majority consisting of four units that can be completed over the two years (a unit represents one Semester or half a year of work). Units 1 & 2 are typically taken in Year 11, while Units 3 & 4 are usually completed in Year 12. Mercy Regional College provides the opportunity for students to study Units 1 & 2 of some VCE studies in Year 10 and Units 3 & 4 in Year 11.

Mercy offers a wide variety of VCE studies and can also support students who choose to study other subjects.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Accounting | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Agricultural & Horticultural Studies | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Biology | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Business Management | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Chemistry | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| English | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Food Studies | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Foundation English | Units 1 & 2 |
| Foundation Mathematics | Units 1 & 2 |
| French | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Further Mathematics | Units 3 & 4 |
| General Mathematics | Units 1 & 2 |
| Health & Human Development | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| History | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Legal Studies | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Literature | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Mathematical Methods | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Media | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Outdoor Education | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Physical Education | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Physics | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Product Design & Technology | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Psychology | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Religious Education | Unit 2 & School Based curriculum |
| Specialist Mathematics | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Studio Arts | Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 |

VCAL – Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning

As part of the senior pathways at Mercy Regional College we are proud to offer *the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)*. The VCAL program at Mercy is an innovative program that is tailored to students who learn best by “doing”. VCAL is a ‘hands-on’ option for students in Years 11 and 12. Like VCE, VCAL is a recognised senior secondary qualification. Students who complete a VCAL certificate are more likely to be interested in completing a course at TAFE, doing an apprenticeship, or getting a job after completing Year 12. However, it should also be noted that a University pathway is still an option for VCAL students.

VCAL’s flexibility enables students to design a study program that suits their interests and learning needs. Students select accredited curriculum components from VCE studies, *Vocational Education and Training (VET)* qualifications, *Further Education (FE)* and *VCAL* units.

Integral to the VCAL program is the *Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)*. SWL is a mandatory component of the VCAL program. One day a week over a sustained period of time students complete a work placement. This is a great opportunity for students to develop employability skills in the workforce and can present fantastic opportunities for ongoing employment.

VCAL is a one or two-year certificate and runs parallel to VCE and provides students with a wide range of educational and training pathways. A Certificate and Statement of Results will be issued to students who successfully complete their VCAL. Our aim is to offer as much flexibility as possible to suit individual needs, abilities and interests.

VET – Vocational Education and Training

VET Delivered to Secondary Students (VETDSS) allows you to combine your senior secondary studies with a *Vocational Education and Training (VET)* program.

VET programs provide students with a nationally recognised qualification that contributes towards both *the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)* or *the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)*.

SBAT – School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

A School Based Trainee usually undertakes a one-year program of training and work, while at school, and completes a nationally recognised certificate in an area of interest such as *Community Services, Health Services, Education Support, Individual Support Services (Aged and Disability Care), Community Activities (Community Sport/ Recreation), Media, Allied Health Assistance, Companion Animal Services and Early Childhood Education & Care* and more.

A School Based Apprentice commences the first year of a three-year apprenticeship in a trade area and the intention is that the student will continue into the apprenticeship full time when leaving school. These types of programs are usually available in “traditional trades” areas such as *Carpentry, Cabinet Making, Engineering, Hairdressing, Bricklaying, Baking and more*. For students who are still undertaking their School Based Apprenticeship when they complete their senior school program, the time spent in part time employment and their trade school activities will contribute to some reduction in their Apprenticeship time and a reduction in their trade school completion requirements.

Both programs offer students the opportunity to combine part time paid work and training while still at school. Students are employed under a Federal or State award or agreement, which sets out their respective wages and conditions of employment.

Both programs provide students with subject credits towards their VCE program and may also count into a VCE student’s ATAR calculation.

The industry specific strand of VCAL is satisfied through completion of these programs.

VCE VET

Certificate II in Building & Construction
Certificate II in Hospitality & Kitchen Operations
Certificate II in Furnishing
Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
Certificate III in Information, Digital Media & Technology

VCAL

Personal Development
Numeracy
Literacy
Work Related Skills

**VET subjects are also accessible in partnership with other educational institutions, e.g. VET Music Industry Performance, VET Hair & Beauty.*

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Uniform Overview

Uniform is compulsory at Mercy Regional College. The uniform is a sign of identity of Mercy Regional College to the members of the wider community, therefore all students are expected to wear uniform correctly and with pride. Students are expected to maintain high standards of personal grooming and neatness.



Trans-Seasonal Uniform

Students are offered the choice of a trans-seasonal uniform, i.e. the uniform can be worn in accordance with the weather. However, students must wear either the full summer or full winter uniform, not a combination of both.

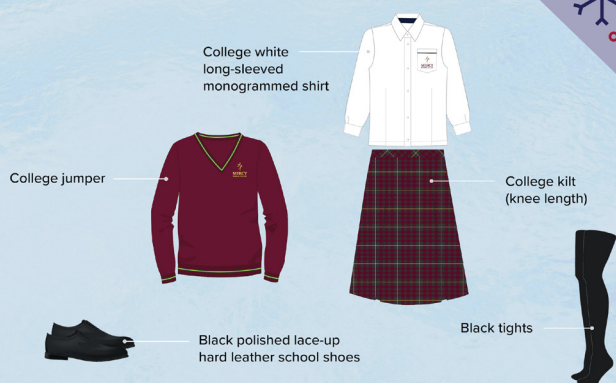
Accessories

Accessories are offered for the College uniform but are not compulsory.



MERCY
REGIONAL COLLEGE

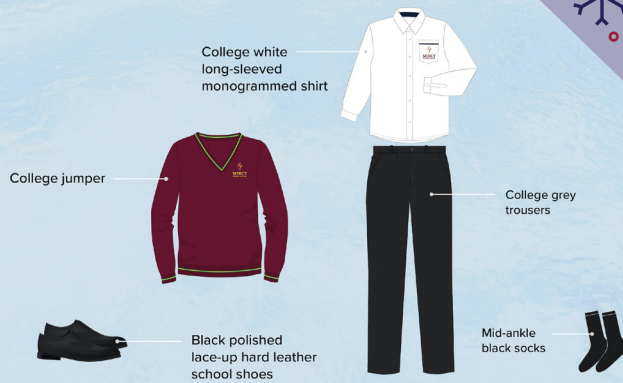
WINTER UNIFORM: Girls



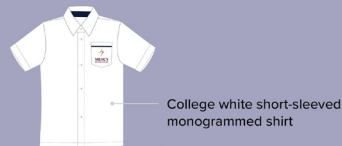
OPTIONAL



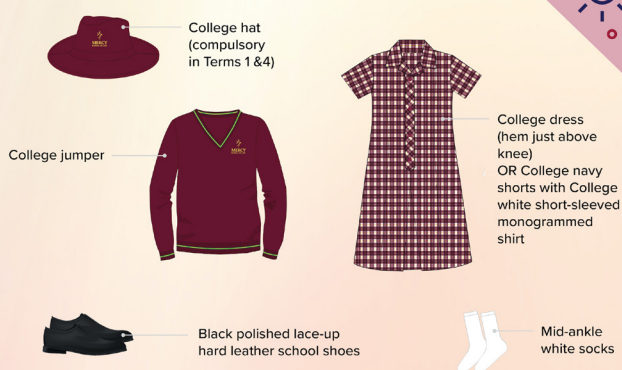
WINTER UNIFORM: Boys



OPTIONAL



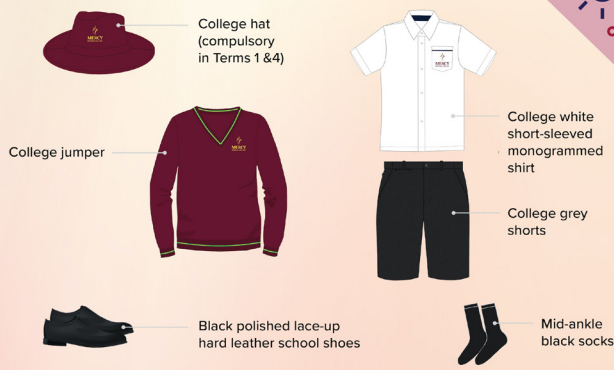
SUMMER UNIFORM: Girls



OPTIONAL



SUMMER UNIFORM: Boys



SPORTS UNIFORM: Boys & Girls



Further uniform guidelines and expectations can be found on the College website
www.mercy.vic.edu.au/join-our-college/uniform/

Uniform Shop

The Mercy Regional College uniform shop is located inside the main Administration building at the McAuley Campus, Camperdown. Parents are to register at Reception on arrival. The shop is open each school week.

Terms 1 & 4

Monday 12.00pm to 4.00pm
Tuesday 8.00am to 12.00pm
Thursday 8.00am to 12.00pm

Terms 2 & 3

Monday 12.00pm to 4.00pm
Thursday 8.00am to 12.00pm

All uniform items purchased must be paid for on the day, with the methods of payment being Cash and Eftpos. If you have any questions regarding uniform, contact the uniform shop on **7020 2625** or email uniform@mercy.vic.edu.au.

Secondhand Books/Uniform

Parents can purchase second-hand text books or uniform through two avenues:

- ▶ *Mercy Regional College Buy/Sell/Swap 2nd Hand Books and Uniform* is a Facebook page that has been set-up by the parents of the College.
- ▶ *Sustainable School Shop* can help parents buy or sell items through their website www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au.

BUS INFORMATION

The College runs their own buses to and from the following towns to each campus.

Camperdown to Noorat

Cobden to Noorat

Terang to Noorat

Lismore/Derrinallum to Noorat

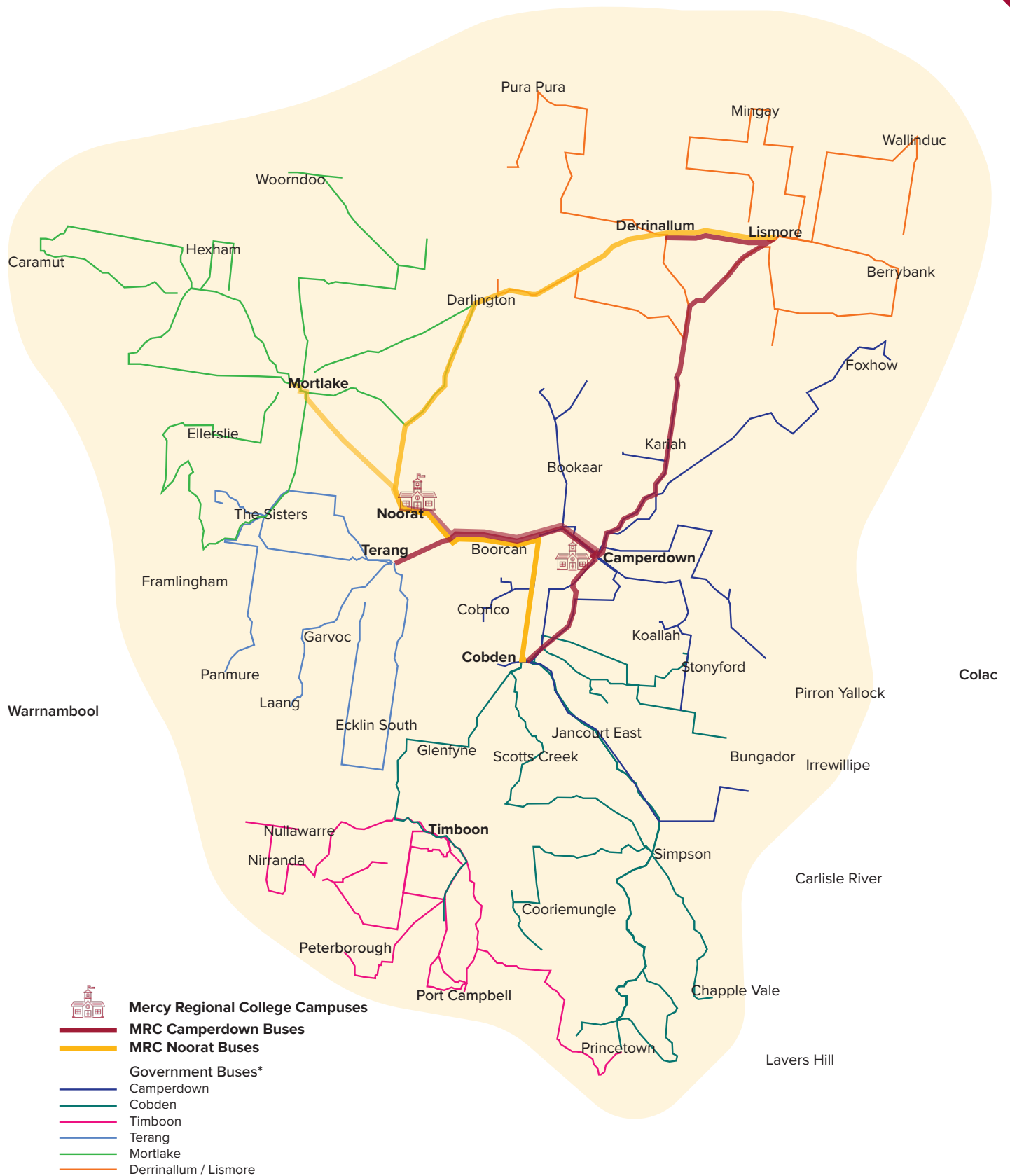
Mortlake to Noorat/Camperdown

Cobden to Camperdown

Terang to Camperdown

Lismore to Camperdown

If your child lives in an area further out from these townships, they may need to catch a state-run school bus before they catch a Mercy bus, therefore, you will need to complete a *PTVic (Public Transport Victoria) bus form* on their behalf. This form can be obtained from the College office by request.



TUITION FEES & LEVIES

Below is an outline of the College tuition fees for 2021 as decided by the College Board of Management. These fees may increase marginally in 2021.

Fees & Charges – Inclusive of Tuition, Student Levies, Camps & Excursions, 2021

| | |
|---------|------------|
| Year 7 | \$3,375.00 |
| Year 8 | \$3,375.00 |
| Year 9 | \$3,555.00 |
| Year 10 | \$3,000.00 |
| Year 11 | \$3,130.00 |
| Year 12 | \$3,130.00 |

Family Charges

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Maintenance levy – Fee charged per family | \$440.00 |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|

Macbooks - Laptops

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Years 7, 8 & 9 | Included in Fees, laptop remains the property of the School. |
| Years 10, 11 & 12 | Purchased by Parents as part of Policy, no greater than 6 month repayments. Parents can apply to “rent” a laptop from the school as per the below rate. |
| Macbook Rental | \$560.00pa (no greater than this amount, dependent on cost of device) |

Other Additional Levies

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Outdoor Education 1 & 2 – Elective Charge | \$900.00 |
| Outdoor Education 3 & 4 – Elective Charge | \$320.00 |
| Welding – Elective Charge | \$250.00 |
| VET/Certificate Courses – Elective Charge | Course Dependent |

The College understands that some families may be experiencing financial hardship and may find it difficult meeting their fee obligations. We as a Catholic School have had the long-established policy that no family is denied a Catholic Education, because of a family’s inability to pay fees. Families are requested to contact our Business Manager to share their situation and depending on circumstances submit a fee concession application.

Discounts

Third Child

A discount of \$500.00 will be applied to the student fee for the third student of any family who have three children attending the College in the current year.

Fourth Child

A discount of \$1,950.00 will be applied to the student fee for the fourth and subsequent child(ren) for any family who have these children attending the College in the current year.

Enrolment Application Fee

The enrolment process requires a payment of an **Enrolment Application Fee** of \$100 when submitting your child's enrolment form. The enrolment application will not proceed without this fee being paid.

- ▶ This fee will be credited to your School Fee account after the enrolment process is completed.
- ▶ In the event that a place is not able to be offered to your child, the fee will be refunded.
- ▶ However, in the event that you later change your mind and decide not to proceed after receiving the 'Confirmation of Enrolment' letter, then this fee will be **non-refundable**.

School Fee Payment Plans - Compulsory

Upfront – Payment made in full for all students in the family by the 31 March, 2021 will give families a discount of \$150.00 per child.

Direct Debit – weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

Government Assistance

The State government has introduced the **Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)**. This is to assist eligible families to cover the cost of school camps and excursions. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, you may be eligible for CSEF. The annual amount for a secondary student is \$225. If eligible, please contact our office to obtain an application form.

COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

- 1.** Students are to contribute to a welcoming, caring and supportive environment by showing consideration for each other and ensuring that their words and actions cause no harm or offence to others.
- 2.** Students are expected to attend all classes and, if sick or absent, make contact with the College to communicate this. When at school, students are expected to be on time and be properly prepared for class.
- 3.** Students are to contribute to a conducive and effective learning environment in the classroom by following instructions and obeying classroom rules.
- 4.** Students are expected to strive for personal excellence in all areas of College life. All College staff will do their utmost to foster a learning environment that enables students to pursue and achieve excellence.
- 5.** Students are to contribute to a safe, orderly environment by moving and acting in a way that is not disruptive or unsafe to themselves or others. The school strictly enforces a 'Hands Off' Policy between students, in recognition that every student has the right to feel safe at all times within the College.
- 6.** Students are to contribute to a secure, clean and pleasant environment by acting in ways which look after their own, other people's and College property. Students are to contribute positively to the health and hygiene of the school surrounds and wider community in a manner that is consistent with the importance of preserving and maintaining the natural environment.
- 7.** Students are to take pride in their College by wearing the uniform correctly and acting in a way that reflects well on themselves, their families and the school.



