

Penola
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EST. 1995

WELCOME
TO OUR REAL LIFE LEARNING JOURNEY

REAL JOURNEY

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

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

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

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

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

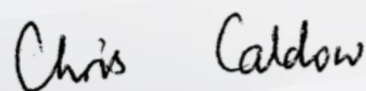
As your journey begins I hope you will feel a sense of belonging and see in the school you have identified for your son or daughter a place where they will make new and enduring friendships, thrive upon their learning experiences and participate fully in the myriad of opportunities that will allow them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

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

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

I look forward to sharing the Penola Catholic College experience with you.

Principal
Mr Chris Caldow

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Caldow". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. It is positioned on a white rectangular background that is part of a larger graphic element on the right side of the page.



REAL TRADITION

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

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

The College's traditions, values and educational philosophy are inspired by the example of Saint

Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who inspired by her readings of Jesus of the Gospels, ministered through education and social services to those in need.

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





REAL FAITH

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

Penola Catholic College is an inclusive school community and actively welcomes students from other faith backgrounds who

seek the values inherent within a Catholic school which operates in the spirit of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary MacKillop's enduring message is "Never see a need without doing something about it" and this lives on within the culture of Penola Catholic College.

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

REAL VALUES

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

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

In seeking to explore and celebrate our living Catholic tradition, we are committed to modelling the values of; Respect, Justice, Compassion, Reconciliation, Inclusivity, Critical thinking and Sustainability.

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





REAL COMMUNITY

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

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

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

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

REAL JOURNEYS

Dr Thushara Perera

My Penola journey commenced half-way through Year 10 when my family moved from Adelaide to Melbourne. The engineering-related subjects were my favourite as they aligned with my early interest in hobby electronics.

I graduated in 2003 and received a scholarship and entry into a double-degree course at La Trobe University where I completed a Bachelor of Electronics Engineering and a Masters in Biomedical Engineering. I then continued to complete a PhD in Neuroscience in conjunction with La Trobe University and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

I now work at the Bionics Institute in East Melbourne. My first project was to write software to control a Bionic Eye – to restore vision to the blind. I was part of the team that developed Australia's first bionic eye and in the first clinical trial we implanted three patients. The first time we switched on the Bionic Eye and heard the patient say: "Oh! I saw something!" was one of the most remarkable moments of my life.

The teachers at Penola were incredible, and I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without the support and encouragement of my teachers, as well as the excellent Physics and Systems Engineering facilities.





Ezi Magbegor

My Penola journey started as a Year 7 student in 2012. Throughout the beginning of my Secondary Schooling I didn't have a firm idea of what career path I wanted to pursue. With Penola's huge subject offerings, I was able to expose myself to various subjects early on. I regularly participated in Inter-school Sports as well as several different sporting activities, including basketball. Penola's endless amount of co-curricular activities available to students assisted me in coming to fruition of where I wanted to be - it was in Year 9 that I realised I wanted to play basketball professionally.

I am currently a Professional Basketball Player, having competed in several Junior Basketball World Championships all over the world whilst also completing my Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) Degree at Deakin University.

It is with great gratitude to my teachers at Penola who believed that planning for our future was of most importance to our learning, that allowed me to achieve all that I have, including representing Australia and winning a Gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and being drafted to the Seattle Storm in 2019 WNBA draft.

REAL LIFE LEARNING

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

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

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

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

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

- **Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)**
Incorporates an extensive range of VCE and VET subjects, allowing students to develop an individual pathway to University, TAFE or the world of work.
- **Vocational Education and Training (VET)**
A range of practical subjects that students can undertake as part of their VCE or VCAL studies.
- **Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)**
Offered at intermediate and senior level this is an ideal program for students seeking apprenticeships, traineeships or workplace employment at the end of secondary studies. VCAL programs enable students to develop a range of skills that will assist them in transitioning to the world of work or to additional TAFE studies.

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









REAL WORLD

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

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

Our teachers know how boys and girls best learn and will structure learning tasks and environments that maximise student learning outcomes. Life does not keep boys and girls separate and one day our students will enter the co-educational workforce - this is at the heart of real life learning at Penola Catholic College.





REAL OPPORTUNITY

Co-curricular Learning

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

Performing and Visual Arts

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

Sport

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

Outdoor Education

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

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

