



St Mary's College Gunnedah



Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1879

"Virtue is the Way of Life"



Parent Information & Subject Booklet



St Mary's College Gunnedah



Mission Statement

The members of the community of St Mary's College will strive to provide a caring and stimulating environment for a holistic education of high quality for all of the College's students, in the Catholic and Mercy traditions.

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A Message from the Principal

St Mary's Catholic College prides itself as being a place of Faith and of Learning. St Mary's provides a learning environment that is safe, caring and respectful of individual differences while challenging all students to perform at their potential in all their endeavours. The faith aspect of the school is an important part of everyday life and is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as found in the Gospel.

In recent years there have been many new initiatives to enhance the academic achievements of the students. The results from the 2017 HSC were particularly pleasing with five students achieving a total of nine Band 6's and Annerley Fitzsimmons being named College Dux with an ATAR of 93.45. The overall HSC results from Year 12 last year were above state average and also above the expected learning as determined by the DeCourcy HSC results analysis program.

An analysis of NAPLAN data also shows that the growth achieved by St Mary's students from Year 7 to Year 9 is consistently above state average and has been recently recognised by ACARA for achieving growth in Year 9 which is significantly above state average in Reading, Grammar and Spelling.

In 2018 the school has introduced further initiatives to build on this success. Literacy Blocks have been introduced into Years 7, 8 and 9 where every student has two periods per week engaged in activities specifically designed to improve their literacy skills. Since much of our learning comes from reading and much of our assessment require writing, this strategy will enhance and improve student learning across all curriculum areas. Each student also has one period per week specifically on improving their numeracy skills.

Another area of improvement this year is focusing on reviewing and improving the College's behaviour management strategies, systems and processes. A new position on staff has been introduced, Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Wellbeing, and the College is reimaging its Restorative Practices Framework to meet the needs of our school and in particular, to enhance the St Mary's Fifth Pillar of Respect - Respect for the Learning Environment in the College.

St Mary's is an inclusive College and welcomes enrolments from families who share our commitment to Faith and Learning.

Max Quirk
Principal

General Information

St Mary's College Gunnedah is a Catholic co-educational secondary school serving the Gunnedah region in North-West NSW. St Mary's provides a holistic Catholic education in a caring and stimulating environment following the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy who founded the College in 1879.

St Mary's College Gunnedah has always had a strong academic focus with many students progressing to university studies. An active Vocational Educational and Training program has also provided students with a successful pathway into apprenticeships and traineeships.

Cultural pursuits have always been a part of St Mary's College and the band and choir prove very popular with students and parents. A comprehensive sporting program provides students with an opportunity to excel, representing the College at Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) and State levels.

With an enrolment of around 370 students, St Mary's is able to offer a wide range of subjects in a professional and caring learning environment whilst fostering quality relationships between students, staff and parents.

St Mary' College has a dedicated staff of teachers supported by an administration staff and educational assistants. There is a vast wealth of experience and enthusiasm among the staff who are committed to the College's mission and Annual Improvement Plan.



Students at work in the College Library

St Mary's is a Catholic College

As a Catholic school, St Mary's College has a commitment to proclaim the Gospel and promote the teachings and practices of the Catholic tradition.

- Religious Education courses are compulsory from Year 7 to Year 12.
- Students attend whole school and Year Level Masses and liturgies.
- Students participate in Reflection Days and Retreats.
- Prayer is part of the daily routine.
- Catholic principles and values are to be known, understood and articulated by teachers, parents and students.
- The pastoral care program recognises that each student is “made in the image and likeness of God.” Every student is supported in building a positive self-image and challenged to aim at achieving his or her full human and spiritual potential.
- Students are encouraged to develop a conscious commitment to Social Justice through the Religious Education curriculum and through the College's charitable works program.



All students are expected to participate fully in the Religious Education program provided by the College.

The College promotes Catholic principles and values and the belief in a loving and caring God. Students and families are accepted on the basis that they agree to support the Catholic character of our school.

Resources and Facilities

A number of building programs, have provided St Mary's with modern, well equipped facilities which include:

- Industrial Arts room – with an emphasis on woodwork
- Five computer rooms, a Graphics room and three sets of mobile laptops
- Class sets of mobile iPads
- Wireless internet access available throughout the school
- All classrooms are fitted with air conditioning and with either interactive whiteboards or touch screen TV's
- Food Technology Laboratory
- Textile and Design room
- Two spacious Visual Arts rooms
- Music facility with practice rooms
- Library and Resource Centre
- Four modern science laboratories
- A Language Laboratory
- Modern canteen, serving healthy food
- Two Agriculture plots
- Tennis courts
- Access to sports oval and basketball courts (Kitchener Park)
- Counselling room
- Landscaped grounds, a pleasant and well maintained environment for learning



Staff

The College Executive:

Principal - Mr Max Quirk

Assistant Principal - Mrs Catherine Martin

Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Sandra Garnett

Parish Priest:

Fr John M^cHugh

Leaders of Learning have responsibility for the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Technological and Applied Studies and Creative Arts (TASCA), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Human Society and its Environment (HSIE). There are also coordinators for Curriculum Support, Vocational Education and Training and also Sport.

A **Leader of Pedagogy** has been introduced to focus on school improvement in teaching and learning.

A **Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Leader** has been introduced.

A **Faith Formation and Prayer Leader** has also been introduced to the College.

Year Supervisors are responsible for each year level. The Year Supervisor takes a special interest in the welfare of all students in their year level and are usually the first point of contact for pastoral issues between parents and school. The Year Supervisor is the teacher that students would see if they have difficulties or problems and is the most likely teacher to contact parents if there are overall behaviour concerns.

There is a **Student Support Unit** comprising a Literacy /Numeracy teacher, Student Support Teachers, an Indigenous Focus Teacher, Educational Assistants and an Aboriginal Education Assistant.

Centacare provides a **Student Counselling** service at the College. Students can be referred to the counsellor by staff, with parental consent. In certain circumstances, students can refer themselves.



Mr Max Quirk
Principal



Mrs Catherine Martin
Assistant Principal



Mrs Sandra Garnett
Religious Education
Coordinator

Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to take an active role in the school.

- **School Advisory Council** – provides advice to the Principal and Parish Priest on matters such as policies, finance, building and maintenance.
- **Parents & Friends Association** – all parents are invited to take an active role in the Gunnedah Catholic Schools P&F. The P&F meets monthly, at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month. The P&F organises a range of activities and raises supplementary funds for St Mary's College and St Xavier's Primary School.
- **Sport** – there is sometimes the call for parents to be involved in sports coaching or as officials at college sporting events. Parents are very welcome to attend college sport carnivals.
- **Parent Information Meetings** - parents are encouraged to attend information meetings held at critical times during the year.
- **Parent-Teacher Interviews** – parents are encouraged to attend parent-teacher interviews.

Year 7 Parent-Teacher Interviews are held after the Term 1 Interim Reports to allow parents to meet with teachers to discuss student progress. Year 11 and 12 Parent-Teacher interviews are held after the Term 2 reports. Early in Term 3, Parent-Teacher Interviews are held for Years 7 to 10. After the Term 4 reports, there is the opportunity for parents to make appointments for interviews with teachers on request.



Communication

Communication is the key to building strong relationships between home and school. Parents are welcome to phone or email the school regarding any matters or concerns. All staff emails are available on the College website for your convenience. For academic matters please contact the student's subject teacher. For pastoral matters please contact the Year Supervisor.

- Information can be found on the College website or the College Facebook page.
- The College Newsletter is published regularly. It is emailed to each family or paper copies are available on request.
- The Namoi Valley Independent has a regular contribution from St Mary's College.
- Years 7 to 10 Reports are issued
 - Interim Reports at the end of Term 1
 - At the end of Term 2
 - At the end of Term 4
- Years 11 and 12 reports are issued in Term 2 and at the end of Term 3.

Notes are requested from parents in the following circumstances:

- (a) Absence through illness or other reason;
- (b) If your child arrives at school after 8:45am;
- (c) To the Mentor teacher if your child needs to leave the school during the day for any reason
- (d) To the Mentor teacher if there is a temporary difficulty with uniform

A reply to an SMS message from the College or a parental note is sufficient to explain Absences of less than 5 days.

Absences for 5 days or more require an application to the Principal for "Exemption from School" or an application for "Leave".

Absences for extended illness require a medical certificate. All absences are subject to Principal's approval.

The College use the Qkr! App for the following:

- Excursion permission notes and payment (if required)
- Canteen orders
- School fee payment
- Uniform Shop orders

Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), in collaboration with states and territories, has developed an agreed Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History. The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is responsible for developing syllabuses to be taught in New South Wales schools, from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

NESA has developed new NSW K–10 syllabuses for English, Mathematics, Science (including Science and Technology K–6) and History, incorporating the Australian curriculum. Phased implementation of the new syllabuses began in 2014. Many features of the new K–10 English, Mathematics, Science (incorporating Science and Technology K–6) and History syllabuses are retained. Literacy and numeracy remain important areas of focus in the new curriculum.

The Australian syllabuses identify essential knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes that students are expected to develop in each learning area. They are designed to provide flexibility for teachers to develop their teaching and learning programs to meet the needs of their students. Information for parents is available on the NESA website.

The Higher School Certificate (HSC)

The Higher School Certificate (HSC) is the highest educational award in New South Wales schools. It is awarded to students who successfully complete Years 11 and 12 in New South Wales. The HSC is an internationally recognised credential that provides a foundation for students entering tertiary study, vocational training or employment.

Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

Eligible students who leave school before receiving their Higher School Certificate (HSC) will receive the NSW Record of School Achievement (RoSA). The RoSA is a cumulative credential in that it allows students to accumulate their academic results until they leave school. It includes the subjects studied and grades achieved during Years 10 and 11.

NAPLAN

Students in Years 7 and 9 sit for the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test in May each year. The assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in class. For students in Years 7 and 9, there are five tests including two tests in numeracy – a calculator allowed test and a non-calculator test.

The results provide information about student achievement that can be used to inform teaching and learning programs. NAPLAN tests provide point-in-time information regarding student progress in literacy and numeracy and are intended to complement the wide range of formal and informal assessments that are already conducted in schools. NAPLAN test results are not intended to be used in isolation from other school-based assessment programs. In 2018 the College will be completing the testing online.

The College Curriculum

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) divides the secondary curriculum up into eight Key Learning Areas (KLAs) – English, Mathematics, Science, Human Society & Its Environment (HSIE), Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (PDHPE), Creative Arts, Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) and Languages. In addition, the College as a Catholic school has a program of Religious Education from Year 7 to Year 12.

Students in **Year 7** study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, PDHPE, Visual Arts, Music and Mandatory Technology. Students in **Year 8** study the same subjects as in Year 7, with the addition of Languages (Chinese).

Students in **Years 9 and 10** study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Australian History, Australian Geography and PDHPE. The students have a choice of two elective subjects. The choice of subjects may vary from year to year but will generally include the following:

Agriculture	Information and Software Technology (IST)
Ceramics	iSTEM
Child Studies	Music
Commerce	Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS)
Food Technology	Textiles
History	Visual Arts
Industrial Technology (Wood)	

In **Years 11 and 12** the only mandatory subjects are Studies of Religion or Catholic Studies and 2 Units of English. Students are required to complete at least 12 units of study Year 11 and at least 10 units in their HSC year, which begins in Term 4 of Year 11. Other courses are selected from a range of Board Developed Courses, Board Endorsed Courses, VET courses (Vocational Education and Training) or online courses.

Subjects typically offered include:

Agriculture	Legal Studies
Ancient History	Mathematics
Biology	Modern History & Extension History
Business Studies	Music
Chemistry	PDHPE
Community and Family Studies (CAFS)	Physics
Extension English	Primary Industries
Extension Mathematics	Investigating Science
Food Technology	Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation (SLR)
Industrial Technology (Wood)	Visual Arts
Information Processing and Technology (IPT)	Work Studies

Extra-curricular Activities

Students at St Mary's College are encouraged to be involved in a variety of sporting, academic, cultural and community activities.

Representative sport generally follows the School – Diocese – Combined Catholic Colleges pathway. There is further information about sport in this handbook.

Academic enrichment activities include:

- Agricultural Field Days
- Livestock Judging
- Dorothea McKellar Poetry Competition
- Science and Engineering Challenge
- Writing Competitions
- Honeywell Engineering Experience
- The Science Experience
- Science - GRASS - Growing Regional and Agriculture Students in Science
- Visits from educational institutions such as CSIRO and universities
- Peer Support
- Pastoral Camps
- Young Driver's Expo



Zoe McKeon was awarded a UNE GRASS scholarship

Cultural pursuits include:

- Model United Nations Assembly
- Public Speaking and Debating
- Musical Performances/Eisteddfod
- Participation in a variety of bands and choirs
- Chess competitions
- Technology Club
- Chinese Club



Among the community and miscellaneous activities are:

- St Vincent de Paul Conference
- Project Compassion/Catholic Missions
- Voluntary support for Riding for the Disabled (Year 9 students)
- Legacy and ANZAC Day Badge selling
- ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- University Open Days
- TAFE "Try-a-Trade" days
- Year 10 Work Experience
- St Joseph's Parish Liturgical activities
- Warraymalaya Camp



Religious Education

INTRODUCTION

Through the work and dedication of the Religious Education staff at St Mary's College, students are taught within a climate conducive to their intellectual, spiritual and moral development. The Religious Education program is a primary focus of the life at the College.

FORMAL CURRICULUM

Each student at the College participates in formal Religion classes using the **Faithful to God; Faithful to People** program. This curriculum is divided into five strands of content.

- a) Scripture and Jesus
- b) Church and Community
- c) God, Religion and Life
- d) Prayer, Liturgy and the Sacraments
- e) Morality and Justice.



From Year 7 to Year 10, five specific topics within each of these strands are studied. The depth covered in each topic is focused toward the emotional and spiritual development of students in the year group. The Religious Education curriculum is currently in a process of change. In 2017, Year 9 students are trialling new units being developed in the Diocese. Year 8 are engaging in units of work that were trialled in 2016 and which have been refined for study in 2017. New Year 10 units of work are currently being drafted for trialling in 2018.

In Years 11 and 12, students may study Studies of Religion (1 Unit or 2 Units) or Catholic Studies. Both courses examine a range of religious traditions but maintain a strong Catholic focus.

INFORMAL CURRICULUM

Various activities are undertaken within the College, under the auspices of the Religious Education Department, designed to complement the formal curriculum taught to students in the classroom. These activities lead students into a personal experience and practical application of the content taught in the classroom.





Student Prayer

Classes pray together during Mentor Groups to begin each school day. Students are also given regular and varied experiences of both individual and group prayer within their Religious Education classes. Students pray as a school community at assemblies and special celebrations such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Community Rosary and NAIDOC Week.

As well as whole school Masses, year groups participate in the weekly Parish Mass on Tuesdays and the Parish Priest undertakes classroom visits fortnightly. Parents, family and friends are most welcome at these celebrations which are advertised in the St Joseph's Parish Bulletin and the St Mary's College Newsletter.

Retreats and Reflection Days

Retreats and Reflection Days are vital to the life of the Religious Education Program at St Mary's College. These retreats and reflection days are compulsory components of the Religious Education program and enhance the formal curriculum.

The College Charitable Works Program

The Religious Education Department at St Mary's College seeks to develop in students, an awareness of those in need within both our local and wider community. Faithful to this aim, students are encouraged to become involved in some charitable works.



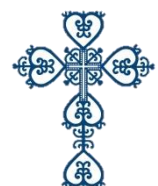
BROAD AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education at St Mary's College seeks to achieve the following aims:

- * To provide opportunities for students to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- * To make students aware of Catholic spiritual heritage in the areas of liturgy, doctrine, scripture and prayer.
- * To help students to live in such a way that their actions give living expression to their faith.
- * To give students experiences in participation in the prayer life of the Church through the celebration of Mass, the Sacraments, and Devotions.

For further information please contact:

Mrs Sandra Garnett
Religious Education Coordinator



English

At St Mary's College, the English Faculty endeavours to provide all students with a learning environment in which they are given the opportunity and encouragement to develop confidence and competence in reading, writing, speaking, viewing and listening. Students are offered a wide range of learning experiences that develop their communication and comprehension skills and prepare them for NAPLAN and the Higher School Certificate examinations.



Gunnedah Eisteddfod Prepared Speech

CURRICULUM

Years 7-10

The content of the courses offered in Years 7-10 incorporates the study of novels, picture books, poetry, drama, film, media, debating and public speaking. The skills of spelling, grammar, vocabulary and written expression are also taught and developed.

A flexible policy is adopted to determine whether the classes in Years 7-10 are streamed or mixed ability. This decision is made each year according to the skills and needs of the cohort.

Years 11-12

In Years 11 and 12, two units of English are mandatory. There are three courses offered.

Standard English is taken by the majority of students who require 2 units of English to fulfil HSC requirements.

The **Advanced English** course is a more academic and challenging course and requires students to undertake the study of more complex texts, including Shakespeare.

English Studies is designed to meet the specific needs of students who are seeking an alternative to the English Standard course and who intend to proceed from school directly into employment or vocational training.

There are two further 1 unit courses that are offered as elective units in English. **Extension 1 English** is available for students to study in both the Preliminary and HSC years. The study of Advanced English is a prerequisite for this subject. It is designed for students who are independent learners and who wish to study a variety of texts at a more intensive level. **Extension 2 English** is also offered for students who wish to compose a Major Work in English during Year 12. Advanced and Extension 1 English are prerequisites for this course.



ACTIVITIES

St Mary's College provides students with the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to enter state-wide competitions such as the annual Dorothea Mackellar Poetry competition and the Sydney Morning Herald writing competition. Each year students in Year 7-10 participate in the Australian English competition. Students also enter the local Eisteddfod in the Public Speaking section. St Mary's supports the local show by entering compositions in the story writing and poetry sections.

Students in Years 11 and 12 are invited each year to participate in the Model United Nations Assembly that is organised by Rotary. Teams are sponsored by the local Rotary clubs. In recent years students have travelled to Woolgoolga, Port Macquarie and Inverell to meet with students from schools all over the North West and the North Coast. The students dress in national costume, represent their nominated country and speak to the conference on a variety of topical issues.

Whenever suitable plays, films or travelling performers visit the area, excursions are organised to cater for curriculum demands and the students' interests and entertainment.

For further information please contact:

Mr Adam Thompson
English Coordinator

Mathematics

INTRODUCTION

To function effectively in today's world, all students need a solid grounding in Mathematics. In the Mathematics Faculty students experience, not only the practical uses of Mathematics but they also participate in more formal aspects that lay the foundation for later mathematics and related study.

On a practical level, the students learn the Mathematics which equips them for general employment and functioning in society. At the same time, they also engage in Mathematics that involves posing and solving problems together with an appreciation of its contribution to culture. This is in line with the two main aims of the Australian Curriculum for the teaching and learning of Mathematics:

1. The educating of students to be active, thinking citizens, interpreting the world mathematically, and using Mathematics to help form their predictions and decisions about personal financial priorities;
2. Encouraging students to learn that Mathematics has its own value and beauty and to gain an appreciation of the elegance and power of mathematical thinking and experience the joy of Mathematics.

At St Mary's College the courses of study in Mathematics endeavour to meet the needs of students of all levels of mathematical ability.

CURRICULUM

Years 7 and 8: Students follow a common course in keeping with the requirements of the NESA.

Year 9 and 10: Students attempt one of three Board courses:

- Mathematics 5.1
- Mathematics 5.2
- Mathematics 5.3

Year 11 (Preliminary): Students attempt one of three Board Courses:

- Mathematics Standard
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Extension 1

Year 12 (HSC): Students are offered a choice of four Board Developed Courses and one Content Endorsed Course (CEC) for study in their HSC Year.

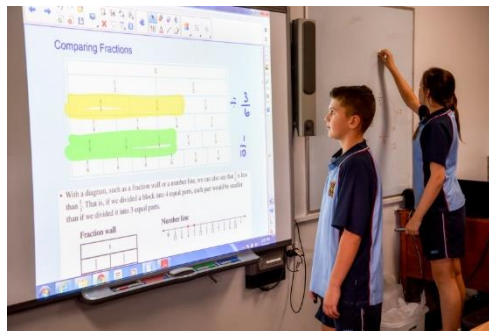
- Mathematics General 1 (CEC)
- Mathematics General 2
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Extension 1
- Mathematics Extension 2

TECHNOLOGY

At St Mary's College we use technology to enhance the teaching and learning of Mathematics. Besides using Board endorsed calculators such as the Casio fx-82 AU and the Casio fx-100AU where required, all Mathematics classes are taught using interactive whiteboards. At the same time, students are encouraged and supported to revise what they learn in the classroom through online programs like *mathsonline*. Google Classroom is another valuable online program used by teachers to provide homework, assignments and resources to students as well as providing parents with an opportunity to monitor their child's work.

For further information please contact:

Mr Michael Masige
Mathematics Coordinator



Science

INTRODUCTION

Science education is one of the cornerstones of high school education. At St Mary's College we endeavour to actively engage our students in their learning. Students are offered a wide range of extra-curricular activities to complement their formal learning.

FACILITIES

St Mary's has four well equipped Science laboratories. The three "wet labs" were designed to maximise student learning and safety. In each of these labs the central classroom is surrounded by practical benches with plenty of room to leave experiments set up. The fourth laboratory is a specialist Physics facility. Computer technology is integrated into lessons with the use of Smartboards in each laboratory, data loggers, laptop computers, iPads and a permanent computer lab.

Agriculture is part of the Science Department. A small agricultural plot is located within the school grounds. This area has a glasshouse, shadehouse, raised garden beds, aquaponics units, poultry, poddy livestock, wormfarm and composting bays. A larger agricultural plot containing cattle yards and cattle feeding facilities is located within a 5 minute walk from the school.

CURRICULUM

Years 7-10

The Stage 4 and 5 courses in Science emphasises outcomes for students that are both knowledge and skills based. The programs are dynamic and theme based reflecting the new Australian Curriculum. Each term of each year level addresses a different strand of Science. A wide range of texts, practical activities and web-based learning ensures our students are well prepared for assessments. Classes use resources such as Google classroom to facilitate learning.

iSTEM (Years 9/10 elective)

This elective course utilises a practical integrated approach with engineering and technology being used to drive interest in science and mathematics, through the development of a variety of skills.

Years 11-12

Students in the senior years have the opportunity to select specialist subjects with a view to higher education, or to participate in courses which give a broad range of experiences and give a background of scientific knowledge.

HSC Science subjects offered at St Mary's College include:

Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Investigating Science and VET Primary Industries.

Agriculture

Students at St Mary's College have a strong tradition in the Agricultural subjects. Students in Years 7 and 8 gain a "taste of Agriculture" through the Design and Technology program. Students in Years 9 and 10 are offered Agriculture in the electives. Four different 100 hour courses are made available to the students. This allows students to specialise early in this subject.

At HSC level a student can study both Agriculture and Primary Industries at St Mary's College. Agriculture has a Science base allowing students to readily move into tertiary studies in Agriculture. Primary Industries is a school based vocational course that allows students to gain skills and qualifications that assist them in employment.

The Agriculture program gives students the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of areas including aquaponics, horticulture and poultry. Over the years the students have also had a great deal of success in showing and judging cattle. Cattle prepared by St Mary's students have been successful at many judging events. In 2017 College steers won Champion Trade Steer and Reserve Champion Trade Carcase at the Sydney Royal

Students also have the opportunity to extend their Agriculture by participating in a range of camps made available through Rotary and the University of New England.



For further information please contact:

***Mr Greg Boyce
Science Coordinator***

Human Society and its Environment

Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) is the study of the world around us. It asks questions about the past and how it impacts us today, how we interact with our environment and how we as individuals can make a difference in the world in which we live. The aim of HSIE is to develop in students the values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and understanding that:

- enhances their sense of personal, communal, national and global identity
- enable them to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment

Year 7 – 10 History and Geography

2018 will be an exciting time in HSIE as Year 7 - 10 will be studying all new topics as part of the new Australian Curriculum.



Students cover a wide range of topics including:

In History - Ancient China & Rome, American 'Wild West', Frontier Wars in Australia, the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade, Australian convicts, World Wars One & Two, US Civil Rights, NSW Freedom Rides, Vietnam, Gulf Wars and Afghanistan

In Geography - Changing Landscapes, Hazards and Disasters, Liveability of Spaces, Water Scarcity and Management, Technology and Connections, Food Production, International Migration, Human Well Being and Development.

Year 9 – 10 Electives

Commerce

Every day we face many financial, legal and consumer choices. Commerce helps students make informed and responsible decisions especially in the current climate of targeted marketing, social media, methods of payment and as consumers.



Elective History

Elective History selects some of the most interesting sections of the past and allows students to examine them in detail. Students look at images and songs that have changed the world and cover topics such as the Titanic, Gladiators, Tudors and Terrorism.

Years 11 and 12

Our most recent HSC results in HSIE were very pleasing with a majority of students achieving a Band 5 or higher.

In Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12), HSIE provides 4 subjects that build on the knowledge and skills the students have developed in the junior years. The subjects offered provide students with a range of interest areas and courses which complement students' future employment ambitions.

Ancient History

Students investigate fascinating and complex ancient civilisations, such as Rome, Egypt and Minoan Crete. The course begins with a study of the work and techniques of archaeologists and students conduct a simulated dig.

Modern History

Students delve into topics that study some of the big historical questions around the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, China's relationship with Tibet, South Africa during apartheid, American Civil War, World War One and the conflict in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s (Hitler, Holocaust, Blitz, North Africa and Russia).

Legal Studies

The syllabus focuses on the way in which law is generated, how it is structured and how it operates in Australian and international contexts. Learning about our legal system will allow students to investigate the way our society operates and the influences that shape it.

Business Studies

This course explores the theoretical and practical aspects of the world of business. Topics range from planning a small business to marketing, finance and employment relations.

For further information please contact:

Mrs Heidi Baker
HSIE Coordinator

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

INTRODUCTION

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education is one of the Key Learning Areas in the NSW Secondary Curriculum. It has been designed to provide educational opportunities that prepare all students for effective and responsible participation in their society, taking account of moral, ethical and spiritual considerations. It is hoped that students will develop the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes which are essential for all students to succeed in and beyond their schooling.

FACILITIES

St Mary's provides a range of sporting and recreational facilities and equipment. There are two tennis courts which are used for a wide range of sporting and physical activities. The College also makes good use of various Council facilities such as Kitchener Park and the town pool.



COURSES

PDHPE (Years 7-10)

These are mandatory courses. The course follows a syllabus that covers four content strands designed to provide students with specific skills and knowledge in order to develop positive attitudes, values and morals in health, physical activity and lifestyle related issues. The four main focus areas in the strands are based on communicating, interacting, planning, moving, decision making and problem solving.

Child Studies (Years 9/10 elective)

This elective course is offered to provide students interested in working with children in the future, a grounding in the types of skills and attributes required in this area.

Physical Activity and Sports Skills (Years 9/10 elective)

PASS is an elective course offered to provide students with the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and skills which relate to sport, fitness and health.

PDHPE (Years 11-12)

The 2 Unit Course is offered in Years 11 and 12. Study in these courses examines individual and community health, fitness issues and scientific principles that relate to movement, sport and exercise. In addition to this, students study options in improving performance, sports medicine, first aid and outdoor recreation. Students are given the opportunity to gain a Senior First Aid Certificate.

Sport Lifestyle and Recreation (Year 11-12)

SLR is a 1 Unit course is offered in Years 11 and 12 and areas of study include aquatics, games and sport, sports administration and social perspectives of games and sport.

Community and Family Studies (Years 11-12)

CAFS is a 2 Unit course is offered in Years 11 and 12. Study in these courses examines the functioning of contemporary society by exploring components including family studies, sociology and developmental psychology.



For further information please contact:

***Mr Robert Carlyon
PDHPE Coordinator***

Technological & Applied Studies and Creative Arts Faculty

TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES

Technological and Applied Studies subjects contribute to the development of students' technological skills by giving them practical experiences in designing, planning and making.

FACILITIES

St Mary's College provides up-to-date specialist facilities including an Industrial Arts workshop equipped with specialist machinery and equipment, a fully networked computer laboratory, a Textile and Design workshop and a refurbished Food Technology Laboratory.



CURRICULUM – Mandatory Course

Technology is a mandatory course for Year 7 and Year 8 students. The course gives students experience in planning, costing, constructing, making and evaluating design projects. Subjects offered are Wood Technology, Textile Technology, Food Technology, Information & Communications Technology and Media Technologies. From these experiences in Years 7 & 8 students can decide on the specialist elective courses they wish to pursue in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Subjects offered as elective choices in Years 9, 10 11 & 12

- Food Technology
- Textiles Technology and Textiles & Design
- Industrial Technology – Wood & Ceramics
- Industrial Technology – Timber Products and Furniture Technologies



CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts Education encourages awareness, imagination, enthusiasm and communicative skills. It aims to develop, encourage and enhance creative qualities in the individual. Creative Arts provide students with the opportunity to develop ideas, feelings and responses to their personal and global environment.



FACILITIES

St Mary's College provides up-to-date specialist facilities and equipment for Creative Arts students. The Visual Arts workshop, Photography darkroom, Music Conservatorium and Music practice rooms are fully equipped specialist facilities with current and traditional technologies.

CURRICULUM – Mandatory courses

Visual Arts and Music are mandatory courses in Years 7 and 8. The courses will give students various experiences in the visual and performing arts.

Music

Music is offered as an elective course to students in Years 9 and 10 and as a 2 Unit HSC course in Years 11 and 12.

Music is presented in four strands as per the syllabus- Performance, Musicology, Composition, Aural.

Students are encouraged to perform to different audiences, ranging from College peers to the wider community including the Gunnedah Eisteddfod and the Gunnedah Schools Spectacular.

The faculty also facilitates numerous extra-curricular musical activities to cater for students' talents and interests.

These have included: Rock Bands, Vocal Ensembles, School performances, School based concerts.



Visual Arts

Visual Arts is an elective course offered to students in Years 9 and 10, and a 2 Unit HSC course in Years 11 and 12. Students cover two areas of Arts Practice:

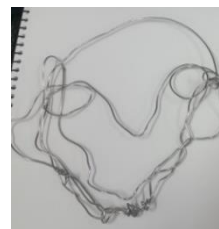
Art History/ Criticism

Art Making

Students have the opportunity to experiment in and explore the following areas: Drawing, Textiles, Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, Computer Graphics, Photography and Printmaking.

For further information please contact:

Miss Angelique Langton
TASCA Coordinator



Languages

Huānyíng! Welcome!

At St Mary's College students study Mandarin for 100 hours in Year 8. During this time students come to understand the cultural background of languages and employ practical skills in the use of language through experience in reading, writing and oral/aural communication.

The classroom is an interactive environment where students experience speaking aloud in Mandarin. The program is enhanced through access to various language and cultural activities. The main aim of this course is to enjoy studying another language and become more confident in using it in the classroom. We have a growing number of students who go on to study a second language as an elective in their senior years.

The students have the opportunity to experience Chinese cuisine. They explore the intricate nature of Chinese society and its culture. This knowledge is both relevant and important in developing an understanding and appreciation of our Asian neighbours.

An elective course in Chinese Languages has been introduced for Years 9 and 10.



For further information please contact:

Mr Scott Harris
Teacher of Languages



Sports Department

Sport enjoys a high profile at St Mary's College and we have a proud tradition of sporting achievements. In past years we have experienced success at state and national level following the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges pathway. As a school we participate in Diocesan sport organised by the Armidale Diocesan Sports Council which can lead to state and national representation.

Sports on offer at St Mary's include athletics, basketball, cricket, cross country, golf, netball, rugby league, rugby union, swimming, tennis, touch and triathlon. There are also opportunities for students to be involved in other individual sports.

Students are also encouraged to pursue sporting and leisure interests outside of school hours to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

For further information please contact:

Mr Tim Kennedy
Teacher in-charge of Sport



