



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

A YEAR 7-12 CO-EDUCATIONAL
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Prospectus

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The FCJ College Community is a welcoming and vibrant Catholic learning community, steeped in a rich history of serving the Benalla and surrounding region for over 123 years. We are a College that continually strives for the best student outcomes possible, by constantly reviewing our curriculum and practices along with our strong Pastoral Care program.

FCJ College offers a comprehensive school experience to young people informed by the scriptures, modelled on Christ's love and intent on working in partnership with families. Our aim is to see our students recognise that they have a part to play in the world as persons of competence, conscience and compassion formed in the Christian tradition. We do this by placing our trust in Jesus, our confidence in positive relationships between students and staff, a reliance on a rigorous expectation of personal excellence and a belief that we can all exceed our potential through diligence and courage.

An education procured at FCJ College invites our young people to consider others and not just themselves as they strive to understand their responsibility to make the most of their gifts as part of a vibrant learning community.

Staying well-informed of the latest Educational research and practice, we are a learning community that is keenly aware of the 21st century workplace skills our young people require to succeed in their post school pathways, be it tertiary studies or employment.

Our goal is to create graduates that are resilient, highly skilled, creative and critical thinkers who see the need to make a positive difference in the world. I am sure you will agree after browsing our prospectus that our students are offered rich, diverse and appealing learning experiences, where the focus is on engaging and empowering our young people through the learning process, so that they clearly see the learning intentions and are able to articulate what they have learnt and need to know more about.

Shawn Mazon

FCJ College Principal



BELIEF STATEMENT & GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Commitment to Child Safety

All students enrolled, and any child visiting FCJ College have the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children can feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Identity Statement

FCJ College is a Catholic Educational Community of Companions living in faith, nurturing with hope, serving with compassion and fostering the unique giftedness of each person, so that they are able to live For God Always.

Commitment to Democratic Principles

FCJ College supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- Elected government
- The rule of law

Equal rights for all before the law

- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech and association

The values of openness and tolerance



Belief Statements

At FCJ College, we believe that:

Our welcoming community finds its inspiration in companionship with Jesus.

Each member of our community is called to witness the Gospel values of compassion, courage, integrity and hope.

Education is a partnership between the school, teachers, students and families, which involves a curriculum that offers students an authentic avenue to prepare themselves for the challenges of life ahead.

We nurture, engage and encourage all students, in a safe, respectful and positive environment, to develop their gifts and become the best persons they can be.

All members of our community are equally valued for their unique contribution.

Graduate Outcomes

At FCJ College, we commit to educating students to be:

People of faith, courage and integrity who live the values of compassion, honesty and justice.

Confident young adults whose inner strength and positive self-belief make them resilient in a challenging world.

People who have an appreciation and respect for everyone.

Members of society who have a capacity to be engaged in the community and who demonstrate social and environmental responsibility.

Adults growing in faith and an awareness of God's love as life-long learners and critical thinkers.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

FCJ College is a Year 7–12 coeducational Catholic College in Benalla. It was established in 1900 by the French order of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ Society). Marie Madeleine d'Houët, the foundress of the Society, established schools to provide 'a solidly Christian education' for young people from all classes of society (Memoirs).

Today, over 420 students are challenged to achieve their full potential and experience a very positive learning environment. There are many opportunities available at FCJ College – academic achievement is promoted and participation in extra-curricular activities is strongly encouraged. Pathways are available in combinations to provide the opportunity for each individual student to achieve to their utmost ability.

When FCJ College Benalla, known then as the Convent of Our Lady of the Angels, commenced in 1900, it was in response to an invitation from the Parish Priest, Dean Davy. The Society of Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ Society) accepted the invitation to be pioneers in providing Catholic education in Benalla. Consequently, on 14 August 1900, Mother Xavier Macdonald, the Provincial and six sisters arrived in Benalla. Three sisters took charge of the parish school, St Joseph's, on 16 August. There were 120 boys and girls. The Convent School which was to cater for both primary and secondary students, opened on 20 August with 16 girls. In time, this grew in number as the College enrolled both day and boarding students, to assist Catholic families in providing a Catholic education in the North-East region of Victoria. The College was made a coeducational College and renamed FCJ College Benalla in 1960. The boarding school closed in 1981.

The College motto, Pro Deo Semper (for God Always), together with the school crest, model for students the necessity to put God first in their lives at all times.



The culture of a faith-based community of an FCJ college seeks to be characterised specifically by these four Characteristics:



WELLBEING

At FCJ College we believe students learn best in an environment that is supportive and encouraging. Students thrive when made welcome, allowing them to develop a sense of belonging within our school community in which they feel valued and respected.

Our dedicated Wellbeing team consists of the Director of Wellbeing - Renae Hughes, Youth Worker - Adam Toms, Wellbeing Officer - Catherine Burton and our Psychologist Sarah Lyons. Together, along with our Learning Leaders, they work closely with our students, families and teachers for the best possible outcomes.

We have a number of wellbeing initiatives such as Skodel and Positive Education.

Skodel is an interactive and engaging online program we have implemented in recent years to encourage students to have a voice in their own wellbeing. Students are invited to respond to a Skodel prompt each week. In this way they are building an understanding of their own wellbeing. Skodel also serves as a mechanism for Pastoral, Learning Leaders and the wellbeing team to track the wellbeing of students.

Positive Education is built into our curriculum that draws on positive psychology's emphasis of individual strengths and personal motivation to promote learning.








School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

The foundress of the FCJ Society Marie Madeleine d'Houet once said "Good example does much good." Staff at FCJ College work hard on educating and witnessing this good example.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support provides a foundation of thinking to guide our school's work for defining, teaching, acknowledging appropriate behaviour, and correcting inappropriate behaviour. School behaviour expectations are explicitly taught – if a child or young person does not know how to behave, we teach the expected behaviour.

SWPBS is for the whole school, it is preventative, and switches focus from negative behaviours and exchanges to positive expectations and interactions – leading to the promotion of academic, social and emotional competency. Introducing, modelling and reinforcing positive social behaviour at FCJ College is an important step in a child's educational experience. Explicitly teaching our behavioural expectations and acknowledging students for demonstrating them is key to success.

Below is the FCJ College SWPBS Matrix. This document indicates the behavioural expectations we expect and teach in each area of our school, based on the FCJ Characteristics of Companionship, Justice, Gentleness, Courage & Confidence.

					
Inspired by	Learning Areas	Yard & Canteen	Online	Community	Everywhere
 Companionship	Acknowledge others Achieve more together Listen actively	Look out for others Be friendly	Be kind to others Foster positive online relationships	Be aware of your impact on others. Be Supportive Show empathy	Be inclusive
 Justice	Respect everyone's role <u>Respect space, resources & routines</u> Challenge injustice	<u>Leave no trace</u> <u>Care for our environment</u>	Report unsafe activity Use technology responsibly Respect privacy	<u>Stand up for what is right.</u> <u>Be agents of positive change</u>	<u>Treat others the way you want to be treated.</u>
 Gentleness	<u>Keep calm</u> Listen as an opportunity to change one's mind Respect learning spaces	Take time to rest/relax Use manners Be kind	Be respectful of others P.A.U.S.E before you post (Positive, Accurate, Useful, Supportive, Ethical).	Be polite and use manners Be respectful of surroundings <u>Be grateful</u>	Act with kindness
 Courage & Confidence	Do your best Be organised Adopt a growth mindset	Be sun smart Look out for others Report unsafe behaviour	Manage your screen time. Report unkind or bullying behaviour Act with integrity	Show pride in your school Respect others Wear correct uniform	Embrace opportunity

LEARNING & TEACHING

An education at FCJ College invites our young people to consider others and not just themselves as they strive to understand their responsibility to make the most of their gifts as part of a learning community.

We aim to provide an environment where students are challenged and the learning is enjoyable. There are many opportunities available at FCJ College – academic achievement is promoted and participation in extra-curricular activities is encouraged. Pathways are available in combinations to provide the opportunity for each individual child to reach their full potential.

Year 7 and 8:

The focus is to expose Year 7 & 8 students to all Learning Domains, whilst ensuring their Literacy and Numeracy skills continue to develop to the appropriate level.

Year 9:

The focus of the Year 9 program is an Inquiry Learning Model designed around Project Based Learning and increasing student engagement. A stand alone program for Year 9 students enables greater flexibility around projects and delivery of curriculum. The Year 9 students use the Flexible Learning Space in the Victoire Building.

Year 10:

Students study English , Mathematics, Science, Humanities, RE, Positive Education, Health & PE plus a range of core electives in the Technology and Arts domains in preparation for senior school pathways.



Year 11 & 12:

Students are offered a wide range of subjects and can tailor a program to match student interests and career aspirations. This can be by completing the VCE or VCE Vocational Major program which can also incorporate VET studies and School Based Apprenticeships.

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

The VCE is a qualification designed for students in Years 11 and 12 that is recognized around the world. It is a valuable pathway to university study, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and the world of work. It is also possible to do a vocational certificate (VCE VET) or a school-based apprenticeship (SBA) or traineeship within the VCE.

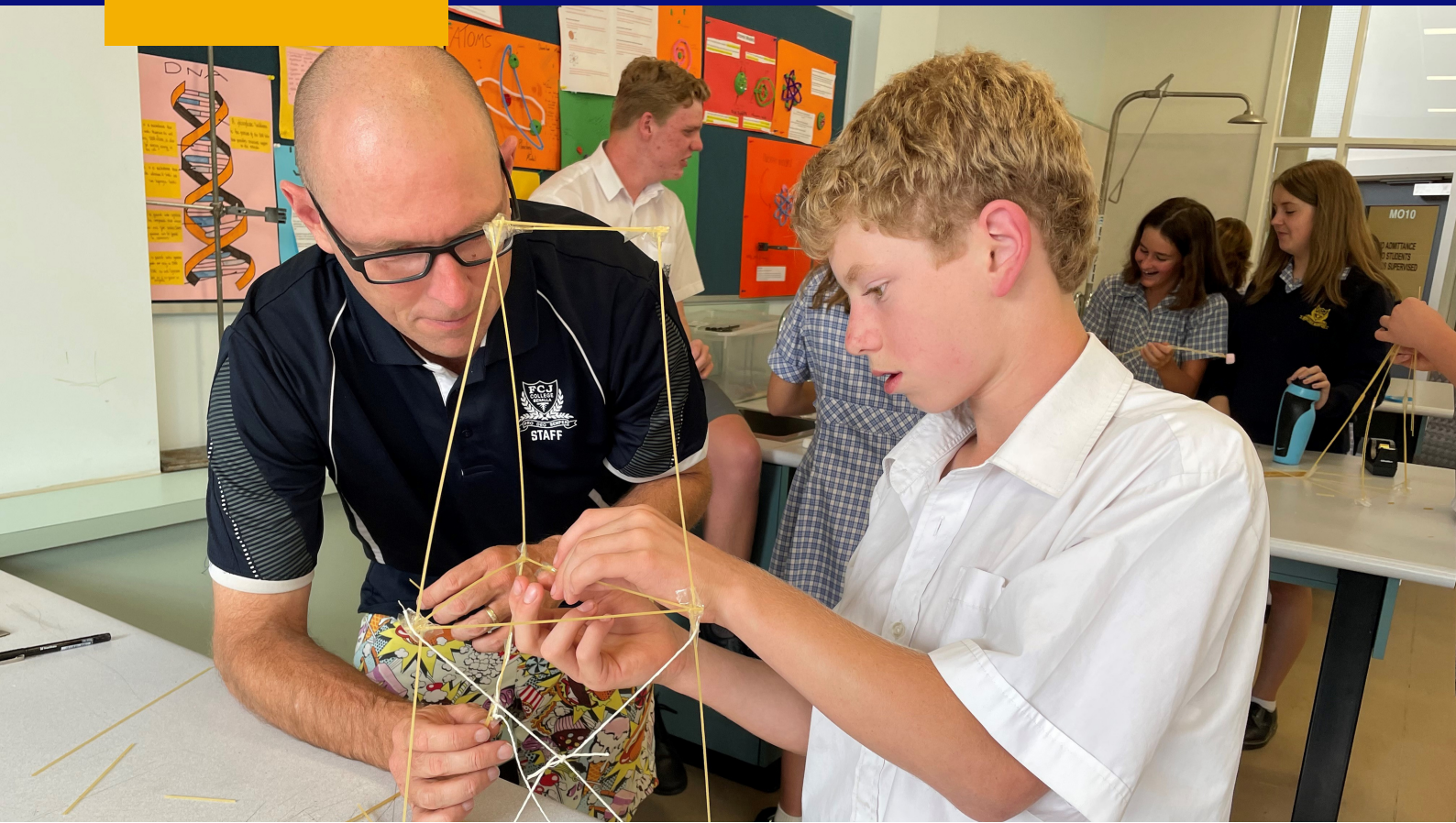
The VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) is a vocational and applied learning program within the VCE designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. The VCE VM will give students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

It prepares students to move into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university (via non-ATAR pathways) or directly into the workforce.



LEARNING DIVERSITY



At FCJ College Benalla we believe in the importance of the individual and the uniqueness of each student. We are committed to providing a range of experiences that respond to the needs and abilities of all individuals. Our aim is that all students achieve growth in their learning.

Within our curriculum students have the opportunity to focus both the core curriculum and areas of interests. Students are encouraged to explore and prepare for future endeavours both through their studies and extracurricular activities. Opportunities exist for students to extend themselves through such programs as fast tracking (studying VCE units 1&2 in Year 10), school based apprenticeships, history club, ICAS Mathematics competition, Japanese speech contest, school production and sporting events.

Students with extra learning needs are identified both through our induction process and through monitoring school data and parent and teacher feedback. Once identified, our NCCD team consisting of the Director or Learner Diversity and the Learning Leaders, with support from our Learning Support Officers create personal learning plans for student's which detail adjustments to be made for the student. These plans are evaluated at least twice a year in consultation with teachers, parents, and the student.

FACILITIES

FCJ College students can realise their potential in the broadest of settings, whether it is in the classroom, on stage, the sports field, in the many outdoor education programs or within our College.

- Trade Training Centre
(This facilitates hands on learning subjects such as Engineering and Metal Work.)
- Flexible Learning Space
(A versatile flexible learning space which can be opened up to one space or 3-6 individual learning spaces. Primarily used for our Year 9 Project Based Learning.)
- Marie Madeleine Centre
(A Multipurpose Hall designed for PE and sports as well as Performing Arts, Drama, School Assemblies, Liturgies and school functions.)



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FCJ College recognises extra curricular activities are an important element of our students' wellbeing. Our focus is on students striving to perform to the best of their ability, whatever that may be. We promote this through the running and participation in a wide range of sports, performing arts, chess club, tournament of minds and community related activities catering for a variety of abilities.

The College offers involvement in sport at an intra-school, inter-school, regional and state level in a number of sports. FCJ College is a member of School Sports Victoria which provides a wide range of opportunities to compete.

Performing Arts evenings, School Production, lunchtime concerts, masses and community events also provide opportunities for students to display their talents.

Students can also participate in rock bands and contemporary ensembles and community projects such as 'Let's Find Our Voice'.

Private tuition is also available during school time for various musical instruments.



Extra Curricular Activities include:

- Athletics Carnival
- Swimming Carnival
- School Sport Victoria
- Netball
- Football
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Chess Club
- School Production
- Performing Arts Evenings
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Let's Find Our Voice
- Tennis
- Debating
- Maths Competitions
- Science Competitions
- School Masses
- Cricket
- Fundraising activities
- Lunchtime Open Mic Sessions



CAMPS & EXCURSIONS

FCJ College is committed to the development of the whole person: the intellectual, emotional, physical, moral, spiritual and social growth of each student. To support this development we offer students opportunities to participate in a range of co-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to participate in activities designed to cater for diverse interests and abilities. The programs offered provide opportunities for student leadership, decision-making and problem solving.

Students are offered a chance to enjoy a learning experience outside the classroom. Many camps/excursions are offered at different year levels, each with a specific educational or social purpose.

FCJ College offers various cultural immersion trips such as:

- Central Australia Trip
- Japan Trip - Sacred Heart College Tokyo
- Philippines Immersion
- Sacred Heart College Tokyo visit to FCJ College



FINANCE

If you accept a place with us, we are beginning a partnership to last the next six years and possibly beyond.

The inability to pay school fees in full should never be a reason for the non-attendance of a student who otherwise meets the criteria for enrolment at FCJ College. We understand for some families the payment of fees can be of concern, so, from the outset, we encourage you to communicate. Our aim is for each family to feel comfortable talking to us regarding any finance related matter.

Your key contact is our Finance Officer, Minnie Askew, who can be contacted via email: maskew@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

FCJ College Composite Fee 2023

(The Composite Fee for 2024 will be confirmed in Term 4, 2023)

Year 7 - \$3990

Year 9 - \$4895

Year 11 - \$4985

Year 8 - \$4895

Year 10 - \$4895

Year 12 \$4985

Our fees cover all compulsory costs for the year including:

- Levies (except for Outdoor Education electives)
- Camps
- A portable device; and
- Student accident insurance covering all school activities.

Please note that refunds do not apply to the non-attendance of compulsory activities.

Excluded from fees are optional activities such as immersion trips. In the interests of equity to all families:

- it is a requirement that tuition fees, or any formalised arrangement with tuition fees, are up to date before a student is provided with the opportunity to participate in a voluntary activity involving cost; or
- where fee assistance has been granted, the student(s) of that family will be ineligible to participate in voluntary activities involving cost.

Fees are charged annually and are sent to families prior to the end of Term 4, or upon enrolment for mid-year intakes. Statements are then sent quarterly.

School fee payments can be made by direct debit, Bpay or credit card deduction.

Any other payment arrangement needs to be approved by the Business Manager and will only apply to special circumstances. The payment period is from February to November, but ongoing payments (over a full calendar year) can be set up where requested.

If you anticipate having difficulty paying your fees, please contact Minnie immediately.

Our experience shows that by dealing with these concerns early, families experiencing financial hardship gain clarity around fees and fee payments and have their concerns put at ease.

All discussions are strictly private and confidential and remain with the Finance Team and Principal.

How to enrol at FCJ College:

**Use the QR Code below to access the
FCJ College Online Enrolment Form**



If you have any queries regarding the
FCJ College Enrolment Process, please contact:

Kristy Hanrahan | Enrolment Registrar

e: kristy.hanrahan@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

w: www.fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

t: +61 3 5762 1222



Shaun Mason | Principal

e: principal@fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

w: www.fcjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

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*Embracing hope for a better world FCJ College Benalla promotes the
safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people*