



st Columba's
College

FAITHFUL
CONTEMPORARY
INNOVATIVE
SINCE 1897

YEAR 7 2025

TRANSITION INFORMATION EVENING

Monday August 5



Remember, every beginning has its ending, and every ending has a new beginning. Keep faith in God and you will succeed.

WELCOME





We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our families and staff live, and on which our students are educated. We acknowledge the way in which their cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land, since men and women awoke from the great dream.

We honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation.



We Pray Together

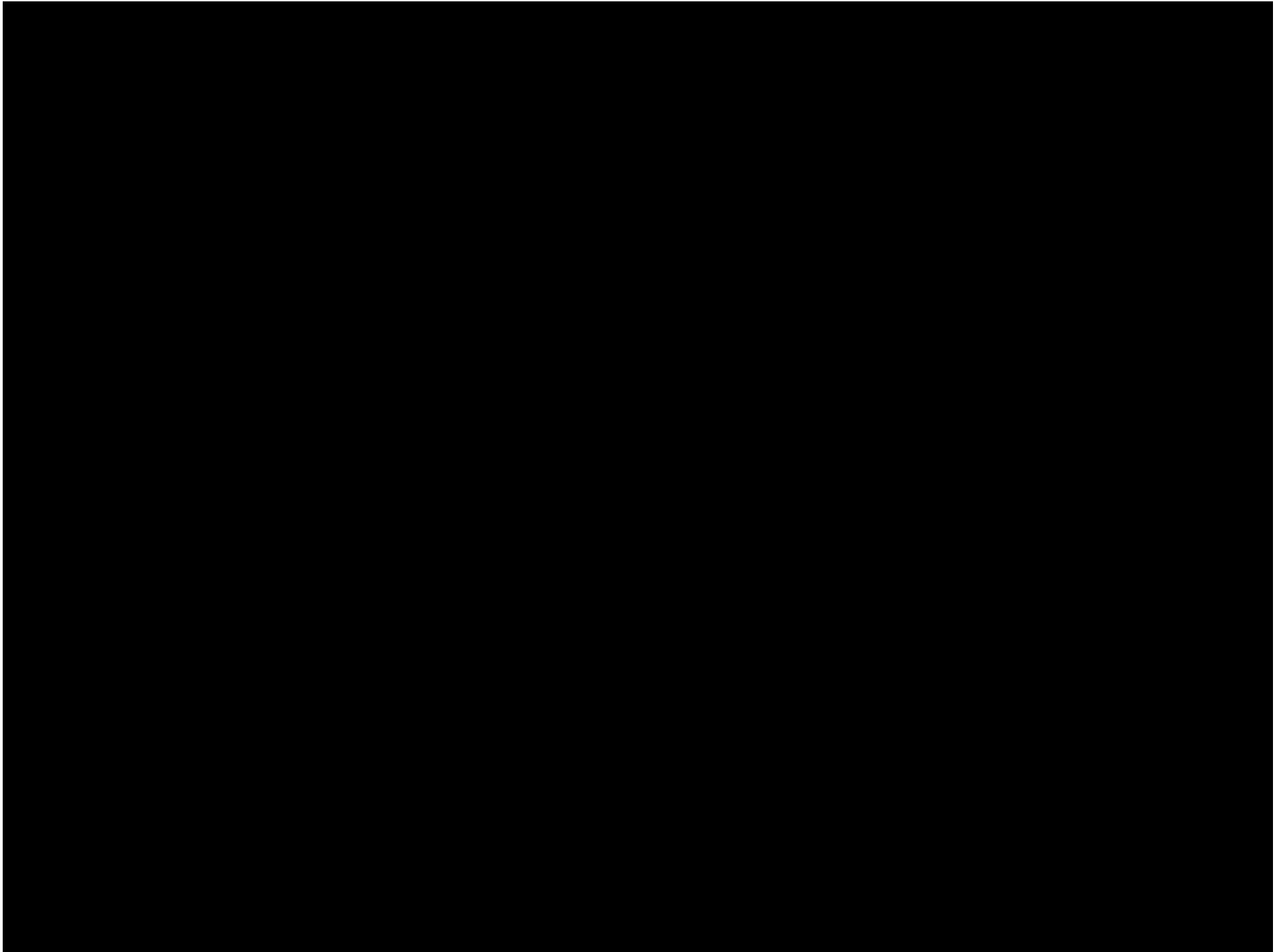
God of Love,
You are with us in every transition and change.
As we enter into this new era with excitement
and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion,
presence, and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills
with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences
that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others
that gives breadth and depth to our own life and work.
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you
and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen



LIFE AS A YEAR 7 STUDENT



LANGUAGE EXPOSURE

ITALIAN

FRENCH

JAPANESE

We now invite students to
make their way to Gayip Biik



PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ms Maria Vella &
Ms Anna Ciavarella



PEC Meetings

- Approximately once per month on Tuesdays
- Face to face or online or blended
- Every parent/carer of an enrolled student is automatically a member of PEC
- If you are interested in attending a meeting:
 - Use the Google Meet provided in IONA (College Newsletter) or
 - Contact the PEC via parents@columba.vic.edu.au



PEC Events

- Yr 7 Meet & Greet (Nov '24)

In 2025

- Yr 7 Cocktail Evening (Term 1)
- Provide BBQ at the Father/Male Mentor & Daughter Night
- Mother/Female Mentor & Daughter Movie Night
- Trivia Night



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Ms Rita Grima



- Family connections
- Strong track record as a pastoral community
- Quality relationships
- Innovative, relevant and engaging curriculum
- Academic results
- Diverse co-curricular program
- Facilities and resources
- Commitment to and advocacy for girls' education and the full flourishing and engagement of women in society

What we've heard from you about St Columba's College as the school of choice for your daughter



“Girls’ schools do more than just teach the curriculum and offer a range of sporting and co-curricular opportunities – all schools do that. What girls’ schools do is purposefully develop girls to understand their gender identity and to shape their self-concept, self-efficacy, and self-confidence so girls develop the knowledge and skills required to reject and overcome the gender stereotypes that attempt to define them”. Dr Nicole Archard



- Family connections
- Strong track record as a pastoral community
- Quality relationships
- Innovative, relevant and engaging curriculum
- Academic results
- Diverse co-curricular program
- Facilities and resources
- Commitment to and advocacy for girls' education and the full flourishing and engagement of women in society
- Catholic identity and tradition as a Mary Aikenhead Ministries College in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity

What we've heard from you about St Columba's College as the school of choice for your daughter





LANCE JILBERT

HEAD OF FAITH AND MISSION

'How do we live the Gospel and serve the poor?'

Venerable Mary Aikenhead (1797 – 1858)

Sisters of Charity (1815)

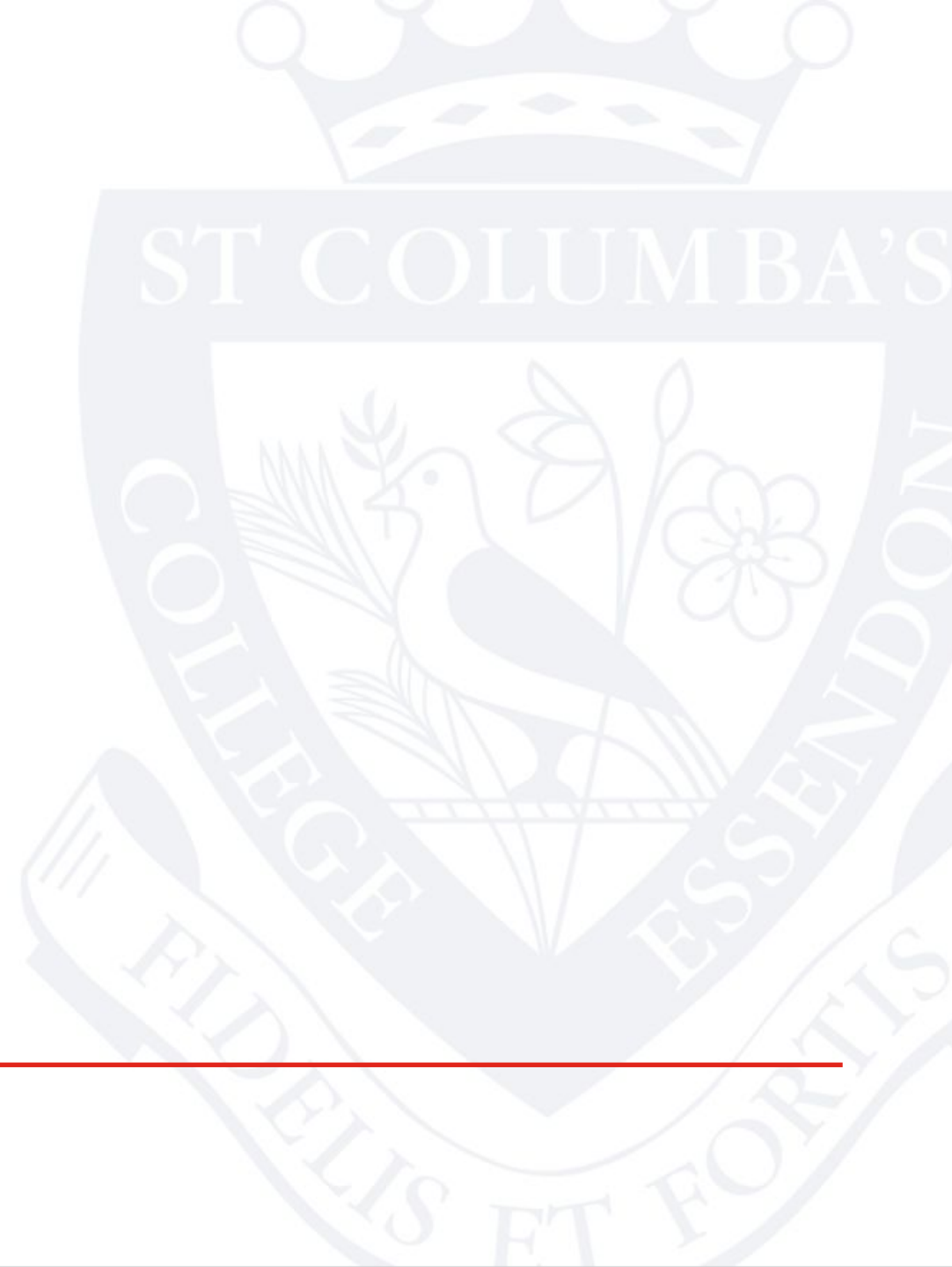
First Sisters in Australia (1838)

St Columba's College (1897)



Holistic Formation at St. Columba's

- Our aim is holistic formation of our community.
- Beyond imparting knowledge are our values of Love, Justice, Truth, Hope, and Compassion.
- Encouraging regular prayer, reflection, and a personal relationship with God.



We dare to be God's love

- voices speaking for the silenced;
- voices comforting and reassuring the poor;
- voices advocating for change;
- voices questioning and searching for new and better ways to be, and to do God's work;
- voices imagining and dreaming;
- voices of women – heard in strength, in certainty, in faithfulness, and in service.



LEARNING AND TEACHING

MS GRETA BAJADA

HEAD OF LEARNING AND TEACHING





Our Vision for Learning, Teaching and Wellbeing

We are all learners. Wellbeing positions us for learning and optimises our opportunities for success. Learning is transformational, encouraging each individual to be fearless and courageous, drawing on provocations to seek ways to contribute to a hope-filled world. We are excited about creating new ways of seeing, being and doing. Passionate teachers and engaged students actively collaborate in the learning environment.



Every member of our community is encouraged to be fearless and courageous. We believe learning is transformational and optimises our opportunities for lifelong success. We drive growth and achievement through creating an environment of high expectations, supported by affective language and evidence-informed goal setting. Our community creates new ways of seeing, being and doing in our learning which is achieved through reflective practice.



Every member of our community is known and valued, actively engaged in building an inclusive learning culture. We create a safe and supportive environment that enables all to grow and flourish. We believe that every person has the responsibility to grow in relation to self, others, our faith and our environment. We build collaborative and authentic learning partnerships with families and the community.



Every member of our community is called to live the Gospel by seeing the inherent dignity within everyone. We nurture positive relationships and advocate for love, hope, justice and compassion, as we work towards the building of God's kingdom. Our formal curriculum, pedagogy and student learning is always illuminated by the light of our Faith. We connect with each other through professional dialogue to uncover and value the narrative of each learner.



In valuing learning, we:

- Nurture authentic and respectful relationships;
- Establish an inclusive learning culture;
- Set high expectations for all learning;
- Promote ownership of learning through goal setting and reflective practice;
- Teach resilience, critical thinking and self-determination;
- Encourage creativity and independence in all learners;
- Foster collaboration in all aspects of teaching and learning.









Curriculum at St Columba's College

The Years 7–10 Curriculum has been structured around Victorian Curriculum F-10.

Victorian Curriculum F-10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling.

The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for lifelong learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.



		As a teacher I will...	As a student I will...	Link to HITS
	ACTIVATE	<p>set purposeful Learning Intentions and Success Criteria.</p> <p>assess prior knowledge and know the learning needs of all students.</p> <p>use a short activity to engage and prepare students for the lesson.</p>	<p>know the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria of the lesson.</p> <p>set high expectations for my learning in each lesson.</p> <p>prepare myself to be ready to learn.</p>	<p>#1 Setting Goals</p> <p>#2 Structuring Lessons</p> <p>#10 Differentiated Teaching</p>
	EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION	<p>explicitly introduce and explore new content.</p> <p>model application of knowledge and skills and scaffold student learning.</p>	<p>actively listen to my teacher and make connections in my learning.</p> <p>be active in my learning by asking questions and/or giving my informed opinion.</p>	<p>#3 Explicit Teaching</p> <p>#4 Worked Examples</p>
	CURIOUS APPLICATION	<p>guide students as they undertake independent practice.</p> <p>use and welcome questions to encourage critical thinking and develop curiosity.</p>	<p>practise what I have learnt and apply my knowledge to different situations.</p> <p>challenge myself to be curious and push myself outside my comfort zone to further my learning.</p>	<p>#6 Multiple Exposures</p> <p>#7 Questioning</p>
	COLLABORATION	<p>develop authentic learning partnerships between students and myself.</p> <p>provide the conditions for the development of collaborative student to student relationships.</p> <p>be prepared to make mistakes and learn from others.</p>	<p>collaborate with my peers and my teacher to solve problems.</p> <p>accept that mistakes are part of the learning process and be open to learning from mistakes and from others.</p>	<p>#5 Collaborative Learning</p>
	REFLECTIVE PRACTICE	<p>evaluate student growth by reviewing the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria.</p> <p>provide effective feedback to assist students to understand where they are going, how they are going and where to next.</p> <p>use evidence (including student voice) to inform future practice.</p>	<p>use the Learning Intentions/Success Criteria to evaluate my learning and apply improvement strategies.</p> <p>take responsibility for my growth and use rubrics and tasks to reflect on my learning.</p> <p>provide feedback about how I learn best and how the teacher can help me achieve my goals.</p>	<p>#9 Metacognitive strategies</p>
	FLOURISH	<p>capture what students can do, say, make or write across the sequence of learning experiences.</p> <p>continue to build connections between key knowledge and skills.</p>	<p>seek and be open to feedback and recognise when I am ready for the next step.</p> <p>connect and apply my knowledge to different situations.</p>	<p>#8 Feedback</p>

Year 7 Timetable (10 day cycle)

3 lessons per cycle: Religious Education

6 lessons per cycle: English, Mathematics

4 lessons per cycle: Science, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, Languages

2 lessons per cycle: Music

3 lessons per cycle (12 week Taster program): Design, Code & Create, Dance, Drama, Visual Art, Design and Technologies Materials, Design and Technologies Food

1 lesson per cycle: House Group



Year 7 Timetable

St Columba's College run a 10 day cycle. This section indicates the cycle day, ie Day 1.

This section indicates the year level and subject, in this case Year 7 Humanities.

	Home Group	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Day 1 Monday	HG: Cahill Junior 3 NCI A201	07 Italian JJO S203	07 Science NMA W104	07 Humanities RBY S204	07 Mathematics JFO S202

This is your House Group, which can also be represented as CHLJ3 (Cahill Junior 3).

These letters represent the teacher of this class. The teacher is listed by the first letter of their first name and the first two letters of their surname. In this example, JJO would translate to Mr John Jones.

This code is the class location. Here it is - Slater building, level 2, room 2

@ ABSENCES >

ASSESSMENTS >

COURSES >

DASHBOARD

DIRECT MESSAGES

GOALS >

NOTICES

PARENT RESOURCES >

REPORTS >

SETTINGS

TIMETABLE



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Welcome to the St Columba's College Parent Portal

St Columba's College Parent Handbook



IONA

View current and past IONA Editions



Parent Resources

Access correspondence, handbooks and policies



College Calendar

View the College Calendar for the Year

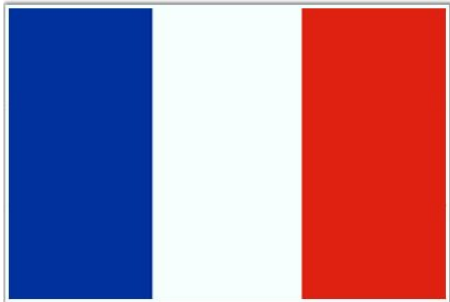


St Columba's Co-Curricular Program

Calendar of Co-Curricular

Languages

- Choice from French, Italian or Japanese
- Compulsory from Years 7 – 9
- Language selection process from Tuesday 6 August to Friday 23 August
- Students will find out the language they will study on Orientation Day as information will be included in the pack received on this day





Music

- All students learn a musical instrument (choice from 4 instruments per class).
- Small group tuition.
- Opportunity to sample 3-4 instruments on Orientation Day.
- Compulsory weekly ensemble rehearsal before or after school.
- If you are considering private lessons, please submit the enrolment form prior to Orientation Day.



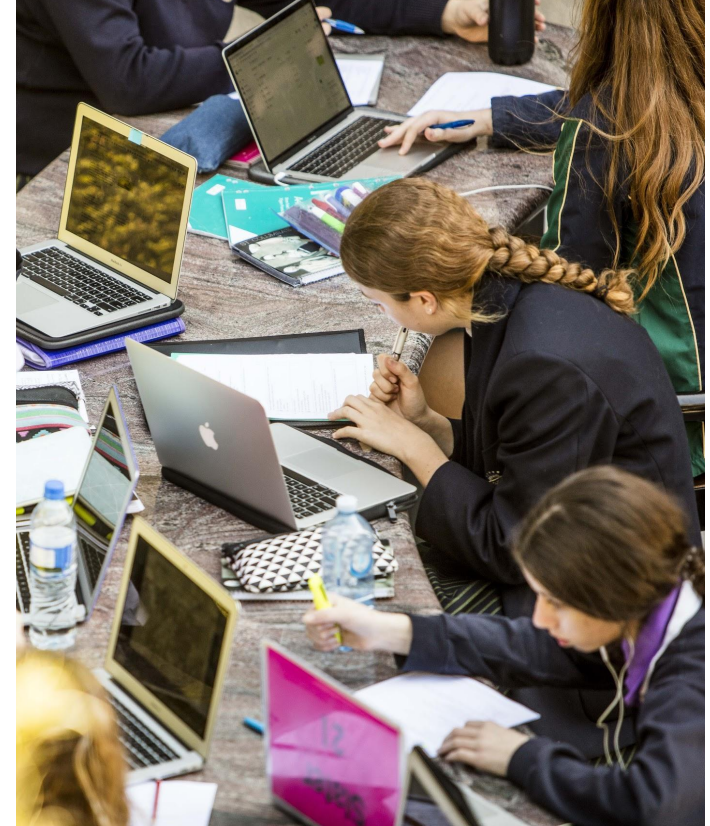
Technology

St Columba's College considers technology as a valuable resource which can be used to engage our students in their learning. It also enhances inquiry and creativity in learners and connectivity with the wider world.

1:1 Laptop Program

- All students use a laptop for their learning.
- St Columba's College will provide laptops to all Year 7 students via a Purchase Program.

Agreements have already been sent to families.



Mobile Phones

- Students who bring a mobile device (such as a phone) onto school premises are required to keep them in their locked locker.
- The mobile device must be turned off prior to the first College bell.
- The mobile device is not be used throughout the day until after school finishes unless teacher permission is granted (including recess and lunchtime).
- Students are encouraged to join in the large number of activities that are on offer at lunchtimes - there are lots of choices and with more active participants the College is able to offer an even greater variety of things to be involved in.



Helping your child to get the most out of their learning

- Partnerships formed between parents/guardians enhance faith development as well as social and educational outcomes for your child.
- Authentic partnership: Relationship building is vital in the teaching and learning process to support your child. Direct communication with the Subject Teacher or House Group Teacher is encouraged.
- Home Learning: Work not completed in class, work set by the teacher and your child will also be required to spend time revising learning to reinforce key knowledge and skill development.



Columba's Coaches

- Graduates offering generalised support (with a focus on Mathematics)
- Support to Year 7 Students via Homework club
- Parents wanting this support can access via the following methods:



For Learning Diverse students please contact the Learning Diversity Leader

For all other students please contact the House Leader

A strong sense of self and responsibility for growth.

“Every student is capable of learning if they are motivated and engaged, prepared to make an effort, and provided with well-targeted learning opportunities”.



Geoff Masters



St Columba's
College

STUDENT WELLBEING

Ms Nakkita Egan
Head of Students



House Group Allocation

- Siblings – not in the same House Group but in the same House
- Spread interests and talents where possible
- Mixture of Primary schools
- Balance numbers between House Groups and between Houses



Pastoral Chain

The House System at St Columba's College



J represents Junior House Groups, which are made up of students from Years 7 to 9. S represents Senior House Groups, which are made up of students from Years 10 to 12.



Child Safe Standards

1

STCC staff's ongoing education about Aboriginal culture helps to create and maintain a culturally-respectful and safe school environment for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so that they, and their families feel included. Our staff can appropriately identify and stop racism within STCC.

2

At STCC, you have the right to feel safe. The College's staff ensures this by respectfully caring for your mental and physical health, and reporting any safety concerns. There is a Code of Conduct that outlines proper behaviour expected of staff.

3

You are encouraged to have a say and can trust that teachers will listen to you with respect and respond to your feedback and concerns. The College understands that support from your friends is important and helps you to feel safe. The Pastoral Care Program also gives you important information that aims to empower you and keep you safe.

4

STCC understands that parents or carers have the main responsibility for the upbringing and education of their children. They are encouraged to be involved in decisions affecting you and in the development and review of Child Safe Policies.

STCC welcomes and celebrates diversity. All communities connected with our college have easy access to our policies. Through this, STCC builds cultural safety. Parents or carers agree to behave in the ways outlined in the Child Safe Code of Conduct.

5

At STCC, all staff and volunteers understand your different situations and will give responses to support you and help anyone who is vulnerable.

6

Before hiring staff and contractors, STCC checks to see if they are suitable to work with young people. We do this in the following ways:

- Check if there is a police criminal record
- Check that they have a Working with Children Check
- Make sure they follow the College's policies
- Talk to the people that worked with them last to see if they are safe people

All staff get training about keeping us safe.



St Columba's
College

Child Safe Standards



7

STCC publishes the Child Safety Standards on the College website and on SEQTA. Behaviour that is not in line with these standards can be reported to the Child Safety Officers at the College. There is an easy and clear complaint process that we can follow to raise concerns and these complaints will always be taken seriously.

8

As soon as they join STCC, staff receive training on how to keep you safe and receive refresher training at least once a year. This means staff can identify and respond to harm or abuse to us. Staff also know when, and who, to report these incidents to.

9

Staff must decrease the safety risks online, and in physical environments all without affecting your:

- Right to privacy
- Access to information
- Social connections or friendships
- Learning opportunities

By following the Digital Citizenship and Email Protocols policies we are more likely to be safe online.

10

As soon as they join STCC, staff receive training on how to keep you safe and receive refresher training at least once a year. This means staff can identify and respond to harm or abuse to us. Staff also know when, and who, to report these incidents to.

11

All STCC policies and procedures must address the Child Safe Standards in a way which is easily understood by everyone. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to be involved in the development of the Child Safe policies and procedures.



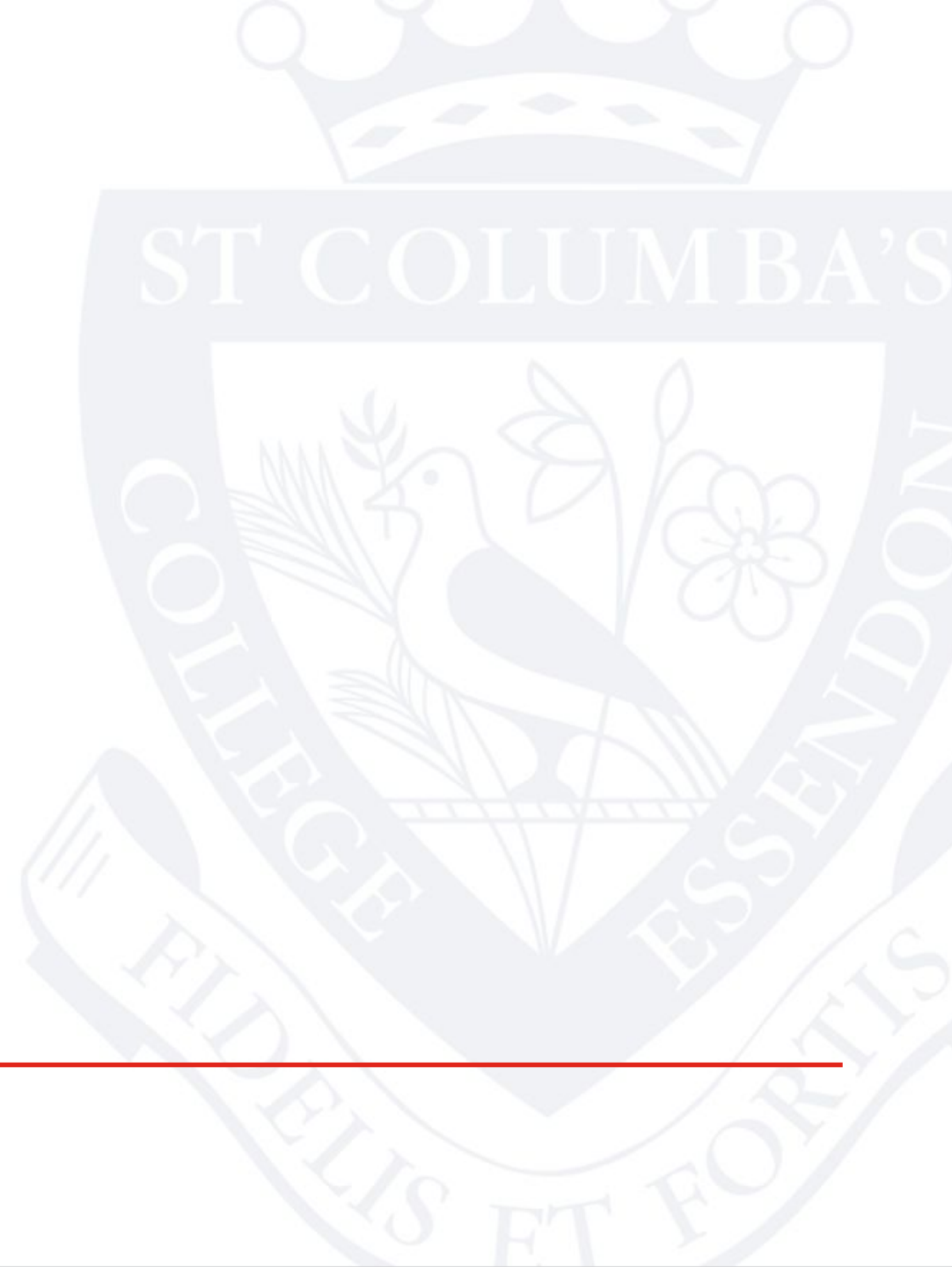
Orientation Day

Monday 9 December 2024

- Meet the current House Leader
- Meet House Teachers
- Meet other Year 7 Students
- Sample secondary lessons
- Parent morning tea

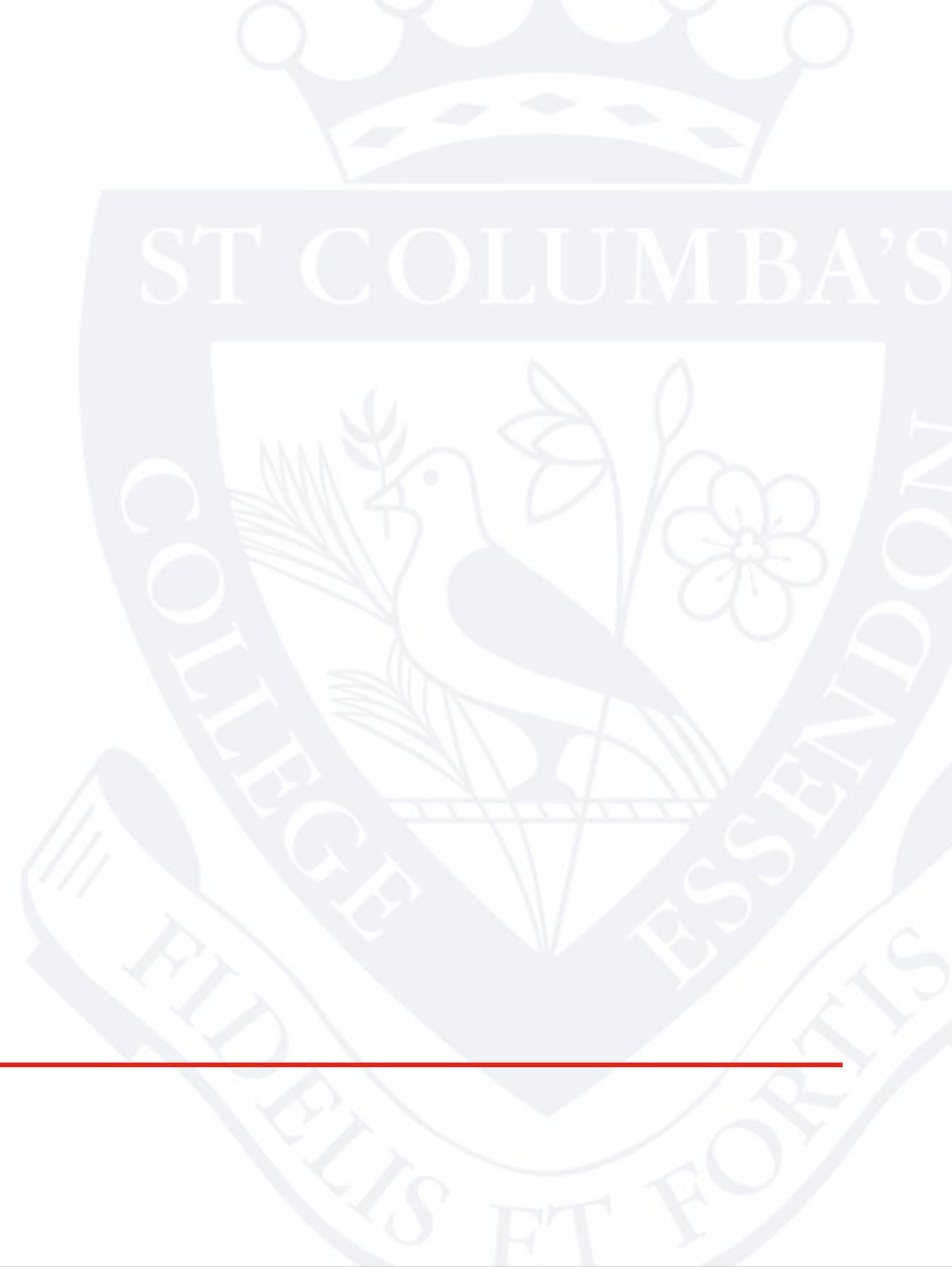


St Columba's
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Induction Day- January 31

- Re-group – meet the House Teacher for 2025
- House Group and class activities
- Focus on getting to know others
- Address practicalities of starting high school



House Welcome

- Opportunity to formally welcome Year 7 and their families to the College to join together in faith
- An introduction to the House Patron and the values of the House
- Receive the House Badge - a visible symbol of their membership to the House



Transition

Starting high school is a new beginning and signifies a number of changes. Through this time of transition, the College will support and encourage your daughter

- to build new friendships
- to build personal resilience
- to develop teamwork skills
- to further develop her communication skills



Student Medical Conditions

- We have a number of students starting in Year 7 2025 who have identified medical conditions.
- Students with diagnosed medical conditions are required to have a management plan signed by their doctor.
- If your child has a medical condition requiring a Health Care Plan, please call the College Nurse to discuss the requirements.
- Updated Medical plans for Anaphylaxis, Asthma and Allergies and other medical conditions must be submitted to the College.



College Uniform



College Uniform



Co-curricular Learning (Connect)



St Columba's
College

Bronntanais ó Dhia Program

Goals

- To extend opportunities for positive reinforcement of student achievement & behaviour
- To build a holistic story of an individual student's development
- To extend the pursuit of excellence into a wider range of fields
- To promote additional opportunities for students to demonstrate their skills



Bronntanais ó Dhia Program



Engage

SCSA Netball
Senior Band
Kick Arts
Student Forums



Connect

Just Act Group
College Tour Guide
Environment Club



Learn

Premier's Reading
Challenge
Book Club
Birdman Rally





UPCOMING EVENTS
AND
REMINDERS

- Laptop Purchase & Agreement Form to be completed and submitted by Friday 23 August
- Complete languages preferences via online google doc from Tuesday 6 August to Friday 23 August
- Uniform fitting to be booked online with Noone – an email will be sent with information about this process towards the end of Term 3. There is a change in compulsory items which now includes our new performance uniform (college pants & shirt)
- Information regarding Private Music, Speech and Dance will be provided later this term via email
- Please advise if you are not receiving our fortnightly newsletter IONA and notify the College of any changes to contact details (phone, email and residential address)
- Year 7 2025 booklist will be emailed to families early November
- Orientation Day will be held on Monday 9 December - letter will be sent early Term 4
- Second-hand uniform items are available via the Parent Engagement Committee Facebook page

