



**ST BENEDICT'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

ORAN PARK

**Our Hope:
The Mission Statement of**

St Benedict's
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Something To Strive For

**To develop a
Love of Learning
through**

- *A spirit of Perseverance and Resilience
- *A commitment to Self Discipline
- *A balanced approach between work, leisure, and prayer.

**To develop a
Love of Neighbour
through**

- *Undertaking Hospitality
- *Pursuing Peace and Justice
- *Demonstrating Compassion through a recognition of difference
- *A selfless recognition and promotion of the gifts and talents of others.

Nothing to Run From

**To develop a
Love of God
through**

- *Celebration of faith in prayer, liturgy and reflection.
- *Listening and Responding "with the ear of your heart"
- *Practising Stewardship



BE MY LIGHT

FROM THE *Principal*

MRS KERRIE PIATEK

St Benedict's is a Catholic, systemic co-educational College growing to 1000 students in Years 7-12. After opening in 2011 and moving to its permanent home in 2013, the College's building program was finally completed with the opening of the College Hall and Gym in 2021.

The College is located on 15 acres in the heart of the rapidly developing South West growth centre in the new subdivision of Catherine Park, and adjacent to one of Australia's newest Parish churches, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Justin's Catholic Primary School.



As a systemic Catholic High School, St Benedict's College offers a comprehensive NESA curriculum. Also on offer is a range of extra curricula activities to meet the varied needs of our students such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Music and Dance tuition programs and a range of co-curricula clubs.

We are a member of the Macarthur Independent Schools Association (MISA) for interschool Tuesday sport and other cultural activities such as Debating and Public Speaking. There are also representative sporting pathways for our students to Diocesan, State and National levels.

As a Catholic high school, St Benedict's Catholic College strives to be an inclusive and pastorally caring place of learning where, in the words of St Benedict, we have "something to strive for" and "nothing to run from". In response to an increase in youth mental health concerns and contemporary pressures on families and young people, the College joined the Positive Education Schools Coalition, seeking to embed positive psychology, principles and strengths based education, for students and parents, in its wellbeing program. Our STRIVE program, which involves each child's learning strategies being monitored by a STRIVE coach, targets learning improvement and begins with its foundation, the understanding that a child's learning is inextricably linked to their whole of life experiences.

As the College moves from its foundation years, the students continue to have a unique opportunity to develop many of the College's structures and to craft the intellectual and cultural life of the College which will stand as part of the College for many years to come.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

Be my light



Our Identity

Motto: 'Be My Light'

(From the Benedictine Medallion)

St Benedict's Catholic College was established in 2011 under the Diocesan stewardship of Bishop Peter Ingham and during the Papacy of Benedict XVI. The Mission of our College is to provide quality contemporary learning experiences in a Catholic environment for young men and women in the Oran Park Parish and its surrounding Pastoral regions.

Our College Crest features the Cross, the Christian symbol of salvation, which has been associated with St Benedict since about the fifth century. We know from the writings of St Gregory that St Benedict had a special devotion to the cross and worked miracles with it. The initial letters of the words of our motto, "Be My Light", appear in Latin on the obverse side of the famous medal that features St Benedict holding the Cross and the Monastic Rules.

Our colours of black and grey acknowledge the strong sense of community reflected in the life of the Benedictine Monks in the shades adopted by them for their cassocks; the gold colour that is drawn from the papal coat of arms, acknowledges the foundation of our school during the papacy of Benedict XVI and the purple reflects the kingship of Christ best represented in the triumph of the cross.



Vision and Mission

The St Benedict's Catholic College community has, at its core, the teachings of Jesus Christ who is the source of all truth and meaning for peoples of all ages and times. Our school is a place where faith intersects with the lived experiences of our students and their families and where the teachings and philosophy of our patron, St Benedict, inform our actions.

In the Benedictine tradition, we aim to develop:

“A love of God, love of neighbour and love of learning”

in an environment where “the strong have something to strive for and the poor have nothing to run from”. In a world that proclaims hopelessness to young men and women, this school aims to be a place that is both life giving and a place of hope.

St Benedict's College provides an holistic education based on Benedictine principles of moderation in all things. There is a strong emphasis on learning and scholastic disciplines, the dignity of work and the drawing closer to God through the renewal of the mind and transformation of the person to make a positive difference in society.

Our values will be embedded in a College environment guided by the Benedictine precept for schools:

“Something to Strive for and Nothing to Run From”

In line with the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians, St Benedict's College strives to promote:

- A culture of academic excellence where students are challenged and can experience success in their learning.
- A spirit of support and inclusion where critical thinking is fostered and encourages learners to take responsibility for their own learning and life.
- An environment where a spirit of creativity and of optimism is fostered.
- A passion for working for the common good as active and informed citizens, particularly in relating to stewardship of the natural and social environment.

Faith Formation

The College is an authentic Catholic School which offers the students a range of programs and immersion activities to challenge and grow their faith.

The programs and activities include a comprehensive Year 7-12 Retreat program, liturgical celebrations and a dynamic social action group who conduct awareness, immersion and fundraising activities throughout the year.

In addition, our youth spirituality program, in conjunction with Parish and Diocesan agencies, includes twilight immersion afternoons and Diocesan Youth Events.





Wellbeing



St. Benedict's dictum that:

"A School of the Lord's Service... should be...

a place where there is something to strive for and nothing to run from"

is at the heart of the College's Wellbeing program. Allard's (2002) model of school wellbeing captures areas of College life that are our focus.

At St. Benedict's, student wellbeing is at the heart of what we do. The wellbeing of our students is fundamental to our journey and we achieve this in many different ways.

Firstly, we follow the PB4L (Positive Behaviours For Learning) model from Diocese of Wollongong Catholic Education. This PB4L model gives a clear and attainable behavioural model to our students which in turn allows for the fulfilment of educational outcomes and for students to be given the chance to learn to their best of their abilities.

Secondly, our wellbeing STRIVE program gives students the opportunity to engage with their peers on cohort specific and age appropriate pastoral care material, whilst also having the chance to be guided through a coaching session with their STRIVE coach which will occur each term. This gives each student the opportunity to determine their wellbeing and learning goals. These conversations will be personal, student specific, and guided by realistic and achievable goals.

Something to strive for ...

S T R I V E

SPIRITUALITY

- Celebration of faith in prayer, liturgy and reflection
- Listening and responding "with the ear of your heart"
- Practicing Stewardship

TRUE ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Developing our strengths to achieve holistic growth
- A spirit of perseverance and resilience
- Striving to better ourselves in some way, whether we're seeking to master a skill, achieve a valuable goal, or win in a competitive event

RELATIONSHIPS

- The creation of authentic, energising and supportive relationships
- Demonstrating compassion through recognition of difference
- Selfless recognition and promotion of the gifts and talents of others

INVOLVEMENT

- A sense of being connected to something bigger than ourselves
- Being in a state of flow, living in the present moment and entirely focused on the task at hand
- Engaging in activities that you enjoy and that give others joy

VITALITY

- Eating well, moving regularly and sleeping deeply
- A balanced approach between work, leisure and prayer
- Practicing sustainable habits for a healthy mind and body

EMOTIONS

- Experiencing a range of positive emotions, including amusement, hope, interest, joy, love, compassion, gratitude, and pride
- Looking forward to the future with excitement
- Not allow emotions to dictate your actions

... nothing to run from.





STRIVE

The STRIVE program builds on the belief that students will achieve their best growth and learning when they are able to flourish in an environment promoting individual care.

Students' achievements will be rewarded through 'strength spotting' entries on Compass and personal recognition with the student, as well as recording their 'personal bests'. Each of these areas leads through a pathway enabling students to acknowledge their successes.

The STRIVE program assists students in developing personal responsibility by specifying goals and rewarding achievements. Students will use their diary, Compass platform and activities during STRIVE lessons to assist in organising and recording their achievements.





Learning & Teaching

We strive to deliver learning, teaching and wellbeing, as one which is innovative and creative, underpinned by contemporary and relevant pedagogy. Our teachers foster an authentic and purposeful student-centred learning environment where students develop a love of learning and flourish through a culture of high expectations.

St Benedict's offer a NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) Stage 4, 5 and 6 Curriculum. The College runs on a 10 day cyclic timetable with MISA and School Sport on Tuesday afternoons.

Year 7 students study Visual Arts and this is replaced by Music in Year 8. In addition, a language is studied in Year 8 (currently Spanish).

In Stages 5 and 6 we offer a range of elective courses including:

- Multimedia
- Food Technology
- Timber
- Physical Activity & Sports Studies
- Child Studies
- Photography
- Drama
- Music
- Design and Technology
- Elective History

In Years 11 & 12, in addition to a comprehensive range of NESA courses, ASQA accredited courses are also offered, these include:

- Certificate II in Hospitality (Food and Beverage)
- Certificate II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)
- Certificate II Construction
- Certificate III Business Services

St Benedict's achieves strong HSC results across all courses. Most recently St Benedict's Catholic College achieved:

- Highest performing Catholic High School in the Macarthur Region
- Top ATAR 99.05
- 8 x 1st in Course across Wollongong Diocese
- 2 x All Rounders, Band 6 / E4 in all courses
- 47 entries on Distinguished Achievers List



Diverse Learning

At St Benedict's we aim to give our diverse learning needs students the very best opportunity to be successful lifelong learners and agents of change, in the process, challenging and inspiring them to reach the plan God has for them.

The success of all our Diverse Learning students at St Benedict's Catholic College would not be possible without the partnership between the school and home setting. Through transparent and ongoing communication, parents, specialist support staff and teachers work closely to cater for the specific needs of students with diverse needs.

This partnership ensures that the students' journey through school is meaningful and more importantly that we are working towards building students' independence, resilience and confidence for the journey of life after school.



Diverse Learning Support

The type of support the Learning Support team along with our dedicated staff are able to provide include: -

- Adjustment to the curriculum and physical environment
- Support in class (practical lessons included)
- Support with homework and assessments in dedicated Assessment Support lessons
- Opportunities for work experience and guidance with the Careers Advisor
- Playground support (safe space)
- Social skills program (Secret Agent Society)
- Exam preparation
- Special Provisions for Assessment tasks
- Post School transition
- Macqlit Reading intervention program

School Support Officers work closely with the teachers to provide support to students.

Additional support, advice and consultation regarding students with diverse learning needs is made available to us by the School Improvement Services Specialist Support from the Wollongong Catholic Education Office.

Extended Transition Program

We also offer an extended transition program for students with diverse learning needs who are enrolling into Year 7. This program is designed to equip identified Year 6 students with skills and tools to help them learn more about St Benedict's before they begin their journey the following year. By doing this we hope to prepare the students for a smooth and settled start into high school.

The High Performance Program

Enriching Our Talented Students

The High Performance Program is unique to St Benedict's. It involves students being clustered with a group of like-minded peers who exhibit a range of strengths across multiple domains.

Students who are highly capable and/or gifted and talented have a right to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning activities that address their individual learning needs. The learning and teaching strategies at St Benedict's aim to enrich student learning by providing these students with access to content and skills in more depth or breadth. Our pedagogy focuses on developing higher order cognitive skills and critical and creative thinking capabilities.

Gagné (1998) suggests that gifted and talented students comprise the top 10% of all students and can show talent across a range of domains, such as academic, creative, interpersonal, and physical fields of endeavour.

Differences in learning needs exist within and across students in the gifted range. Students with advanced capabilities require greater learning support to reach their potential. The success of these students is strongly linked to the learning environments that teachers intentionally develop (Rowley, 2008).

For more information please contact Marc Chignone - Leader of Pedagogy, Innovation & High Performance (ghignonem01@dow.catholic.edu.au).



Mini Clusters

Students identified as having a high ability in one area form mini clusters across other classes.

High Performance Teachers

The success of High Performance students is strongly linked to the learning environments that teachers intentionally develop as this has a direct impact on how well their talents are manifested.

Parent Referral

Parents and Carers are a valuable source of information. Significant areas of advanced development can be readily observed in young children and it is the parent who is the 'keeper' of this information. An email will be sent asking parents to complete a google form providing valuable information about their child.

High Performance Parent Identification Form - Year 7

As part of the identification of candidates for the High Performance Project, we are asking for the help parents. The College uses a combination of criteria for identification; one of these indicators is parent nomination. As the primary educator of your child, you know your child well and are very aware of their

Selection

A series of avenues are employed to determine the most suitable students for a High Performance class.

- Parent identification
- Teacher Identification
- Cognitive Ability testing Reporting
- NAPLAN

Formation of a High Performance Class

The highest performing and/or gifted & talented students from year 7 create a cluster class of 30. This class is reviewed each Semester.

It is our intention to provide the best learning environment for each student.

Why Cluster?

- Develops a sense of belonging
- Foster transition between gifted and talented
- Prevent underachievement
- Remove social stigma
- Promote academic self-efficacy

BYODD

What is BYODD?

Bring your own Designated Device, or BYODD, allows users to bring their own personal technology devices into the classroom. St Benedict's Catholic College believes that allowing families to purchase their own device fosters a greater sense of ownership and connection between the student and their device. Bringing a fully charged approved device to school every day is a condition of enrolment.

Do I need to purchase software?

The College provides all required software. The use of a BYODD laptop is governed by Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong CEDoW Student Responsible Use of Technology Agreement and CEDoW Social Media Policy. Students' BYODD laptop will need to be enrolled on the College network during the Laptop Bootcamp held at the start of the year. This will enable the device access to the College shared resources including Internet, email, G-Suite, zScaler Client Connector, Apple Classroom, Compass, along with other College resources.

Device Requirements

All College devices must be a Mac Notebook suitable to run the latest Apple Mac Operating System. If a decision is made to purchase a new laptop the recommended device is a 13 inch MacBook Air with "M1 or M2 Chip" and 256GB storage. This device has been chosen based on connectivity, reliability, excellent performance, battery life and fit for College use.

The actual cost of these devices fluctuates with changes in exchange rates. Hence, at this early stage it is difficult to say exactly how much the device will be. We encourage families not to purchase the laptop until later in the year.

Device Affordability Options

Retail vendors have a number of finance options that will be available to parents and carers. In the case of genuine financial hardship please contact the College to discuss alternative options.

Where can we purchase the device?

Families are free to purchase their dedicated device from any vendor. Please note that St Benedict's Catholic College has no affiliation with vendors. We have simply listed vendors to assist in finding local suppliers.

EduComIT has developed a purchase portal for St Benedict's Catholic College to help families with purchasing a device and is located in Smeaton Grange. The EduComIT portal can be located at:

<https://www.educomit.com.au/product-category/sbcc/>.

Alternatively, parents and carers may wish to purchase directly from Apple, JBHiFi, Harvey Norman etc either through their online store or shop front. Please note that we strongly recommend the purchase of **AppleCare+** for Mac. **AppleCare+** for Mac provides up to three years of expert technical support and additional hardware coverage from Apple, including up to two incidents of accidental damage protection every 12 months.

Will my child be required to have a bag or case for their laptop?

All students at St Benedict's require a laptop bag or case to transport their laptop between learning sessions and to and from school. The EduComIT portal will provide recommendations for bags and cases that you can purchase if required.

<https://www.educomit.com.au/product-category/sbcc/>

If there is a problem with the Apple Care+ laptop how will I get it fixed?

The IT Office will endeavour to support your child's laptop during the BYODD program. If the device has the Three Year On-Site **AppleCare+** Warranty, the device can be repaired by any Authorised Apple Repair Centre (e.g. EduComIT, Apple Genius Bar). St Benedict's will continue to offer repairs through EduCom IT however, parents/carers may opt to have the laptop fixed elsewhere. EducomIT (Authorised Apple Service Agent) will offer Apple Genuine Repair to the College and on site collection/return of laptops with direct access to Apple with the same outcomes as the Apple Genius Bar (e.g. provide quotation of fee for service for approval prior to fixing).

What happens if the laptop needs to be sent away for repairs?

A pool of College owned designated devices will be made available for students for a period of up to four weeks should their device be unavailable due to repairs. Loan laptops will not be available to students who have forgotten to bring their laptop to school.

Apple Care +

AppleCare+ for Mac provides expert technical support and additional hardware coverage from Apple, including unlimited incidents of accidental damage protection. Each incident is subject to a service fee of A\$149 for screen damage or external enclosure damage, or A\$429 for other accidental damage. In addition, you'll get 24/7 priority access to Apple experts by chat or phone through getsupport.apple.com. Your coverage begins on your AppleCare+ purchase date.

Uniform Guidelines

GIRLS UNIFORM

JUNIOR GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM

- Summer Dress Yrs 7-9 (Length – on the knee)
- Girls Skort Yrs 7-9
- Girls shorts
- Girls summer blouse Yrs 7-9
- St Benedict's jumper (with College emblem) optional
- St Benedict's short white formal socks
- Polished, plain, black leather lace-up school shoes (no jogger/skate style shoes, slip on, boots, platforms or high heels)
- College hat or cap

SENIOR GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM

- Summer Skirt (length – on the knee)
- St Benedict's cardigan or jumper (with College emblem) optional
- Senior Blouse
- St Benedict's short white dress socks
- Polished, plain, black leather lace-up school shoes (no jogger/skate style shoes, slip on, boots, platforms or high heels)
- College hat or cap

JUNIOR GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM

- Girls winter shirt
- Girls winter tunic (length - on the knee)
- Girls trousers Yrs 7-12
- St Benedict's jumper (with College emblem) optional
- 70 Denier Tights (compulsory - colour black)
- Black school shoes (as above)
- Girls fitted blazer (compulsory)
- Scarf (optional)
- College hat or cap

SENIOR GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM

- Senior blouse
 - Winter skirt (length – on the knee) or;
 - Girl's winter trousers
 - St Benedict's cardigan or jumper (with College emblem) optional
 - 70 Denier Tights (compulsory)
 - Black school shoes (as above)
 - Girl's fitted blazer (compulsory)
 - Scarf
 - College hat or cap
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Uniform Guidelines

GIRLS UNIFORM

HAIR REQUIREMENTS FOR GIRLS

- While the College accepts the minimal use of hair products to ensure neatness, no hair sculpting using gel or hairspray, wax or mousse is permitted
 - Hair must be neat and tidy at all times
 - Hair styles should be moderate, with no extremes
 - Hair should be of a natural colour – no unnatural colours. A dramatic change in colour/style will not be accepted (eg: black to blonde)
 - No streaks or highlights permitted
 - Shoulder-length hair needs to be fully tied back off the face and at the back of the head
 - Only College hair ribbons or hair ties may be worn
 - No decorative hair accessories eg: coloured clips, flowers, beads, etc are allowed
-

ACCEPTABLE JEWELLERY FOR GIRLS ONLY

- One watch
 - One set of plain, small studs or sleepers (maximum diameter 1cm). No more than one earring in each ear. Earrings only to be worn in the lower ear lobe. No other visual body or facial piercings are allowed, including clears
 - One plain, fine silver or gold neck chain with a religious symbol to be worn under the uniform
-

Uniform Guidelines

BOYS UNIFORM

JUNIOR BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM

- Boys summer out shirt
- Boys summer shorts / or
- Charcoal trousers with black leather belt with College crest
- Charcoal short socks
- Polished, plain, black leather lace-up school shoes (Boots and jogger style shoes are not acceptable)
- St Benedict's jumper or vest (with College emblem) optional
- College hat or cap

SENIOR BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM

- Senior Boys summer shirt
- Charcoal trousers with black leather belt with college crest
- Charcoal short socks
- Polished, plain, black leather lace-up school shoes (Boots and jogger style shoes are not acceptable)
- St Benedict's jumper or vest (with College emblem) optional
- College hat or cap

JUNIOR BOYS WINTER UNIFORM

- Boys winter shirt with clip on tie
- Charcoal trousers with black leather belt with College crest
- Black school shoes (as above)
- St Benedict's jumper or vest (with College emblem) optional
- Boy's fitted blazer (compulsory)
- College hat or cap

SENIOR BOYS WINTER UNIFORM

- Senior Boys winter shirt
 - Senior Boys tie
 - Charcoal trousers with black leather belt with College crest
 - Black school shoes (as above)
 - St Benedict's jumper or vest (with College emblem) optional
 - Boys fitted blazer (compulsory)
 - College hat or cap
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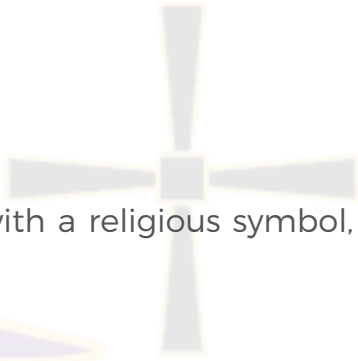
Uniform Guidelines

BOYS UNIFORM

HAIR REQUIREMENTS FOR BOYS

- While the College accepts the minimal use of hair products to ensure neatness, no hair sculpting using gel or hairspray, wax or mousse is permitted
 - Hair must be neat and tidy at all times
 - Hair styles should be moderate, with no extremes
 - Hair should be of a natural colour – no unnatural colours. A dramatic change in colour/style will not be accepted (eg: black to blonde)
 - No streaks or highlights permitted
 - Hair should NOT be below the collar or covering the ears, no undercuts or spiked styles, no very short crew cuts. There should not be any noticeable change in length (nothing shorter than a number 2)
 - Boys should be clean shaven
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ACCEPTABLE JEWELLERY FOR BOYS ONLY

- One watch
 - One plain fine, silver or gold neck chain with a religious symbol, to be worn under uniform
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Uniform Guidelines

UNISEX SPORT / PE UNIFORM

- St Benedict's polo shirt
 - St Benedict's College shorts
 - St Benedict's sport socks
 - Joggers (predominantly white). No skate style shoes, high tops, slip on or Dunlop Volleys
 - St Benedict's track suit (may be worn to and from school on sport days)
 - School cap or hat
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ADDITIONAL UNIFORM NOTES

- NO make-up, nail polish, or acrylic/gel nails
 - Any undergarment must be plain and not visible (and is not a substitute for a jumper/blazer)
 - St Benedict's caps or hats must be worn when not under covered structures
 - When wearing the sport uniform, the St Benedict's jumper may only be worn under the sport jacket in winter
 - NO visible body art of any description
 - NO visible piercings except for earrings for girls, including clears
 - Shorts and trousers must be worn on the waist
 - NO rings of any description
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Uniform Guidelines

JUNIOR UNIFORM (YEARS 7-9)



JUNIOR SUMMER UNIFORM



JUNIOR WINTER UNIFORM

SENIOR UNIFORM (YEARS 10-12)



SENIOR SUMMER UNIFORM



SENIOR WINTER UNIFORM



Co-Curricular

St Benedict's Catholic College offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities aimed at supporting the wellness of students and the social aspects of high school. Some of these occur during school hours, whilst some may occur after school.

Activities are often based on the needs of students and are catered to fostering a sense of community. These groups are always evolving and the College encourages students to approach their Year Coordinator with any ideas on how these activities can be built upon or added to.

These include:

- Art Club
- Drama Club
- MISA Sport
- Duke of Edinburgh
- MISA Representative Debating
- Choir
- Environmental Group (BEARS)
- Peer Tutoring
- Photography Club
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Hospitality Committee
- Diocesan Sport
- Knitting Club
- Sleek Geeks Science Competition
- Diocesan Representative Sport
- Liturgy Committee
- Book Club
- Bennies News Network



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