



FCJ COLLEGE BENALLA

A YEAR 7-12 CO-EDUCATIONAL
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



IDENTITY STATEMENT

FCJ College is an *inclusive* Catholic community that inspires companionship, courage and confidence, justice, and gentleness.



VISION STATEMENTS

At FCJ College, we:

- Are inclusive and embrace diversity.
- Believe the Good news should be shared and encourage our community to see God in all things.
- Offer hope through education.
- Are companions to those in our community and beyond.
- Provide a curriculum within and beyond the classroom that encourages a love and respect for learning in all its forms.
- In partnership with our families, teach students to be confident and critical thinkers.
- Provide an excellent education for an ever-changing world.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

At FCJ College, we commit to educating students who:

- Are inspired by the characteristics of companionship, courage and confidence, justice, and gentleness.
- Draw upon their Catholic Education to guide their own faith journey through life.
- Are inclusive and embrace diversity through listening and dialogue with others.
- Strive for individual excellence in academic learning.
- Are beacons of hope by courageously acting for justice.
- Develop kinship with creation.
- Form authentic relationships where each person is recognised and nourished by the other.

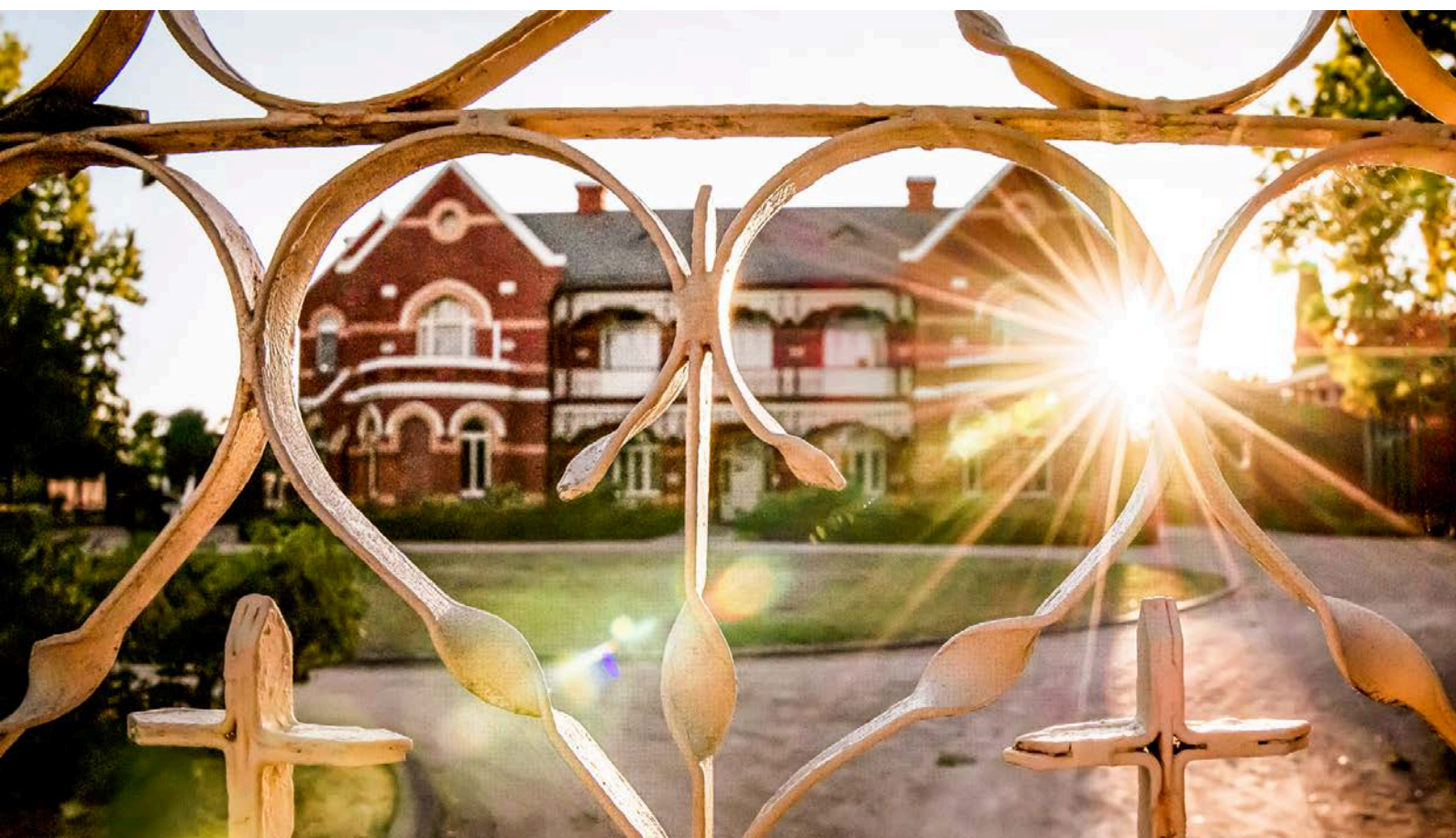
CATHOLIC IDENTITY

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 480 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:



LEARNING & TEACHING

At FCJ College, our approach to teaching and learning is grounded in clarity, consistency and evidence-informed practice. Classrooms are characterised by purposeful routines, such as our “Ready to Learn” expectations, which establish calm, focused environments and maximise learning time.

Lessons are carefully structured with clear beginnings, explicit instruction, guided practice and regular opportunities for feedback and reflection. We place a strong emphasis on building knowledge and memory through deliberate review and checking for understanding, ensuring all students are supported and challenged to succeed.

Our use of technology is intentional and disciplined; drawing on the research of Jared Cooney Horvath, laptops are used selectively to enhance learning, with a focus on attention, thinking and long-term retention. Through consistent routines, high expectations and a commitment to continuous improvement, we aim to develop confident, capable learners who are equipped to engage meaningfully with their world.



SENIOR 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.



APPLIED LEARNING

At FCJ College, we recognise that not all students learn the same way. Supporting students to discover their strengths is at the heart of what we do, and we are proud to offer pathways that celebrate diverse talents and learning styles.

Opportunities begin earlier than many families realise. Work experience, School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs), and structured work placements are available to students from 15 years of age. This is a significant advantage, with many Year 8 students able to begin planning their pathway ahead of time. Early exposure to industry helps students make informed subject selections and build confidence in their chosen direction.

Our career guidance program begins in Year 9 with a dedicated Careers class each fortnight. Students explore their passions, understand how they learn best, and begin mapping pathways aligned to their interests. By recognising individual learning styles early, students make more informed decisions about senior studies and beyond. As students progress, our Applied Learning programs provide engaging, flexible opportunities.

The VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) offers a practical senior secondary pathway, blending classroom learning with real-world industry experience to prepare students for employment, apprenticeships, traineeships, or further education. School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs) allow students to gain paid work and formal qualifications while completing school. Portfolio development, Work Related Skills (WRS), and targeted Literacy and Numeracy support ensure students are ready for any pathway they choose.



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 - Gemma Hunter, Youth Worker - Adam Toms, and our school Psychologist. 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 Positive Education which 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.

 FCJ College Behavioural Matrix 					
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 Respect space, resources & routines Challenge injustice	Leave no trace Care for our environment	Report unsafe activity Use technology responsibly Respect privacy	Stand up for what is right. Be agents of positive change	Treat others the way you want to be treated
 Gentleness	Keep calm 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 Be grateful	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 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.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership at FCJ College is an important part of our culture, giving students a genuine voice and the opportunity to grow as confident, capable young leaders. From Years 7–11, students can be elected by their peers to join the Student Representative Council (SRC). These students begin their journey with a leadership workshop before participating in a well-structured program designed to build their skills over time. Through this, they learn how to develop and bring ideas to life, strengthen their public speaking, and work collaboratively to make a positive impact within the College community.

In Year 12, students have the opportunity to take on formal leadership roles within the Student Leadership Team, including:

- College Captains
- Vice Captains
- Arts Captains
- Sports Captains
- Music Captains
- Social Justice Captains

These student leaders meet regularly with the Principal and staff, playing an active role in shaping College life. They lead and MC assemblies, represent the College at official events, and act as role models for younger students, demonstrating what it means to lead with confidence, responsibility, and integrity.

Across all year levels, students are further supported through a range of leadership days and camps held throughout the year. These experiences provide valuable opportunities for students to step outside their comfort zones, build connections with peers, and deepen their understanding of leadership in action. Together, these opportunities ensure that leadership at FCJ College is intentional, inclusive, and focused on preparing students for life beyond school.



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'.



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.

Marie Madeleine Centre - A Multipurpose Hall designed for PE and sports as well as Performing Arts, Drama, School Assemblies, Liturgies and school functions.

We are currently building a Performing Arts Centre, a purpose built centre for Drama and Music which will be ready for use in 2027.



FACILITIES



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
- History Club
- Crochet Club
- Neuro Club
- Tuesday Singing Group
- Music Club



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.



IMMERSIONS

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.

FCJ College offers various cultural immersion trips such as:

- Red Earth Immersion - Cape York
- Japan Trip - Sacred Heart College Tokyo
- Philippines Immersion
- Sacred Heart College Tokyo visit to FCJ College



TRANSPORT

FCJ College is well supported by accessible and reliable transport options for our students. Public bus services operate regularly within Benalla, with convenient drop-off points along Wedge Street. This makes daily travel straightforward for local families.

In addition, dedicated bus services are available for students travelling from Euroa and Mansfield, supporting families in our wider region to access an FCJ College education with ease. These transport options help ensure that students arrive safely and ready to learn each day.

Euroa:

- Pick-up: 7:45am (traffic lights) or 7:50am (BP Euroa)
- Return to Euroa: 4:00pm

Mansfield:

- Pick-up: 7:40am (Highett Street, opposite CFA Station)
- Return to Mansfield: 4:15pm



UNIFORM

FCJ College is currently transitioning to a new uniform, thoughtfully designed as a year-round academic uniform. This new approach reflects a commitment to both practicality and student comfort, while maintaining a strong sense of pride and presentation.

The updated uniform offers greater flexibility, allowing students to mix and match items throughout the year to suit the weather and their individual preferences. Rather than having strictly separate summer and winter uniforms, students can now choose from a range of options all year round. For example, students are able to wear shorts throughout the entire year, providing a more comfortable and practical option, particularly in warmer conditions.

This transition also responds to feedback from students and families, ensuring improved fit, quality, and inclusivity across all items. Overall, the new FCJ College uniform supports students to feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn every day.



ACADEMIC UNIFORM

SPORTS UNIFORM



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

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t: +61 3 5762 1222



Joseph Mount | Principal

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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*