



Saint Ignatius College Geelong

*A Jesuit Partner School*

Prospectus



*Competence Conscience Compassion*



*At Saint Ignatius College our young women and men share educational experiences and leadership opportunities.*

*In the process they learn to understand, respect and appreciate each other.*







# Welcome

I extend a warm invitation to prospective students, families and the community to visit our college. I trust you will find that Saint Ignatius College is a unique and vibrant learning and faith community offering outstanding educational opportunities to our young women and men within a positive and caring Christian community.

Saint Ignatius College is fortunate to be a Jesuit Companion School. Together with more than 95 Australasian schools, and others worldwide, we share the spiritual and educational philosophy of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

The Ignatian Way is to strive for the greater good, to educate the whole person (body, mind and spirit) and to develop young adults of competence, conscience and compassion ready to serve their community and transform their world.

The Ignatian Story is an inspiration and encouragement to our young people and offers guidelines to a life based on gospel values and a commitment to be of service to others.

As such, it seeks to develop each student's individual capacity for reflection including the search for God in all things.

Our partnership with Xavier College and the Jesuits assists us to embrace the Jesuit educational vision that helps to focus and foster the college's Catholic identity and enhance our educational programs.

At Saint Ignatius College our young women and men share educational experiences and leadership opportunities. In the process they learn to understand, respect and appreciate each other. Co-education is the natural way for a school to be an extension of the family and life in general.

Natural personal interaction in a non-threatening and supportive environment teaches students to respect and value gender differences and to address them in constructive and positive ways. Co-education prepares students for life beyond school.

I know many of you will be thinking about secondary education for your children.

It is very important to me that you can confidently choose Saint Ignatius College for your daughter/son's education.

In my role as Principal I aim to provide a Catholic Co-educational Secondary College that is focussed on excellence in teaching, learning and care for students.

It is important to me that we maximise student achievement, set high expectations with regard to responsible student behaviour, that the school and students are well presented and students and parents contribute to and have pride in their school community.

**Michael Exton**  
Principal



# Deep and rich learning

Saint Ignatius College Geelong is unique in the Geelong region as the only co-educational Catholic secondary school.

The College community understands the numerous benefits that result when young men and women engage intellectually and spiritually, by working collaboratively as equals in developing lifelong skills.

We are proud to be a Jesuit Partner School named after Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit Order over 450 years ago. Our students reap the benefits of this time-honoured Ignatian Tradition of Education, which nurtures academic excellence while promoting Competence, Conscience, Compassion and Service to others.

## ***What is the Ignatian tradition of education - a Jesuit education?***

At Saint Ignatius College our programs maintain rigour in the pursuit of excellence in all academic, co-curricular and personal facets of student development.

We provide a deep and liberal education with an emphasis on critical thinking and effective communication, and a philosophy that underscores actions rather than words.

There is a personal concern for the whole life of each student and a commitment to instilling in our young, a faith that does justice - an awareness of the needs of others, and a readiness to place one's talents at their service.

The Ignatian teaching model is framed around a number of guiding questions:

### ***Context:***

What do we need to know about our students?

### ***Experience:***

What is the best way to engage our students in learning?

### ***Reflection:***

How do our students reflect more deeply on what they have learned?

### ***Action:***

How do we encourage students to move beyond knowledge to action?

### ***Evaluation:***

How do we assess our students' growth in mind, heart and spirit?

We strive for ***The Magis*** which comes from the Latin phrase ***Ad majorem Dei gloriam***: for the greater glory of God.

It is about doing "more" - to strive for excellence, recognize God in all things and live with hope and respect for all creation.

Opportunities abound for all students to make strides in their intellectual and personal development and to contribute to the lives of others within the College community and wider community. Students can contribute individually, in collaborative groups and as leaders in College events and activities.

They are encouraged to set high goals, become accomplished in academic domains, Sport, the Arts, and acquire a commitment to Faith, all of which are affirmed and celebrated.







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## *Striving for excellence*

Always in pursuit of best practice in teaching and learning, the College embraces educational initiatives, innovation and new technologies. Exceptional delivery of dynamic programs within model learning spaces continues to strengthen student learning.

The College endeavours to create a community for learning where stable, close, mutually respectful relationships with adults and peers are considered fundamental for intellectual development and personal growth.

Our vibrant learning community is provided with access to a broad academic curriculum developed within the Victorian Curriculum framework. This curriculum is delivered using the latest educational technologies including a laptop program for all students across the College in conjunction with a variety of co-curricular activities and pastoral care programs.

Detailed knowledge of students and their learning styles is used to create an engaging and student-centred curriculum. In our community all learners are supported and challenged to embrace opportunities to become independent in their continuous quest for knowledge.

Recent initiatives include the introduction of an online central data system to track progress and strategies to support students. Structured professional learning develops best practice teaching skills and the use of student digital portfolios enable students to record and reflect upon their learning, all of which are important elements of Ignatian education.

The College operates a one to one laptop computer program in a wireless environment to better facilitate student learning and improve student capability to collaborate, share information and experiences as they assume control of their learning.

Students develop 21st century skills that will be beneficial throughout their lives and careers.

Planned construction of buildings and facilities provide varied learning spaces to accommodate the escalating growth of student numbers.

The well-developed and diverse Sports program supports many successful teams in a variety of disciplines and provides opportunities for participation in school and interschool competitions that can lead to higher levels.

Similarly a vibrant Performing Arts program provides rich experiences in Music, Dance & Drama that allow students to develop their special talents as they perform in a variety of formal and informal settings.



# Do more, Be more

Saint Ignatius College students are acknowledged and celebrated for their progress and development, and are encouraged and supported to strive for *“The Magis”* - an Ignatian concept of *“to do more - be more”*.

There are abundant opportunities for students to contribute to College life and to develop as teammates, collaborators, facilitators and leaders.

Beyond the homeroom, student roles include House leaders, Ignatian leaders and senior College leaders. Many opportunities invite involvement of students in Community Service and Social Justice programs. Students across the year levels undertake Community Service each year and many are highly commended for significant hours dedicated to working for others.

Retreats, camps, leadership and motivational seminars enable students to reflect on their personal and academic practices, strengthen their relationships and support for each other, as well as contemplate their values and goals.

Integral to a Jesuit Catholic education are immersion experiences in language and culture, the latter allowing students to engage in the realities of the world while reflecting on the values of human dignity and servant leadership.

Senior students have had the opportunity to be challenged with overseas Immersion programs trekking in underdeveloped regions such as Africa, Asia and South America, while overseas language tours for senior students target Indonesia and Italy.

Sport, Debating and the Performing Arts continue to be popular choices by students in their important developmental years.

A biennial College Musical Production develops the skills and talents of many students.

Opportunities to visit and connect with students from other Jesuit schools around Australia and overseas strengthens the bond between these schools and their understanding of the Ignatian Philosophy. We believe that a broad education and striving for excellence, are powerful means of developing leaders with the potential to influence and transform society with an overriding emphasis on actions rather than words.







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*A Jesuit education has a clear purpose: the development of a well-rounded Christian person of competence, conscience and compassion who will be of service in the world and has the generosity to make a contribution.*

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# *Competence, Conscience and Compassion*

A Jesuit education has a clear purpose, namely the development of a well-rounded Christian person of competence, conscience and compassion who has the capacity to make a meaningful contribution as well as be of service in the world.

As part of the Ignatian tradition, we are each called to strive for the Magis - a calling as such for determination and perseverance in order to achieve one's best. With that in mind, we pursue universal good and encourage generous service to others for the greater glory of God.

Striving for excellence is valued and academic challenge and rigour are integral to all curriculum development and delivery.

The Social Justice committee and the Community Service program across all year levels provides awareness and opportunities for students to make a difference as men and women for others.

Students collaborate with the Jesuit schools in Victoria each year to fund raise and encourage their school communities to think deeply about social injustices in our community.

Many of our students have joined groups from the other Jesuit colleges around Australia journeying to East Timor to work in schools and orphanages.

Overseas learning experiences are conducted biennially encompassing community work with a view to always reflecting the Ignatian philosophy of Christian service to others through action.





# *Personal concern for the whole person*

The Catholic, Jesuit concept of *cura personalis*, translated as the care of the whole person, represents individualised attention to the needs of others, distinct respect for unique circumstances and concerns, and an appropriate appreciation for singular gifts and insights.

The expression is a hallmark of Ignatian spirituality and when applied broadly it includes the relationship between educators and students. At Saint Ignatius College we strive for *cura personalis* by having homerooms with teachers focused on the care of students in their charge.

Connections are developed to meet the individual needs of students so that together with families and other staff meaningful partnerships are formed.

Saint Ignatius College takes great pride in its Pastoral Care system. There are many programs and services that aim to ensure the welfare of each student. Homerooms across all year levels encourage a more personalised school experience and consequently students are nurtured in their endeavours, both as students and as individuals.

Where possible, the Years 7 and 8 homeroom teachers instruct students in at least one of their core subjects and provide a stable environment for confidence to develop over time.

The College actively encourages and promotes strong partnerships between parents and teachers to underpin and enhance student learning.

Parents are expected to attend information evenings, parent-teacher student conferences, and are encouraged, whenever possible, to attend College community events.



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# *Committed to faith that does justice*

Social Justice expresses the core Christian value of respect for the dignity of each person that underpins the function of Catholic schools.

Our Jesuit motto is  
**“Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam”** (AMDG)  
*For the Greater Glory of God*

That, in turn, complements our College motto  
**“Amare Et Servire”**  
*To Love and To Serve*

The Social Justice groups within the College enable students to experience community, understand the connectedness of the world and their collective responsibility to that connectedness.

Participation in Social Justice initiatives enables students to appreciate, to empathise and to envisage a world that shares its resources more equitably, more fairly and, ultimately, more peacefully.

By developing an appreciation of the richness of different cultures, the students better understand the need for international communities to support one another.

The Saint Ignatius College Social Justice Committee works in partnership with local and overseas community groups, Catholic and Jesuit groups and related associations to love and care for others.

The committee supports the vision of the College, striving to create students who will be able to dedicate themselves to the service of others.

As a College of faith, we are dedicated to building a just society by advocating social change and promoting the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged young people, families and communities.

Local activities usually include a commitment to the following:

- The Meals Program in Geelong
- Winter Food Drive
- Campaigns such as the Winter Sleepout and Year 12 Giving Back program, and
- Fund-raising programs days supporting Caritas Australia Project Compassion and similar organisations.





# Critical thinking and effective communications

Numerous opportunities are provided at Saint Ignatius College for students to reach their potential, with a range of innovative teaching practices and programs developed to enhance individual and collaborative learning.

Students are taught to think deeply and critically and evaluate issues facing the world. In order to acquire confident skills in public speaking, students are regularly provided with the opportunity to present to class members, undertake optional Public Speaking classes, join debating programs and address the College community in a variety of settings.

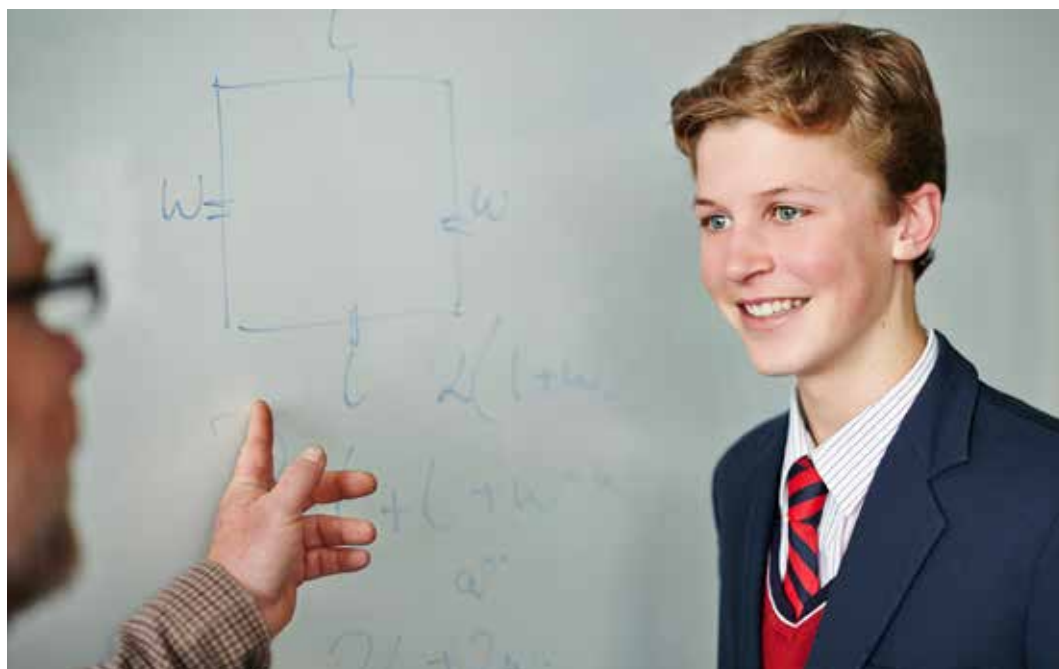
Students are equipped with problem-solving strategies and are challenged to become resourceful, resilient and independent learners.

Senior school leaders from the Australian network of secondary Jesuit or Jesuit Partner schools benefit from the experience of joining with their counterparts to address the question “What does it mean to be a leader in an Ignatian College?”.

In regard to effective communication, Jesuit William J. Byron, SJ. provides this succinct explanation:

*“Even in this “age of the image” and in the boundary less world of cyberspace, the Jesuit secondary school student meets school teachers who every day impress upon their charges the importance of the spoken and written word. Using words well on paper or aloud is a special goal of Jesuit education.*

*If education of leaders (Jesuit schools are clear about having that as a mission) is to be effective, it begins with an acknowledgment that the world moves on words and numbers. Literacy and numeracy belong in the tool kit of the leader”*





# Community

Saint Ignatius College has a strong commitment to working with families so that students can embrace the opportunities and have positive outcomes. There is a respectful partnership, which exists between parents and staff.

We recognize that parents are the first educators of their children and we strive to build relationships with families focussing on the best interests of students.

Communication with parents is a priority and parents are kept in touch with the daily life of the college through our Student Management System, newsletters, emails, formal and in informal parent-teacher interviews. They are encouraged to contact the school if they have questions about the education of their daughters and sons.

It is hoped parents will play an active role in the life of the school through involvement in events and activities such as fundraising, as part of the Parent's and Friends' Association (PFA) team or providing indispensable support by assisting at working bees or other College events.



Families of Year 7 students take part in Transition evenings and a Welcome Family Mass, assisting the settling-in process of students to their new school.

Evening meetings at the beginning of each year enable parents to meet teachers and discuss programs and the team approach of parents and teachers working in partnership to further student learning.

Subject interviews with senior students, parents and homeroom teachers allow discussion of options and selection of subjects for the following years. A Careers Coordinator is available to discuss pathways with families. A Year 12 Valet Mass, parents' lunch and Valedictory dinner signal the final days at the College.

Masses are held during the year in the adjoining St. Thomas' Church and full school assemblies and Information nights, performances and sporting events bring the whole student body and families together to inform and to celebrate achievements and active participation.

"The Old Ignatians' Association" is a burgeoning young group of former students who enjoy the opportunity to meet up with their classmates and staff at various reunions and we look forward to developing programs connecting and engaging former students with the College.

Numerous student activities are undertaken in conjunction with local community groups such as community service clubs and other schools. In collaboration with the other Catholic colleges in Geelong, our students support schools in Viqueque, East Timor.





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# Saint Ignatius College

## Geelong

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