St Francis Xavier College

INFORMATION GUIDE

2018/19 FOR PROSPECTIVE AND EXISTING STUDENTS
St Francis Xavier College

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A very warm welcome to the St Francis Xavier Community!

At St Francis Xavier we pride ourselves on being a welcoming community and a school of opportunities for all, with a proud 40-year history. Our staff and students focus on and are energised by our College Vision: Living the Truth, Leading with Courage and Learning for Life.

To enable this holistic development, SFX students have access to a broad curriculum and a safe and inclusive environment that nurtures authentic learning and caters for the individual needs of each of our students. We also offer diverse extra-curricular experiences. Our goal is that students graduate from SFX as confident, capable, well-educated young people full of hope.

Our teaching principles are based on our College Mission and Vision statements which speak of nurturing right relationships, valuing learning, cultivating excellence and thinking creatively to plan for an exciting future. Inspired by our vision statement, we encourage each individual to accept and develop their unique God-given gifts in the service of others, empowering them to create a better world.

Our dedicated and professional staff are passionate about their vocation to support students’ learning and strive to develop their knowledge and skills. Our parent body is supportive and committed to creating a wonderful learning environment for their children. There are avenues for parents to contribute to the life of the school, and the reporting and pastoral structures ensure that parents are kept informed of matters relating to their child’s education.

So please, explore our Information Guide to learn how St Francis Xavier can offer students a quality and engaging Catholic education. I look forward to welcoming you to the St Francis Xavier School community and journeying together to provide the best education for your child.

COLLEEN ROWE
Acting Principal
St Francis Xavier College is a coeducational Christian college in the Catholic tradition. We have an enrolment of 1200 wonderful students, and a dedicated and committed staff of 150. The College is blessed with modern facilities and is a leading college in the area of STEM and Digital Technology.

Mission Statement
At St Francis Xavier College, we seek to be truthful and courageous people who nurture right relationships, value learning and celebrate Christ’s life-giving presence among us.

Vision
Living the Truth, Leading with Courage, Learning for Life.

We will bring our vision to reality by working together as a community which reflects the passion and courage of Francis Xavier whose life emulated Christ’s love of teaching and learning, celebrating, building right relationships, and valuing justice for all.
**WE LIVE BY:**
- being Christ present to others
- trusting and respecting each other
- listening and showing empathy
- accepting and embracing diversity

**WE LEAD BY:**
- working together
- building on prior knowledge
- being actively responsible for our learning
- taking risks and challenging ourselves

**WE LEARN BY:**
- exploring a wide range of opportunities
- thinking creatively about the future
- embracing learning that is meaningful and significant
- creating a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can learn
- building deep knowledge and deep understanding
WE VALUE:
* nurturing right relationships in an environment of harmony which promotes growth for all
* building a vital Catholic education community which inspires and promotes excellence and achievement
* encouraging each individual to seize the moment with spirit and optimism

WE ARE DEDICATED TO:
* creating a dynamic learning environment where all are challenged to achieve
* developing and empowering Christian leaders
* enabling all students to take an active part in our community
* fostering the partnership of students, staff and parents

WE CELEBRATE:
* Christ’s life-giving presence among us
* the gift of education and the opportunities that brings to the individual
* the richness of our gifts and talents
* the joy and wonder of individual and communal accomplishments

WE DARE TO BE:
* Truthful and Courageous
Pastoral Care is an intrinsic and essential part of our core business at St Francis Xavier College, underlying the academic, religious and social dimensions of College life. Students are challenged to grow and develop into young adults, in a supportive, caring and Christian environment, with relationships built on mutual trust and honesty.

Daily Pastoral Care
Each student belongs to a Pastoral group, led by a Pastoral Leader, and meets daily for general administration, roll call and prayer. Each Pastoral Leader forms an important relationship with his or her pastoral students and is the first point of contact for students and families. Pastoral Leaders formally report on his or her Pastoral students during the year. Pastorals elect SRC representatives for each year group’s SRC. This is an opportunity for students to engage in leadership, volunteer for extra-curricular activities and have input into school matters. Pastoral Leaders generally lead the same pastoral group from Year 7 through to Year 12. The care provided through Pastoral groups is a cornerstone of the College’s wellbeing philosophy.
Belonging to a House
Pastoral groups are house-based and each student belongs to one of five houses.

House activities such as carnivals and community days are opportunities for students to connect with students from all grades within their house, allowing students to develop friendships beyond their year group peers.

The houses are:
- Pindari (Purple)
- Gariwang (Green)
- Irin Irin (Yellow)
- Dullugal (Blue)
- Koorilla (Red)

Support of a Year Coordinator and Pastoral Advisor
Year Coordinators manage the Pastoral groups within each year group, with the assistance of a Pastoral Advisor. These teachers are available every day to assist students with academic or personal concerns and can direct students to both internal and external support networks if needed. Additionally, Year Coordinators and Pastoral Advisors are in regular contact with parents about specific year group activities such as camps and can support for families if their child is struggling in some way at school.

Our Broader Pastoral Care Network
The Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing works with the Year Coordinators and Pastoral Advisors as well as the remainder of the school’s pastoral care network.

This includes our College Counsellors, who are available to support students needing more specialised care. Additionally, the College Pastoral Minister engages with student leadership, family outreach, and student and parent support. Our Defence Transition Mentor supports students of Defence families and liaises with these families as required.
PASTORAL CARE AT SFX

Participating in our PDCV Program (Personal Development and Christian Values)
The College’s PDCV program has been developed to:

♦ Meet the needs of our adolescent students
♦ Focus on our mission of assisting students to grow towards God in the context of others (family, Church and society)
♦ Promote the values and attitudes which are essential to the College (truth, honesty, respect, tolerance, forgiveness, compassion and hope).

The program may consist of a College or year assembly or College activity (Community Day, SFX Day, or sports carnival), or an extended session conducted in Pastoral groups under the leadership of the Pastoral Leader, and focussing on the PDCV themes for that year group. These sessions may consist of input from a guest speaker, a video with follow-up discussion, a theatre performance or expert presentation, or small group discussion within the Pastoral group on issues of relevance.

The PDCV program target themes such as:

♦ Wellbeing and positive relationships
♦ Community engagement
♦ Health and active lifestyles
♦ Safe behaviours
♦ Careers and future goals

Pastoral care is a hallmark of the SFX community and the Pastoral Care network is a diverse and dynamic team focused on providing wellbeing, care and advice to both students and families.
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AT SFX

St Francis Xavier College is working with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME). AIME deliver the opportunity for tutor squads to come into the college once a week for 6 weeks, to work with our Indigenous students. The Tutor Squads are run by University of Canberra students who are also trained mentors. They will provide tutoring in any subject area and are there to help students work on assignments, prepare for tests and catch up on class work and help with homework. They can also help with developing study plans and can help students with organisation.

As well as the tutoring squads, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students all participate in the AIME program days. These days are spent with mentors and working on various life skills and social development.

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are involved in ‘Charity Bounce’ which is a basketball program run at our college by Cal Bruton. This program focuses on health and physical education but also incorporates life skills and working in a team environment.

As well as these official programs, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are or have been involved in various celebrations or initiatives at the college which include:

• Establishment of the Bush Tucker Garden
• NAIDOC Mass with the Canberra Catholic Education Office
• Didge in a Day Program
• Reconciliation Week activities at the College
• Acknowledgement of Country at college events

MULTICULTURAL AND MIGRANT STUDENTS @ SFX

SFX offers a range of support for students from refugee and migrant backgrounds. On Monday afternoons students have the opportunity for one-on-one literacy or numeracy support with an older student who acts as a mentor and tutor. On Wednesday afternoons the Cal Bruton Basketball Program gives students an opportunity to develop their sports, leadership and teamwork skills.

The Multi-Cultural Contact Teacher acts as a primary contact between the school and families from non-English speaking backgrounds and SFX utilises the services of the Translating and Interpreting Service to communicate with families as needed.
The Resource Centre, also referred to as the RC, is an integral part of the busy daily life of all our students. Physically placed in the heart of the college campus, the Resource Centre welcomes and accommodates a variety of student needs.

Whether it is solitary study, working collaboratively on group tasks, gathering resources or taking time out with a good book, the Resource Centre has a space with your needs in mind. We encourage a learning centred focus during the school day and during after-school opening hours. During break times we recognise students’ need to unwind and de-stress. For this reason, games and puzzles are made available.

From an extensive non-fiction collection to full-text research databases, the Resource Centre provides an extensive range of print and electronic resources. Users can also borrow e-books and audiobooks for educational purposes and recreational reading.

Through dedicated workshops students develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse information efficiently and effectively so that they may become independent lifelong learners. Students work with Teacher Librarians to develop skills to critically evaluate the data available to them in the information rich world they live in, to construct new understandings and insights. Our Online Referencing Generator is freely available to use so that all students research and acknowledge their sources in an ethical manner.

SFX boasts a strong reading culture and dedicates regular lesson time for visits to the Resource Centre. Teacher Librarians work closely with students to select quality and engaging literature to nurture students’ love of reading. The Reading Lounge is a comfortable space for students to get ‘lost’ in a book.

Virtual Reality incursions are now being run through the RC and allow classes to virtually travel all over the world to help bring to life their studies. From Year 12 Psychology students studying the brain and neuroscience to a field trip to Ancient Egypt’s pyramids with our Year 7 Humanities classes, our students are excited and engaged by this technology.

The Resource Centre is a changing and dynamic place, at the forefront of the information age, aiming to foster in our students the skills and desire for lifelong learning.
St. Francis Xavier College provides a fully inclusive learning environment and welcomes learners with disability. The college proudly follows the provisions within the Disability Discrimination Act and the Disability Standards in Education and ensures reasonable adjustments are offered to students requiring them. Those students presenting with learning needs are provided with a Personal Plan to facilitate this process.

The college boasts a team of highly skilled Classroom Support Assistants who together with the Inclusive Education Coordinators cater to the diverse needs present within our student body. In certain circumstances, students can be offered one-on-one or small group support depending on each student’s level of need.

Unique Opportunities offered through Inclusive Education at SFX:

Inclusive Education also provides SFX students with services beyond the classroom.

- The Early Birds Breakfast Club offers our ‘early birds’ with a simple breakfast. This program runs Monday to Friday.

- The Homework Heroes after school homework support program runs Monday to Thursday. This initiative offers students with the opportunity to receive support with the completion of homework, assignments, and other necessary school-based tasks. This service is available to all SFX students with no bookings or prior arrangements necessary to attend.
OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY
The education principles that underpin the Middle School Program aim to provide students with an easier transition to high school. The curriculum is planned to use an interdisciplinary approach by integrating the core subjects: English, Social Science (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business) and Religious Education into Humanities, and Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Technology into STEM. Teachers work collaboratively to plan units of work applying an inquiry-based approach to learning. This helps to create a rich and cohesive learning environment which enables students to understand the connections between subjects and their relevance in the world.

The Middle School core subjects are taught by two teachers instead of the more traditional six. This builds strong pastoral relationships between the teacher and students, minimises repetition and maximises teaching time thus giving teachers more knowledge of each student’s abilities and learning needs.

Middle School teachers are dedicated to promoting a positive learning experience.

We believe in working as a cohesive, supportive team where team teaching is encouraged, as is innovation in the design of our teaching and learning practices.

We endeavor to meet the students ‘where they are,’ determining how to best support them in achieving faith development and academic growth. Every student and every teacher can embrace a fresh start each day. We believe that positive relationships are integral to the success of our students, and to a motivated staff team. We use cooperative learning structures to create safe and engaging learning spaces for our students. We provide opportunities to develop and express the talents and creativity of both teachers and students and integrate the use of iPads as a teaching tool throughout all our teaching and learning programs.

READ MORE ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION AT SFX
“An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of Catholic schools.”

Pope Francis
HUMANITIES

Unique Opportunities in Humanities:
• Integrated curriculum
• Excursions to exciting places such as: Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, Parliament House.
• Year 7 Grandparents’ Day
• Attending Mass, as a class, at St John the Apostle Parish

Performances:
• A variety of curriculum-linked incursions including guest speakers and performances.

Extension Opportunities:
• Master classes
• ICAS Testing
• Da Vinci Decathlon
• Debating and Public Speaking

STEM

Unique Opportunities in STEM:
• Participate in an STEM program where Coding and Engineering challenges are incorporated into the Australian Mathematics and Science Curriculum.
• Undertake challenging investigations in well-equipped laboratories.
• Complete extended investigations incorporating multiple skills from STEM disciplines.
• Participate in a well-structured Makerspace program to develop a strong engineering skill set.
• Join a robotics club and access the world of Lego EV3’s Arduino coding and beyond.

Extension Opportunities:
• ICAS Testing
• Australian Computing Academy Challenges
• Robotics Club
• Makerspace.
The High School Curriculum builds on the solid foundations laid in the Middle School and prepares students for their senior studies. This is a time of development, opportunity and challenge.

The Core Subjects of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Social Science, Science and Physical Education remain, with electives offered in Languages, Design and Technology, Food and Textile Technology, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Information Technology. The Personal Development and Christian Values program continues as a program of study within Pastoral Classes.

Although Social Science is still compulsory, a wider choice is offered to students in Years 9 and 10. Students study History for a semester in both Year 9 and 10 and may choose Commerce or Geography for the other semester.

They also choose electives from the practical areas: one is the continuing elective (studied for the two years over Year 9 and 10) and the other two are one-year electives studied in either Year 9 or 10.

“The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students, so that they may be true to their condition as Christ’s disciples and as such work effectively for the evangelisation of culture and for the common good of society.”

Pope John Paul II
“A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints.”

Pope Benedict XVI
The senior years form an integral part of the life at St Francis Xavier College and are built on the solid foundation prepared by the Middle School and High School. The Senior College provides a supportive learning environment where students are encouraged to achieve their best and where life-giving and lifelong relationships are built.

The philosophy of the Senior College sees each student as a unique young adult who is developing a sense of social responsibility and preparing for life beyond school within a Christian environment in the Catholic tradition.

Senior students have access to a welcoming and supportive learning environment where their care and comfort is paramount. They have access to the modern canteen, learning Hub, the Senior Common Room and the Senior Services Area which includes the offices of the Year and Senior Studies Coordinators, and the VET and Careers Coordinators.

Senior students enjoy the recognition and privileges that being in Senior College brings. They are treated as young adults and are extended various privileges and freedoms which tend to increase over Years 11 and 12. With these privileges come boundaries and responsibilities.

At St Francis Xavier we describe the senior years as the ‘Pathways’ years and students are encouraged to further explore their abilities and their options for the future. Students are guided to think carefully about the course of study that they would like to follow over Years 11 and 12 as a wide variety of courses are available to choose from. They receive course selection counselling prior to Year 11 and are able to make changes to their choices over the Senior years. Parents are involved in the initial course counselling and in any change requests. All students are valued and encouraged to keep their options open.

Students are offered a wide variety of opportunities, in and out of the classroom. The needs of Senior School students at SFX are supported in a variety of ways and 2019 will bring about a new and flexible timetable that will allow our senior students access to new and exciting options for courses and class configurations.

READ MORE ABOUT SENIOR SCHOOL AT SFX ON OUR WEBSITE
SPIRITUALITY, MINISTRY AND LITURGY

St Francis Xavier is a Christian College in the Catholic tradition. We take our inspiration and values from the teachings of Jesus Christ. Hence, we believe that each person deserves love, respect and dignity.

COLLEGE CHARISM
We follow the charism of St Francis Xavier, our school patron, who co-founded the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits. St Francis Xavier was a brave missionary, who travelled to many distant lands in order to spread the Good News of Jesus in the 16th century.

Inspired by his life, our school motto is ‘Truth and Courage’.

RELIGIOUS THEME
Each year the College has a religious theme that permeates every aspect of College life and serves as the inspiration for many religious events and classes. In 2018, the theme is “Be still and know that I am God”.

SPIRITUAL AND LITURGICAL OPPORTUNITIES
At St Francis Xavier College we invite our staff and students to experience and develop their spiritual life, so they may better understand who they are and where God leads them. The opportunities include:

- Daily morning prayer
- Reflection days for students in Years 7 to 10
- Retreat days for Year 11 and 12 students
- Optional overnight retreat called Turning Points
- Liturgies and prayer services for Ash Wednesday, Easter and other important celebrations
- Class Masses for Years 7 and 8
- Youth Ministry team for junior and senior students who run a number of significant events outside school
- Staff spirituality days
- Staff Masses and personal learning.
OUR AIM
By providing these opportunities we aim at developing the whole person who is prepared to embrace the unique Christian values, spirituality and College vision with truth and courage.

• We teach the Catholic perspective of human dignity, focused on the person and teachings of Jesus and the belief that we are all created in the image and of God
• We integrate SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) into RE classroom management procedures
• We model treating others with dignity, respect and compassion
• We teach prayer, meditation and personal reflection
• We teach and promote social justice
• We teach and promote Christian virtues such as gratitude, resilience, courage, etc
• We provide opportunities to nurture the spiritualities of staff and students
• It is not necessary for students to have a faith background or religious knowledge

RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
• We develop an appreciation of the demographic and generational characteristics of our students
• We provide web/academic/library links to support teaching and learning
• We continue to promote sustainability in teaching, learning and action
• We provide quality resources that will enhance teaching and learning
• We create classroom environments that are open, welcoming, and encourage learning
• We continue to build partnerships with the wider community creating a group of guest speakers who return annually to share their stories with our community
• We provide appropriate venues for retreat and reflection experiences

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND FAITH
THE SPIRITUALITY OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE
• We develop awareness of our Patron Saint, St Francis Xavier
• We centre our learning on the person of Jesus and teachings of Jesus
• We promote SFX College as a community of faith
• We provide opportunities for engaging in meaningful and relevant Christian prayer, meditation and reflection
• We engage in morning prayer during Pastoral time.
• We explicitly teach Catholic beliefs, traditions, prayers and perspectives across all RE units and year levels
• We actively engage with the seasons of the liturgical year

READ MORE ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR SENIOR STUDENTS AT SFX ON OUR WEBSITE
TEACHING AND LEARNING

- We understand that positive relationships are the key to happy classroom environments.
- We encourage students and teachers to see relationships with each other as the foundation of learning.
- We understand that developing critical thinking and learning to question are key to learning.
- We understand that everyone learns differently and so we aim to provide a wide range of learning activities and environments to ensure that everyone can engage with RE.
- We understand that everyone is at a different stage of their life journey in the Religious Education classroom.

CONTENT

Religious Education is a compulsory subject for all students at St Francis Xavier College.

In the Middle School Years of 7 and 8, RE is integrated with English and SOSE and called Humanities. Students explore God and God’s creation, Jesus the Teacher, The Early Church, Prayer and Sacraments.

In Years 9 and 10 students explore the meaning of Eucharist as liturgy and lived experience, with practical opportunities to experience Eucharist. They investigate the lives of prophets as figures who call us back to a positive relationship with God. Studies of social action, social justice and world religions are integral to Year 9 studies.

In Year 10 students explore Church History and the key events shaping the teaching, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith. They investigate the challenges facing the Church in the modern world. Prayer and Spirituality is a core unit, inviting students to explore their own spirituality more deeply. The unit of Jesus and Discipleship explicitly teaches the Catholic perspective on morality and relationships.

God of Life, the final unit in Junior High School, is an uplifting unit which allows students to reflect on the meaning of life, suffering and death in a supportive environment.

In senior years, courses are offered as a Major, a Major-Minor, and a Double Major.

Religious Studies explores the great questions of life. Why are we here? Is there a God? Why is there suffering? How should we live? Does my life have purpose? What does it mean to be human? Is there a role for religion in the wider society? How can I make a difference in my world? How can art, media, politics, sacred texts, science and history contribute to our understanding of religious beliefs and traditions? Religious Studies attempts to address these questions in a variety of units. There is also an opportunity for students to undertake an Independent Studies unit.

READ MORE ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT SFX ON OUR WEBSITE

READ MORE ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR SENIOR STUDENTS AT SFX ON OUR WEBSITE
“Let us never forget that authentic power is service”

Pope Francis
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES IN ENGLISH

Extension Opportunities/Master Classes
Students with an interest in poetry and creative writing can choose to take part in these events.

Writing competitions
Writing competitions are offered to students throughout the year. Teachers within the English Department support students in their creative writing endeavors.

Theatre performances
All year groups experience live performances throughout the year.

As laid out in the Australian Curriculum, the English department at St Francis Xavier College has three distinct purposes – to engage students across three streams. These streams are:

- Language: knowing about the English language;
- Literacy: being able to use the English language for various purposes; and
- Literature: reading, understanding and responding to literature.

When students learn about Language, they learn about how the English language is constructed. They learn about the ways English has changed over time and the different types of language.

When students learn Literacy, they are learning how to use the English language to achieve various purposes. The college employ a variety of theatre companies, including Bell Shakespeare.

When students work with Literature, they go beyond mere functional language and look at how works of art use the English language to shed light on the human condition.

All three strands work together to form a subject which is vital to success in a world that runs on effective communication. It also provides a foundation to a life lived with a full consciousness of how literary texts shape, and are shaped by, the society for which they are written.
With both a contemporary and historical focus, Social Science is the study of human behavior, society and interaction in social, cultural, environmental, economic and political contexts. It examines the way individuals in society behave, interact and influence the world.

Our Social Science courses provide a broad understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can participate as active and informed citizens with high-level skills needed for the 21st century. Students are encouraged to develop a broad understanding of their place in Australia and grow their understanding through participation in local and interstate excursions: National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, the National Arboretum, Old Parliament House, ACT Magistrates and Supreme Courts, Sydney Jewish Museum and Melbourne Enterprise Excursion.

Through studying a Social Science course, students will develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively and make decisions. Thinking about and responding to current issues requires an understanding of the key historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors involved, and how these different factors interrelate.

Social Science Courses offered at the College include:
- Ancient History
- Business
- Economics
- Geography
- Global Studies
- Legal Studies
- Modern History
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Tourism and Event Management
THE HUMANITIES LANGUAGES

The study of another language allows students to gain a broad understanding of other cultures and provides lifelong employment opportunities. It extends, diversifies and enriches the language learner’s way of thinking. In addition, learning a language widens horizons and develops a soundly based worldview, which fosters a cross cultural understanding.

LANGUAGES SENIOR COURSES
Students at St Francis Xavier College have the option of studying two languages at Tertiary level: Italian or Japanese. These courses are intended for students who have completed two or more years study of the language at high school.

Benefits of Studying a Language in Year 11 and 12
• Extra 5 points on ATAR if you continue the study of Languages in Year 11 and 12 (ANU incentive).
• Heightens your intercultural understanding and assists you in becoming a global citizen.
• Learning a language helps to develop your interpersonal and ‘higher order thinking’ skills.
• Real opportunity for overseas exchange in the future.
• Real job prospects as employers highly regard employees who have a second language.
• In 2019, the Languages Department is offering study tour to both Italy and Japan.

Career Opportunities
There are increasing career prospects within and beyond Australia for those who are proficient in more than one language. Students can find employment in a wide range of occupations, such as advertising, journalism, international relations and teaching. Successful language graduates can gain employment in Foreign Affairs, Defence, Tourism and Hospitality.

Learn a language... travel the world!

READ MORE ABOUT LANGUAGES AT SFX ON OUR WEBSITE
“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”

Aristotle
The Mathematics Department at St Francis Xavier College offers the full range of curriculum courses as outlined in the Australian Curriculum.

Maths courses aim to create confidence and enjoyment in doing mathematical activities. Students develop an awareness of how maths can be used to solve problems in everyday life. They also learn of its contribution to the development of society.

The Mathematics faculty works closely with the Inclusive Education team to meet the learning needs of all students through extra support and differentiated programs.

Students are offered opportunities to participate in many enrichment activities including the Australian Mathematics Competition, the Computational and Algorithmic Challenge, Australian Mathematics Olympiad, ICAS Mathematics and Australian Informatics Competitions. We have recently had teams participate in Maths Days for Year 10 and the ANU Maths Day for Year 12. Students in recent years have been selected to participate in the ANU Enrichment maths program and the ANU College Specialist Mathematics Extension course.

We also offer additional support to students who struggle with Mathematics or would like to extend their understanding at Maths tutorials. Maths tutorials are currently offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

Students in Year 7 and 8 are placed in integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) classes. Students in Year 9 are placed into classes for Mathematics based on their performance in Year 8 Maths. Classes are taught in either the Extension or Mainstream mathematics courses. Students in Year 10 are placed into classes for Mathematics based on their performance in Year 9 Maths. There is a strong emphasis on Algebraic concepts in the Extension courses to study the full 10A Australian Curriculum in preparation for the Specialist Mathematics and Mathematical Methods courses in Years 11 and 12. These courses require a high level of understanding of algebraic concepts in preparation for Calculus.

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### THE SCIENCES

**MATHEMATICS**

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**Middle School**

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<th>Year 7</th>
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<td>Year 8</td>
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**High School**

| Year 9/10 |

**College**

| Years 11/12 |

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**STEM**

**Extension (inc 10A)**

**Mathematics**

- Specialist Mathematics (T)
- Mathematical Methods (T)
- Mathematical Applications (T)
- Essential Mathematics (A)
- Contemporary Mathematics (A)

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READ MORE ABOUT MATHEMATICS AT SFX ON OUR WEBSITE
THE SCIENCES

SCIENCE

The courses offered in the Science Department are structured to prepare students for studying Science at university and other educational institutions. In these courses, students are provided with a comprehensive foundation of information and experiences for those students who have demonstrated an interest in Science. When choosing a Science course, students should take care to select courses that are both within their academic ability and appropriate to their vocational aspirations.

All courses have a large practical component that forms an essential part of assessment. Student performance will be assessed using a range of assessment tools. Each course consists of four sequential semester units.

- Biology (T)
- Human Biology (T,A)
- Senior Science (A,M)
- Physics (T)
- Chemistry (T)

Unique Opportunities in Science:
- ANU Extension Courses in Astrophysics, Engineering, Chemistry, Physics and Biodiversity
- Chemistry Titration competition.
- Field work in different environmental ecosystems
- Participation in STEM leadership and mentoring opportunities
- Extensive excursions to relevant sites including Lucas Heights Nuclear Reactor, ANU laboratories, coastal field study sites
OVERVIEW
Students electing to study senior Applied Technology courses have the choice of four options including: Construction Pathways, Furniture Construction, Design Technology & Graphics and Wood Technology. Whilst these courses provide a sound basis for further studies in tertiary education and vocational training, they also provide knowledge and development of practical workshop skills for future leisure activities.

Whilst Wood Technology and Design Technology & Graphics courses promote the design, make and appraise approach, the Vocational courses of Furniture Construction and Construction Pathways place a strong emphasis on skill development.

SENIOR COURSES

Construction Pathways
This course is for students who are interested in this area or intend to undertake a career in the Construction Industry. It is a Vocational course that incorporates nationally recognised competencies.

Furniture Making
This course is for students who are interested in this area or intend to undertake a career in furniture construction, cabinet making or any of the associated trades.

It is a Vocational course that incorporates nationally recognised competencies.

Wood Technology
This course is for students who are interested in this area and wish to develop their skills and knowledge of Technology.

Design Technology and Graphics
This course is designed to allow students to follow many main pathways: The main streams are: Architecture, Graphic Design, and Industrial Design. The study of Design Technology and Graphics explores the purposeful use of technologies and creative processes to produce design solutions. Students acquire knowledge and develop skills using technologies and other processes appropriately, to design and create graphic solutions, products, systems and built environments with a mind to a ‘preferred future’.

Unique Opportunities in Technology
Technology provides opportunities for students to respond to design challenges in a diverse range of contexts by “working technologically”.

Within our society the processes of Technology are used to build new knowledge and create the diverse range of products which we use each day.

Technology education provides students with a critical framework through which they can comment upon and critique technological change.
At St. Francis Xavier College, Information Technology is integrated throughout all aspects of our curriculum.

All students in Year 7 and 8 participate in our iPad program where iPads are used as a teaching and learning tool to enhance the Middle School integrated program.

2018 has seen the introduction of Digital Technologies into the Year 8 compulsory elective rotation to meet the needs of the Australian Curriculum in this area.

In Years 9-12 students participate in the Laptop program. College-provided Laptops are used for a variety of purposes to build on skills developed in the Middle School.

In Years 9 and 10 there are elective courses that students can choose to study IT in more depth. The course covers programming, game-making, robotics, 3D design, microcontroller design, databases and networking. In Year 10 students may continue their studies in a one-year course in Digital Technologies and complete a Certificate I in Information Technology and Business. Students are also encouraged to compete in computing competitions such as RoboCup Junior Challenge, Australian STEM Video Game Challenge and The National ICT Standards Certificate.

Senior students can elect to participate in Tertiary, Accredited and Vocational courses. The subjects include programming, networking. The school uses industry standard software and allows the students to move into university, CIT and the workplace to further develop their IT skills. The students are also able to nominate themselves into the Senior Robotics Program where students continue to work on the schools Industry-standard Confined Space Rescue Robot. The robot “S.A.R.T.”, has been in development for the past five years being refined by each group towards its goal to production. This is a Registered Unit and students who participate will receive 1.0 Units and a letter for their application to higher education.

Unique Opportunities Offered:
• Extension curriculum-based activities after school and during lunch at Coding Club
• Create and use cutting edge hardware and software
• Join world leaders in robotic events on the regional, national and international stage (SFX has won several first place awards in International robotics competitions)
• Solve a real-world problem with the schools SART senior robotics program
• Obtain internationally recognised Certificates in Digital Technologies and Business
• Excursions to ANU and UCAN Computer Science departments
• Participate in workshops conducted by leaders in the interactive media (Game Design) industry
“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela
THE TECHNOLOGIES DESIGN (FOOD & TEXTILES)

YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10 COURSES

FOOD TECHNOLOGY
In Food Technology, students will cook up a storm and get their creative juices flowing. They will learn about how ingredients work together to create marvellous menus that tantalise the taste buds and are also a feast for the eyes. They will master their nutrition knowledge and learn about foods from around the world. The Design Process is used for design challenges and assignments.

You also develop your food preparation and presentation skills. Join us in the fascinating study about other people’s foods and eating habits. Learn how to use new ingredients, prepare foods in different ways, and discover how different people make their food choices depending on the availability of foods.

Some of the design challenges include Rice Box, Master Chef, Mystery Boxes and Gingerbread Houses (Year 9). There are also excursions to various food outlets and shows.

Hospitality
This course is the same as the Year 11 Hospitality Certificate I course, however if students do this in Year 10, they are then able to do the Certificate II in Year 11. They can then concentrate on their other studies in year 12 or choose the ‘Food for Life’ course in Year 11 and/or Year 12. Please see senior course information for more details.

TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY
Students in Textiles courses will undertake a variety of design projects using the design process. They will use the design process which involves developing ideas, investigating a variety of possibilities and selecting a project solution.

Students will develop skills in garment construction using a range of different fabrics and sewing skills. This course will help students prepare for the Senior Textiles and Fashion course. They will have the opportunity to experiment with different process and techniques when using fabrics.

READ MORE JUNIOR FOOD & TEXTILE COURSE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE
SENIOR COURSES

FOOD TECHNOLOGY
In 2019 the Food and Textiles Department will be offering three different senior courses, all of which have a large practical component.

Senior Courses
- Food for Life A/M
- Hospitality A/V/M
- Textiles and Design
- Food for Life

This course has not been offered at SFX before but it offers students the opportunity to learn about nutrition and a variety of living skills to help them adjust to life after school and to cope when they begin living independently.

There is a large practical cooking component in this course. There are also excursions to cafes and local businesses.

Hospitality
Unique Opportunities in this course include the opportunity to earn Nationally Recognised Vocational Certificates in Hospitality. This can help students obtain part time jobs, whilst still studying, and can also lead to fulltime employment in the industry. There are excursions to food shows and restaurants as well as lots of practical tasks.

TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY
Bring your creativity into the limelight as a fashion designer, your job is to design and produce your own garments and products.

This is a course that can be studied in Year 11 or Year 12 as either a minor course (1 year) or as a major course (2 years). The units are non-sequential.

Unique Opportunities in Textiles:
- Drawing workshops – Studio Faro or Whitehouse
- Dyeing and Printing
- Excursions – musicals, op shopping, fashion and textiles exhibitions
- Students will get to exhibit their work at the annual Elective Showcase evening at the College.

READ MORE SENIOR FOOD & TEXTILE COURSE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE
OVERVIEW
Performing Arts at St Francis Xavier College offers rich and vibrant courses and co-curricular opportunities all year round. These opportunities enable students to reach their full artistic potential and gain invaluable creative and life skills that will facilitate their career pathways in what is a STEAM focused workforce.

SENIOR COURSES
St Francis Xavier College offers Senior Students the opportunity to study Dance, Drama and Music at a Tertiary or Accredited level. For students more interested in the ‘behind the scenes work’, we also offer an ‘offline’ course in Live Production and Services.

JUNIOR COURSES
Unique Opportunities in Performing Arts:
- College Musical (biannually)
- Performing Arts Tour to the United States of America (biannually)
- Funk Band
- Concert Band
- Dance Ensemble
- Vocal Ensemble
- MADD Night (Music, Art, Dance and Drama)
- Ausdance Youth Dance Festival
- Drama Productions
- Buskers Corner
- Battle of the Bands
- Production Crew
- Stage Managers Workshops
- Act Up! Student Fringe
- Come Alive Festival
- Mentoring
- Local, Interstate and International Excursions

Facilities:
Performing Arts students have a unique opportunity at St Francis Xavier College to learn and perform in our very own professional theatre which is fully equipped with a dance tarkett and state of the art lighting, sound and multimedia systems.

Student Testimonials:
“Performing arts is a huge part of my life and I am so lucky to have so many opportunities through the school. I have been sponsored to perform in the arena experience of Grease, and the Performing Arts Trip to America in 2016 was such a valuable experience as a performer. The staff are very helpful and supportive of all the students, it’s my favourite part of school!” – Claire Hackett

“Drama is a crucial part of my identity. The Performing Arts Department (Drama) at SFXC is one of the most compassionate, productive, and accepting communities you could encounter. Drama has given me a direct life path of teaching that I would never have envisioned myself doing if it weren’t for SFXC. I get to witness such passionate and excitable performers/students daily, and for that, I will forever be grateful.” – Hayla Pentland-Withington

“Studying Music has been so much fun! The teachers are always very supportive and help us all to grow as performers. Studying this course has also helped me to improve my performances, not only in music but in class orals as well as I am more confident in myself. The school also has so many opportunities for everyone and it’s amazing!” – Trish Chipangura
THE ARTS
VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts Department offers a variety of options for students wishing to develop their creative abilities. Several disciplines and fields of study are presented, allowing students to learn and practice fundamental skills and key concepts and further extend and explore areas of interest. Courses in the Visual Arts provide opportunities for students to learn to solve problems, think creatively and develop mental disciplines which are valuable and highly transferable skills for any academic endeavour.

Students can study all courses at either a Tertiary (T) or Accredited (A) level. All skill levels are welcome and there are no pre-requisites in this area.

SENIOR COURSES
In the Visual Art Department we offer:

• Visual Art
• Ceramics
• Photography
• Media

Unique Opportunities in the Visual Arts
A student enrolled in a Visual Arts course may have the opportunity to:

• Participate in local, interstate or international excursions
• Enter and exhibit their work in a variety of exhibitions and/ or competitions
• Display their work within the College
• Take part in a variety of extra-curricular initiatives, including the Art Group and Life Drawing
• Meet with practicing artists during an incursion program

READ MORE SENIOR VISUAL ARTS COURSE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE
“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”
Malala Yousafzai
OVERVIEW
With a combination of curriculum based and co-curricular activities Physical Education at St Francis Xavier College provides an experiential environment that is contemporary, relevant, challenging, enjoyable and physically active.

Participation in the activities offered by the Physical Education faculty provide ongoing lessons in life.

Students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying relationships. The curriculum helps them to be resilient, and to make decisions and take actions to promote their own health, safety and participation in physical activity.

SENIOR COURSES
Physical Education (A)
Physical Education is a practical activity based course. The program allows for students maintain fitness levels and continue participation in sport and recreational activities. We work with local providers to access meaningful, active participation based activities.

Exercise Science provides a foundation of knowledge and skills for students to access vocational opportunities and higher studies in the sport/ fitness industries. The course content directly links to courses offered at University of Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology.

PROPOSED COURSE FOR 2019
Outdoor Education (A)
Depending on interest, students will have the opportunity to extend their knowledge and participate in a variety of outdoor pursuits. These could include snorkelling, snow sports, expeditions, abseiling, rock climbing, coastal activities and more. Each unit will culminate in an experiential camp.

Exercise Science (A)
Students will be able to gain knowledge in the theory behind sporting performance. They will follow the same program as the Exercise Science (T) course but at an accredited level.

Year 7-10 Physical Education and Sport & Recreation
Students gain a foundation in physical literacy to encourage healthy, safe and active lifestyle choices. In the Sport and Recreation course students’ experiences are extended to take them out of their comfort zone. The course includes a coastal camp and an adventure race around Sydney.

School Sport
Having produced Olympic gold medallists and professional athletes in a variety of sports, the College has a strong history of participation and sporting excellence. Students are able to extend their limits in ACT based competitions in Athletics, Swimming, Cross Country, Netball, Basketball, Softball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, AFL, Oztag, Football, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis and Golf.
SFX is committed to career development and vocational learning programs. We aim to connect students with their school, community, learning and the world of work.

VET courses place the student at the centre of learning through a focus on achieving outcomes that lead to:

- Employment and career pathways - by gaining nationally recognised and valuable VET credentials
- Successful learning - by learning new knowledge and skills as a product and engagement with learning as a process
- Personal growth and wellbeing - by increasing self-confidence and experiencing success
- Recognition from community - through public acknowledgement of learning success
- Contribution to community - by developing core skills for work or employability skills to give back to employers, family and community organisations.

**Australian School-Based Apprenticeships**

An ASbA enables any secondary student aged 15 or over to start an apprenticeship. It lets you get your future career underway earlier and gives you paid work while you train. ASbAs are all about increasing your options for work and study.

Transition and Pathway planning allows students to:

- reflect on who they are
- identify their interests
- set goals
- practice decision making
- develop a plan

Every student is invited to meet with the SFX Careers Advisor to ensure they have a clear and defined pathway for school and beyond.

Creating links to the curriculum and the world beyond school increase the relevance of specific subjects to students.

Work experience has a vital role to play. Year 10, 11 and 12 students are encouraged to engage in more than one placement to help determine their passion and pathway.

**Unique Opportunities:**

- Work experience
- Structured Workplace learning
- Involvement in the planning and running of RoboCup locally, nationally and internationally
- Excursions to University and CIT Open Days, Try a trade, and other post school educational opportunities

**Extension Opportunities**

- Participation in World Skills
- College musical
- Engagement with the Canberra Theatre
Testimonials

- Staff and Students are regularly listed as finalists in the ACT VET Awards. On several occasions becoming the winning nomination of their section
- Past SFX students are finalists in the 2018 World skills competition in Sydney
- FACT VET graduates can earn wages comparable to, if not exceeding, that of university graduates.
- More than 78% of VET graduates are employed after training

YEAR 10 COURSES

- BSB10115 Certificate I in Business
- ICT10115 Certificate I in Information, Digital
- SIT10216 – Certificate I in Hospitality
- CPC10111 Certificate I in Construction

NEW COURSES ON OFFER IN 2019
The following courses are proposed for delivery in 2019 pending application for scope and approval from ASQA.

- FSK10213 Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways
- ***FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- ***CHC14015 Certificate I in Active Volunteering
- **BSB30115 Certificate III in Business
- **CUA20215 Certificate II in Creative Industries
- Senior only *** Year 10, 11 & 12

SENIOR COURSES

- BSB20115 Certificate II in Business
- CPC20211 Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- MSF10113 Certificate I in Furnishing
- SIT20316 Certificate II in Hospitality
- BSB30115 Certificate III in Business SoA
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