

St Francis Xavier College

Prospectus



Welcome

I am delighted to be joining St Francis Xavier College as Principal in 2023!

St Francis Xavier College is an innovative, future focussed learning community dedicated to preparing our students for the joys and challenges of the 21st century. Our learning environment nurtures our students to be curious, adaptive thinkers and life long learners.

In an environment of holistic growth and opportunity our students are offered dynamic, deep learning experiences from Year 7-12. The College offers a diverse range of learning opportunities for students to excel in academic pursuits such as English, Mathematics and the Sciences, the Humanities including Religious Education, History, Economics, Legal Studies, Sociology and Psychology, the Visual and Performing Arts, Languages, Sport, VET and Industry subjects, as well as a range of extra curricular endeavours. We are also deeply committed to social justice activities and invite our students to participate in these as an opportunity for community engagement and leadership.

I believe that relationships are central to learning and that that deep learning is significantly enhanced where trusted relationships are developed. Our students learn in an environment where they are able to take appropriate learning risks, secure in the knowledge that they will be supported and nurtured by an expert teaching staff who are dedicated to each students' wellbeing and learning journey.

Guided by the charism of St Francis Xavier, the Patron Saint of Missions, our students are inspired to be the hearts and hands of Jesus, to live their lives with 'Truth and Courage' and to make a difference in their world now and in the future.

I invite you to take a look at our College website and to contact the College if you would like to know more about our learning community.

SANDRA DARLEY
COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Vision

Living the truth.

Leading with courage.

Learning for life.



Middle School | Years 7-8

Our Middle School program provides students with a smooth transition to high school and emphasises a structured and integrated approach to curriculum, with fewer teachers and fewer classroom changes.

Middle School curriculum

The curriculum integrates the core subjects into:

- **Humanities** – Religious Education, English, History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship and Business and Economics
- **STEM** – Science, Engineering Concepts, Integrated Technologies and Mathematics

These core subjects are taught by **two teachers** instead of the traditional six, building strong relationships between the teacher and students and giving teachers more knowledge of each student's abilities and learning needs.

The Middle School is a rich and cohesive learning environment which enables students to understand the connections between subjects and their relevance in the world.

For **Physical Education & Health, Languages and Elective Rotations** students are regrouped and have specialist teachers in each of these subjects. This enables students to learn from a variety of teachers and work with different classmates, in different learning spaces.

We create safe and engaging learning spaces for our students and provide opportunities to develop and express the talents and creativity of both students and teachers.

We also integrate the use of laptops as a teaching tool to enhance student learning through our BYOD Program.

“

The teachers are all very kind and caring, they helped me settle in and find my way when I started in Year 7. They make me feel like I belong and can achieve anything I want.

— Jayden, Year 8 student



“

Together with the endless opportunities and the constant support and friendship that is offered to all students, there is no doubt that you will prosper and achieve excellence both academically and socially.

— Ava, Year 12 student



Middle School

	Core	Language	Elective rotations
Year 7	Pastoral Care Physical Education & Health	Language* <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asian language OR• Romance language * Essentials <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An intensive literacy and numeracy class focused on improving core skills through the study of culture. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students cannot elect to join Essentials—the College will contact students directly with an invitation.• <i>Students in Essentials do not take part in a language elective.</i>	Design & Technology Visual Arts & Media Performing Arts Digital Technologies
	Humanities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religious Education• English• History• Geography		
	STEM: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science• Engineering Concepts• Integrated Technologies• Mathematics		
Year 8	Pastoral Care Physical Education & Health		
	Humanities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religious Education• English• History• Civics & Citizenship• Business & Economics		
	STEM: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science• Engineering Concepts• Integrated Technologies• Mathematics		



High School

Students build on their skills from Middle School and begin consolidating a deeper knowledge and understanding of subject-specific concepts, to prepare them for the significant years of senior studies.

During Years 9 and 10, students study eight subjects, six of which are compulsory and two electives. In doing so, students are given a rich and broad curriculum experience from a range of disciplines and are provided course counselling towards the end of Year 10, to support them to make informed decisions around subject selection for their senior academic packages.

Senior College

Years 11 and 12 are the culmination of 13 years of school and the completion of a comprehensive and individually designed senior package of study will have a significant impact on student choice for life beyond school.

At SFX, we cater for the many pathways students may choose in tertiary or vocational studies and have a wide suite of courses and packages available to meet the individual needs of students. There are also many formal and informal leadership and community outreach opportunities available at the College—an important component of senior students building their resumes for future pathways.

Senior students at St Francis Xavier College are provided with a learning environment that is safe, supportive and welcoming to assist with the challenges of senior studies.

Subject offerings

Subject offerings for High School students

Design and Technologies

- Design & Graphics
- Design & Metal
- Design & Timber
- Engineering (Y9)
- Applications (Y10)
- Introductory Construction (Y10)
- Food Technology
- Introduction to Hospitality (Y10)
- Design in Textiles

Digital Technology

- Computing Studies
- Mechatronics - Robotics and Gaming Design (Y9)
- Digital Systems in IT (Y10)

English

Health and PE

- Sports & Recreation

Languages

- Romance language
- Asian language

Mathematics

- Mathematics
- Extension Mathematics

Personal Development & Christian Values

Performing Arts

- Drama
- Music
- Dance

Religious Education

Science

Humanities & Social Science

- History
- Social Studies (Geography, Business and Economics, Civics and Citizenship)

Visual Arts

- Digital Photography & Media (Y9)
- Digital Photography (Y10)
- Media Arts (Y10)
- Visual Art

Subject offerings for Senior College students

Design and Technologies

- Engineering Studies
- Design and Technologies
- Design and Textiles
- Timber Products
- Metal Products
- Food Studies
- Hospitality Studies
- Construction Pathways

Digital Technologies

- Digital Technologies
- Robotics & Mechatronics
- Business Services

English

- English
- Literature
- Essential English

Languages

- Continuing Romance language
- Continuing Asian language

Mathematics

- Specialist Methods
- Specialist Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Essential Mathematics

Performing Arts

- Dance
- Drama
- Music

Physical Education

- Physical Education Studies
- Exercise Science
- Outdoor & Environment

Religion

- Religious Studies

Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Food Science & Nutrition
- Human Biology
- Physics
- Psychology

Humanities & Social Science

- Business
- Geography
- Global Studies
- Legal Studies
- Modern History

Visual Arts

- Visual Art
- Photography
- Media

Catholic Identity

We pride ourselves on our [spiritual and academic commitment](#) to Catholic education. Each year the College has a religious theme that permeates every aspect of College life and is the inspiration for many religious events and classes.

Formation and liturgical opportunities

Spiritual and liturgical opportunities offered to students and staff include:

- daily prayer
- reflection days for students in Years 7 to 10
- retreat days for Years 11 and 12 students
- liturgies and prayer services for Ash Wednesday, Easter, St Francis Xavier Feast Day and other important celebrations
- class masses for Years 7 and 8
- structured prayers and reflections in our school chapel
- youth ministry team for junior and senior students
- spirituality days for staff members.

“

The kindness and care shown by students and staff. Feeling like a valued and respected member of the SFX community, is why I love working here every day.

— Maria, Teacher

Academic opportunities

At SFX we are dedicated to offering students a [vibrant and relevant Religious Education](#) curriculum.

We invite students to engage with the knowledge and tradition of our living faith, centred on the person and love of Jesus Christ.



Pastoral Care

We care about the wellbeing of all our students. Our Pastoral Care model is based on [supporting the needs of our students](#). Each student belongs to a small Pastoral Care group which meets daily and enables students to receive and extend the care and support necessary in a large and busy community.

Each school day begins with Pastoral, when students meet their Pastoral Leader for prayer, roll call, information sharing and discussion.

Pastoral groups consist of about 20 students from the same year group and House. Pastoral groups also meet regularly for an extended [Personal Development and Christian Values program](#).

College Houses

Our College House activities create a [sense of belonging, community and creates strong bonds across Year groups](#). Students and staff belong to one of five Houses:

- Dullugal
- Gariwang
- Irin Irin
- Koorilla
- Pindari

House activities include celebrations, competitions, Community Day and athletics carnivals. The House Points system rewards students for positive contributions to the daily life of the College.

The House Spirit Cup is awarded annually to the House displaying positive community spirit across a range of areas.

Student leadership

We are [growing together as leaders](#). Our Year 12 Senior Leadership Team consists of College Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains and Speciality Captains. The team is elected by students and staff to represent the College and student body.

Each year group is represented by the Student Representative Council (SRC). Members consist of students from across all year groups who convene to discuss school-wide Initiatives. Leadership formation is also offered, with a focus on participation.

Caring community

We care about the wellbeing of our wider community. We develop students' social and community leadership and engagement through various [volunteering programs, fund raising activities for local charities and faith-based philosophies](#).

“

At SFX I'm part of a community that allows every child the opportunity to reach their potential.

— Shirley, Teacher

Co-curricular activities

There are many co-curricular activities at SFX. Here are just a few examples:

Creative

- Concert and funk bands
- College musical
- Dance ensembles
- SFX electives exhibition
- Art exhibitions
- Public speaking
- Creative writing

Clubs & weekly events

- Robotics
- SFX Coders
- Strategic Games Club
- Maths tutes
- Science Help
- Reading Café
- Manga Club
- Homework Heroes
- Breakfast Club
- Makerspace
- Textiles
- Production Crew
- Pride Group
- Japanese Immersion
- Writers Club
- Brainstorm Central
- Career Headstart

Community

- Youth Ministry
- Sustainability Team
- Volunteering & community outreach
- Young Carers
- Seasons For Change
- Defence Kids Drop-in
- Tour guides
- Catering and hospitality

Competitions

Students have the opportunity participate in various competitions and challenges in various subject areas, including:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Chemistry
- Geography
- Languages
- Debating
- History
- Geography
- Engineering
- Robotics
- Performing Arts

Sport

Sport is an important part of the co-curricular life of the school. Teams are entered in all major Zone competitions. SFX students regularly participate in the following sports:

- Athletics
- Australian Rules
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Futsal
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Oztag
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis



A high-angle, wide shot of a modern classroom. The room features large windows on the right side, offering a view of the outdoors. The floor is covered in a dark blue carpet with a colorful, geometric pattern. In the foreground, there are two large, curved yellow beanbag chairs and a red cylindrical ottoman. To the left, a whiteboard on a stand is positioned next to a small blue round table and a yellow cylindrical ottoman. In the center-right, a group of five students are seated around a circular table with a green and yellow top, working on laptops. The overall atmosphere is bright and collaborative.

“

As an educator, you read that it takes a village to raise a child. As a parent, you hope your child will have the chance to be raised by a village. At SFX I feel I am in the middle of that village where children are given the security they need to develop and flourish.

— Sarah, Teacher

Student needs

At SFX there are extensive opportunities for students to [develop their academic, creative and sporting gifts and talents](#).

Teachers in all subject areas meet the needs of students through curriculum differentiation and by offering students the opportunity to participate in numerous enrichment activities.

Inclusive Education

We have a dedicated Inclusive Education Faculty who [support students with a diverse range of needs](#).

Inclusive Education involves:

- responding to the uniqueness of every student
- increasing their sense of wellbeing
- providing equitable access and participation
- providing a safe and nurturing learning community so all students can achieve.

We provide opportunity to students:

- with disabilities
- with learning difficulties
- from linguistically diverse backgrounds
- who require additional help with literacy or numeracy
- who require considerations for examinations and assessment.

We provide assistance for students in many ways including:

- within the regular classroom
- on excursions
- during exam times
- with assistive technologies.

Students with disabilities receive support consistent with their needs and follow a Personalised Learning Plan. The College has wheelchair access and amenities available for students who require these.

Extension and specialised programs

Students who are excelling in different areas can participate in various extension and specialised programs. We have the latest technology and equipment for students to develop the necessary 21st century skills.

Careers and vocational education

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Facilities

To support the breadth of curriculum offered at the College, we have an excellent range of facilities. These include our Middle School Block, our Student Hub, a modern Resource Centre, our Trade Training Centre, a theatre, College Chapel and newly refurbished classrooms. We also have Science laboratories, a gymnasium, technology workshops, modern kitchens, art studios, a sustainability garden, basketball and tennis courts, and an oval.

Trade Training Centre

The Trade Training Centre was established to support our students in pursuing their chosen career pathway within the construction industry.

The centre houses an industrial scale workshop and a purpose built engineering facility. Each allow students to work towards Vocational Certificates in the fields of Construction while they complete their Senior Secondary Certificate.



“

It's great that I have the opportunity to learn practical job skills and get a head start to my career in the construction industry.

— Zac, Construction Pathways student



Enrolment and fees

Enrolment

Enrolment forms are completed online. A non-refundable enrolment fee is payable on acceptance of a place as stated in the Catholic Education ACT Enrolment Information Packs.

College fees

The College fee is comprised of several components.

Tuition fee

A per student fee, with sibling discounts that are set by the Catholic Education Commission. This fee supports the curriculum, pays all staff salaries and a levy the College pays to Catholic Education to cover the cost of administration of Archdiocesan Catholic Schools.

College levy

A per student school-based fee to assist with student curriculum, technology and administration services, including elective costs; the Digital Device program; College Camps and Retreats in Years 7, 10 and 12; and curriculum-based excursions and performances that cost up to \$25 per student per event. The levy also contributes to the development, maintenance and ongoing refurbishment of the College's facilities.

Building Fund donation

The Trustees of the Canberra Catholic Schools Building Fund request a donation from those families who have a child attending one of the Archdiocesan primary or secondary schools. This is a per family fee paid at the school attended by the eldest child in the family. Building Fund donations are 100% tax deductible.

Full details of the College's current fee structure is available on our website at sfx.act.edu.au.

Other charges

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program

Starting in 2023, we have begun the transition to a BYOD Program. The program is being rolled out over a three year period with each year's new Year 7 and Year 10 students required to purchase and bring their own laptop until all year groups have joined the program. To ensure our quality of teaching and learning continues, it is essential that students are provided with a laptop that meets our required minimum specification, see full details at sfx.act.edu.au/byod

Sport and Recreation excursion fee

An additional per term fee that contributes to the cost of camps, First Aid Course and Certification for Year 9 and 10 students undertaking the Sport and Recreation elective.

Incursions and excursions more than \$25

Occasionally incursion, excursions and performances take place that cost more than \$25 per student. These activities will be charged on a per event basis. School socials, uniform free days, fundraising activities and extra-curricula excursions are paid for individually.

Elective equipment and material costs

Students of Textile Studies, Technical Graphics, Furniture Construction, Woodwork and Construction are required to purchase materials and equipment as needed during the year. Students in Construction make a part payment to complete White Card and Asbestos training. Students enrolled in certain registered units may need to pay external provider costs and/or materials required for the unit. Students of Tertiary Accredited Mathematics courses will be required to purchase a graphics calculator.

Discounts

Discounts for the tuition fee component of school fees in secondary schools apply upwards with the oldest child paying the full fee and discounts applied to younger children according to age. The following sibling discounts apply to this fee for families who have children attending Diocesan Colleges:

Oldest	Full Fee
Second	20%
Third Child	50%
Fourth	100%

Payment of accounts

All fees are due at the end of the second week of each term. The College offers a variety of methods for the payment of school fees including BPAY, direct debit, credit card, EFTPOS, cash and the mobile payment app Qkr!. A \$50 fee will be applied to accounts not paid by the due date. More Information on the payment of fees is available on our website.

Fee assistance

If you are facing financial difficulty, please contact us for a confidential conversation regarding available assistance to ensure your child can access the school. All Archdiocesan Catholic schools have similar arrangements in place to give assistance to families about low incomes via a Concession Application which we will be very happy to assist you with.

Year 12 College fees

With a view to the additional costs incurred by families of Year 12 students in the fourth term of each year, Year 12 fees are apportioned over the first three terms of the year with full payment expected by Week 2 of Term 3.

We are St Francis Xavier College.

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