

# College Prospectus

Living the truth.

Leading with courage.

Learning for life.





# Principal's Welcome

St Francis Xavier College is an innovative, future focused 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 to 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 and Australia, 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





Inspired by our Patron St Francis Xavier, our Mission is to provide our students with a rich experience of a Catholic Community and encounter with Jesus.

We endeavour to authentically live our College motto of Truth and Courage in sharing the message of faith, inviting all members of our community to explore its profound wisdom with conviction and fearlessness. St. Francis Xavier College fosters a spirit of welcome and inclusion, where we embrace diverse cultures and identities that shape our collective ethos. Through this unity, we strive to promote peace, dignity, reconciliation, and stewardship in all our relationships.

Our students are challenged to know and live the Gospels through Jesus Christ and are provided with a rich experience of the Catholic tradition so that they have the capacity to participate critically and authentically in faith celebrations at school and in the broader community.

Our Religious Education Curriculum is engaging and challenges our students to think and live as informed and critically literate citizens. Students are challenge to question and critically evaluate the culture of which they are part and to cast a lense over cultural values to discern, love, forgiveness and respect.

Students are provided with opportunities to offer leadership through service to our community through a number of projects in the school such as Youth Group, Project Compassion and the various St Vincent de Paul Appeals. Prayer and reflection are central to the life of the school as are liturgical celebrations, retreats and Masses.

***“To educate is an act of love, it is to give life. And love is demanding. It calls for the best resources, for awakening passions and for great patience... young people are in need of quality teaching, together with values not just enunciate, but witnessed.”***

*Pope Francis*



# Our History



## THEN

St Francis Xavier College is a co-educational secondary school that has served the Belconnen region for over 45 years. It opened on our site in Florey in 1976 with an initial enrolment of 74 students.

In 2001, St Francis Xavier expanded to become a College and our first Year 12 students graduated in 2002.

Since then, there has been an increase in our student population and St Francis Xavier, a 15th century missionary and his life, work and legacy continue to inspire our story and mission.



## NOW

St Francis Xavier College is situated on a 9-hectare site in the heart of Belconnen.

The College building programme has been ongoing since the late 1990s and will continue into the future to ensure that through modifications, refurbishments and new building projects, our students have access to state of the art facilities. Each area of the College, Academics, Sport and the Creative Arts inform our Master planning as it continues into the future. The college responds to new initiatives and improvements in unique and purposeful ways, ensuring that our students are able to learn in spaces that foster their achievement and success.



## THE FUTURE

St Francis Xavier College is committed to preparing our students with the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need to navigate the joys and complexities of 21st century citizenship. Our learning agenda is informed by current Educational Theory, Research, Philosophy and 21st century pedagogical practice. We are leading significant educational change driven by neuroscience and brain development as it impacts on student learning. St Francis Xavier is committed to current practice, professional learning for our staff and to listening to what the experts and research are telling us about learning, teaching, wellbeing, and catering for individual learning styles and abilities.



# Curriculum

St Francis Xavier is an award-winning school acknowledged for teaching and learning excellence. We provide an engaging and challenging learning environment focused on student growth. Our learning agenda is carefully designed and sequenced in our Junior and Senior schools to provide relevant and authentic teaching and learning experiences that prepare our students for each stage of their learning journey.

Our academic results are consistently very strong and demonstrate student growth, and we embrace the spectrum of student capabilities and diversity. We provide academic challenges, support and specialised programmes for a wide range of different learning styles and abilities.

Students are supported to excel in their learning and wellbeing by a team of highly skilled and dedicated teachers, Faculty and Pastoral Coordinators and Directors of Junior Studies and Student Wellbeing.





# Junior School

## Years 7 and 8

In Year 7 and 8, our students are carefully transitioned into secondary school.

The learning programme in Years 7 and 8 follows the Learning Areas endorsed by the Australian Curriculum, including English, Mathematics, Science, Technologies, Humanities and the Social Sciences, the Arts, Languages and Health and PE.

As a Catholic school, our students also study Religious Education. The Humanities programme is integrated in Years 7 and 8 and the Mathematics and Science programme is integrated in Year 7.

Religious Education	Visual Arts
English	Spanish
Mathematics	Japanese
Science	Drama
Technologies	Digital Technology
Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)	Metal and Wood
Health and Physical Education	Food and Textiles
Music and Performing Arts	





# Years 9 and 10

In Year 9, students continue to study in the areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, History, Health and PE and Science.

In Years 9 and 10, students have the opportunity to select two elective subjects each semester. These electives have been carefully designed to reflect student interest and agency in learning and provide a diverse range of options in learning pathways.



Ancient History (Year 10)	Design in Textiles	Forensic Studies	Media Arts (Year 10)
Applications (Year 10)	Digital Photography (Year 10)	Health and Physical Education	Music
Asian language	Digital Photography and Media (Year 9)	History	Performing Arts
Auslan	Digital Systems in IT (Year 10)	Humanities and Social Sciences (HAAS)	Religious Education
Computing Studies	Digital Technology	Introduction to Hospitality (Year 10)	Science
Dance	Drama	Introductory Construction (Year 10)	Spanish
Design and Graphics	Engineering (Year 9)	Journalism	Social Studies (Geography, Business and Economics, Civics and Citizenship)
Design and Metal	English	Languages	
Design and Technologies	Extension Mathematics	Mathematics	Visual Art
Design and Timber	Food Technology	Mechatronics - Robotics and Gaming Design (Year 9)	





# Senior School

Our senior curriculum is designed to prepare students for their post school pathways, including university, CIT and the workforce. Students are offered a challenging and diverse subject choice in their senior years from a wide range of subjects endorsed by the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS), as well as opportunities to undertake nationally accredited vocational courses. Students are supported in their learning by highly skilled teachers of senior studies as well as a Director of Senior Studies and Coordinator of Data Analytics who track their learning trajectory and provide guidance, support and advice.

All subjects contribute to the award of a Senior Secondary Certificate and for those seeking an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), the College offers a broad range of subjects to support this pathway. Those students who elect not to pursue an ATAR may undertake a school-based apprenticeship.







Accounting

English

Music

Architecture

Exercise Science

Outdoor and Environment

Ancient and Modern History

Food and Hospitality Studies

Photography

Biology

Food Science and Nutrition

Physical Education Studies

Business and Business Services

Furniture

Physics

Chemistry

Geography

Psychology

Construction Pathways

Global Studies

Religious Studies

Dance

Human Biology

Robotics and Mechatronics

Design and Technologies

Languages (Continuing Spanish and Asian Languages)

Sociology

Design and Textiles

Legal Studies

Sports Development

Drama

Mathematics (Essential and Specialist)

Timber and Metal Product

Engineering Studies

Media

Visual Art







# Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

St Francis Xavier is proud of its reputation for high quality pastoral care and focus on student wellbeing for learning success.

We embrace the individuality of each student and encourage them to find their personal best in all things. Our Pastoral Care programme focuses on wellbeing for learning, connectedness, resilience and positive relationships.

Our students have access to tailored programmes, College counsellors and a dedicated wellbeing space. Our pastoral programme includes motivational speakers, retreats, outdoor recreation programmes, peer support, student-led initiatives and our comprehensive mentoring programme.

Our students are encouraged to demonstrate leadership and initiative in everything they do and this is recognised through formal leadership opportunities.



# Creative and Performing Arts

At St Francis Xavier, we believe that creative and Performing Arts are essential components of a holistic education. Drama, Music and Dance are integral parts of the College curriculum and each are offered from Year 7 to 12.





## Instrumental Music

Our Music programme is exceptional. In addition to classroom music tuition which begins in Year 7, students may also elect to participate in our extensive instrumental programme.

Specialist tutors are available on site to provide individual and small group tuition in voice, strings, woodwind, brass, keyboard and percussion. Our students have the opportunity to pursue their musical passions through one of our two concert bands, brass, woodwind and percussion ensembles, choirs or rock bands, and to display their learning and talent at festivals, eisteddfods and concerts.



## Musical

Our biennial production is one of the highlights of the College year.

Students from Year 7 to 12 are invited to participate in our musical production as members of the cast, crew or in sound and lighting. The musical is always a showcase of our student talent in music, drama and dance.





# Sport

Sport is an integral part of life at St Francis Xavier College. Students are encouraged to be involved in a diverse range of sporting activities in addition to studying PE and Health. The College has a strong sporting culture and enjoys huge successes in representative sport. Students participate in a wide range of organised ACT sports events throughout the year. Elite athletes are supported to pursue excellence in their chosen area through specialised programmes in both our Junior and Senior schools.