

# 2023



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CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
CHISHOLM

## About this report

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St Mary's Catholic College (the 'College') is registered by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office (CSO), Maitland-Newcastle. The Annual School Report (the 'Report'), provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. Additionally, the Report complements and is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the College community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students.

Detailed information about the College's improvement journey is documented in the Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) which is developed, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the College directly or by visiting the College's website. Information can be also be obtained from the My School website.

## Message from key groups in our community

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### Principal's Message

2023 was a year to remember with

community, where racism and ignorance is not accepted and where multiculturalism and respect of our founders become part of the fabric of who we are as a school.

Amongst the busyness of the day to day activities of a Year 7 – 12 school, building works, graduation events, two key strategic goals were:

(1) To redevelop and implement the College Mission and Vision Statement that aligns to the four pillars of Knowledge, Courage, Faith, and Community.

(2) To ensure all students to be empowered to be more connected and engaged with their learning, as evidenced in pedagogical practices, student feedback, learning walks and talks, and professional learning activities.

Both these goals involved a whole school commitment and the input of all stakeholders. The first goal of developing a new College and Mission Statement for implementation in 2024 was timely given our original mission and vision statement was aimed at what we hoped to achieve by 2023. Our College Mission Statement developed back in 2017 stated, 'Inspired by Jesus Christ, St Vincent's Catholic College nurtures a vibrant and welcoming community; Seeking knowledge and realising gifts through persistence and collaboration; Living the Gospel in word and deed.' The Vision Statement stated, 'Our graduates will leave St Vincent's as confident, resilient, reflective young adults embracing learning, searching for truth, and living their faith in a contemporary world.' These statements helped guide us through the first six years of education for our students. Reviews, surveys, and observations indicated the success achieved over these foundation years. In collaborating with parent, student, and Diocesan and College staff, a comprehensive process of consultation, workshops, and committees throughout this year resulted in the development of a new Mission and Vision Statement that will guide us for the years ahead. The launching of this new Mission and Vision Statement will occur at our opening mass at the start of next year.

With the second goal of student empowerment, our student body had a genuine voice in new initiatives and decision making. This included student leaders working side by side with teachers in workshops in developing our new mission and vision statement, a review of our uniform and grooming policy, greater student efficacy in their learning, and student led initiatives such as the winter St Vincent De Paul sleep-out. The work of our student leaders in driving positive change led to a review and improvement of some of our practices and processes. Our first Student Senior Leadership Team, Eaden Dawson (Captain), Caitlin Price (Vice Captain), Charlotte Mate, Ricky Curley, Leila Kelly, Bella Sepos, Blaze Brockman, and Mackayla Jones were outstanding ambassadors and leaders of the College.

Enrolment numbers, as expected, continued to increase from approximately 680 students to 780 which in turn led to the employment of additional staff. It is anticipated that next year our enrolment numbers will be approximately 830 before

of spelling, improved. Survey data, including a

## Student Body Message

2023 marked a momentous milestone for the history of St 6YXYÍgž as the College finally became a full Year 7-12 school. It has been incredibly exciting to have been part of the growth and perpetuation of St 6YXYÍgž over the past six years, growing from foundation students to its inaugural graduating class.

As a now fully functioning 7-12 school, 2023 marked the first HSC group of St 6YXYÍgž in which the foundation year group were preparing throughout the year for the HSC exams and their forthcoming graduation. This saw an increased focus on the academic side of schooling, as students continually strived to produce quality work and prepare for their exams, collaborating with their peers and HSC teachers to support one another through what was a bupi

opportunity to represent our college in positions of leadership. We will forever say, we were proud students at St 6YXYÍg Catholic College.

Eaden Dawson (2023 College Captain) & Caitlin Price (2023 College Vice-Captain)

## School Features

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### History of the College

St Bede's began with the vision of Bishop Bill Wright of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese, Bill Wright, who saw the need for another Catholic High School within the Maitland Newcastle region. With the support of our local parish priest, Father Paul CIBYJZ and with the drive of the staff from the Maitland Newcastle Diocese, this vision grew into a full-scale project. The College was named after St Bede, who was born in 672AD in England and is regarded as one of the most prominent Catholic scholars in the world.

St Bede's was officially opened on Friday 2 February 2018 with 107 students and eleven full-time teachers in interconnected demountables, referred to as our Flexible Learning Village. These foundation students became the first cohort to graduate and to complete their HSC this year.

### Enrolments

As the College progressed to Year 12 in 2023, enrolment numbers grew to approximately 780 students. It is expected that enrolment numbers will increase to over 850 students in



Chisholm Chapel later next year which will be shared with St Aloysius. The final stage of the building works, including the oval and cricket nets, will be completed in early 2025.

A large local council sporting complex close to the College on Emperor Parade Chisholm, which will include playing fields, will be completed in mid-2026 and will be utilised by the College.

#### Parish and /or feeder schools

The two local feeder schools are St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, located next door to the College, and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, located in the nearby suburb of Tarro. About half of our students come from these two feeder schools with the other half coming from a range of Catholic and non-Catholic schools. Additionally, some students are accepted from St Aloysius Catholic Primary School East Maitland.

We have a close connection with our two local parishes, Our Lady of Lourdes, Beresfield and Immaculate Conception, Morpeth.

#### Parents and Friends Activities:

In-lieu of a Parents and Friends Association, a Parent Engagement Group (PEG) model was introduced in 2018 and again effectively operated throughout 2023 with termly meetings. Included at these meetings, were presentations from guest speakers, our two Parent Representatives, the College Executive, as well as question/answer sessions and optional building tours. Parent input into key decisions was an important part of these activities.

#### Co-curricular Program

A diverse co-curricular program was offered, including music and drama performances, debating, public speaking, excursions, and sport. All students enthusiastically participated in a diverse Friday afternoon sporting program which included a range of inter-school competitions, such as Touch Football, Oztag, Soccer, Rugby League, and Netball. Many students were selected in representative teams, including Diocesan teams. The swimming and athletics carnivals were well attended with high participation rates in events and many College records were broken.

St Aloysius enjoyed its most successful year in sport with some outstanding results. This included 75 Touch Football, 343 Oztag, 214 Soccer, 104 Rugby League, 670 Netball, 87 Swimming, and 552 Athletics.

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- ; Year 9/10 Boys Touch Team who qualified for the Finals at the Hunter Touch Championships.
- ; Four students selected in the Diocesan Touch Team
- ; One student selected in the I % ĩg NSWCCC Touch Football Team
- ; Fifteen students selected in the Diocesan Athletics HYUa`
- ; Two students selected in the Diocesan Girls Rugby League Team
- ; One student selected in the Diocesan Swimming Team
- ; One student selected in the Diocesan Netball HYUa`
- ; Three students competing at All Schools Cross Country
- ; Nine students selected in the Diocesan Cross Country Team
- ; One student selected in the Diocesan Football Team I %\* ĩg
- ; Four students named Aged Champions at the Diocesan Athletics 7 Ufb]j U`
- ; Over 50 records were broken in both College Carnivals
- ; Downie Cup and Berg Shield Cricket undefeated and progress through to the Quarter Finals.

The number of students representing St 6YXYĩg` in a variety of sports increased dramatically over the year, with students demonstrating great sportsmanship, skill, and a positive UHh XY`

Included in overnight student events were the Year 7 Camp, Year 11 Retreat, and the Year 12 Retreat. All three events were highly successful and enjoyable. `Bi a Yfci g` incursions and excursions occurred throughout the year which positively impacted on student `YUfb]b[ ``

Location/Drawing Area:

St Bede's is located at 24A Heritage Drive Chisholm, located within the Maitland Region. For the location of St Bede's click \YfY`




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## Post School Destinations

Each year the College collects destination data relating to the Year 12 student cohort.

The graduating Year 12 class of 2023, which is St Bede's first, chose a range of post school pathways. Those 74 students chose the following:

- i 77% were offered and accepted university undergraduate degree programmes
- i 5% were accepted into Open Foundation university pathway programmes
- i 14% chose either work and/or Tafe and/or Open Foundation
- i 1% accepted an apprenticeship
- i 1% did not complete the HSC requirements
- i 1% was unsure of their next step



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i Holding Reflection Days for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12. The themes for these days were 'I & not seek your own advantage, but that of the one who God meant you to g

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- Mathematics Extension 1, Advanced, Standard 1 and &
- Ancient < ]gcfm
- Modern < ]gcfm
- Business Gh X]Yg'
- Legal Gh X]Yg'
- Society and 7i 'h fY'
- 6]c`c[ m
- 7\Ya ]gcfm
- Earth and Environmental Science
- D\ng]Vg'
- Personal Development, Health, and Physical Education fD8<D9E'
- Community and Family 6WX]B]H25
- Industrial Technology: Timber and A i 'h]a YX]U'
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- C`CMuBTo8R594.00 0.75 70.87 .75 0 0 0.75 745.04 Tm()]]JET5.86 367.04 Tm[(MuBTo8R594.00 0.75 70.

learning program 'A UH Ya UH Wj DUH k Ungi' across Stage

## Student Performance in Tests and Examinations

### NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide information to parents and teachers about the achievements of students in literacy and numeracy. The test provides a measure of the 'general capability' performance against established standards and against other students in Australia. Each year the results are analysed by the school to inform teaching with a view to improving student performance.

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards with 4 levels of achievement to give teachers, parents and carers clearer information on how students are performing:

- Exceeding: The 'general capability' result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- Strong: The 'general capability' result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- Developing: The 'general capability' result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- Needs additional support: The 'general capability' result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

The percentage of student achieving at Exceeding and

		2023	
		Exceeding	Strong
	Year 3		
	Year 5		
	Year 7		
	Year 9		
	Total		

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023		Percentage of students in the top 2 proficiency standards	
		School	Australia
Year 9	Grammar and Punctuation		

Higher School Certificate	<i>Percentage of students in the top 2 bands (Bands 5 and 6)</i>					
	2021		2022		2023	
	School	State	School	State	School	State
Community & Family Studie	-	-	-	-	39 %	36 %
English Extension 1	-	-	-	-	100 %	94 %
English Extension 2	-	-	-	-	100 %	86 %
Hosp Exam Kitch Op & Cook	-	-	-	-	50 %	39 %
Music 1	-	-	-	-	88 %	69 %
Physics	-	-	-	-	57 %	39 %
Science Extension	-	-	-	-	75 %	78 %
Visual Arts	-	-	-	-	94 %	66 %

#### Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

Eligible students who leave school before receiving their Higher School Certificate will receive the NSW Record of School Achievement (RoSA). The T/F3 JI

## Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing

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### Pastoral Care Policy

The College's pastoral care and student wellbeing policies guidelines and procedures are informed by the [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#).

The Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy 2022 aims to provide a framework for the policies, programs, resources and practices implemented at system and school level with the purpose of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of students, and all within its school community. It refers to the overall climate of care that exists within a Catholic school.

The environment is designed to be safe and inclusive, one that promotes academic rigour. A high priority is given to building and maintaining positive and caring relationships between staff, students and parents, and the wellbeing of all.

### Behaviour Management and Student Discipline Policy

The College's policies and procedures for the management of student behaviour are aligned the CSO [Student Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy](#) and to the [Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Procedure](#). The dignity and responsibility of each person is promoted at all times along with positive student behaviours whilst ensuring respect for the rights of all students and staff. Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this College. The College does not sanction administration of corporal punishment by College persons and non-College persons, including parents, to enforce discipline in the College. Further information about this and other related policies may be obtained from the College's website.

### Anti-Bullying Policy

The Catholic Schools Office has established an [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) which is implemented by our school and all schools in the diocese. It provides a framework for school communities to work together to prevent and address issues of student bullying, in order to build respectful relationships that respond effectively and sensitively to the needs of each person. The CSO monitors the implementation of this policy.

The full text of the Anti-Bullying Policy may be accessed on the College's website, the administration office or at the CSO website.



## Complaints Handling Policy

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has established a [Complaints Resolution Policy](#) which is implemented by our school and all systemic schools in the diocese. The rationale for the policy is that within the reality of the schooling experience, it is recognised that, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion





improved spelling and numeracy NAPLAN results, high standard student works, pleasing HSC results for our first graduating class.

Priority Key Improvements for Next Year

(1) Catholic Culture: Embedding Catholic worldview and perspectives across the curriculum and school life

Aligned with Catholic Schools Office Strategic Plan 2023-2025: For all leaders and staff to grow in their preparedness, confidence, and capacity to share in ; cXig'mission leading to full active participation in the Catholic life of the school.

Smart Goal: By the end of 2024, all staff will have a shared understanding of the importance of the Catholic worldview and perspectives and a clear framework for embedding these into

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## Community Satisfaction

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Consultation with parents, students and teachers is valued and sought. Their feedback contributes to the planning and the achievement of improved outcomes for students. This year, the College has used a variety of processes to gain information about the level of satisfaction with the College from parents, students and teachers. The school undertakes extensive surveying of all stakeholder groups annually. This data is shared with the school community and contributes to the priorities for future planning.

### Parent satisfaction

Parents are overall very satisfied with the College. This is evidenced in the high level of parent engagement and the variety of activities including parents across the calendar year. The College continues to implement a Parent Forum (Parent Engagement Group) once per term, inviting parents to come to engage in discussions relating to the daily operations of the College. The forums are structured where the Executive and Parent Representatives provide a report, followed by an educative item which is decided by the school and parent representatives. Parents were also included in the overall endorsement of the changes made to the College Uniform and Grooming Policy.

Where possible parents have been invited to events which showcase the work of our students. Such showcases include various Creative Arts works such as *Ī8fUk b' jōiž* and musical recitals. Information Evenings have had significant increases in parent and student attendance as the College has revised the timings and structure of these evenings. The information provided coincided with a significant educational milestone, which included transition to Secondary School (Year 7), Information seminars from subject specialists and students for Stage 5 electives (Year 8), and Stage 6 electives (Year 10), and a Specific HSC Information evening (Year 11).

Parent representatives have also been integral as they formed part of a committee in the development of the new Mission and Vision statement to be launched at the start of 2024. A separate committee of parents were also involved, alongside staff and students in the naming of the Chisholm Chapel which will be announced in 2024.

It was a spectacular end to the year with the large gathering of approximately 500 parents who attended the end of Year Awards Presentations evening to celebrate the academic achievements of their child. Similarly, the College had a very successful Graduation Ceremony and Awards evening for Year 12 students at the NEX in Newcastle, followed by a Graduation dinner at Ben Ean, in the Hunter Valley.

Student satisfaction

The College actioned a recommendation from the 2022 COSI External Review which was to consider ways of empowering students. This became a college goal in its Annual School Improvement Plan. Early in the year, Leaders of Wellbeing and Engagement carefully selected student form groups to initiate discussions on what is working well and what can be improved. The data from these dialogue groups was presented at an evening twilight session with all teaching staff and student leaders. It was at this meeting where staff acknowledged the areas of improvement through the voices of students. The data gathered at this meeting was then tabled for further discussion and consultation

Innovation is high with 87% of staff strongly agreeing in the fact the school is innovative. 93% strongly agree the school makes good use of technology in 'YUfb]b[ "'

Safety is a priority at St 6YXYlg' with 94% strongly





END OF 2023 REPORT