



# ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

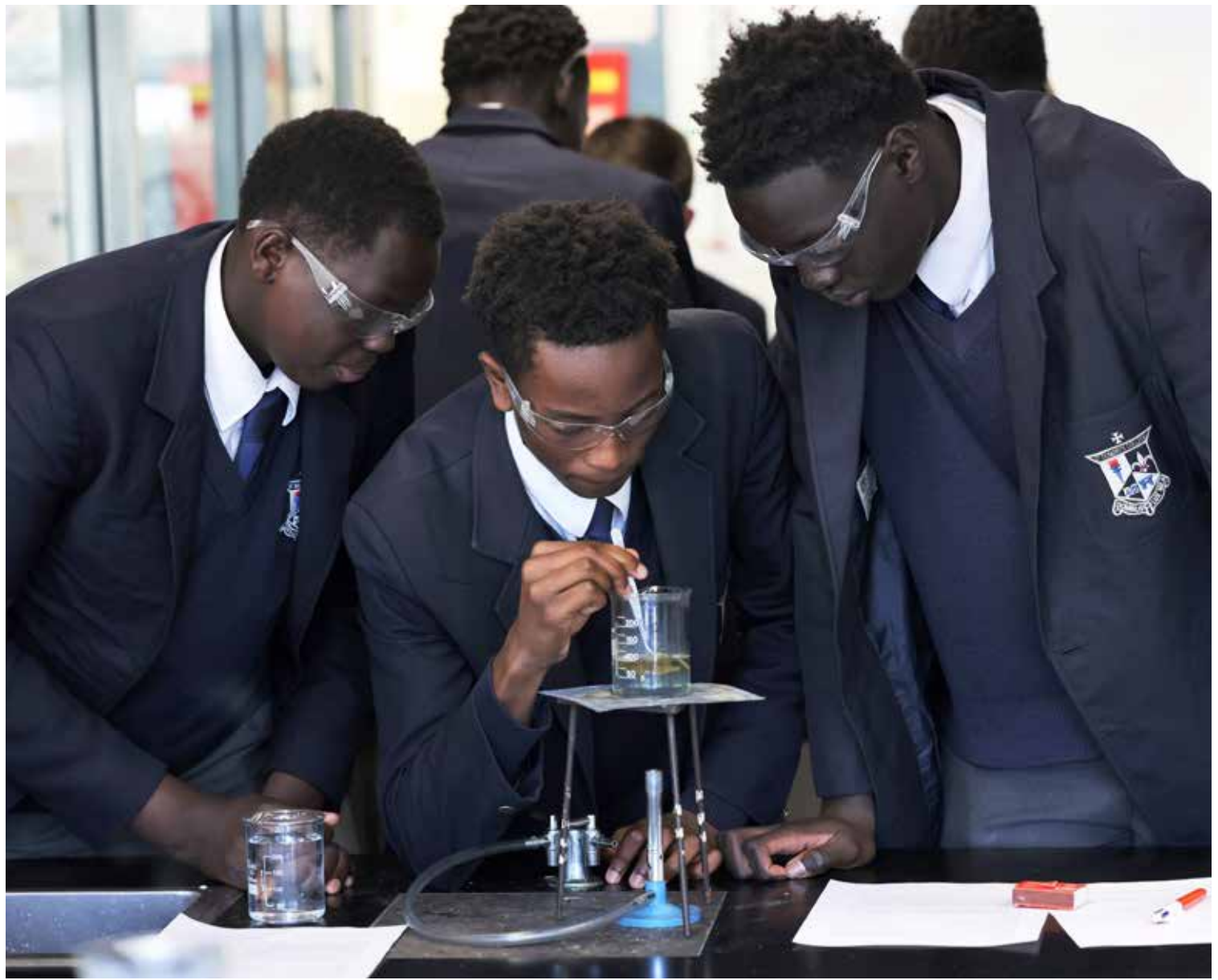
DOMINUS LUX MEA



**THE RIGHT CHOICE  
FOR YOUR SON**



**BELONGING**  
COMPASSION  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
DISCOVERY



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## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to create a caring environment that promotes inclusivity through the context of boys' education, where individual excellence and success is pursued within the Catholic tradition in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

## **OUR VISION**

Our vision is to be a Christ centred learning environment that provides a liberating education for all as lifelong learners.



## INTRODUCTION

St Dominic's College is a private Catholic Secondary School, which has a commitment to creating a caring environment where excellence in education is evident within the Catholic tradition and the Spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The College aims to provide an environment conducive to the total development of each boy. The College endeavours to contribute to the creation of a caring community, where each person is respected and encouraged to strive to achieve their personal best.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The history of St Dominic's began in 1959, on the site of the old Sisters of St Joseph's convent in High St, Penrith, under our founding Principal, Br Brian Jeffers of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. It was a humble beginning, and the following year with Br Michael Surawski as Principal, St Dominic's was moved to its present site in Parker St. The College grew rapidly, providing quality education to both primary and secondary students. Primary classes were discontinued in 1980 to cope with increasing secondary enrolments.

Co-education in Years 11 and 12 was also introduced from 1978 to 1985 to cater for the demand for Catholic Secondary Education until McCarthy Senior Catholic College opened. For some time after this, St Dominic's catered for Years 7 to 10. However, since 1999 the College has remained a comprehensive independent 7 to 12 Catholic College for boys.

# OUR FOREFATHER

The story and legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers, is integral to the life of the College.

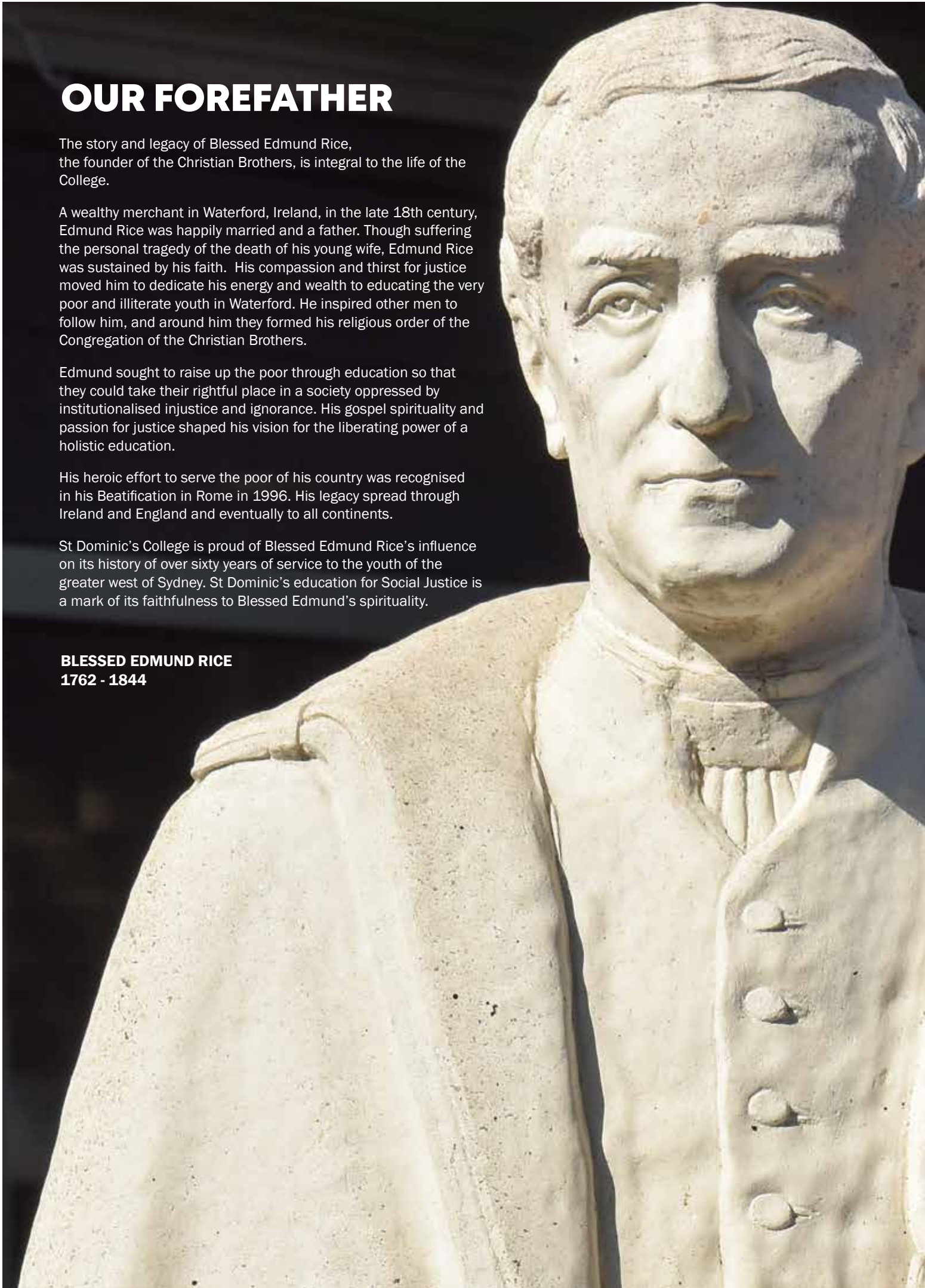
A wealthy merchant in Waterford, Ireland, in the late 18th century, Edmund Rice was happily married and a father. Though suffering the personal tragedy of the death of his young wife, Edmund Rice was sustained by his faith. His compassion and thirst for justice moved him to dedicate his energy and wealth to educating the very poor and illiterate youth in Waterford. He inspired other men to follow him, and around him they formed his religious order of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers.

Edmund sought to raise up the poor through education so that they could take their rightful place in a society oppressed by institutionalised injustice and ignorance. His gospel spirituality and passion for justice shaped his vision for the liberating power of a holistic education.

His heroic effort to serve the poor of his country was recognised in his Beatification in Rome in 1996. His legacy spread through Ireland and England and eventually to all continents.

St Dominic's College is proud of Blessed Edmund Rice's influence on its history of over sixty years of service to the youth of the greater west of Sydney. St Dominic's education for Social Justice is a mark of its faithfulness to Blessed Edmund's spirituality.

**BLESSED EDMUND RICE**  
**1762 - 1844**





EDMUND RICE EDUCATION  
AUSTRALIA

# EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

In 2007, the Christian Brothers schools throughout Australia amalgamated as a group under the banner of Edmund Rice Education Australia. St Dominic's is one of 55 such schools, operating under EREA's governance and thus ensuring that Edmund's values and vision for Catholic Education endure. These values are contained in the Charter for Edmund Rice Schools and are highlighted in the Charter's Four Touchstones.

## EREA TOUCHSTONES



### LIBERATING EDUCATION

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope filled and free to build a better world for all.



### GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.



### JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.



### INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.





## DHARUG

Dharug House recognises the Aboriginal Nation of the Penrith area and the respect St Dominic's College has for the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is located. The College places great importance on the significance of Aboriginal culture in our students' education.



## SURAWSKI

Surawski House recognises Br Surawski, who was a founding Principal and leader of the College through its first building program. He is responsible for many of the traditions of the College, including the famous blue and white of the St Dominic's Uniform.



## RICE

Rice House recognises Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers. His values of justice and equality underpin the foundations of every aspect of the College and the community that exists within its walls.



## TENCH

Tench House recognises Watkin Tench, the famous historian of the First Fleet and discoverer of the Nepean basin. It was Tench who was responsible for bringing the European Culture to the place we call home.

# COLLEGE LIFE AND HOUSE SYSTEM

To capture the rich spirit and history of St Dominic's, it was important to the College for each House to have a meaningful historic name.

The College Houses are an important part of College life, and are represented in House-based Homerooms, uniforms and Social Justice initiatives.

The Annual Brother Jeff Regan House Cup is proudly presented as an accumulation of House points from all the sport, academic, Social Justice and co-curricular activities throughout the year. The four colours represent our four College Houses.

Being part of a House encourages St Dominic's students to share their successes and feel a sense of belonging with their peers.

House pride develops student self-esteem and support networks between Pastoral Groups.





## SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality is a central part of St Dominic's College life. Our College lives and grows as a community of faith, by fostering a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

### **1. Areas of study with engaging and academic content.**

For Years 7 to 10, the beliefs, values, history and traditions of the Catholic Church are systematically studied and examined in both their historical context and that of the modern world. For Years 11 and 12, the HSC courses in Studies of Religion are offered alongside a course in Catholic Studies.

### **2. Fostering one's relationship with God through meaningful experiences.**

Eucharist and Reconciliation are significant sacramental liturgies that are central to the spiritual life of St Dominic's. They are also supported by other rituals, making use of symbols and prayers designed to help all see God at work in all of us and in our life experiences. Liturgy and Prayer are undertaken as a College, pastoral groups, classes and small groups.

### **3. Knowledge and appreciation of one's self and others through reflection.**

College formation, Reflection Days and Retreats are experiences developed by the College to help students reflect and grow as young Christians, drawing on their life experiences and knowledge gained throughout the year.

With these spiritual aspects being the central focus of the daily life at our College, it is an expectation that all students who seek enrolment at St Dominic's College will engage in a positive and fully participatory manner to all three parts of the Religious Education Curriculum.



Through their participation in the Social Justice outreach program, our students are empowered to be advocates for those less fortunate and to become agents for positive change in the world.



## JUSTICE, PEACE AND ADVOCACY

We, as a School in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice, are called to action. The value of Social Justice rises out of the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice and requires from us a commitment to serve those in our community who are disadvantaged or marginalised.

The Social Justice Program at St Dominic's educates our young men about the many injustices and causes of those injustices in our local and global communities. Through their participation in the Social Justice Outreach Program, our students are empowered to be advocates for those less fortunate and to become agents for positive change in the world.

In Years 7 to 9, the Program is one of 'Service to Others'. The students are required to complete a specific number of hours of activities that are of service to others in their communities. Students are also required to complete a reflective component, which enables them to assess their service activities.

Students in Years 10 to 12 participate in the 'Call to Action' Program, which is more in-depth and seeks to further challenge these young men. This Program requires the students to complete a specific number of community and College service activities. The hours undertaken contribute to the Brother Jeff Regan House Cup points system.

The Social Justice Outreach Program is a compulsory component of student's education at St Dominic's College. Each young man is required to participate in the Social Justice Program in each year of their study at the College. Completion of the Senior Program, 'Call to Action' is a pre-requisite for a College reference.





## PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

St Dominic's College is a community that values the worth and dignity of each person, and places an emphasis on instilling respect for oneself. It is these values that underpin our Pastoral Care Policies and Strategies.

The College creates a safe and harmonious environment for the learning and character formation of each student. It works at developing each student's sense of worth and respect for self, others and their community. All of our staff members are passionate about knowing and caring for the students.

Key staff are specifically assigned to support your son:

- Director of Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Coordinator of each Year Cohort
- College Psychologist and College Counsellors
- Diverse Learning Coordinator
- House Coordinators
- Pastoral Teachers
- Coaches and Managers of many sporting and co-curricular activities

The following are proven strategies for delivering pastoral care:

- Pastoral Homerooms based on our College House system;
- Pastoral programs specific to each year, including camps, retreats, incursions and excursions;
- Recognising and rewarding students through various awards, eg. academic excellence, co-curricular achievement, and participation in service to others;
- Merit award system, providing positive feedback to students and parents in real time.
- Administering the measures contained in the anti-bullying policy;
- Use of Restorative Practices within Pastoral Care
- Monitoring students through Compass student management system;
- Conducting the activities of the College House System;
- Conducting after school study classes;
- Maintaining close liaison with the home;
- Fostering student leadership
- Commitment to capturing the student voice, fostering an inclusive environment that encourages open communication, and leveraging student feedback as a catalyst for continuous improvement in all aspects of College life

All of these strategies teach students to relate appropriately to one another, form positive, respectful relationships, develop their various talents, express their personalities and grow in self discipline.



# ACADEMIC PROGRAM

St Dominic's College encourages academic excellence and supports all students to perform to the best of their abilities in all academic areas.

We recognise the need for a broad curriculum to cater for individual student requirements. Students at St Dominic's study the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) prescribed curriculum.

## Technology and Learning at the College

The 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) Program has been incorporated into the St Dominic's College Curriculum. The BYOD Program requires students to bring a recommended device to the classroom for the purpose of learning.

Technology has become fundamental to the world in which these students live, and so it should be integral to their learning lives as well. Using technology in the classroom increases educational engagement and will make learning a part of students' lives.

St Dominic's teachers are constantly developing new and innovative ways to incorporate this technology into their lessons. Along with the classroom technology already available, the BYOD program encourages engagement and motivation for students in the classroom.

More information on the BYOD program is available at [www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)

## YEAR 7-8 CURRICULUM:

The Year 7 Cohort is arranged into Embark Classes that enable students to settle in to their new secondary school environment, and get the most out of their learning in this important first year. The number of staff teaching the students is minimised to support the transition of students from primary to secondary school, with at least one teacher assigned to three or more courses.

This has proven to be a successful way to assist the students in a smooth transition to the College, and allows our staff the greater capacity to get to know each student and tailor the curriculum to their needs. In Year 8, the students are introduced to the normal secondary school timetable.

Subjects studied by all students:

- Drama
- Embark classes, incorporating English, HSIE and Religious Education
- Japanese and Italian (Yr 8)
- St Dominic's College Football Program
- Mathematics
- Music
- PD/H/PE
- Science
- STEM
- Technology and Applied Sciences
- Visual Arts



### YEAR 9-10 CURRICULUM:

Year 9 and 10 students choose a subject combination that satisfies the requirements for the Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

Courses studied by all students:

- Australian History & Geography
- English
- Mathematics
- PD/H/PE
- Religious Education
- Science

Students then select two courses from a range of elective choices. In recent years, students have been able to choose from:

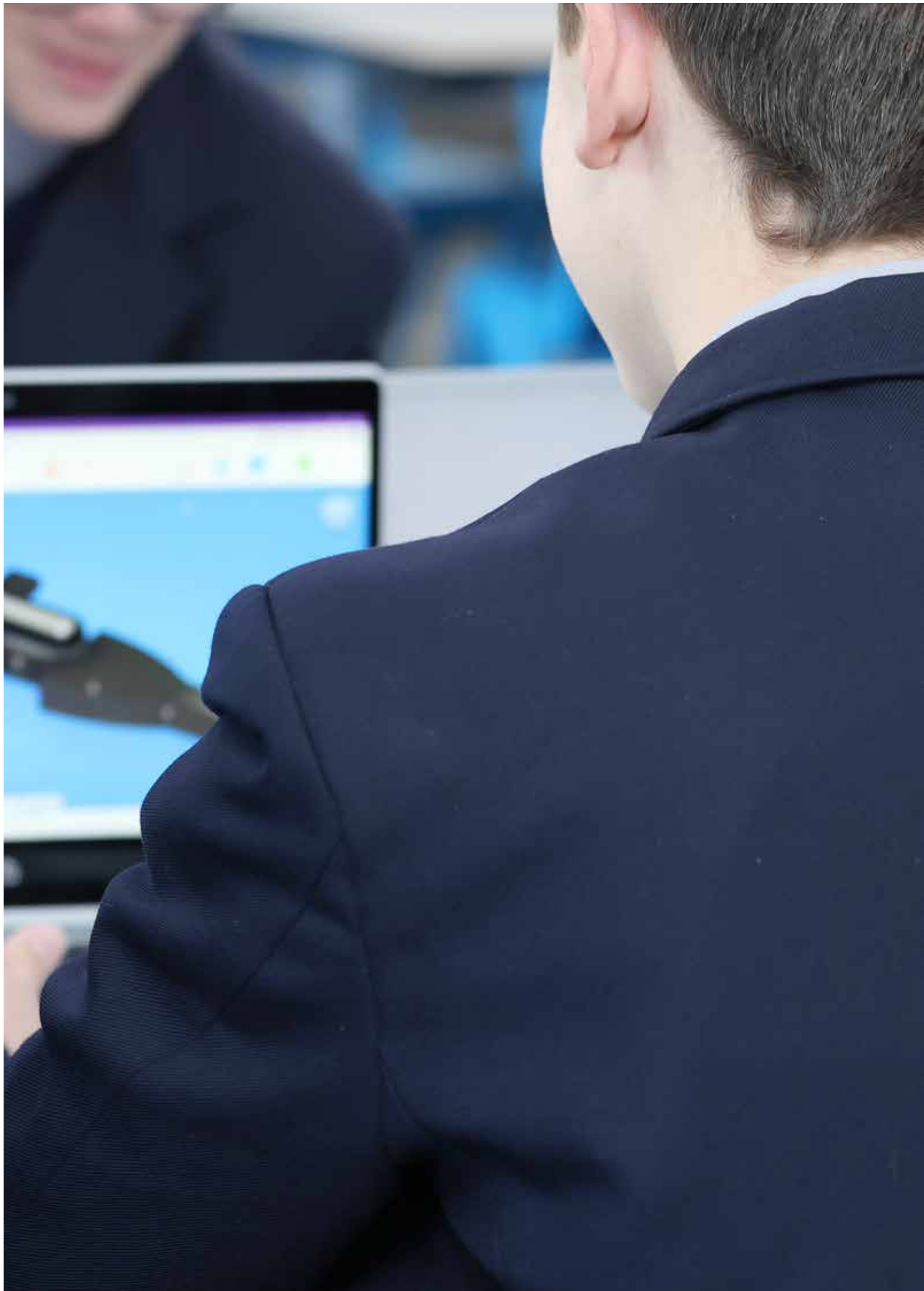
- Commerce
- Digital Media
- Drama
- Food Technology / Hospitality
- Geography
- History
- Industrial Technology – Timber
- Industrial Technology – Engineering
- Industrial Technology – Metals
- Information Software Technology
- iStem
- Japanese and Italian
- St Dominic's College Football Program
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Activity and Sport Studies
- Visual Arts

### YEAR 11-12 COURSES OFFERED:

English is the only compulsory Higher School Certificate subject. In addition, students at St Dominic's study at least one unit of Religious Education. To be eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate, students must satisfactorily complete at least 12 units in their Preliminary study pattern and at least 10 units in their HSC study pattern.

Examples of courses offered:

- **Creative and Performing Arts** – Music 1 and Music 2, Drama, Visual Arts, Photography, Visual Design
- **English** – English Studies, English Standard, English Advanced or English Extension
- **H.S.I.E** – Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics, Work Studies, Ancient and Modern History, History Extension and Society & Culture
- **Languages** – Japanese and Italian
- **Mathematics** – Mathematics Standard, Mathematics Advanced, and Mathematics Extension
- **PD/H/PE** – Personal Development Health and Physical Education, Sport Lifestyle and Recreation (1 Unit), Community & Family Studies (CAFS)
- **Religion** – Studies of Religion (1 or 2 Unit), Studies in Catholic Thought (1 Unit)
- **Science** – Physics, Chemistry, Investigating Science, Biology, Earth and Environmental Science
- **Technology** – Information Processes and Technology, Industrial Technology Graphics/ Metal/Timber, Software Design Development and Computer Applications, Food Technology, Design and Technology
- **Vocation Education Training (VET)** – Construction, Hospitality, Information Technology
- **SBATs** - St Dominics College facilitate School-based apprenticeships (SBATs) to allow Years 11 and 12 students to start a trade qualification while completing their HSC, combining paid work, vocational training (e.g., TAFE), and school. Students typically engage in Industry based Learning 1 day a week, earn a wage, and gain credit towards their senior certificate whilst completing Stage 6 at St Dominics College.





## DIVERSE LEARNING AT ST DOMINIC'S

The St Dominic's College Diverse Learning Department uses a multifaceted approach to supporting the various needs of students from Years 7 to 12. The College strives to provide an inclusive environment for all students including those who face challenges with their learning - academically, socially and emotionally.

Students with diverse learning needs are identified using information from parents, primary schools and the results of diagnostic tests such as NAPLAN in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 Australian Academic Services (AAS) testing in Year 6, 8 and 10 and the YARC Assessment of Reading and Comprehension.

We have a committed Diverse Learning Team who consistently support and encourage the boys to achieve academic success. Staff provide support within the classroom and small group settings.

Students who display qualities of giftedness and high potential are identified using a range of measures including analysis of NAPLAN and external testing including literacy, numeracy and general capabilities assessments Australian Academic Services along with academic achievement, teacher nomination and parent nomination. Students who demonstrate exceptional abilities in various learning domains are provided with opportunities to further extend their talents through a range of enrichment opportunities.

The College Literacy Framework assists students in meeting the literacy and numeracy standards. To drive academic achievement specific programs targeting literacy and numeracy are conducted through Years 7 to 10, such as the Macqlit Reading Intervention Program.

Special Provisions for examinations are accessible to students in situations where eligibility criteria is met. This process is formalised with NESAs for Year 12, when further documentation is essential.

When required, itinerant teachers from varying organisations are accessed to advise and assist students with specific disabilities such as hearing and vision loss. Reasonable adjustments in the learning environment ensure high quality learning for students with specific needs.

Student personal plans are formulated during Terms 1 and 4 for identified students. These plans are developed in conjunction with members of the Diverse Learning staff, parents, the student and representative class teachers. Personal Plans are designed to guide students and teaching staff with strategies to help produce the best academic gains for the student, as well as promote their social and emotional wellbeing.



St Dominic's College is committed to working with and walking alongside Indigenous people, advocating justice and promoting reconciliation.



## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

St Dominic's College is committed to the achievement of authentic reconciliation, justice, equity and healing through acknowledgement and practice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowing. Through the lenses of Respect, Relationships and Opportunities, St Dominic's strives to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff members, to build cultural safety across the organisation, and to respectfully embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into our practice.

St Dominic's College positively promotes and encourages the enrolment of students that identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The College is committed to support these students on a daily basis and as such, employs a full-time Indigenous Education Officer. Their role is to coordinate various programs and cultural events within the school, as well as provide support and mentoring for the boys, with particular focus on learning outcomes. Some outstanding results in NAPLAN can be attributed to this focus.

Our Indigenous Education Officer also works closely with students on literacy programs, as well as before and after school study groups, to provide extra learning support and help strengthen their academic skills.

In addition to cultural support, St Dominic's is committed to assisting our students in exploring and planning their pathways after school, whether that be further study, training, or entering the workforce. A main aim is to connect students with opportunities, resources and mentors who can help guide them towards achieving their future goals.

Students are supported in connecting with their culture and extending their knowledge. We also encourage our students to participate in our dance group who not only perform at our own events but have the opportunity to perform at public venues and occasions.

With the support of the Elders in our Local Aboriginal Community, the College as a whole celebrates important events to commemorate and reconcile the histories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. At St Dominic's all students are given the opportunity to experience and learn about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions and culture. These events are occasions for our boys deepen their understanding about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of them can contribute to achieving reconciliation.



St Dominic's College has a long and proud tradition of sporting competitions. A full and comprehensive range of sporting programs and opportunities are offered to all of our students. Our involvement in the PDSSSC (Parramatta Diocese Secondary Schools Sports Council) and knockout competitions is seen as an integral part of the boys' education.



# SPORT AT ST DOMINIC'S

## PDSSSC COMPETITIONS

PDSSSC competition provides an official pathway to State and National selection in numerous sports including:

- Swimming
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Football
- Rugby League
- Touch Football
- Rugby Union
- Australian Rules
- Chess
- Baseball
- Softball

## STATE KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

- Cricket – Australian Schools Cricket Challenge (ASCC), Berg Shield and Downie Trophy
- Football – NSW CCC Cup and EREA National Football Tournament
- Touch Football – All Schools Knockout
- Basketball – NSW CCC Championship and National Championship
- AFL – GWS Cup
- Rugby League – All Schools Knockout and NRL Schoolboy Cup
- Triathlon – NSW All Schools Carnival

## RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Thursday sport is a compulsory part of the College's program and includes 'In College Competitions' as well as a wide variety of activities which caters for all interests and abilities. Students have the opportunity to participate in a different sport each term. Examples include:

- Aqua Golf
- Ice Skating
- Tennis
- Table Tennis
- Multiple Gyms and Fitness Centres including Fit4All, YMCA, UFC Gym, PCYC, TFE, Designer Bodies
- Swimming
- Golf
- Indoor Sports
- Don Bosco
- AMF Bowling

## ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE FOOTBALL PROGRAM

The St Dominic's College Football Program has been designed to deliver an elite-level football education with a focus on individual skill development, performance conditioning, athlete well-being, and opportunities for accreditation and leadership within the sport. Students will benefit from:

- Personalised skill and position-specific training
- Strength and conditioning coaching
- Individual player screenings to support performance and prevent injury
- Referee and coaching accreditation pathways
- Specialist goalkeeper coaching
- Sports psychology and nutrition education



## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

St Dominic's College offers a variety of co-curricular activities that students participate in. They complement content that students learn during regular classes, and support intellectual, emotional, social, moral, creative and physical development. Benefits of co-curricular activities include social skills, time management and developing self-esteem.



Students at St Dominic's have the opportunity to participate in the following co-curricular activities:

- Debating
- Chess
- Drama
- St Vincent de Paul
- House Activities
- Guitar Ensemble
- Sound Crew
- Academic Competitions
- Social Justice Activities
- College Choir
- Clean Up Australia Schools Day
- Music Ensembles
- Public Speaking
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Write a Book Day
- Musical
- College Band



## BUILDING ON THE STRENGTH OF OUR ALUMNI PARTNERSHIPS

In a strategic move to strengthen ties with our esteemed Alumni, St Dominic's College has recently appointed a Partnerships Officer, who is dedicated to cultivating and expanding our connections within the local community and beyond. This proactive role aims to forge meaningful relationships that go beyond traditional boundaries, creating opportunities for students through collaborative initiatives and valuable contributions from our Alumni network.

With a rich history spanning more than 60 years, St Dominic's College has built a unique culture centered around the enduring spirit of community.

The ethos of "once a Dommies Boy, always a Dommies Boy" encapsulates the strong sense of camaraderie that defines our community. This culture extends far beyond school years, creating lasting connections among our Alumni.

The bonds formed during secondary schooling at the College become a foundation for lifelong friendships and professional networks.

This interconnectedness within the St Dominic's College Community has proven invaluable, offering opportunities for current students in the form of mentoring, cadetships, and apprenticeships, as our Alumni generously contribute to the growth and success of the next generation of St Dominic's Graduates.

# ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE UNIFORM

The St Dominic's College uniform is a symbol of pride in our College and its place in the community.

## JUNIOR SUMMER UNIFORM (TERMS 1 & 4)

- Grey College trousers
- Grey College shorts (optional)
- Grey College shirt
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes



## JUNIOR WINTER UNIFORM (Terms 2 & 3)

- College blazer
- Grey College trousers
- Grey College shirt
- Junior College tie
- College midnight blue knitted jumper
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes



## PE / SPORTS UNIFORM

All students must purchase a College cap. The College has a 'no hat, no play' policy in open areas. The PE / Sports uniform includes:

- College Polo-shirt
- House shirt
- College sports shorts
- College socks
- College tracksuit
- College cap
- Lace-up sports shoes



## SENIOR SUMMER UNIFORM (Terms 1 & 4)

- Grey College trousers
- Grey College shorts (optional)
- White College shirt
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes

## SENIOR WINTER UNIFORM (Terms 2 & 3)

- College blazer
- Grey College trousers
- White College shirt
- Senior College tie
- College midnight blue knitted jumper
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes



# TUITION FEES

The fees for the year are available on the College website: [www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)

St Dominic's College generates an all-inclusive tuition fee which supports costs related to College tuition, curriculum, administration, most subject charges, e-textbooks, sports, camps, swimming, excursions, reflection days, liturgies and Masses, bus transport, venue hire, competition entries, library resources, examination papers and other incidental costs.

The College Building Levy charge is applied to the eldest child enrolled at St Dominic's College. This Levy is utilised towards the ongoing maintenance of the buildings, structures, and school grounds.

Fees are billed and issued to all families at the beginning of each new School Year, followed by statements in Term 2, Term 3 and Term 4. Annual fees paid in full by a specific due date are eligible for a 5% discount.

The College offers a fortnightly payment plan to help families with their financials. Payments can be made through Bpoint Direct Debit or Bpay, from a nominated account at no additional cost.

## FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

This is available by application only. We acknowledge there may be occasions when a family cannot meet the payment structures presented. As per the College Fee Collection Policy, families who genuinely feel they will have difficulty meeting a fee payment are urged to discuss issues that may affect the timely payment of current or future fees with the College. We encourage parents experiencing genuine hardship to make contact as early as possible to avoid any follow-up action.





# ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

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