



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
MELBOURNE**

Welcome to Catholic Education 2016

As committed partners in your children's learning and development, I want to personally welcome you to an exciting new year in Catholic education.

As Executive Director, I see the personal care and dedication of our 493 schools and their principals, teachers and staff first-hand and am always buoyed by the beginning of a new school year.

To the many parents and carers experiencing the delights of Catholic education for the first time, you – like your children – will learn fast. Learn that we acknowledge family as the first and lifelong educator, and learn that by working together we will achieve wondrous results.

Catholic education places a significant emphasis on teaching moral values. Every child must learn right from wrong but a Catholic school does much more. We instil the importance of caring for others and genuinely wanting to make our world a better place.

It is these values that long-time families say they love most about our schools, and why we will always ensure 'Catholic' is not just part of your school's name, but the heart of its identity.

The Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, takes great pride in the achievements of our students and schools. He described the education mission well while addressing a group of secondary students last year.

'The benefit of a broad education is more than the amassing of facts, but rather a preparation for all facets of life; human, family, intellectual, preparation for a career, insertion into society and realisation that in the Catholic framework we have an invitation from Jesus, "love one another as I have loved you";' Archbishop Hart said.

Academically (see page 2) our schools continue to perform at the highest standard.

Independent research released last year quantified this academic advantage with Catholic school Year 12 students – on average – found to achieve a result six ATAR points higher than a comparable student at a government school. The University of Melbourne research also found that the ATAR advantage exists for all Catholic students, not just high performers.

The success of our wellbeing and personal growth programs were also acknowledged externally last year, however the most important recommendation of all comes in the form of record enrolments that will this year extend beyond 210,000 students across Victoria.

This demand for a Catholic education has certainly kept the planning department busy with the addition of 14 new primary and five new secondary schools expected within the next decade.

In closing, may I assure you that your family is in the right place, and thank you for your ongoing contribution and support. 2016 will be another good year.

Sincerely,

Stephen Elder
Executive Director
Catholic Education Melbourne



Boom time

Catholic education is ideally positioned to provide for a projected surge in Victorian school-aged children. Adding to already record enrolment growth, this means 493 Catholic schools currently teach close to 1 in 4 students across the state, plans are well underway to build 19 new schools – 14 primary and 5 secondary – in and around Melbourne and Geelong in the next decade.

Of course that level of growth doesn't occur by accident and is a direct result of the extraordinary care and character of our principals, teachers, staff and parish priests.

Fair funding

With a federal election on the horizon, 2016 is an important year for Catholic schools on an all-important funding front. Catholic education is working with the Australian Government and Opposition to ensure continued support of our schools and a push for improved funding in areas like students with a disability.

Political leaders have long been aware of the commitment of Catholic school parents and families to unite for what is right and just on education matters, and there will again be opportunities to have their collective voice heard in Canberra as our fair-funding campaign evolves this year.



Student wellbeing

The annual *HILDA* report – widely acknowledged as a comprehensive insight into 'real Australia' – provided a good news Catholic education story last year. An investigation into education outcomes found that three out of four Catholic secondary school students will go onto university, having never experienced bullying.

The report showed the prevalence of bullying is relatively low in Catholic secondary schools (15%, government schools 22%) and supports internal Catholic Education Melbourne data showing an overall decline in line with our programs, aimed at creating zero-bullying environments.



Catholic Education Week

A celebration of the long and distinguished history of our schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Catholic Education Week is a major annual event on the Church calendar.

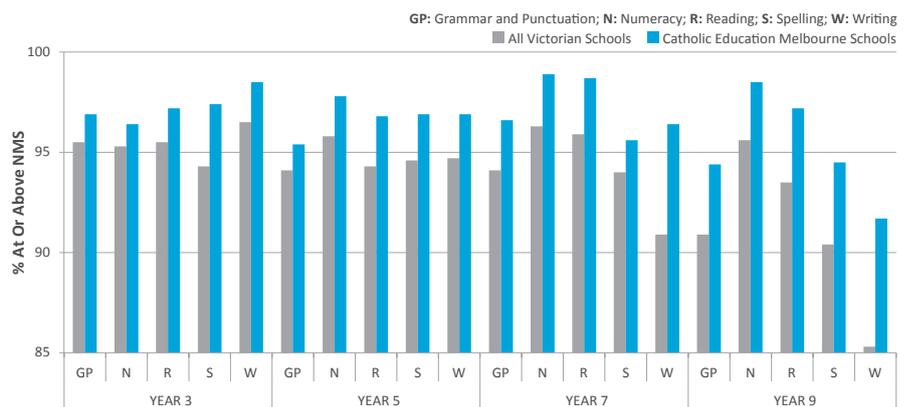
Pope Francis declared 2016 the *Year of Mercy*, promoting love, forgiveness and compassion, so the theme of the week is *Be the Face of Mercy*.

Families will be invited to get involved at a local level, while all-school festivities include a visual arts exhibition, the Mass of St Patrick for Schools, and the fun-filled Concert in the Park at Treasury Gardens on St Patrick's Day, 17 March.

2015 NAPLAN results

Average results showed continued Catholic school improvement in all age groups across numeracy and reading testing.

Of particular note is the percentage of Year 7 students at or above National Minimum Standards that climbed to 98.8% for numeracy and 98.4% for reading. At least 92% of students posted results at or above NMS in all domains.



2015 Year 12 results

Archdiocese of Melbourne school VCE results were once again better than the state average and in line with an independent research report that showed, on average, Catholic schools provide a six-point ATAR advantage across all levels of achievement when compared to students at government schools.

VCE Catholic schools

AVERAGE MEDIAN STUDY SCORE



two points higher than Victorian all-schools.

AVERAGE MEDIAN STUDY SCORE



recorded above all-schools average.

HIGHEST STUDY SCORE RANGE



of schools had more than 10% of students in highest range.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE



of awarded VCE honours compared to 62% of all-schools.

Catholic school Completion Rates

VCE



85% compared to 53% all-schools.

VCAL



65% compared to 30% all-schools.

VET



65% compared to 46% all-schools.

Parents' magazine

Every term a 16-page colour magazine designed specifically for parents and families will be delivered via schools.

Catholic Education Today captures the day-to-day excellence and achievement of our schools and children, along with information, helpful hints and advice on issues and events that touch modern school-age families. We encourage anyone with ideas or suggestions on topics they would like covered in the magazine to email publications@cem.edu.au.



Start a conversation

Follow and interact with us on Twitter for education, news, views and discussion specifically for Catholic school parents, carers and friends.



@CEMelbourne



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
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Catholic Education Melbourne proudly presents

TIME to SHINE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PERFORMING ARTS GALA 2016



SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2016

2.00 pm and 7.00 pm

**Regent Theatre
Collins Street, Melbourne**

Tickets on sale now
through Ticketmaster
www.ticketmaster.com.au