



AQUINAS  **COLLEGE**
— ILLUMINARE ET ARDERE —

Embrace your spirit.
Discover your place.



Nurture a connection to our Catholic faith



FOSTER A HOPEFUL SPIRIT AND A LOVE OF LEARNING

Aquinas is a Regional College of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, founded in 1961 to provide secondary education to Catholics residing in the Maroondah Deanery. Our College motto – ‘Illuminare et Ardere’ is interpreted by us to mean ‘To Light Up and Be on Fire’. In all that happens at Aquinas there is great enthusiasm and, as a school based on the gospel values of Jesus Christ, we make every endeavor to provide an enjoyable and challenging Catholic secondary education.

With a dynamic Religious Education program and a rich liturgical and social justice focus,

Aquinas is dedicated to developing an awareness of God and cultivating personal spirituality. Catholic life at Aquinas includes a range of experiences, particular to each year level, including pilgrimages, patrons’ feast days, indigenous immersions, retreats and reflection days.

We are boundless and borderless in our approach and contribute to significant social justice causes through organisations such as Caritas and St Vincent de Paul. We want our graduates to be “People of Hope”, prepared to make a difference in our world.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY STUDENT

Aquinas College is a dynamic and innovative learning community, striving to create an environment that meets the diverse needs of all students. Classroom facilities not only enhance the learning experience, but inspire differentiation and promote individual resourcefulness. We encourage our students to embrace and develop their unique gifts by providing a broad comprehensive curriculum in the Middle Years, with increasing opportunity to pursue specific areas of interest in the Senior Years. Students in the Senior Years choose from an expansive variety of subjects within the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Those interested in exploring more vocational pathways can undertake the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and pair that with the broad range of Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates available. Whatever direction a student takes, they are supported with expert advice from Careers and Pathway educators and our caring and dedicated teaching staff to help guide their decision making.

Every student has opportunities to 'embrace their unique spirit' and 'discover their own place' in a welcoming and supportive Catholic community.

“Aquinas College has been a supportive, inclusive and caring school community for all of my children. I’m so very appreciative of their amazing teachers and the opportunities they provide.”

Parent

IGNITE THE FIRE OF LEARNING

Teaching and Learning at Aquinas College is founded in our Mission. The way we teach and the way we learn will ensure that we are an excellent school that produces creative, independent young people who can learn deeply. A love of learning grows in an environment that fosters strong relationships between the student and the teacher, based on a belief in the dignity of all.

Aquinas students are encouraged to understand themselves as learners in order to reach their full potential. Students undertake a comprehensive curriculum incorporating literacy, numeracy, critical and creative thinking, problem solving and ICT. Visible learning promotes practices that

maximise the impact of the teacher on student learning outcomes. This includes thinking about learning from the student's perspective and particularly about higher order thinking skills. It shapes the way we design our learning spaces so that collaboration is enhanced and feedback is central to the learning process. Our Parent Access Module (PAM) provides information on student progress, homework and other feedback in real time to guardians.

We endeavour to meet the interests and aspirations of every student with a comprehensive curriculum across Middle and Senior Years. Year 9 students are challenged



**Strive for
excellence
in all aspects
of learning**

with an experiential education program incorporating outdoor education, personal development and an outstanding Cafe program. Aquinas is well equipped with extensive Educational Support Services for students requiring learning support and an AGiLE Program for those seeking learning enhancement.

We enjoy a long standing partnership with St Mary's School for the Deaf with their students fully integrated into the learning program.

Our staff are highly skilled and supported in their teaching with state of the art ICT infrastructure and access to expert professional learning opportunities.



NURTURE INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS AND GIFTS

Our students are encouraged to explore and develop their talents and learn to appreciate the gifts of others through participation in activities such as musicals, plays, choirs, bands, debating, robotics, study and cultural tours and a wide variety of individual and team sporting activities. The College offers opportunities for participation for both younger and older students with a Junior and Senior Musical each year. Our music program is renowned and Concert, Rock and Jazz bands and Vocal ensembles create opportunities for students to perform both at Aquinas and in the wider community. An individual music lesson program ensures that talents are nurtured by high quality professional musicians.





“We are committed to every student experiencing success in their personal learning and life development...providing a comprehensive curriculum and strong support programs enabling students to achieve their very best.”

Principal



Our House system provides for healthy intra school rivalry at our swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals each year. As a founding member of Eastern Independent Schools Melbourne (EISM) we provide inter school sporting competition in a diverse range of disciplines. Affiliation with School Sport Victoria ensures that elite athletes qualify to compete at the highest levels within Victoria. All students, whether seasoned athletes or first time participants are welcomed to share in the thrill of participation, learn the skills of good sportsmanship and share the graciousness that comes with both a win and a loss.





Respect the dignity of the individual and be mindful of our diverse global community

Student leadership is valued at Aquinas and opportunities are provided at each level to represent peers and develop student voice. Student leaders discuss matters pertinent to student wellbeing and contribute to discussions regarding the strategic direction of the College. College Captains represent the student body in a range of forums and Assemblies are student led. A Year 12 Leader is selected each year to join the College Board to provide a student perspective to our governing body. Students also volunteer as College Ambassadors, leading tours for prospective families and sharing personal insights about College life.

A SAFE AND WELCOMING SCHOOL

Learning flourishes in a space in which the learners feel safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our highest priority and we aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all are free to enjoy life to the fullest. There is particular care for our most vulnerable, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and those with a disability.

Students are assisted through the transition from primary to secondary school with pastoral support from their Homeroom Teacher and the pastoral chain. Transition can also be difficult for parents and our Transition Team, supported by a well resourced Youth and Family Centre, provide assistance in understanding the natural changes that are occurring with maturity as their child becomes a more independent learner. Productive partnership between home and the College are vital at transition and the years beyond.



EMERGE AS A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Aquinas College is proud of its accreditation with the Council of International Schools and our strong international focus. Students are encouraged to see themselves as global citizens with the capability to see the world from multiple perspectives. We focus on global competencies: effective communication; fluency in 21st Century technology; an inquiring mind; adaptability; resilience and an awareness around sustainability. Our sister schools offer students the opportunity to interact with peers from France and China,

and tours of Borneo and Central Australia help build appreciation of indigenous cultures. Aquinas as a registered CRICOS provider, has a strong international student program which offers homestay for our International students. Annual College events such as Harmony Day provide an opportunity to celebrate the many cultures that contribute to our community and our Long Walk for Reconciliation helps raise awareness of the ongoing issues facing Indigenous Australians.

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