

**AQUINAS**  **COLLEGE**  
— ILLUMINARE ET ARDERE —



2020-2021  
**TEACHING AND LEARNING**



# MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

---

## Aquinas College Vision

Inspired by Gospel values and mindful of our Catholic identity, our vision is to ignite the fire of learning and shine as a beacon of excellence, hope and love in the world.

*'Illuminare et Ardere'*

## Aquinas College Mission

Our mission is to promote quality education while developing an awareness of God in our lives, the value and connectedness of all human relationships, a sense of justice, a hopeful spirit and a love of learning.

We proclaim this mission at Aquinas College by embracing six core values:

**Spirituality** - We nurture a connectedness to God and a Catholic faith that is informed by scripture, tradition and the regional parish communities.

**Belonging** - Mindful of our diverse local and global community; we are culturally inclusive and respect the dignity of each individual.

**Perseverance** - We are challenged to continually strive for excellence in all aspects of our learning.

**Compassion** - We promote the service of others through education and experiences that are based on kindness and generosity informed by Catholic Social Teaching.

**Stewardship** - We encourage our community to respond to the need for sustainability in our contemporary world in the light of the Gospel and its call to action.

**Justice** - We promote opportunity and equity through awareness and support of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

# THE TEACHING AND LEARNING MAP

---

At its heart are the “Attributes of an Aquinas College student” and from these come **five segments** designed to build high quality learning opportunities for students.

1. Progress
2. Challenge
3. Relationships
4. Visibility
5. Choice

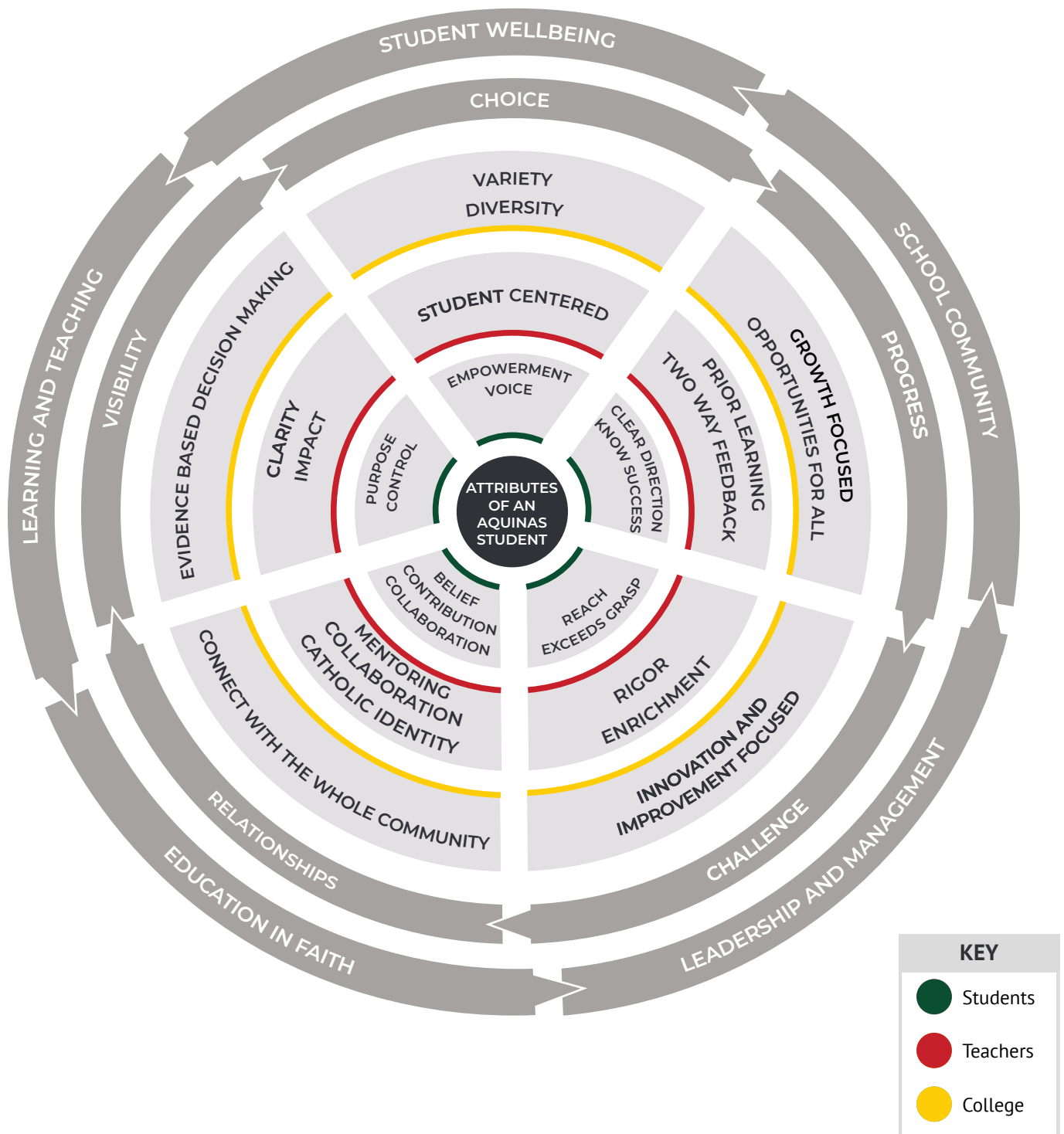
## Attributes of an Aquinas College student

At Aquinas College we are committed to educating our students to take their place in a global environment and to view the world from multiple perspectives with an awareness of God in their lives and guided by the virtues taught by our College Patron, St Thomas Aquinas, and our College values - spirituality, belonging, perseverance, compassion, stewardship and justice.

An Aquinas student will graduate as a Global Citizen with embedded competencies that embody the following attributes:

- They will be an **effective communicator** by being literate and numerate.
- They will be **fluent in 21st century digital technology** by being collaborative, creative and ethical in their use of ICT.
- They will be an **inquirer** with a sense of their own spirituality, social attributes and intellect to think critically and contribute in matters of global significance.
- They will be **open minded, adaptable** and **considerate** of multiple perspectives.
- They will be **courageous** and leave Aquinas independent, resilient and ready to participate fully in the world with respect for others.
- They will be a **sustainability advocate** with an appreciation of the world they inhabit and capacity to affect change both locally and globally.
- They will be **health conscious** and able to promote good personal and collective physical and mental wellbeing.
- Demonstrate an understanding of **intercultural competencies** and their importance as a global citizen.

# THE TEACHING AND LEARNING MAP



# 2020-2021 PRIORITIES

---



## For Students

- Emphasising progress
- Purposeful use of technology
- Focus on reading and writing
- Emphasising work ethic



## For Teachers

- Consistency by collaboration: contributing to a community of learning
- Challenge: All students experience challenge, success and improved learning



## For The College

- Developing a coaching culture
- Implementing Professional Learning for teacher and student improvement

# PROGRESS



**Students** can see and map their own progress. They know what success looks like.



**Teachers** build a learning relationship with students so that they are able to listen to students, recognise existing skills, guide and offer robust two way feedback.



The **College** focuses on growth, measures it against improvement priorities and uses this data to build capacity in staff and students.



“Shift the narrative from focusing on what teachers are doing to what students are learning. When educators focus on progress instead of achievement scores, they can begin to have conversations about how they can maximise their impact on student learning.”

*Visible Learning* [www.corwin.com/visiblelearning](http://www.corwin.com/visiblelearning)

Grattan Institute Report 2018, Measuring Student Progress: A State by State Report.

# CHALLENGE



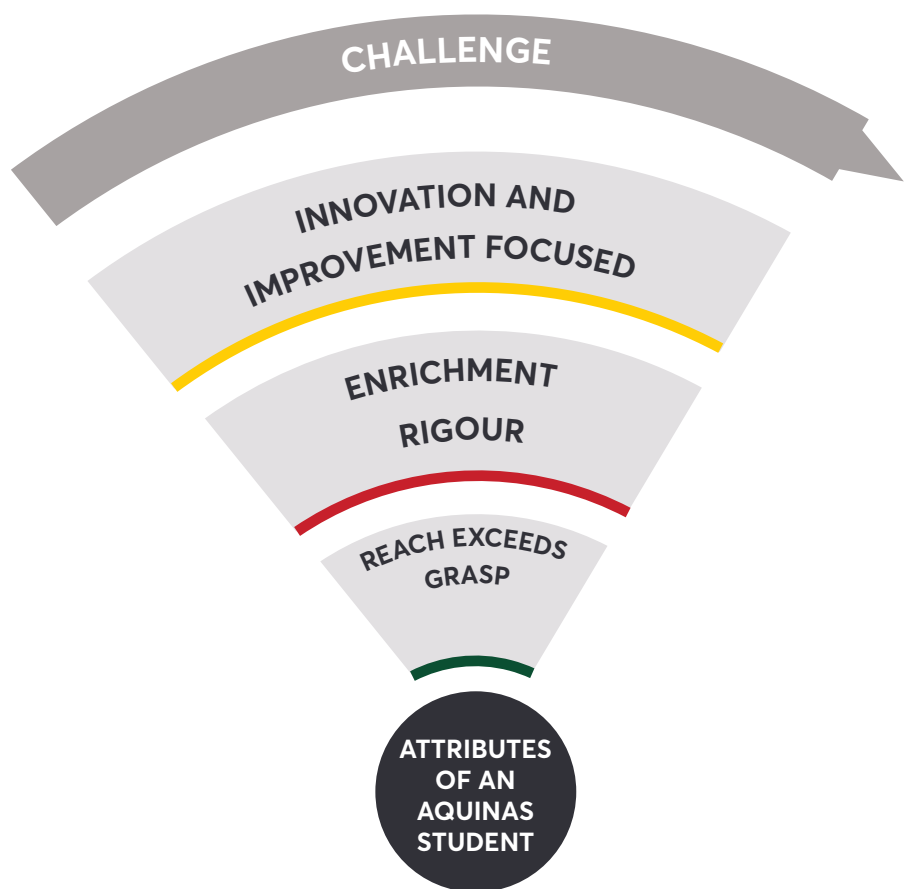
**Students** lose the fear of failure and see opportunity in new ideas and new methods.



**Teachers** provide curriculum and activities that are targeted and demanding.



The **College** grows teachers and support staff by providing opportunities for innovative practice, collaborative activities that extend teachers and students, timely, high quality professional learning and mentoring.



“People learn best when given learning opportunities at an appropriate level of challenge: beyond their comfort zone, but not so far beyond that they become frustrated and give up.”

Geoff Masters “Is Setting Higher Standards the Answer?” <https://www.teachermagazine.com.au/columnists/geoff-masters/is-setting-higher-standards-the-answer>, 5th March 2018.



# RELATIONSHIPS



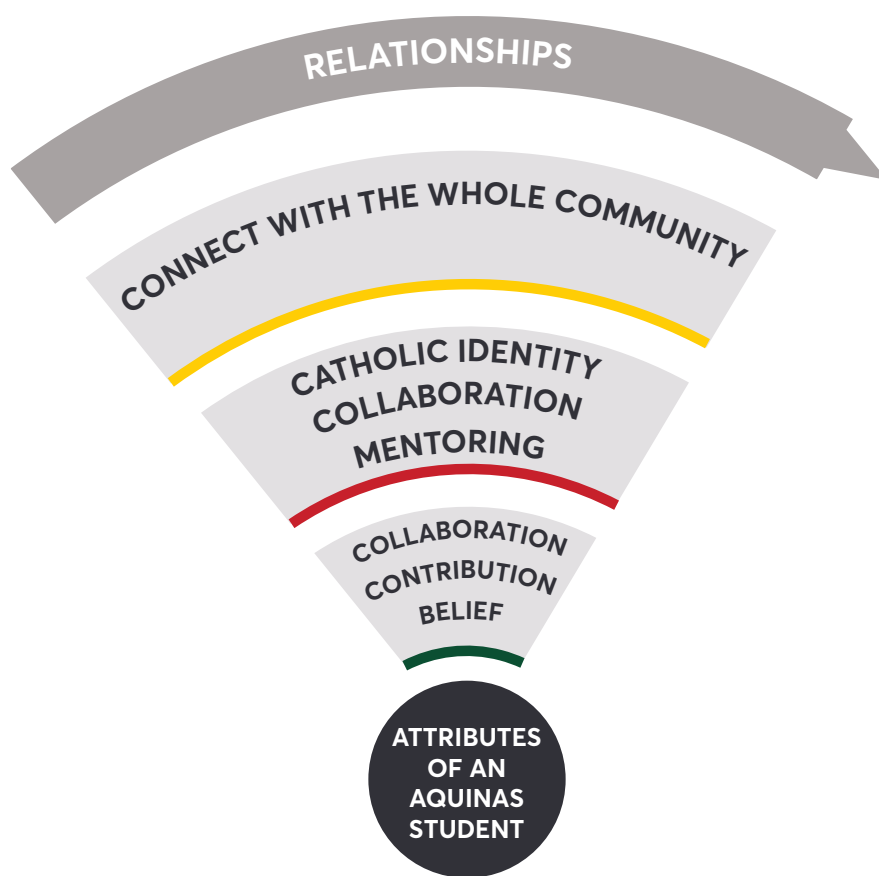
**Students** believe in each other and they know together they can become better learners.



**Teachers** understand great learners develop by building strong relationships, including understanding our Catholic identity, collaborating with each other, understanding and recognising the value of relationships.



The **College** understands that our community includes parents, students, college staff, the local and global community. Facilitating connections with these partners is a priority.



“Engaged learners have a positive sense of identity, connection with their peers and community. They are invested in learning in and beyond the classroom. This enables them to flourish and grow in confidence as curious, optimistic and inspired knowledge builders, problem solvers, conceptual thinkers and self-motivated learners.”

*Catholic Education Melbourne Horizons of Hope Foundation Document Wellbeing p5* <https://www.cem.edu.au/CatholicEducationMelbourne/media/Documentation/Documents/HoH-Wellbeing.pdf>

# VISIBILITY

---



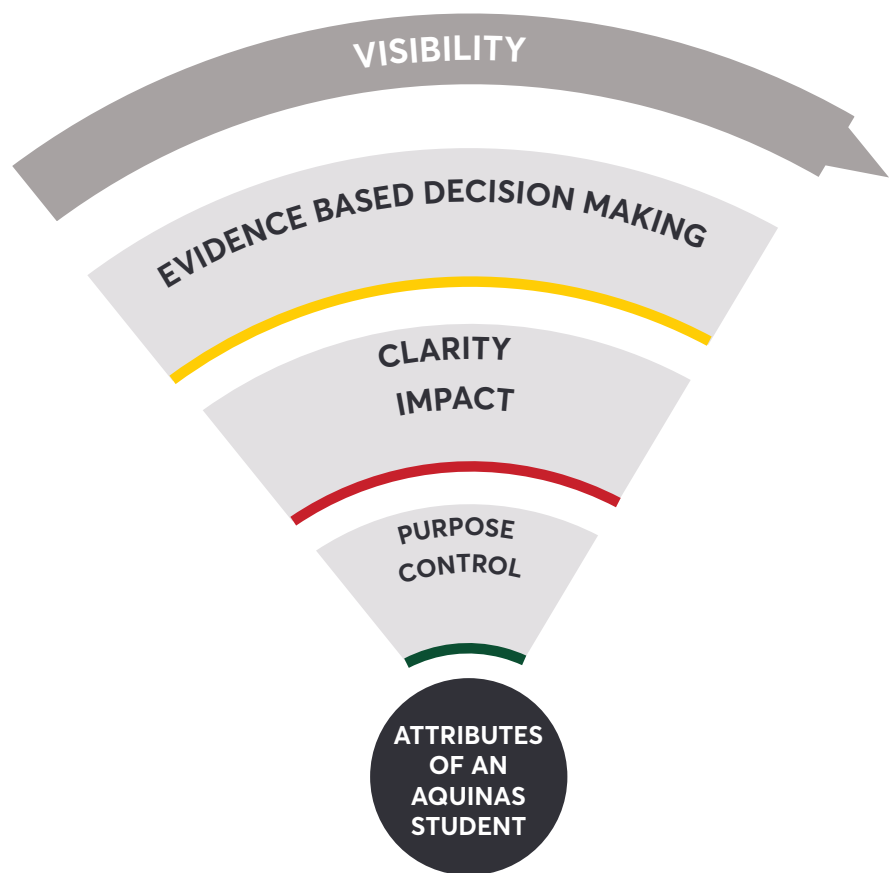
**Students** can answer where they are now as learners, where they want to be and how they will get there.



**Teachers** understand the impact of their work through discussing success, evaluating data and qualitatively evaluating the learning in their classes.



The **College** values transparency. Classrooms, curriculum, assessment, teaching practice and professional learning are visible to the community.



“When teaching and learning are visible, that is when it is clear what teachers are teaching and students are learning, student achievement increases.”

*Visible Learning* [www.corwin.com/visiblelearning](http://www.corwin.com/visiblelearning)

The College’s explanation of Visible Learning principles is articulated in Appendix 2

# CHOICE



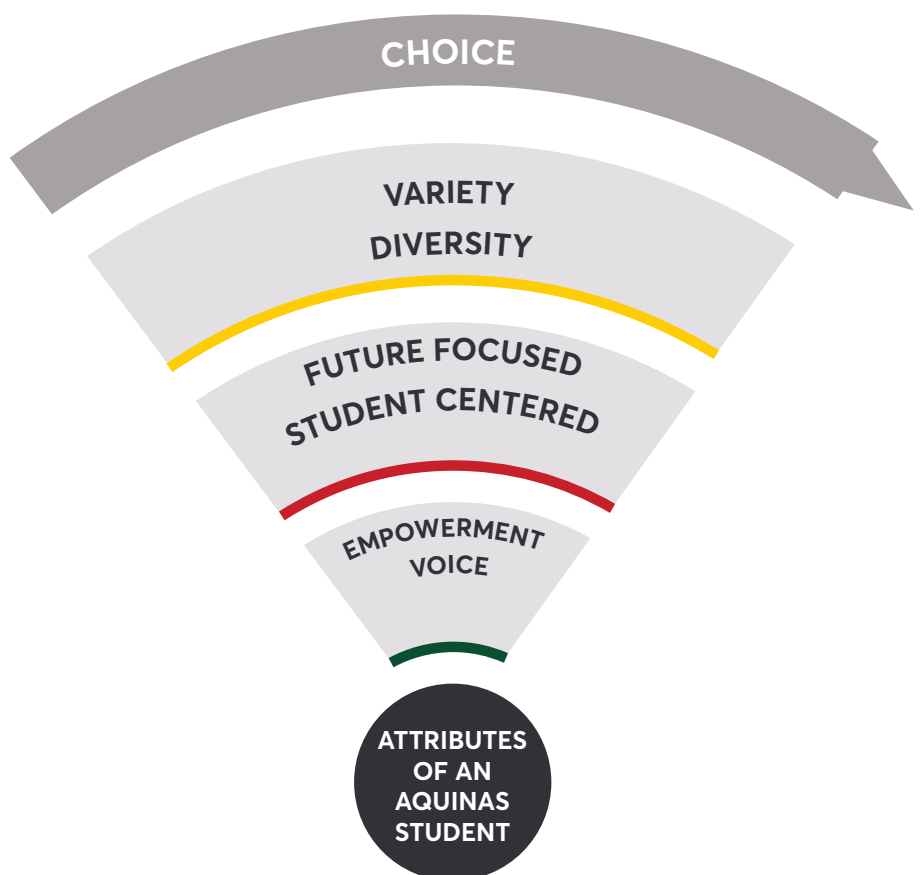
**Students** are empowered to make their own decisions and exercise their voice.



**Teachers** develop, design and target programs based on student requirements.



The **College** understands the diversity of its community, focuses on student need and provides professional support to ensure the provision of a varied and comprehensive education.



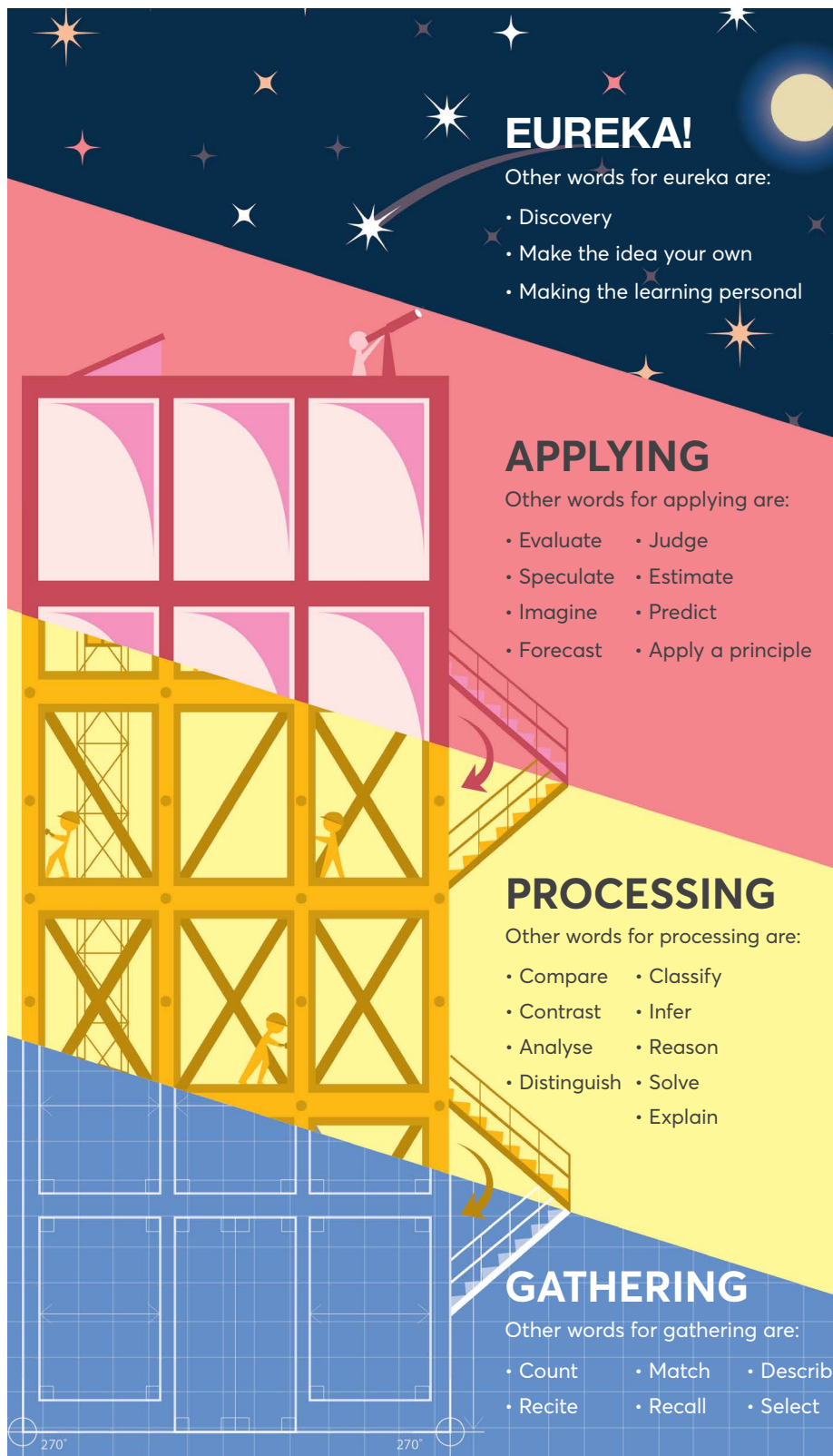
“Student voice includes students contributing to decision making processes and collectively influencing outcomes by putting forward their views, concerns and ideas, and actively participating in their schools, communities and the education system. Student voice allows students to engage, participate, lead and learn.”

*“Student Voice & the Education State: A resource for Victorian schools”*

<http://www.vicsrc.org.au/resources>

# SCAFFOLDING DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE

## The Three Storey Intellect



The Three Storey Intellect has been developed to help teachers and students to gain deep understanding based on a foundation of research and curiosity.





Teaching and Learning 2020