



**Brisbane  
Catholic  
Education**

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# ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORTING – 2015

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION, ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

School Name St Columban's College

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Contact Person Ms Ann Rebgetz - Principal

### Principal's Foreword

#### Introduction

2015 was a year of growth and achievement for St Columban's College. In January the College welcomed its first Year 7 students. The successful integration and transition of Year 7's into College life was fostered in a professional, but nurturing environment, with innovation and substantial strategic planning.

Year 12 results saw strong outcomes for students. Sporting achievements were outstanding - particularly in the fields of Rugby Union, Netball, Athletics and Touch Football. Similarly, Sports Excellence Pathways and Mentor Programs saw the growth of outstanding achievement by students, including world-level attainments. Our Catholic-centred religious, mission and outreach programs were consolidated with cultural immersion experiences, including the College's Pilgrimages to the GARMA Festival in the Northern Territory, and our Pilgrimage to Ireland and Italy. Arts Excellence saw the expansion of the music, drama and dance program, with highlights being the College Musical 'Wizard of Oz' and the inter-school 'Concert Band Spectacular'.

The College was the prestigious winner of The Australian Training Awards in 2014 based on the concept 'Every Student, Every Success'. Our Mantra of 'Equity, Excellence and Edge' underpins our vision of multi-credentialed pathways. Aligning with this mantra, the College opened the Kells Arts and Media Centre and Kells Café, which further enhances our enterprise culture.

### School Profile

St Columban's College is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational  or Single Sex

Year levels offered: Primary  Secondary  P-12

Total Student Enrolments 1029 Girls 520 Boys 509

## Characteristics of the student body

St Columban's have a diverse range of students, including those from rural areas and students with a low socio-economic status. Our catchment area is diverse: ranging from Bald Hills in the South to the Caloundra region in the North; from Kilcoy in the West to Bribe Island in the East. St Columban's College is accessible via its close proximity to the Caboolture/Sunshine Coast railway lines and also the multiple bus operators that service the College.

Our diversity of blended pathways and school-based traineeships via strong links to local industry cater to the changing aspirations of our students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend university. Students at the College have come from 30 different primary schools.

Our Student Leadership structure gives students multiple opportunities to obtain essential like and global skills critical to making the successful transition from school life to life in the wider community. Participating in their house and college committees provides students with opportunities to make a valuable contribution to College life.

As a founding school in TAS Sport competition, we have a proud history and tradition in sport in the district. With emphasis placed on teamwork and cooperation in sport, cultural and other co-curricular pursuits, our students develop a real sense of making a worthwhile contribution. The College has a strong connection with its past students from the original College at Albion in Brisbane, and it is an Edmund Rice associate school.

The College has a high aspiration culture and actively promotes local, national and global partnerships. This sees a multi-cultural focus in our students and partnerships in the community.

## Our distinctive curriculum offerings

1. Innovative Middle-School Program
2. Year 11 and 12 Youth Ministry (Cert III in Christian Ministry and Theology)
3. Certificate III and IV in Fitness
4. MAP (Mentor Academy Program) for extension of students and developing potential in Sport and the Arts
5. Sports Excellence Program
6. Academy of Music Excellence
7. Certificate courses in Hospitality, Construction, Tourism, Business, ITS, Furnishing, Recreation, Finance, Child Care, Manufacturing, Hairdressing
8. School-based traineeships (over 100 students undertaking)
9. Wide range of Authority subjects
10. Multiple pathway opportunities including University subjects in Year 12
11. Co-curricular emphasis - expansion of Debating program, Minecraft and Chess clubs, Theatre Sports, Instrumental Concert Band, TAS Sport, Crafty Critters, and Art Force
12. Further development of Italian program
13. Trade Training Centre - Hospitality and Hairdressing

The high number of Certificate III and IV students means that nearly every student generates a tertiary rank, which allows a broader range of options for students post secondary school. The emphasis is linking programs in school to employment, community and university options.

## Extra curricula activities

**ACADEMIC:** Titration; Australian Business Week; Maths (Murrumba Downs and Rio Tinto); Girls Solving it for Themselves; English, Maths and Science Competitions; Debating, Business competition, University subjects.

**CULTURAL:** Art Force; Bookclub; Chess Club; College Voices (Choir); Concert Band; Crafty Critters; Dance Troupe; Debating; Drama Festival; Instrumental Music Ensembles (Clarinet, Guitar, Saxophone, String & Percussion Ensembles); College Musical; Photography Club; Piece Makers; Public speaking; Robotics Club; Senior Vocal Group; Technical Sound & Lighting; Wattpad

**SPORTS:** Swimming; Cross-Country; AFL; Athletics; Basketball; Cricket; Hockey; Netball; Indoor Netball; Rugby Union; Soccer; Tennis; Volleyball; Touch Football; Christian Brothers Cricket; Bill Turner Cup; Broncos Cup; Queensland Independent Secondary School Netball (QISSN); Confraternity Rugby League; TAS Competition.

**CLUBS:** Interact; Surf; Chess; Warhammer; Computer; Gym; Fishing; Book.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** ANZAC Day; Nursing home visits; Working Bees; Holiday Immersion Program; ROSIES Outreach; Pumped, 40 Hour Famine; College Functions, House action groups; Environmental Committee; Ignite.

## How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

One of the College's key learning and teaching principles is to utilise innovative pedagogical practices that effectively integrate technology so that our students become competent, discriminating and creative users. The 1:1 laptop program gives practical expression to this principle. The College believes that integration of technology provides students with opportunities to engage in new learning possibilities and to extend students' integration with their local and global communities. Digital Citizenship and eLearning are embedded into practice throughout the College.

The 1:1 also enables students to experience growth in areas such as: self-confidence, organisation, creativity, motivation to learn and learning in a range of modalities. Student and staff are provided with an extended range of tools to engage in creative and critical thinking tasks that extend knowledge, and promote collaborative and empathetic learning. Students also have the opportunity to partake in a school-based traineeship in the College's IT service delivery area.

The College's digital technology focus has seen the development of robotics, game design and coding. Links between digital technologies and the required future digital workforce skills are explored in a range of subjects.

## Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

Students, Parents and staff at St Columban's College experience a strong sense of community and belonging. A welcoming spirit is evident as one enters the College grounds. The logo: "Spirit, Tradition and Community" effectively captures the ethos of the College. A new Wellbeing Centre was established and was highly successful in cultivating the "Pastoral Blanket" for our students.

Vertical pastoral groups, a comprehensive Co-Curricular Program, Anti-Bullying strategies (incorporating zero tolerance, conflict resolution, responsible thinking classroom, restorative justice, retreats, and camps) and student-centred learning opportunities offered to our students assist in building this climate within our community. This sense of participation is a long-standing tradition of the College. Staff actively provide opportunities for students to learn in an environment where care and love of students are seen as paramount conditions for teaching. Personal development programs such as "Rock and Water" are conducted across year levels. The College operates in a framework of school-wide positive behaviour.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

The College has a high level of parental satisfaction which is facilitated through the ease of access to the College's Senior Leaders, an inclusive Parents and Friends Association, communication processes and regular opportunities for feedback.

This level of satisfaction is emulated by the students, as is evident with their high level of participation in school co-curricular activities and community events.

The satisfaction of teaching staff is evident in their commitment to the College and their involvement in tuition support and co-curricular activities.

The satisfaction levels for Parents, Students and Staff are also demonstrated through the growth and retention of student and staff numbers throughout the College.

Feedback surveys are used to gather data at information, cultural and reporting events.

## Parent involvement in their child's education

The College prides itself on involving parents in every aspect of school life. We have two parent interview sessions throughout the year, as well as the SET Planning process that involves parents formally attending information nights and interviews with members of the College Leadership team. In addition to these nights, the College holds an information evening for each year level, which includes open Q&A.

We have a high level of engaged families in our TAS program each Saturday morning at both home and away games. This engagement also extends to our Year 12 Retreat, the Principal Excellence in Learning Awards, Supporter Groups, Career Expo, Coaching and the ANZAC Day Liturgy. Monthly attendance of parents at both P&F meetings and Pastoral Board meetings is very strong and Parents contribute greatly to the smooth running of our annual Open Day. The College has a weekly newsletter, engages in social media, operates a mobile app, and updates its website on a regular basis.

A special celebration in 2015 marked the 1400 year anniversary of St Columban's death in Italy. Welcoming ceremonies were held to welcome our new Year 7 and 8 students, along with the Year 12 leaders.

## Staff Profile

Workforce Composition	Teaching Staff	Non-teaching Staff
Headcounts	92	58
Full-time equivalents	84.97	38.87
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	0	

## Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of Teaching Staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	0
Masters	22
Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate	23
Bachelors Degree	44
Diploma/Certificate	3

## Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2015 was \$ 106,680

The major professional development initiatives were as follows

Professional development in 2015 was in line with the Strategic Renewal Framework as in previous years, however there was also an added focus in terms of upskilling staff around the integration of Year 7 into the College. The College focused on continuing professional development for staff in relation to School Wide Pedagogy and Visible Learning, VET Pathways and Teaching Qualifications, More support for Students with Disabilities, Technology Training, Prevention of Bullying, and Digital Citizenship.

Staff at the College also participated in Cultural Awareness Programs, including the GARMA festival in Arnhem Land, the Footsteps Pilgrimage to Italy, and a Cultural Diversity retreat. Staff within the College were also recognised by Brisbane Catholic Education – with 7 staff named as finalists in the annual Excellence in Leadership in Teaching Awards.

## School Income by Funding Source

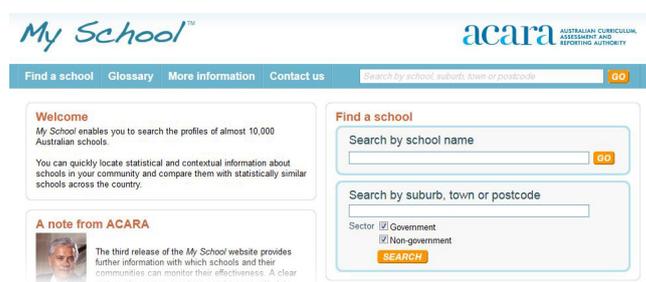
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:

'Find a school' text box.

Type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select '<GO>'. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school's My School entry web page.

School financial information is available by selecting 'School finances' in the menu box in the top left corner of the school's entry web page.



## Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was 96.42 % in 2015.

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2014 school year, 86.7 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2015 year.

## Key Student Outcomes

Whole School Attendance Rate	92.00 %
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Prep Attendance Rate	%	Year 7 Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 1 Attendance Rate	%	Year 8 Attendance Rate	95.00 %
Year 2 Attendance Rate	%	Year 9 Attendance Rate	93.00 %
Year 3 Attendance Rate	%	Year 10 Attendance Rate	90.00 %
Year 4 Attendance Rate	%	Year 11 Attendance Rate	91.00 %
Year 5 Attendance Rate	%	Year 12 Attendance Rate	92.00 %
Year 6 Attendance Rate	%		

## Policy and practice to manage student attendance

Student attendance is managed by having engaging programs and policies which support a safe, welcoming, inclusive environment. This is based on a vertical House system, which involves a strong framework of pastoral care and house spirit.

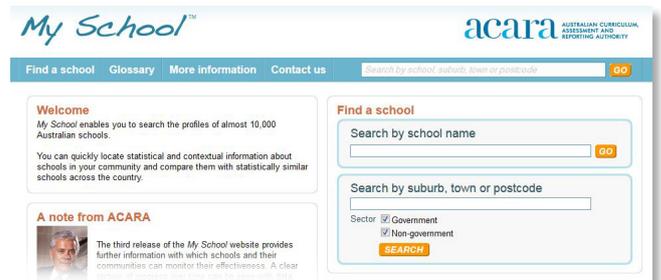
A school-wide positive behaviour support structure encourages a positive culture. Support focusses are there to provide assistance and scaffolding for those in need through our Learning Enhancement Centre, Careers Centre, Career pathways, Responsible Thinking process, tutorial programs and pastoral staff working to our College Blueprint for successful outcomes on an intervention approach.

Rolls are marked each day, and follow up on absences occurs that morning if the College has not been notified. Pastoral Coordinators and Counsellors also follow up on any unexplained absences throughout the day.

## Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>.



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## Attainment and Achievement – Year 12

### Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 (2013) student cohort.	91.75 %
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## Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2015

(Data are available to schools from the QSA secure website using your existing security code)

Number of students receiving a Senior Education Profile.	176
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement.	1
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	73
Number of students who are completing or completed a school based Apprenticeship or Traineeship.	43
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training qualifications.	167
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12.	172
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	0
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	90.4 %
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	99.0 %
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	99.0 %

## Overall Position Bands (OP)

Number of students in each Band for OP 1 to 25

OP 1-5	OP 6-10	OP 11-15	OP 16-20	OP 21-25
14	27	25	7	0

## Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or above
76	68	160

## Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2015 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be published in September when the information is made available to the school.