



# College Prospectus



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# A message from the Principal

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Aitken College is an independent school in association with the Uniting Church, that values its diverse community and provides an opportunity to experience the Christian message. We welcome students from all faiths and cultural backgrounds to share in worship, service and in the celebration of individual differences.

At Aitken College education is about providing opportunities and experiences for young people. There is a commitment to academic excellence and striving to achieve your personal best. Creativity is seen as an integral part of using knowledge. However, knowledge without a values and belief system is worthless and we encourage young people to engage in the exploration of self, community and global responsibility.

Our College motto 'In Mind and Spirit' reflects the nurturing of educational and spiritual growth. Values such as honesty and integrity, acceptance and respect for self are seen as important. These can be supported through establishing positive relationships between all members of our community.

Our unique site is welcoming and provides opportunities for students to learn about sustainability and care for their environment. Our contemporary curriculum provides opportunities for students to focus on their learning and teachers on their teaching.

The choice of a school for your child is an important one. I warmly invite you to visit our school so that you may discover the value of an Aitken education. The best way to gain an impression is to meet the students and staff and participate in the community activities that are offered.

Josie Crisara OAM  
PRINCIPAL

# Our College

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Aitken College has a sound educational philosophy which ensures we provide a range of challenging and relevant learning experiences for each student, consistent with a commitment to a comprehensive curriculum and the full development of each student. The programs of, and teaching in, Aitken College support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy including a commitment to: elected government, the right of law, equal rights for all before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and association and values of openness and acceptance.

Aitken College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making with zero tolerance for child abuse.

We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in the College has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Continuity in the educational growth of students from Foundation to Year 12 ensures that new learning builds on an appropriate foundation of prior learning and experiences. Because learning occurs in many different ways, a variety of learning and teaching approaches are being used at all levels, within a caring and well-coordinated school environment which encourages effort and rewards achievement. Students are encouraged to be actively involved in their learning as they ask questions and seek answers, help to shape activities and programs at all levels, and participate in “hands-on” activities.

The College encourages all students to extend their range of learning experiences through the provision of appropriate extension material and open-ended activities. Students are encouraged to achieve at their highest possible level and to move beyond the constraints imposed by the year level structure.

Our program helps each student to develop self-esteem and feelings of self-worth, and to practice leadership skills.

The College actively promotes, through its Religion and Values Education program, and in many other ways, a values system based on acceptance and respect for others. Consideration for the needs of others, and a respect for the environment, is encouraged at both a local and global level. Above all, we commend to our students the values which arise from the Gospel and the traditions of the Christian Church.

## Our Vision

The vision for Aitken College is to develop and support a learning community of students, staff and families in association with the Uniting Church in Australia.

## Our Mission

The mission of Aitken College is to enable students to become informed and compassionate members of the wider global community.

## Aims

Aitken College will aim to:

- Make the Christian faith relevant through an understanding of its major teachings and by encouraging a personal faith journey
- Inspire and challenge students to realise their academic, social and emotional potential to equip them for the 21st century
- Promote and develop creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, perseverance and self-improvement
- Encourage individuals and the community to be respectful, take responsibility and to act accordingly
- Instill in students a sense of service
- To cultivate an adaptive, innovative and continuously improving school

## Our Guiding Values

Compassion Excellence Honesty Kindness Respect



# Structure of the School

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The College is led by the Principal, Deputy Principal, and supported by 3 Assistant Principals; Assistant Principal (Primary), Assistant Principal (Secondary) and Assistant Principal (Learning).

The College is divided into four administrative units, named after some of the original pastoral leases in the local area.



## Primary School

Fairview      Preparatory to Year 2

Cumberland      Year 3 to Year 6



## Secondary School

Dunhelen      Middle School (Year 7 to Year 9)

Brookhill      Senior School (Year 10 to Year 12)



## Primary School Curriculum

A broad general curriculum is offered. Programs are integrated as much as possible by bringing together a number of learning areas into thematic units that emphasise the links and keep learning meaningful.

The learning areas are English, Mathematics, Visual Arts, Performing Arts (incorporating Drama, Dance and Music), Integrated Studies (incorporating Science, Technology and the Humanities), Physical Education and Health, Religion and Values Education, Life Skills and Library.

Students in Years 1 to 6 study Spanish.

## Middle School Curriculum

Year 7 students follow a program that helps them make a smooth transition into the secondary years. The class teacher usually takes the class for several different subject areas. The learning areas are English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Physical Education and Health, Religion and Values Education, Life Skills, Food Studies, Technology and Indonesian.

Year 8 students follow a core program of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Indonesian, Physical Education and Health, Religion and Values Education and Life Skills and have a choice of four electives (two each semester). These electives include Art, Drama, Digital Technology, Food Studies, Media, Music Performance, Music Technology, Product Design, and Visual Communication and Design.

Year 9 students follow a core program of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Indonesian, Physical Education and Health, Religion and Values Education, Life Skills, Service Project and a choice of four electives (two each semester). These electives include Agriculture and Environmental Studies, Art, Commerce, Computer Programming, Drama, Food Studies, Media, Music Performance, Music Technology, Product Design, Product Design (CAD) and Visual Communication and Design.



The Year 9 Service Project is a collaborative project-based learning module where students engage in learning which provides service or benefit to the community. The aim is to assist students develop independence, initiative and compassion and improves problem solving, creative thinking, teamwork and communication skills.

In Semester One, students engage in a service project benefitting the local community, particularly the school community.

In Semester Two, students engage in projects within the wider community. They present the results of these projects in a formal setting in front of a panel of guest judges from the local community.

All students attend a weekly Assembly and Chapel.



## Senior School Curriculum

Students in Year 10 study core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Physical Education and Health, Life Skills, and Religion and Values Education. Students choose four electives (two each semester). These electives include Agriculture, Business and Economics, Computer Aided Design, Computer Programming, Digital Technology, Environmental Studies, Food Studies, Indonesian, Legal Studies and Politics, Media, Music, Photography, Product Design, Theatre craft, Visual Arts and Visual Communication and Design.

Students who demonstrate exceptional academic progress may be invited to participate in an accelerated program which allows them to study a selected VCE subject (Unit 1 and 2).

Students in Years 11 and 12 can complete either the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major(VCE VM) as prescribed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority(VCAA).

The College offers a broad range of VCE subjects. The structure of the two-year course is described fully in the VCE information booklet.

The VCE VM program is a hands-on option for Year 11 and 12 students. It provides practical work-related experience as well as literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build personal skills.





Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs can be undertaken as part of the VCE or VCE VM program. Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements also form a crucial part of the VET program where they can gain valuable experience and are able to put skills learnt in their VET course to use.

All students in Years 10 to 12 are involved in the Life Skills program.

Each year level is overseen by a Head of Year who is the first point of contact for parents for all pastoral and academic matters. The Heads of Year work as a team, with the Deputy Head of School, to manage significant Senior School events.

The Mentor Group program gives students an ongoing relationship with their Homeroom Teacher as a study mentor. These classes occur weekly at Year 11 and 12 and are run as one-off lessons throughout the year in Year 10.



## General Programs

### **Alumni**

The Alumni focuses on maintaining connections amongst our past students. It embraces the continuous engagement and sharing of experiences and stories. The Alumni provides a resource and network for peers and the College community. There are Alumni reunions, guest speaker and mentoring opportunities, which encourage connecting with friends and past teachers.

### **Chaplaincy**

Chaplaincy is responsible for the running of all the weekly Chapel services and other significant religious services such as the annual Easter and Carol Services. In addition to these, the Chaplain can provide pastoral care in responding to loss and grief and other crises which arise from time to time. Baptism and confirmation classes are provided for those interested in developing their spiritual journey within the Christian Church, and ROC (Reach Out Community) provides a means of nurturing faith issues for the whole community. ROC is involved in children's ministry and special events which encourage those who attend to explore their faith.

## Religion and Values Education (RVE)

As part of a well-rounded education it is important that young people learn about other religious world views. As a Christian based school, we focus on the central truths of Christianity in RVE (Religion and Values Education) classes, which are compulsory for all students from Prep to Year 10. However, we also teach about other religions, and the basis for morality and ethical behaviour which flow naturally from an understanding of the Christian faith. RVE classes are age-appropriate, and the set curriculum is constantly reviewed and kept contemporary so that important links can be made to real life situations in which faith-based views are of significant importance and relevance. All students attend a weekly Chapel service at which Christian themes are highlighted and explained.

## Co-Curricular

A wide range of co-curricular activities complements the academic program at the College. These include:

- House Activities – athletics, swimming, orienteering and cross country
- Choirs and Ensemble groups
- Private Instrumental music tuition
- Science Activities – Family Science and Eng Girls
- Interschool Sports – School Sports Victoria
- Community Service (including Interact, the youth division of Rotary)
- Youth Group
- Debating Competitions
- Chess Competitions
- Musicals
- Sustainability, Agricultural activities
- College Musical and Middle School Play

## Extension Programs

Aitken College offers extension and enrichment programs to students that demonstrate high achievement across a wide range of subjects. Data is gathered to create a learning engagement profile for these students. Within the classroom program, students in the extension program are supported with a differentiation program which reflects and challenges their ability. Extra-curricular activities are also offered to students who engage in the extension program including the Da Vinci Decathlon and Tournament of Minds for example.







### **My Aitken**

My Aitken is the College's online Learning Management System, which gives access to school timetables, calendars, homework tasks, personalised assessment feedback, curriculum content and College Services. It is available to all members of the College community: students, staff and parents.

### **Library**

The Aitken College Library supports and enriches the teaching and learning program of the school.

At Aitken College students use the latest technology to access information. The Library system 'Infiniti' allows students to access the catalogue and other library resources from any internet connection (e.g. home). Internet and intranet resources are available for students and staff. Access to wider online services and other electronic facilities provide the most current resources for research. A large collection of non-fiction, fiction, junior fiction and picture storybooks further support the curriculum. The Library is open to students before school, at lunchtime and after school.

## **Sport**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports, both within the school and on an interschool basis. The College is a member of School Sports Victoria in the Woodlands division and participates in interschool competitions for Years 5 to 12 students.

Activities include: athletics, cross-country, orienteering, swimming and a variety of team sports (badminton, basketball, cricket, football, netball, soccer, softball, table tennis, tennis and volleyball).





### **The Interact Club**

The Interact Club is a service club at Aitken College for young leaders in Years 7 to 12. The club conducts activities, events, and fundraisers to enhance community, serve others and to develop leadership skills and personal integrity. They aim to give back to the community and help those in need.

### **iPad Program and My Aitken**

The College is committed to providing our students with opportunities to access the curriculum through digital technologies. This commitment will help prepare students for a world where the only constant is change. We believe that using iPads in the classroom helps students with their learning, organisation and productivity. Students from Prep to Year 2 use class sets of iPads; students from Year 3 to 9 have their own personal iPad. Students in Years 10 and 12 can choose to supply an iPad or a MacBook.







# General Information

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## Facilities and Resources

From Mickleham Road, the school complex is approached via a winding road through a rural landscape. Specialist facilities include the Chapel and Performing Arts Centre, library, science laboratories, visual art rooms, computer laboratories, design technology facility, environmental barn, kitchen garden centre, food studies centre and a gymnasium. The school leads by example in the concept of sustainability. An extensive revegetation program is also in place, along our wildlife corridor.

## Online Information Services

The Aitken College website at [www.aitkencollege.edu.au](http://www.aitkencollege.edu.au) provides public information about the College including enrolment details, a virtual tour, major events and key policies.

My Aitken, our Learning Management System accessible by students, parents and staff, includes timetables, learning resources and student tasks and is used for submission of student work and assessment feedback.

The Parent Community Portal is accessed by parents to view financial accounts, book parent-teacher interviews and download student semester reports.

Consent2Go is our online information service for excursions, sports and camps and is used by parents to update student personal information and medical details and give parental consent when required.



### **Parents and Friends Association**

The role of the Parents and Friends Association is to encourage active Parents and Friends interest in the College. This includes working towards supporting the school in the implementation of various programs and to assist with fundraising, as well as the planning and organising of functions associated with the social, sporting, cultural and educational life of the school community. Parents who are interested in joining the Parents and Friends Association can do so by completing the Volunteer form. They also support the Parents and Friends Arts Scholarship for students.

### **Transport**

Students attend Aitken College from many suburbs in the northwest corridor including: Beveridge, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Craigieburn, Roxburgh Park, Greenvale, Gladstone Park, Tullamarine, Airport West, Gowanbrae, Oak Park, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale, Essendon, Niddrie, Keilor, Bulla and Sunbury.

The College is serviced by a limited PTV bus system. Details of routes and fares are available at the CDC Victoria website. Suburbs serviced include Craigieburn, Broadmeadows, Westmeadows, Attwood, Greenvale and Gladstone Park.

Chartered bus services operate along six routes servicing Greenvale/ Oak Park/ Glenroy/ Airport West/ Gowanbrae/ Tullamarine/ Gladstone Park/ Westmeadows/ Attwood/ Roxburgh Park/ Epping/ Mickleham/ Craigieburn/ Merrifield/ Beveridge/ Bulla and Sunbury.

The service is available on a user pay basis. There are limited places available on these services; details can be obtained from the College. The Roll Call App is available for parents to track their children's bus travel and receive notification of any delays.

Please see our Chartered Bus flyer for more information on service routes.



Ready to join our College community? Start your journey by submitting an online application today.

Scan QR to apply





