



John Paul College

The OJ Olsen Memorial

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Curriculum

The college offers a comprehensive curriculum from Years 7 to 12 which enables students to proceed to work, tertiary study, TAFE or other training courses. An increasing number of students continue through to Year 12.

John Paul College has had outstanding academic results at VCE, ensuring the progress of students into the tertiary courses of their choice or into the workforce and/or traineeships. While enrolment cannot of itself guarantee success, the provision of a comprehensive range of VCE studies and an experienced and committed staff are significant factors favouring good outcomes.

Additional features of the curriculum are programs which assist students with special needs either in support or extra challenge. The college also has a comprehensive career planning and course selection program.

General class sizes for Years 7 to 10 total twenty nine students per class, however a maximum of twenty-five students are enrolled for practical classes. VCE class sizes average twenty-five students.

Extra curricular activities

In addition to the normal program of studies offered through the timetable, ample opportunities are offered for student involvement in debating, public speaking, choir, interschool sport, music tuition and work experience.

Music is offered within the main curriculum and also as instrumental tuition in a chosen instrument. This program is very much geared to the goal of confident public performance.

A biennial major production with a cast of between 100 and 200 students is presented at the George Jenkins Theatre. Students from the whole school are encouraged to audition for performances in music, dance, drama and signing. In addition a large crew of students are invited to participate in make-up, costumes and ushering, lighting, sound, backstage and set production.

In addition to the major school production, there are many other extra-curricular events and activities including:

Mini Drama productions	Music Concerts
Presentation Ball	School Assemblies
Southern Independent Schools	Valedictory Dinner
Year 7 and 8 Discos	Year 10 Formal
Schools Constitutional Convention	National Youth Science Forum
Tournament of Minds	Energy Breakthrough
Debating	Essay Competitions

All these factors have combined to ensure that the College has consistently enjoyed a fine reputation as a school whose students are well qualified educationally and personally to take their place in their parish, in the workforce, in tertiary education and in the wider community.

Special Education

Over the years there has been a perception among some families that John Paul College is a school which emphasises academic success and in which there is no place for students with special educational needs. The provision of assistance to all students and especially to those with special needs, has been a priority at the College for a long time. We are committed to the full integration of students with special needs and also to providing assistance to all our students through the Individual Learning Centre. We are here to serve the educational needs of all the children from the parishes, regardless of their educational starting point.

Careers and Work Experience

The College has developed an integrated Careers and Work Experience program which supports and complements the academic progress in the final three years of school:

Year 10	Careers education in the classroom
Year 11/12	Work Experience
Year 12	Tertiary Course Selection

Students have access to a comprehensive collection of information and the assistance of a full time Careers and Work Experience Coordinator in subject selection and career preparation at all levels. In addition to Careers and Work Experience, students are also assisted by the VET Coordinator in relation to work placement programs within the Vocational Education and Training Certificate courses.

Resource Centre

The Resource Centre, like the College itself, supports the belief “that effective learners are not just those people who are knowledgeable but rather they are people who are able to find and use information as required. Effective learners are those who are information literate. Information literacy is synonymous with knowing how to learn. This means that the ability to process and use information effectively is more than a basic tool for the empowerment of school students: it is a basic survival skill for those who wish to be successful ” in the 21st century. (ASLA Information Literacy Policy Statement.)

To this end, the Resource Centre provides absolute support for the curriculum in terms of resources and services as well as a positive learning environment, enabling students to become effective learners with access to the latest technology. A love of recreational reading is also fostered. John Paul College is very proud of its award winning, purpose built Resource Centre and warmly welcomes visitors from all around Australia.

Its publication “**Guidelines for Referencing and Bibliographies**” is now in its seventh edition in booklet form and is also available in a format suitable for school organisers and planners. This publication has sold Australia wide and internationally for more than a decade. Based on the Harvard style, the guide provides worked examples of a variety of information sources, both print and electronic. The 2003 edition has been completely rewritten and updated using current, real examples.

Guidelines for Referencing and Bibliographies

Both the planner and the booklet editions are available for purchase from Landmark Educational Supplies Pty Ltd by phoning 1800 016 334 or by email contact - sales@elandmark.com.au.