

# ST JOHN BOSCO COLLEGE



**Prospectus**



*Educational Excellence in a Caring Environment*

# A Catholic Co-Educational Secondary College in the Salesian Tradition



**St John Bosco College** is a Catholic systemic co-educational secondary school offering a broad, comprehensive curriculum and catering for students in Years 7 to 12. The College is situated on a compact campus noted for its pleasant green environment. The school is characterised by a dynamic, competent staff, engaged students and a supportive community.

The College is renowned for the excellence of its facilities, the beauty of its grounds, the quality of its pastoral care, its commitment to technology, and the excellence of the educational opportunities offered to its students.

St John Bosco College caters for approximately 820 students mainly drawn from the local Engadine, Helensburgh and Stanwell Park areas.

## The Salesian Tradition

The Salesians of Don Bosco, an order of Catholic priests and brothers dedicated to the care and education of young people, has approximately 17,000 members worldwide.

Don Bosco's key contribution to education lies in his "Preventive System", based on reason, religion and kindness.

### Reason

- a commonsense approach to human relationships
- understanding, communicating and relating with the young
- an optimistic appreciation of the human capacity to utilise the gifts of reason and intelligence.

### Religion

- the centrality of God's love for all people
- the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus
- a strong sacramental and prayer life
- an appreciation of the role of Mary, Help of Christians.

### Loving-Kindness

- nurturing relationships of trust and friendship
- a "family spirit" among all involved in the educational process.

# Educational Vision



## St John Bosco College strives to:

- be an active faith community that gives living witness to the gospel of Jesus
- be dynamically faithful to the spirit of Don Bosco and the Salesian charism
- highlight the relevance of faith to life and contemporary culture
- participate actively in the life of the local parish
- cultivate an environment in which all are respected, welcome, safe and valued
- cater for the integral development of the whole person
- promote opportunities for the spiritual development of students
- provide quality education in a caring environment
- inculcate a love of learning through the utilisation of contemporary learning strategies
- address the learning needs of all students
- encourage the growth of each person in the context of a caring community

## History

St John Bosco High School was originally founded in 1978 at the initiative of the parishioners of St John Bosco Parish, Engadine, as a systemic Years 7 – 10 school under the administration of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The first principal, Fr Patrick Laws SDB, left an indelible mark on the new school, which became characterised by community involvement, excellent educational programmes and quality pastoral care.

In the mid 1990's the decision was taken to extend the school's educational programmes to include Years 11 and 12. A significant upgrading of the school's facilities and curriculum was undertaken to cater for the new situation. The school was renamed St John Bosco College in 1998 and the first graduates successfully completed their H.S.C. in 1999.

The quality pastoral care programmes for which the College had become renowned were developed and sustained to cater for the greater number of students across the increased range of age groups. Positive staff-student relationships and a commitment to educational excellence remain a significant feature of College life.

# Educational Vision



## Facilities

St John Bosco College boasts a first-rate range of specialist facilities including an excellent library with an extensive modern collection, theatrette, visual arts, music, domestic and commercial kitchens, workshops (wood, metal, textiles, electronics), science laboratories and a comprehensive, integrated computer network enabling students to access files and the internet from any area of the school.

## College Badge and Motto

The College motto, "Gaudium et Spes" (meaning "Joy and Hope") is indicative of the spirit in which the College was founded – this same spirit continues to be the dynamic and creative force from which the College continues to draw its inspiration.

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care refers to the quality of love – expressed in a practical, tangible manner – that permeates the relationships between teachers and students. The various programmes, structures and services offered to support the well-being, growth and development of students emerge from the love that is the heart and soul of pastoral care.

- **Vertical House System:** including students from all years, developing a sense of belonging and acceptance
- **Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:** responsible for overseeing the care and welfare of all students
- **Year Level Co-ordinator:** responsible for the care and welfare of students at each year level
- **School Counsellor:** accessible to students
- **Diary System:** to facilitate communication between home and school
- **Merit System:** recognising effort, contribution and achievement
- **Caution System:** promoting an awareness of consequences and instilling responsibility
- **Pastoral Education Programme:** developing skills, knowledge and attitudes for interaction, communication and decision-making in an increasingly complex world
- **Anti-Bullying Policy:** cultivating a safe and welcoming environment where all are valued and respected
- **Seasons Programme:** for those dealing with loss and grief
- **Special Programmes:** catering for the needs of particular students



## Religious Education

St John Bosco College offers a variety of programmes to make explicit its commitment to promoting the spiritual, religious and Salesian dimension of the life of the College. The variety of programmes is a reflection of the diverse means utilised to form and educate young people in the faith of Jesus Christ:

- Classroom Religious Education Programme
- Prayer and Liturgy Programme
- Camps and Retreats Programme
- Faith in Action Programmes

## Careers

The Careers Co-ordinator is available to students and parents to offer guidance and support regarding careers, subject choices and work placement opportunities.

Careers Education commences in Year 9 as part of the PDHPE curriculum. The Year 10 students participate in an innovative Careers Week programme each year. Years 11 and 12 students have a variety of opportunities to explore their subject choices, career options and university entrance requirements.

## Co-curricula

St John Bosco College offers a range of co-curricula opportunities including:

- Sports
- Dance Troupe
- Debating
- Music
- Chess
- Mock Trial
- Performing Arts
- Educational and Recreational Tours

# Curriculum



St John Bosco College offers a broad, comprehensive and inclusive curriculum that aims to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to successfully participate in and contribute to Australian society. The College's curriculum strives to clearly articulate a vision of life consistent with Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. The curriculum complies with the necessary legislative and statutory requirements as prescribed by law and mandated by the New South Wales Board of Studies.

## Key Learning Areas

The curriculum is structured across eight (8) key learning areas:

- Creative Arts
- Languages – incorporating English and Languages Other Than English (LOTE)
- Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)
- Mathematics
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Each Key Learning Area offers a range of subjects appropriate to the age and maturity of the students in each year level.

## Special Education

St John Bosco College offers a diverse range of inclusive learning support services and programmes, including:

- Special Education Programme
- Special Needs Programme
- The Peer Mentoring Programme
- Intensive Reading Programme
- The Learning Assistance Programme (LAP)
- Transition to Work Programme
- Life Skills Programme
- Numeracy Assistance Programme
- Examination Assistance Programme

These programmes are designed to allow each student to achieve, grow and develop to achieve their own personal goals.

# Curriculum



## Gifted and Talented Programme

The Gifted and Talented Programme is designed to enable students with a special interest or ability the opportunity to attain their full potential. The aim of the Programme is to create a learning environment that encourages students to engage their abilities to the greatest possible extent, promote creativity and higher cognitive skills and prevent student under-achievement. Various models are used at different levels in order to facilitate opportunities for students.

## Stage 4 Curriculum

Years 7 - 8

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Australian History and Geography
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Design and Technology
- Music
- Art
- Italian (Year 8 only)
- Sport
- Pastoral Care
- Drama (Year 7 only – incorporated into English)



# Curriculum



## Stage 5 Curriculum

Years 9 - 10

Religious Education  
English  
Mathematics  
Science  
Australian History and Geography  
Personal Development, Health and  
Physical Education  
Sport  
Pastoral Care



## Electives\*

Commerce  
Computer Technology  
Drama  
Electronics Technology  
Food Technology  
Italian  
Metal Technology  
Music  
Sports Science  
Technical Drawing  
Textiles Technology  
Visual Arts  
Wood Technology

\* students choose two electives – all electives run on the basis of availability and student choices

# Curriculum



## Stage 6 Curriculum

Years 11 - 12

All students study Religious Education, English and Mathematics. Students then select elective subjects, which are offered on the basis of availability and student choices.

### Religious Education

Studies of Religion (1 unit)  
Catholic Studies (Year 12 only)

### English

Standard English  
Advanced English  
English Extension 1

### Mathematics

General Mathematics  
Mathematics (2 Unit)  
Mathematics Extension 1

### Science

Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Senior Science  
Earth & Environmental Science

### Human Society and Its Environment

Modern History  
Geography  
Legal Studies  
Ancient History  
Business Studies

### Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education  
Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation (CEC)

### Languages Other Than English

Italian (Continuers)

### Technology and Applied Studies

Design and Technology  
Industrial Technology – Wood and Timber Furnishings  
Information Processes and Technology  
Computer Applications (CEC)  
Construction (VET)  
Hospitality (VET)

### Creative Arts

Music 1  
Drama  
Visual Arts  
Photography (CEC)

# Sport



St John Bosco offers a range of sporting opportunities:

## College House Carnivals

The College conducts House Carnivals in swimming and athletics each year.

## Weekly Friday Afternoon Sport

Students in Years 7 to 10 participate in either representative or recreational sporting activities each Friday afternoon.

### Representative Sports

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Basketball | Rugby          |
| Soccer     | Netball        |
| Volleyball | Oz Tag         |
| Water Polo | Touch Football |
| Cricket    | Baseball       |
| Hockey     | Softball       |

### Recreational Sports

- Bush walking
- Ten pin bowling
- Squash
- Tennis
- Martial arts
- Dance
- Drama

### Combined Catholic Colleges Association

Students are able to access state representation opportunities via the Combined Catholic Colleges Association in a variety of sports including:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Athletics     | Touch Football |
| Cross Country | Hockey         |
| Swimming      | Soccer         |
| Baseball      | Rugby Union    |
| Softball      | Rugby League   |
| Cricket       |                |

# Strategic Development



## St John Bosco College Strategic Management Plan 2004 - 2008

### Strategic Priorities

St John Bosco College is committed to the ongoing development of its culture, curriculum, facilities and services. Hence, the College will address the following goals:

1. The spiritual, Salesian and religious dimension of College life
  - Further develop the Catholic and Salesian identity of the College
  - Foster shared responsibility for the spiritual and religious life of the College
  - Integrate Catholic values across the curriculum
  - Promote social justice and community outreach
2. Curriculum development and teaching practice
  - Continue development of the standards referenced curriculum framework
  - Explore ways to further integrate information and communications technology (ICT)
  - Consolidate assessment and reporting processes and procedures
  - Improve the range and quality of learning support programmes and services
3. Students' learning, growth and development
  - Promote quality teaching and learning practices
  - Further integrate literacy and numeracy across the curriculum
  - Improve student academic performance
4. Pastoral care within the College community
  - Promote quality pastoral care of students, staff and families
  - Foster shared responsibility for pastoral care
  - Continue development of pastoral care programmes and services
5. College, families and wider community in partnership
  - Promote partnership with parents
  - Foster ongoing involvement of past pupils in College life
  - Continue strong links with parishes
  - Develop further links with the wider community
  - Implement new communication strategies
6. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
  - Promote best-practice application of ICT in the teaching and learning process
  - Maintain and develop ICT infrastructure, services and provision
  - Monitor emerging trends in the use of ICT in education
7. Facilities and Resources
  - Further develop the College's grounds, facilities and resources
  - Ensure appropriate standards of safety and security
  - Ensure accountable financial management

A full copy of the College's Strategic Management Plan is available on the College website ([www.bosco.nsw.edu.au](http://www.bosco.nsw.edu.au)) or may be obtained by contacting the College Office (9548-4000).

# Expectations



## Expectations of Students

St John Bosco College strives to cultivate an environment in which all members of the College community feel welcome, safe, secure and valued. It is in such an environment that learning best takes place and that students grow in their own sense of self-esteem and self-respect, and are able to more effectively extend esteem and respect to others.

Students have a responsibility to contribute to the building of a positive interpersonal climate within the College and to establishing a constructive learning culture in which all are able to succeed to their full potential.

Hence, the College has high expectations regarding the involvement, behaviour and participation of its students.

## Uniform Requirements

All students are required to wear their College uniform to school each day. The details of the College uniform and College sports uniform are contained in the flyer accompanying this prospectus.

## Fees and Charges

St John Bosco College relies upon the fees generously paid by parents to ensure the continued operation of the school. Like all Catholic schools the College receives approximately 80% of its funds from state and federal governments. The generosity of parents of Catholic students over many years has enabled the development of Australia's unique system of Catholic education. The College remains committed to ensuring that no Catholic student is excluded from receiving a Catholic education because of his or her family's financial situation. Families requiring financial assistance are requested to apply to the Principal using the appropriate form available from the College Office. A schedule of fees and charges accompanies this prospectus.

Enrolment applications may be lodged at any time of the year and placements will be offered dependent upon the needs of the College and the availability of places at the time.

An enrolment application form accompanies this prospectus.



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JOY AND HOPE