



Mr Jim Ford | Principal

Making an Impression in 2024

Catherine McAuley College grows by another year level and welcomes 155 new Year 7's. Across all areas of Teaching, Administration and Support there are twenty-one new staff.

We welcome Stage 2 buildings and thank Fergus Builders and Bold Architects for delivering quality facilities on time.

Our parent evening for new parents scheduled for last Thursday evening ran into a Cyclone warning so it is now on Tuesday 13 February at 5:00pm (following the Stymie Parent Information Session) under the Kappa wing. Especially new parents but any parent is most welcome to come along for a meet and greet to start the year. Our Parent Engagement Group leaders will host the event with a tour of the new facilities available to the curious.

In the broader context of Catholic Education Queensland, our State based QCEC (Queensland Catholic Education Commission) advertised the following statistics to start the year. There are 160,000 students enrolled in catholic schools including 11,800 Preps. There are 11,400 teachers and 17,900 in a plethora of support roles. Confidence in Catholic education is very high with the onus on our staff to affirm that support. Although every parent is busy the opportunity is there to have input and help us build into a quality life changing experience for students, staff and parents alike.

Best Use Of The Carpark Pick-up Zone

When entering the carpark from Field Street, please go as far into the pick-up zone as possible. This often means going past the pedestrian crossing. If in doubt as to your child's whereabouts then please park in a parking space and wait. Students must use the pedestrian crossing to access a parked car. This is an important safety rule that parents can help us enact.



Mr Chris Apelt | Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

Importance of Homework

Two of my favourite Benjamin Franklin Quotes. "Practice makes perfect" and "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." We may not always be able to perfect everything we do, but "Practice does make progress". For this reason, homework is a critical part of schooling at Catherine McAuley College. Students of all year levels should anticipate between 30 and 45 minutes of homework for each subject, each week. Each subject has their own variation to homework delivery and expectations, but all homework will be important practice of concepts learnt in class.

The homework expectations can be quite different to that in some primary schools and teachers will support all students in meeting homework requirements for their class. Parents can do their part to support, by doing two key things. Develop and support a household routine that includes time for homework and ensure a location within the house that is supervised, free of distractions (technology including phones) and conducive to students producing their best work. It is important that parents are part of the learning process, and this can include assisting their child with work at home, however it is vitally important that students produce their own work and so parents are always asked to take a supportive and guiding approach.



Elective Rotations

Students in both year seven and eight progress through a rotational course, exposing them to a range of subjects across the year. Not all students will study the same elective at the same time, however by the end of that year, all students will have experienced all elective subjects. This program is designed to give students experience in a range of subjects, reflecting the options that will become available for their selection in the middle years (year 9 and 10). Current rotations are:

Year 7 - Visual Art, Performing Arts, Digital Technologies, Design Technologies

Year 8 - Food Technologies, Drama & Spanish, Performing Arts, Robotics.

Year 9 - Students have started on some of their electives, chosen at the end of last year. Families in this cohort are reminded that by the end of the year, all students will have completed their three subjects of choice, along with a semester of Humanities (History & Geography).

Mrs Jeanette Refalo |Assistant Principal Mission

Welcome

Welcome, or welcome back to all our 2024 families. My new school diary states "It's the first chapter of a brand-new year. How are you going to make it amazing?" I'm excited to be focusing on my roles of Mission and Catholic Identity this year and supporting our students, families, and staff in prayer celebrations, formation experiences, service opportunities and advocating for justice. I feel privileged to be working alongside an outstanding team of teachers and support staff who display how to make Christ known and loved among our College community. This year, with an expansion in the number of staff our team will be increasing the number of opportunities for students to share in actioning their faith within our College and the wider community.

Enrolment Applications For Year 7 In 2025

Parents and Guardians of children currently in Year 6 who wish to be part of our Catherine McAuley College community are reminded to complete enrolment applications for Year 7 in 2025 by mid-March 2024! Interviews will commence soon. Siblings of current CMC students are not automatically enrolled; an application must be submitted. Please do not hesitate to contact the College with any queries relating to enrolment. Visit our website to complete an enrolment application form. <https://cmcmrok.catholic.edu.au>

Mr David Paul | Assistant Principal Wellbeing

Responsible Thinking Process

At CMC we utilise the Responsible Thinking Process to support student behaviour. The process is supported by research and is extremely effective if students, parents, and staff all work together. Please familiarise yourself with the process and ask your child if you require further clarification.



1

WHAT?

- Rather than being a set of rules, RTP is an attitude about how people act with others.
- It teaches students how to reach their goals without violating the rights of others.
- Through the questioning technique students are challenged to search within themselves and decide the way they want to be

2

WHY?

- We, as individuals are responsible for what we do.
- Students have the right to learn, and teachers have the right to teach, in safety.
- No one has the right to disrupt, to prevent other students from learning, or to violate the rights of others.
- The RTC process is designed to intervene before a student's behaviour impacts others in order to help students stay engaged in the learning environment and to remain safe and respectful.

3

HOW?

- Students who disrupt and don't want to learn are given a set of questions and if they continue to *disrupt* they go to the RTC. In the RTC, students think about what they have done and then try to think of other ways they can behave so they don't get referred again.
- This allows the student to consider options for what they could do differently in class next time (higher order of thinking/PCT).

VISION

To equip students with the tools and strategies needed to think and act responsibly, problem solve and recognise that their actions have individual and collective consequences.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Catherine McAuley College's Responsible Thinking Classroom is to create an environment that is safe, respectful, conducive to learning and free from disruptive behaviour, where students develop the ability to become self-disciplined.

Quote

"No occupation should withdraw our minds from God. Our whole life should be a continual act of praise and prayer."

Catherine McAuley



Mrs Kristy Flor | College Counsellor

School Counselling Service

The College has a School Counselling service available for students who are going through personal challenges or family changes.

What a Counsellor Does?

College Counsellors work to support students to achieve academic success as well as social and emotional wellbeing. The College Counsellor can assist by providing support and strategies to help at school and/or home.



How to Access the College Counsellor

The Counsellor can be contacted by direct email at Kristy.Flor@rok.catholic.edu.au. Communication is welcomed, and parent/carer/ guardian meetings at school or via phone can be arranged.

If you feel that your child may benefit from the College counselling service, please contact the College Administration Office (T: 07 4994 9200), where the staff can direct you to the service.

When is the College Counsellor available?

The Counsellor is at the College Monday to Thursday 8.00am to 4.00pm.

Appointments will be made in confidence, as the College counselling service is a confidential service.

I look forward to working with the College community in 2024 and hope to share more wellbeing tips and information throughout the year with you.

Opening & Blessing - Timetable and Uniform Swap

Please Note The Following Changes For Students

- Tuesday 6 February Week 3 students will follow their WEDNESDAY (W1) TIMETABLE all day and will wear the **SPORTS UNIFORM**.
- Wednesday 7 February Week 3 students will follow their TUESDAY TIMETABLE (W1) all day and will wear their **FORMAL UNIFORM**. (Formal Dresses for Girls)

School Photos | Thursday 8 February

A Note From Our School Photographers

Note: Formal uniforms are to be worn, Girls are to wear the Formal Dress.

IMPORTANT INFO

The school has engaged MSP Photography to create our school records this year and you are invited to purchase prints of your child.

On photo day, every student will be photographed regardless of whether you are purchasing or not.

Your child will bring home a personalised order envelope from the photographers. Please take care to read and follow all the instructions carefully.

You will have the option to order online or with cash in your student's envelope.

REMEMBER: PLACE YOUR ORDER ON OR BEFORE PHOTO DAY. This will ensure your order is processed smoothly and efficiently and will help you to avoid any additional fees.

SIBLING PHOTOS

Sibling photos are only for siblings who all attend the school.

A sibling envelope will be sent home with the eldest child of your family unit. Please follow the instructions on the envelope if you wish to order sibling photos.

If your eldest child does not bring home a sibling envelope, you can collect a blank sibling envelope from the school's front counter prior to photo day.

NOTE: Online sibling orders close at midday the day before photo day. Cash orders can still be accepted on photo day.

NEED HELP?

Please direct your questions and comments directly to MSP Photography.

schoolphotos.cq@msp.com.au
07 4921 3355

BLENDED FAMILIES

Additional order envelopes are available from the school office for separated parents, blended families and grandparents. You will need to collect an envelope on or before photo day and give it to the photographer on photo day. Be sure to write "Mum's order" or "Dad's order" on top of your envelope.

Catherine's Café | Mrs Frances Deguara

Roster

Catherine McAuley College Mackay		Café Roster	
Week 3	Date	Volunteers	
Tuesday	Feb 6	Lauren	Volunteer Needed
Wednesday	Feb 7	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Thursday	Feb 8	Natalie	Volunteer Needed
Friday	Feb 9	Lee-Anne	Deanne
Week 4	Date	Volunteers	
Tuesday	Feb 13	Nerissa	Volunteer Needed
Wednesday	Feb 14	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Thursday	Feb 15	Natalie	Volunteer Needed
Friday	Feb 16	Closed – Pupil Free Day	

School Student Broadband Initiative

What is the School Student Broadband Initiative?

To boost education opportunities and narrow the digital divide, the Australian Government is providing up to 30,000 eligible families with school age children with no internet at home access to free nbn® until 31 December 2025 under the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI)



Access to the SSBI will become easier, with the announcement of a National Referral Centre that parents/carers with school students can contact directly to check their eligibility.

To be eligible for SSBI, families working directly with an SSBI Nominating Organisation, or self-nominating through the National Referral Centre, must:

- Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school (up to year 12 including from Prep in Qld/Vic/Tas, Kindy in NSW, Reception in SA, Transition in NT/ACT and Pre-Primary in WA).
- Not have an active nbn® network internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility.
- Live in a premises that can access a standard2 nbn service.
- Not have had an active nbn connection during the previous 14 days.
- Either be referred by a nominating organisation or have your suitability determined via an assessment conducted by the National Referral Centre.

For further information and to check the eligibility criteria please

[Click Here](#)

Date Claimers

Wednesday 7 Feb –Blessing & Opening- Stage 2 9:30am (Whole School Event)

Thursday 8 Feb – School Photos/Envelope to Photographer/Formal Uniform

Tuesday 13 Feb – Stymie Parent Information Session 4:00 – 5:00pm

Tuesday 13 Feb – PEG Meet and Greet 5:00 – 6:00pm

Wednesday 14 Feb – Ash Wednesday Liturgy (Whole School Event)

Wednesday 14 Feb – PEG Meeting 5:30pm

Wednesday 14 Feb – College Board AGM 7:00pm

Friday 16 Feb – Bishop’s Inservice – Pupil Free Day

Monday 19 Feb – Year 7 Immunisation

Thursday 7 Mar – CMC Open Night 4:30pm

Tuesday 26 March – Cross Country 8:35am (Whole School Event)

Wednesday 27 March – The way of the Cross - Prayer Service 9:30am (Whole School Event)

Thursday 28 March – Swimming Carnival – All Day Event – Students will catch buses to and from the ARC. (Whole School Event)

Thursday 28 March – Last day of Term 1

Community News

We are **HIRING** **OSHC Coordinator**
St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Mackay

We are seeking a full-time OSHC Coordinator, commencing as soon as able

Apply today!
rok.catholic.edu.au

Applications close 9 February 2024

#bethedifference

Catholic Education is committed to best practice in student protection policies and procedures and is an equal opportunity employer. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

122 Army Cadet Unit Mackay Region JOIN IN 2024

Eligible candidates are from (min*) 13 years of age & (max) not yet 17 years of age, and (min) Gr 8 level in 2024.

* age 13 prior to 30 JUN 24 with Army approval.

An Information Session needs to be attended by the candidate and parents/carers prior to joining.

Any person aged 16+ is to have photo ID in their possession for Barracks access.

For more information, Messenger @122ACU or phone

040 767 9432 after 5pm.



"Attend one of the Sessions" SESSIONS COMMENCE 6pm

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monday 22 & 29 JAN & final on 05 FEB 2024
Komatium Barracks, 400 Shakespeare St, West Mackay.



All Catholic School Parents/Carers & School staff, please join us for a **FREE WEBINAR** on **Wednesday 7 February | 7PM - 8PM**



with **SUSAN McLEAN**
CyberSafety Solutions

This informative webinar will look at the issue of 'phone bans' in schools and provide information to support the importance of this occurring. There is extensive evidence that students do not have the capacity to make good choices when phones are involved and during the school day, it becomes a 'duty of care' issue for schools. Support from home will be vital for the success of these rules. We will look at the how and why a parent can support their child's school in relation to this and the reasons behind the restrictions. We will also cover more broadly, **cybersafety**, the risk and the reality of the online world, with time for questions at the end.

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/mobiles-webinar>

131 ARMY CADET UNIT SARINA



Join our team in 2024!

Recruitment Open Day: Friday 2/2/24 at the Barracks, Ted Malone Rural Skills Centre, Breen Street Sarina from 1530-1800.

Cadet recruit information and sausage sizzle: Saturday 3/2/24, next to Goodie's Butchery Sarina 0800-1200.

Contact: amy.bradford@armycadets.gov.au

Find us on Facebook @ 131 Army Cadet Unit - Sarina