



Week 2 Term 1 7 February 2025

Mr Jim Ford | Principal

Value for Money

95% attendance! Is that possible? Even with this impressive statistic as a goal, this would mean on average a student is having a day away from school once a month.

Let attendance slip to 90% and students are missing a full year of schooling before finishing Year 12. Gaps appear, confidence wanes and a positive attitude to schooling can evaporate.

What can parents do? Unequivocal commitment to attendance. Avoid mid-term holidays. Take an interest in what your child is doing at school. Encourage participation in co-curricular opportunities.

At CMC staff strive to make schooling challenging and enjoyable.

[Click Here](#) to read an absentee information brochure.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT - Monthly Meetings on 2nd Wednesday of the month

- Parent Uniform sub-committee – 5:00pm next meeting Wednesday 12 February in the College Library
 - Agenda: Finalising the senior uniform
- PEG – Parent Engagement Group – 5:30pm next meeting Wednesday 12 February in the College Library
 - New Parents are very welcome to our PEG meetings
 - Agenda: Social Events for Parents 2025 Q&A

Mrs Juanita Macnamara | Assistant Principal Wellbeing

Responsible Thinking Process

At CMC, we believe school should be a place where teachers can teach, and students can learn. Accordingly, we utilise the Responsible Thinking Process to promote positive student behaviour in all aspects of school life at CMC.

The RTP (the process) is founded on research and is extremely effective, even more so when supported by parents and families.

The RTC (the classroom) provides a space for students to learn responsibility, self-control and devise strategies for positive life choices.

RTP provides a school-wide expectation and with the use of specific questions it instils a common language that students recognise and respond to. It is designed to teach the students to take responsibility for their actions and behaviours and simultaneously for their learning. Many students will never use the RTC; however, those who do will be supported through caring and responsive teaching so that they can self-manage and become confident in their capacity to make appropriate choices. If a student has used the RTC, then as part of the process the student will request their parent/caregiver sign the RTC stamp in their student diary as an acknowledgement of the process.

At the start of the school year, teachers remind students of the behaviour expectations. We encourage all families to discuss RTP and behaviour expectations with their student.



Mr Chris Apelt | Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning

Importance of Homework

Two of my favourite Benjamin Franklin quotes are: "Practice makes perfect" and "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." While we may not always achieve perfection, practice does lead to progress.

Homework plays a crucial role in learning at Catherine McAuley College. Students in all levels should expect to complete between 30 and 45 minutes of homework per subject each week. Each subject may have different approaches to homework, but all tasks are designed to reinforce concepts learned in class.



The expectations around homework may differ from those in primary school, and teachers will support students as they adjust. Parents also play an important role by:

- Establishing a homework routine – Set aside regular time for homework each day.
- Creating a suitable study space – Ensure your child has a quiet, supervised area free from distractions (especially technology like phones).

Parents are encouraged to be part of the learning process by offering guidance and support. However, it is essential that students complete their work independently. Your role is to assist, not to do the work for them.

Elective Rotations

Students in Years 7 and 8 participate in a rotational course, giving them the opportunity to explore a variety of subjects throughout the year. While students may not study the same electives at the same time, by the end of the year, all students will have experienced each elective subject. This program helps students gain insight into different learning areas, preparing them for the subject choices available in Years 9 and 10.

Current rotations:

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

Year 8 – Food Technologies, Drama & Spanish, Performing Arts, Robotics
For Years 9 and 10, students have already begun working through the elective subjects they selected in 2024. Families are reminded that by the end of the year:

Year 9 - students will complete three elective subjects, with one semester including one elective alongside Humanities (History & Geography) and the other semester consisting of two electives.

Year 10 - students will complete four elective subjects, with two electives studied each semester.

This structure ensures students experience a broad and balanced curriculum, helping them make informed decisions about their future studies



Ms Kate Rackham | Assistant Principal Mission

A New Year of Mission and Purpose

As we begin the 2025 school year at Catherine McAuley College, I am filled with excitement and hope for the journey ahead. Our Vision, Mission, and Values are the foundation upon which we build our school community, guiding us in all we do.

Our Vision is inspired by Jesus Christ and the life of Catherine McAuley, and we seek to foster Life-giving Leadership and the spirit of *Christus Vivit* – the message from Pope Francis that reminds us that Christ lives in the hearts of young people. This vision calls us to inspire students to lead lives of purpose, grounded in faith and compassion.



Our Mission is a commitment to living out this Vision through four key pillars: we are Christians within the Catholic faith, we practice Stewardship of all creation, have the courage to pursue the Works of Mercy, and value learning within a broad-based education. We aim to foster an environment where the values of learning, courage, faith, and mercy thrive in every classroom and beyond.

As we embark on this year, I encourage you to reflect on our Vision, Mission and Values with your child, supporting them to grow in knowledge, faith and character. Together, we can make 2025 a year of growth and purpose.

Acts of Service

A Snippet from a letter of Thanks from Georgia Doyle from St Vincent de Paul Society

I wanted to take a moment to touch base with you regarding three of your year 10 students, who recently volunteered with St Vincent de Paul Society during the holiday season. April, Landon and Scarlett dedicated their time in the week leading up to Christmas, assisting us with our Christmas Appeal. They spent many hours packing hampers, selecting and wrapping gifts for children and distributing the hampers/gifts to the community.

Well done to our College students!



Mrs Kristy Flor | College Counsellor

Counselling Service

The College has a School Counselling service available for students who are going through personal challenges or family changes. In 2025, we welcome a second Counsellor Mrs Sylvia Fay to the College.



What a Counsellor Does?

College Counsellors work to support students to achieve academic success as well as social and emotional wellbeing, by providing support and strategies to help at school and/or home. This might include support for:



How to Access the College Counsellor

Communication is welcomed, and parent/carer meetings at school or via phone can be arranged. Linking in with the College Counselling service directly, involves emailing Kristy_Flor@rok.catholic.edu.au or Sylvia_Fay@rok.catholic.edu.au or 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 Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm. Appointments will be made in confidence, as the College Counselling service is a confidential service.

We look forward to working with the College community in 2025.



Date Claimers Term 1

- Wednesday 12 February
- 5:00pm Uniform Committee meeting
- 5:30pm PEG meeting
- 7:00pm College Board meeting
- Thursday 13 February – College Photo Day
- Friday 14 February – 7:30am College Tour (book via the website)
- Friday 21 February – Bishops Inservice Day (Pupil Free Day)
- Thursday 6 March – College Open Night
- Monday 31 March – Cross Country
- Friday 4 April – Swimming Carnival

Mrs Gayle Huyton |Café Convenor

Urgently Seeking Café Volunteers

We require urgent help on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in Catherine's Cafe. If you can spare a few hours a week, fortnight or month, please contact me cmcm_cafe@rok.catholic.edu.au or 4994 9200. Our Café does not run without your much appreciated assistance. Thank you.



Quote

"Your whole life should be a continual act of praise and prayer."

Catherine McAuley



Community Notices

The South Mackay Cluster is seeking applications for the role of Cluster Finance Administrator. Primarily the role includes managing the financial reporting and administration for the four Parishes in the Cluster including the entry of financial data into MYOB, preparing Parish accounts for payment and working with the Parish Priest, Finance Councils and the Pastoral Council. Secondly the successful applicant would be required to assist the Cluster Secretary in their duties as required. Bookkeeping experience and experience with MYOB are highly desired. The role is a Permanent/Part Time position initially for 15 hours per week. To apply for this role please send a brief letter of application and your resume to cluster@smky.catholics.org.au. If you have any further questions please contact Paul Reaston 0419 739 708.

MAC KAY FESTIVAL OF ARTS 2025
#MACKAYINJULY

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER TODAY!
Join us Now!

Mackay MECC Mackay

COME PLAY HOCKEY!

COME & TRY AFTERNOONS
FRIDAYS 7/2, 14/2 & 21/2.
3.30-5PM

HOCKEY STICKS SUPPLIED!
FREE STARTER PACKS FOR ALL NEW U7&U9 PLAYERS REGISTERED AT COME & TRY DAYS!
FAIR PLAY VOUCHERS WELCOME

SEASON FIXTURES START - 28/2, 1/3
U7 AND U9 PLAY
FRIDAY AFTERNOONS
4-5.30PM
U12-U16 PLAY
SATURDAY MORNINGS
8-11AM

U7 \$111.54 U9 \$186.04
U12 & U16 \$301.04

Registration Link:
www.msha.com.au/registration
mackayschoolhockey@mackayhockey.com.au

QUEENSLAND SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SCHOOL LIBRARIES
WINDOW TO THE WORLD

Queensland School Library Week
February 10-14, 2025

For more information and to download promotional material visit our website:
qsla.org.au/qslw

COMPETITIONS

PRIMARY SCHOOL	SECONDARY SCHOOL
P-2: Artwork	Photo or Artwork
3-6: Artwork	

First prize School: \$100 Book vouchers
Student: \$50 Book vouchers

MACKAY CENTRAL TAEKWON-DO

GRAND OPENING
And Demonstration Night

We're thrilled to introduce you to the dynamic and exciting Martial Art of Self-Defence that is Taekwon-Do

6pm Tuesday
18th February

View some of what prospective new students can learn.

Enjoy a free sausage sizzle and a bottle water upon completion.

Bookings are essential for catering purposes and there is absolutely no obligation to join.

Held within the Mackay Central State School Hall.
We train every Tues & Thurs 6pm-7pm

Our club accepts students of all physical and mental abilities all year round from ages 4+

Students can train once or twice weekly and have the option to pay fortnightly or monthly.
We're always happy to accommodate you where we can.

This year there is a discounted uniform offer if you join too.

Please text us or call our Owner/Admin Brontë with any queries or to RSVP.

Mob: 0457 280 671
Email: mackaycentraltkd@gmail.com