



# Do you love school?

Are you interested and involved in the world around you? Would you like to make your mark in the world? We can help you with that.

St Catherine's School is over 160 years old. That's over 160 years of educating and caring for girls like you. Girls who value integrity, are honest and fair-minded and aspire to greatness. St Catherine's School is a dynamic and supportive day and boarding school for girls from Kindergarten to Year 12. We offer a broad, challenging and vibrant education designed to unlock the unique potential of every girl. We are one of Australia's oldest schools but one of the most forward-thinking. We welcome all faiths and abilities.

## You're already a St Catherine's girl

We have seen many girls like you come through our gates in Waverley, Sydney. You demonstrate compassion, kindness and generosity to those around you. You are courageous and resilient (or would like to be) and are perhaps curious about how a Christian tradition might help you uphold your own values. You may be really interested in science or music or have a passion for drama or a desire to perform. You may love sport and playing in a team.

Do you help out in your community to make it a better place? Do you get lost in whatever you're reading? Are you eager to learn another language and to travel? Would you like to speak up? Speak out?

If you recognise yourself in just a few of these qualities, you are already a St Catherine's girl at heart and we would love to welcome you to our school.



# Helping you find the best way to learn

We educate young women like you who will shape our future world. A combination of research-based practice, excellent facilities and integration of the principles of positive psychology enable our dedicated teachers to support your learning path.

## Ready to be future-proofed?

While respecting the different strengths of all our girls, we foster the development of each of you as an individual. We're pretty good at seeing what you excel at even if you can't see it yourself just yet. We help you build a network of valuable relationships that will support you through your studies both emotionally and intellectually, and into the future. We are not saying that learning is easy. We are saying we will help you find the best way to learn. We will show you that a bit of mental toughness can reap great benefits.

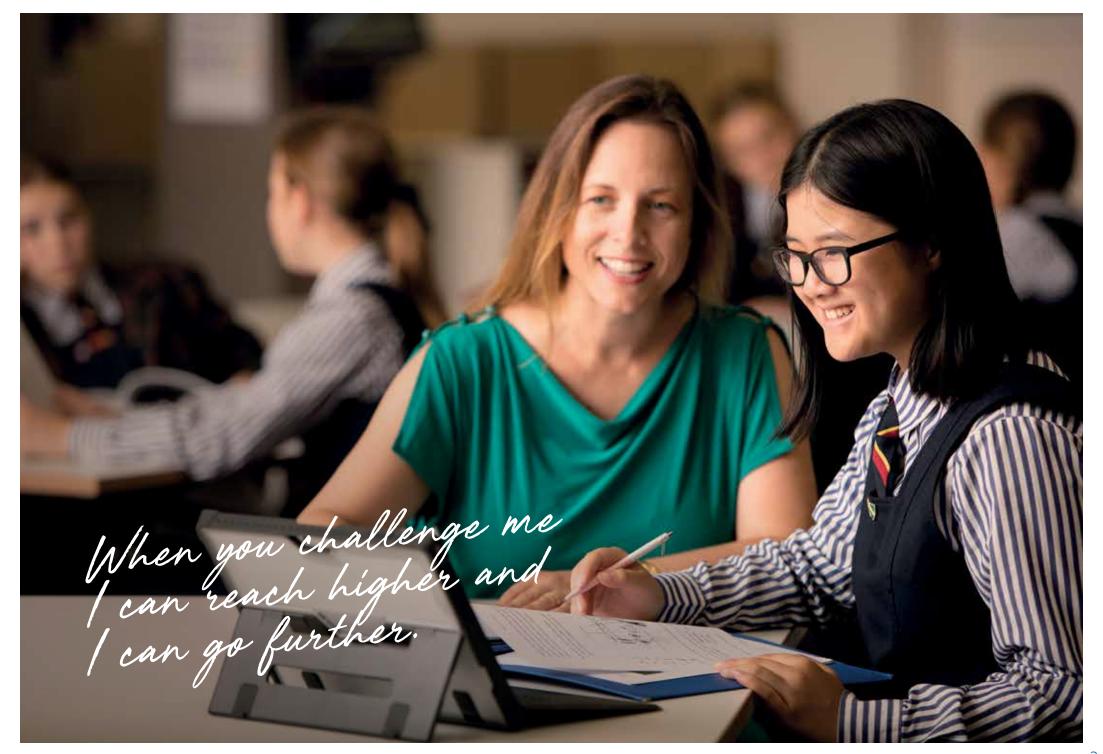
We will help you understand what 'grit' is and how to apply it to the way you learn. We will encourage you to build strong relationships with your teachers as well as with your friends.

At St Catherine's we make sure we have teachers who are passionate, highly trained and always refining their skills in the classroom. We support them in their careers and imbue them with the same positive mindset we teach you. You will find St Catherine's is a diverse and enriching place to learn and grow.

# Twin pillars of learning

The core values of our school are integrity, resilience, respect, relationships and service and we recognise the importance of a fulfilled and purposeful life. With 'Academic Challenge' and 'Academic Care' being the twin pillars of our approach to learning, all our girls are encouraged to embrace challenge, value each other but most importantly to love school.







# Helping you flourish

Dr Martin Luther King Jnr has said that it's intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education. At St Catherine's we help you build and strengthen your character.

Our dedicated Director of Positive Psychology ensures that positive psychology underpins the innovative Academic Care program at St Catherine's. We enable you to build resilience by identifying and exploring your individual key strengths and attributes. What you may not know is that the wellbeing that comes from discovering these character strengths, ones you already have and ones you can develop, is teachable.<sup>2</sup> That's what we do here – and we start early. From Kindergarten all the way through to Year I2 we are helping you to flourish.

### Here's how it's done

We help you find the joy in your school life by teaching you *optimism* (positivity). We will engage you in your learning – you know that feeling when you lose track of time? That's when you're engaged. We will show you how to build your relationships — with your friends, your peers, your teachers — so this comes naturally to you throughout your life.

We will help you understand that *meaning* in life comes with belonging to something and in serving something bigger than ourselves.

We will show you how to become tenacious and, from that, *accomplished*.

We will help you master what you are challenged by, whether it's playing the violin or scoring goals, higher mathematics or simply expressing yourself clearly in your writing.

That's how we teach wellbeing at St Catherine's and from there, learning becomes easier because strength of character underpins achievement.

# Feels like House spirit

Houses at St Catherine's are communities of girls within the whole school community that offer a supportive and collaborative environment outside the classroom.

The house system operates across the Junior and Senior Schools and all the girls take on their particular house activities with loyalty and camaraderie, developing a strong sense of belonging and great affection for their own houses.

House spirit is not only saved for sports and swimming carnivals. It permeates school life at every level from the weekly mentor group chat, debating competitions, literary quizzes, cake stalls, fundraisers and 'Clubs and Choirs,' our much-loved choral and speaking competition.



- I 'The Purpose of Education' address to Moorehouse College, February 1947.
- 2 Martin Seligman, Flourish, William Heinemann, 2011.

# The promise of our Christian tradition

Biblical wisdom is at the very heart of our teaching and learning.

#### Five core values

Our purpose and identity are reinforced by five core values — integrity, resilience, respect, relationships and service. Founded on Biblical wisdom, our core values are the model for our own actions and our interactions with each other as a community. They are the foundation of our school and are drawn from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Bible. The range of experiences you can have at St Catherine's all contribute toward your intellectual, emotional and spiritual development which helps you feel safe and confident within our community and in the world at large.

## Christianity is our guide

Our school's motto *In Christo thesauri* sapientiae et scientiae means 'In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'. We help you dig for that treasure and we guide you in your pursuit of knowledge. We know how to extend you when you need it, but are able to support you, too, if you are struggling a bit. You might ask what has that got to do with God? It's a good question.

St Catherine's is proud to be a Christian school in the Anglican tradition. It means the teachings and promises of Jesus are our guide and the Bible is our central text. We use the Bible's guiding principles to help you to

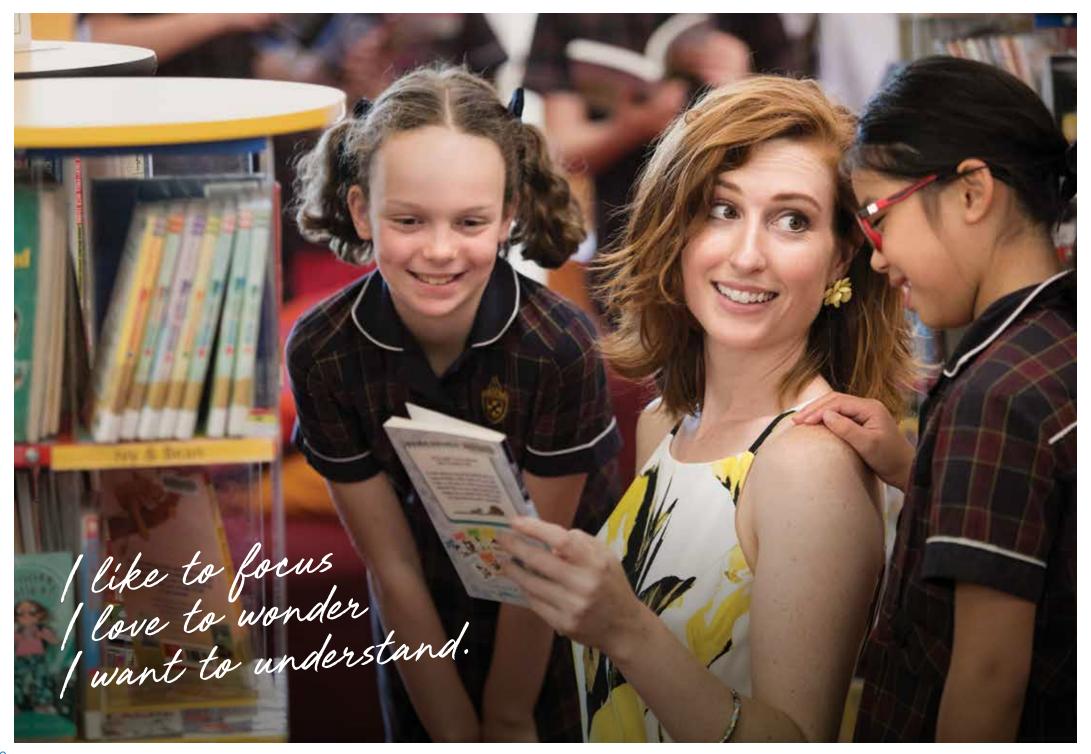
discover a sense of self. You will discover the importance of being anchored in a truth that is eternal and unchanging rather than floundering in a world where change is the only constant.

# Ways to give back

Undertaking service is an integral part of a St Catherine's education. Helping out gives you an opportunity to demonstrate compassion, kindness and generosity. St Catherine's girls are encouraged to fundraise, volunteer and promote awareness for charity organisations. Through meeting the needs of others before our own, we discover so much more about ourselves and our place in the world.







# JUNIOR SCHOOL

# I want to learn how to be the best me I can be

What would you have me be? I want to be me. I want to show you what I can do. I want to learn how to be the best me I can be.

St Catherine's Junior School is a vibrant and nurturing place in which to grow and learn. With an unwavering focus on our girls, we foster the development of each and every one.

#### Wonderland

Your little girl brings with her an enchanting blend of wonder and enthusiasm when she starts school. We support her, encourage her and challenge her at every step of her learning journey.

The Junior School academic programs aim to inspire creativity and curiosity in young minds. Your daughter will read, write, measure and count, but most importantly, think for herself. She will be excited by learning and will deepen her knowledge and understanding through problem solving. She will know it's OK to make mistakes because she's learning all the time. She'll investigate, collaborate, communicate

and reflect. These are the 2lst century skills every employer is after – how to think outside the box, how to work well with others – and they will become second nature to her.

#### A fine balance

Our teachers are experts in providing a captivating blend of explicit instruction and inquiry-based learning. Firm foundations are laid in literacy and numeracy, while keeping alive the sense of awe and eagerness to learn that young children bring to school. Junior School girls love to design, experiment, create and move, so we make sure they have every opportunity to do so.

## All STEMed up

Our curriculum has a strong STEM flavour as we acknowledge the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for girls. If you've been hearing a lot about 'makerspaces' recently, we know, and we have one, and it really is an incredible space to be in. We have iPads, Makey Makeys, reusable materials for tinkering, green screens and Bee-Bots for our coders. The popularity of our Robotics Club is quite phenomenal and we regularly take part in local and statewide competitions.

#### One small step

We constantly see the lights of surprise and wonder in our girls' eyes as imaginations are sparked and ideas generated. Junior School girls are making connections and broadening their horizons every day. These are great leaps made with the littlest of feet.



# I want to make friends and try everything

I want to join in. I want to be kind. I want to help. And I want to play, sing and dance!



# The building blocks of character

In the Junior School we work on building character strengths so that each girl can know who she is at her very best, and then be able to apply those strengths at challenging times. It's what we mean when we talk about 'future-proofing'. Any challenge in life, at school and beyond, will be more manageable because she'll know her strengths and how to use them. She'll be optimistic and know what gratitude is; she'll have the skills to communicate this and to build strong and positive relationships throughout her life.

# She's my Friday Friend

Friday Friends is a unique mentoring program we have run for over 45 years with our girls. Each class is buddied with another class of a

different year group. It's an opportunity for the girls to develop a big sister / little sister relationship. They attend Friday Friends assemblies together. At 'Library Lunchtimes' they can read together or to each other, discover new books or revisit old favourites. Sometimes it's just good to know you have someone there just to have a chat. It's simply a joyful exchange of friendship.

#### A bit extra

Your little girl will be learning music from Kindergarten and have the opportunity to extend this by joining choirs and ensembles. Our highly regarded Beyond the Curriculum program (BTC) has a myriad of extra activities to enrol in, not to mention all the different sports on offer – all on the one campus and with no extra running around for you.

# Keeping you informed

We will tell you what's going on with her as she grows from Kindergarten all the way to Year 6. Comprehensive assessment, professional observation and consultation with parents allow our teachers to determine her individual needs. This evidence informs our learning programs which are then tailored to challenge her abilities and nurture her interests.

#### She's yours, she's ours

We understand just how much trust you are placing in us when you choose a school for your daughter. Let her come and show us what she can do.

Let her become a St Catherine's girl.





# Girl power

Our vision is for you to become a young woman of character and intellect who is equipped to make your unique contribution to the world.

Over the last 160 years St Catherine's has grown and changed in so many ways. As you enter your teens and move into Senior School you will do exactly the same.

You will face a whole new set of challenges in the final six years of your education – more complex work, increased expectations and responsibilities, a growing body and a maturing brain. In our Senior School you will find that we have a common purpose – that with grit, determination, optimism and gratitude you will have the tools you need to succeed.

At St Catherine's we don't shut the world out but we do hold it at bay for a little while so you have time to learn, figure out who you are and what you like, and what you might like to do next. Our dedicated counsellor and Learning Enrichment team can give you some extra support if you hit a few bumps in the road. If you have a special gift or talent, we offer a range of programs to keep you challenged. At our school we believe all our girls have unique potential and we work hard to ensure you find yours.

## Leading lights

Year II and I2 girls are able to assume senior leadership responsibilities and they take pride in being role models for the younger girls. Year II girls can be student house officials and Year I2 girls can apply to be prefects. Our prefect system has many opportunities for leadership in an area you're passionate about. You could be the next environment prefect, the chapel prefect or set a great example as the service prefect.

## Trust yourself

School is sometimes hard going. We know that. We help you build the strength of character to stay true to your own beliefs and the ability to put them into practice, to learn to feel strong and secure in yourself.

These are the tools that really matter. As you learn to be persistent you will build academic tenacity. The most accurate predictor of success in life is persistence, not intelligence. We build your mental toughness which will give you the grit to chase your dreams and love life. It's what your family wants for you. It's what we want for you.



## SENIOR SCHOOL

# The choice is yours

When you come to St Catherine's you will take an active role in your learning and be able to make informed choices about the progress of your education.

We offer a broad range of subjects so you can design a program of study with the guidance of your teachers. They will know your strengths and interests and will ensure you will be both supported and challenged by your learning program. Academic Challenge is one of the twin pillars of learning at our school. And we will challenge you. That is how a school that is academically nonselective with admissions, still achieves at high academic levels.

#### **Electives**

St Catherine's offers an increasingly wide range of elective subjects as students move from Year 7 to 10. In Years II and 12, you can choose from over 30 courses to prepare for the Higher School Certificate with many of those available at extension levels. A list of electives and HSC courses can be found on our website.

# A focus on languages

Research shows that studying languages helps you with your other learning. It also enhances your higher order, abstract and creative thinking and makes you culturally aware and more tolerant of the differences among people.

In Year 7 you study Latin, which you can continue to HSC level. Through Latin you will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the English language. From there, we introduce you to languages other than English and encourage you to continue with one or two of them. You can choose French or Chinese in Year 7 and Japanese or Spanish from Year 8.



The national drive to support girls in STEM subjects has many of our graduates pursuing tertiary studies in both science and engineering.

Our Director of STEM and Innovation, together with our STEM coordinator in the Junior School, oversee a whole-school approach to STEM literacy and enrichment. Building a strong STEM culture at St Catherine's ensures we have young women entering the workforce with the kind of enquiring mindset vital for a world constantly calling for innovative and creative thinkers.

# Global citizenship

If you come to our school you will have the opportunity to take up immersive cultural and language exchanges. St Catherine's offers a structured six-week cultural exchange program for girls in Year 9 where you can attend school and live with a family in England, Argentina or New York. In Years 10 or 11 you can take part in exchanges to Japan, Germany and Spain or even Paris or Hong Kong. You might take a magical history tour or a music trip to Vienna. You can practise your French in New Caledonia and help out kids in Nepal. Our girls become true global citizens during their time at St Catherine's.







# Blow your own trumpet

St Catherine's has a quiet reputation for excellence in music study.

## Worthy of applause

No matter what instrument you've chosen to play, more than 25 different ensembles are just waiting for you to join. You'll have the opportunity to play at major school events, local civic and cultural functions, in the orchestra pit for one of our musicals, and maybe you'll even pack your harp and cart it overseas! Or do you have a voice? Our littlest girls can join a choir and progress with their singing through to our junior and senior choirs and then even further to our top a cappella ensemble. Musicals are staged in both the Junior and Senior Schools. We like to think we are upholding the legacy of Dame Joan Sutherland who was a proud Old Girl of our school.

And there's another not so well known fact about our music program – in 2016 we started work with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in a unique Art and Music Education program for schools in Western Sydney. We share the love of music at St Catherine's with others.

#### Classroom music

Based on the Orff-Schulwerk method which acknowledges that everyone is inherently musical, our music program is an important part of our academic curriculum. It allows for singing, moving, playing and composing.

# High achievers

St Catherine's girls are tutored by professional musicians in woodwind, brass, percussion, strings, voice, guitar and piano as well as

composition and music theory. Our cohorts for music study at HSC level are strong and year after year our music students are recognised with honours for their achievements.

#### On tour

International tours provide St Catherine's musicians with the opportunity to perform in some of the world's great venues, walk in the footsteps of the great composers, work with leading musicians, and represent our school and country at the highest levels.

# Push it, pump it, play it, do it

With over 20 sports to choose from and the opportunity to compete with many other schools, sport plays a vital role in a St Catherine's education.



Even if you're not very sporty, there'll be something for you at St Catherine's. But if you are – we have over 20 different sports programs on offer with highly qualified head coaches who prepare our players for competition at all levels.

# Top ranking

Our sports results are outstanding and we are proud to be the highest ranked independent school in our locale, the eastern suburbs. We are also ranked in the top schools that

form the Independent Girls Schools Sports Association (IGSSA). Running since 1922, IGSSA is a highly regarded competition and often serves as a pathway for our girls into playing at state and national levels.

Lately we have achieved particular success in water polo with our girls playing at elite levels and in tennis, especially the long-running Tildesley Tennis Shield held each Summer term since 1918.

Our school's rowing program has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2012. It is a growing community of committed students and parents who enjoy all the fun of the Head of the River events and the rigour of a most rewarding sport.

But if pulling an oar in the glint of a Sydney dawn isn't for you, maybe you'll catch a wave or two in our surfing program, take up snow sports, run cross country or bend it like Beckham on the football field.

## Choose me! I can play

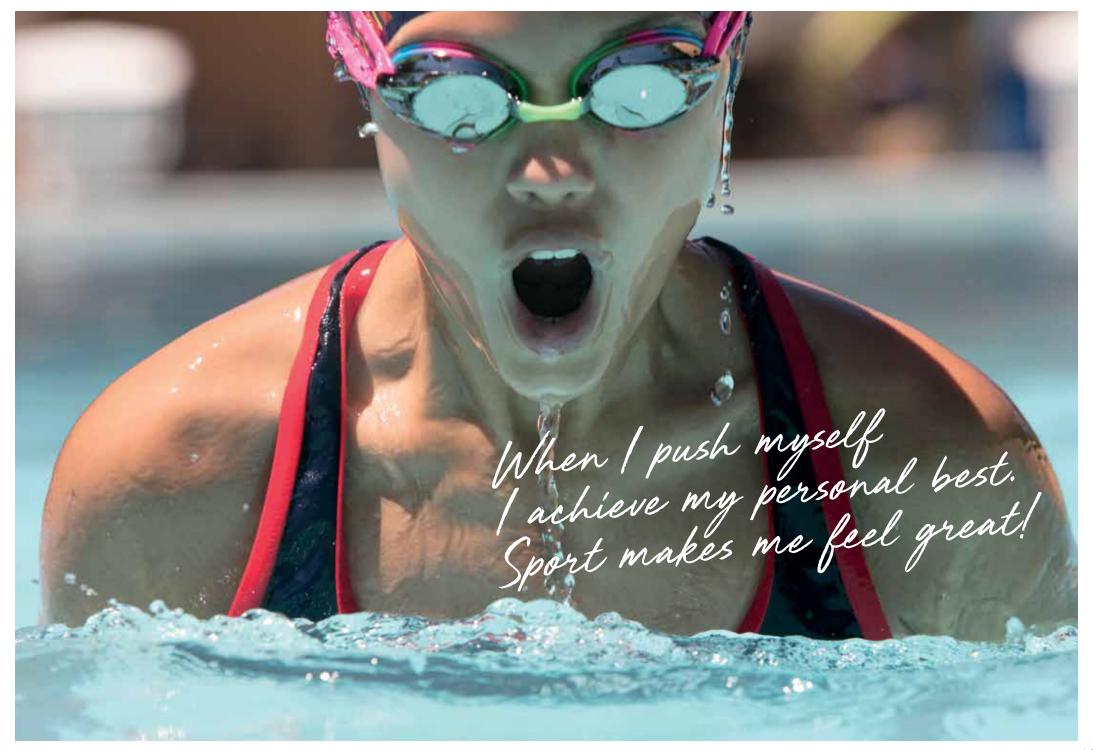
So much is going on in the sporting arena for our Junior School girls. St Catherine's is a member of the Independent Primary Sports Heads Association (IPSHA), joining 28 other independent schools to compete in carnivals and team sports. It might be athletics, gymnastics or swimming where you'll find your niche or perhaps you'll join the netball comp and shoot for the stars...

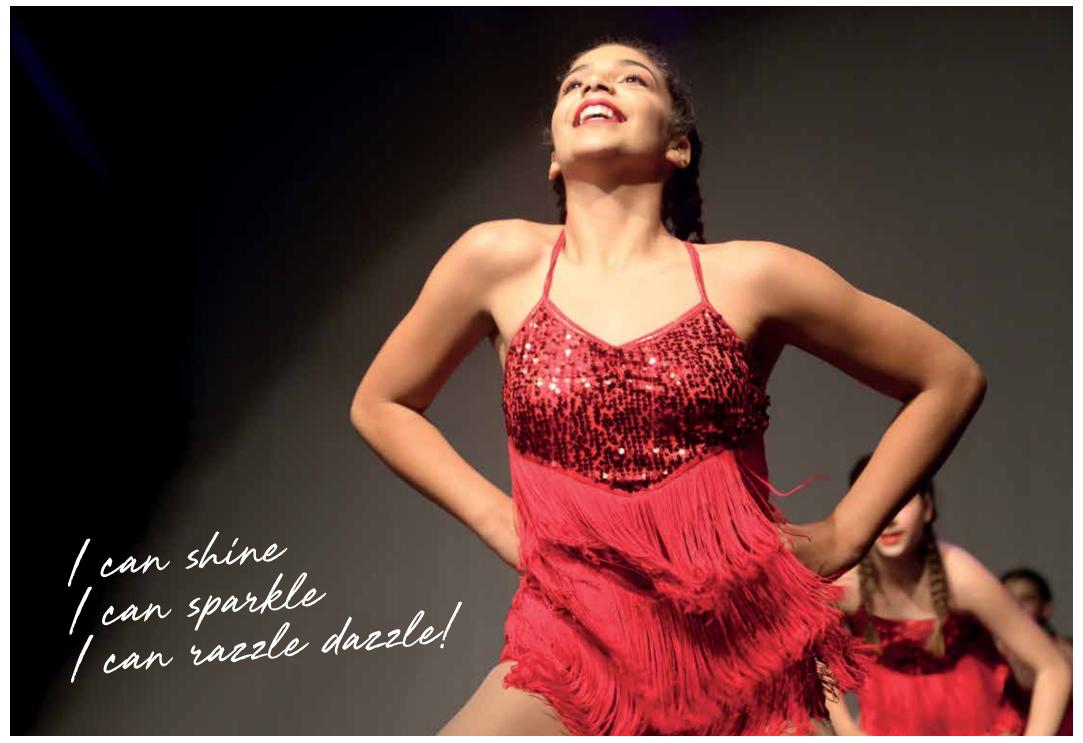
Try one, try them all!



#### In the swim

The new aquatic centre as part of our highly anticipated RPAC (Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre) will provide a state-of-the art platform to support our sport programs including water polo, learn-to-swim, diving and squad training. So if you're a little fish or an even bigger one, you're going to feel right at home in our brand new pools.





# BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

# Always somewhere to go, something to do

Our girls can join a myriad of physical, artistic and cultural programs which, if you choose to get involved, will enhance your life during your school years, making them truly memorable.

#### Never a dull moment

It's known as BTC at St Catherine's and it's so fabulous it's hard to believe. Beyond the Curriculum covers all that is not happening during the school day and runs across both the Junior and Senior Schools. It might be dance with STC Studios in any of eight available genres from classical ballet to hip hop. It might be drama or preparing for Trinity examinations. It might be art where you can learn to draw, paint, print, sculpt or go digital with graphic design. You can join the Gymnastics Academy, take up your foil in fencing, pump it in our cardio room or breathe it out with yoga.

Apart from the sheer fun of it - leadership, decision making, taking responsibility, commitment, motivation and working as part

of a team – are skills developed when you join a class or two in BTC. It's a win win!

# Happy campers

From Year 4 you will have the chance to push your personal boundaries within our compulsory camp programs – and there's a great range to choose from. The thing we hear most often when girls return from camp is "I didn't know I could do that! I surprised myself." Yes, sometimes the mountain is high, or the track long, but we'll support you every step of the way.

## Peace of mind for parents

We provide an Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) service for Junior School girls to help working families. In the Senior School we run a Prep Centre. You can come after school,

finish your homework — or get some help with it if you need it — work on a group project or simply read that book you've just borrowed. There's always a teacher on hand and one or two of our beloved 'Year 13' girls who return to school to help out.

# Holiday time

BTC extends to our highly regarded holiday program for both girls and boys and is one of the most popular in the area. The good news is that your friend from across the road can come along too even if she's not at school at St Catherine's. The bad news is your brother can too!



# We promise a bit of magic

Well we can't quite promise Hogwart's but being a boarder at St Catherine's might just be the best fun you can have without dragons and broomsticks.

Whether you're in Year 7 or just finishing your senior studies, we can still make a bit of magic happen. At St Catherine's the boarding house is kept small on purpose, with just 65 places. If you're lucky enough to become one of our boarding students, you'll be part of one big international family living here at school. Our boarders come from Asia Pacific, regional Australia and some even from around the corner.

#### Put up a poster

You will have your own private space and you can decorate it any way you like. Each floor has comfy lounge areas and small kitchens if you feel like making yourself a snack. Once in a while you can invite your

friends for dinner and after the school day, you can pursue your passions, sports and interests just as if you were at home. The beach is only five minutes away and the city just 15 minutes – so there is always lots to do.

The truly special thing about being a boarder at St Catherine's is the friends you will make. They will be yours for life and we have many wonderful stories from our Old Girls to prove it!

# We're here to help

Many dedicated people are integral to the comfortable and caring atmosphere in the boarding house. Our chaplain holds Sunday evening chapel services which are full of meaning and insight. We have residential staff, including a tutor, to help the girls whenever they need it. Leave entitlements are generous and are both supervised or more casual depending on your age and level of responsibility.

Our wonderful chef provides nutritious and delicious meals and works with the girls' suggestions when making the weekly menu plan. And of course, if you're vegetarian you are catered for, as are any allergies or intolerances.







# Flexible spaces, creative thinkers

If we want to prepare our girls for the constantly changing world they will inherit, we need spaces that reflect the complexity of that world.

Spaces that allow students to see divergent possibilities and help them understand realities other than their own. Indoor and outdoor spaces are critical to optimising teaching and learning. You may learn differently than your friends and we think flexible spaces should reflect the different ways our girls learn.

#### The school St Cath's built

The buildings at St Catherine's are an eclectic mix of old and new, with cleverly designed facilities to inspire as well as to facilitate excellence in teaching and learning. St Catherine's is embarking on its most

ambitious building project to date. Known as the RPAC (Research, Performing Arts and Aquatic Centre) it will take our current facilities to a new level.

The Aquatic Centre will cater for every ability level from learn-to-swim to elite squad training. The Performing Arts Centre will inspire the most sophisticated productions with a fly tower and an orchestra pit. At the very heart of the RPAC will be our Research Centre, an academic hub supporting the latest technologies for information exchange and sharing as our girls engage in research and discussion.

# For every St Catherine's girl

Research tells us that the jobs of the future will be the ones robots can't do. Jobs that require creativity, innovation, problem solving, persuasion and collaboration. We want to build a facility to support the teaching and learning that develops both intellectual and creative capacity and the character strengths for success. This was at the forefront of our minds when we engaged in the extensive design and planning process for the RPAC. It will reflect all that a St Catherine's girl is. All that we know you can become.



# A community for life

St Catherine's is the school it is today because of the overwhelming support we have received over many generations. The St Catherine's Foundation, The Old Girls' Union and the P&F Association have worked to provide the kind of facilities only generosity can buy.



#### Give a little bit

The St Catherine's Foundation was established in 1983. It enables us as a community to give back a bit whether it be the chance of a great education for someone who won't get it otherwise or by building the best facilities we possibly can. But more than just the practical, our community gives back in ways that are not always visible or measurable.

#### Helping hands

Love children? You can be a part of our babysitting club. Learn a skill, make a little pocket money and give a helping hand at the same time. Our Casserole Crisis service provides help straight from the heart to families having a tough time. Professional networking events hosted by St Catherine's

parents in the corporate world ensure our web of contacts reaches far beyond the school gates. All these initiatives run in the background of school life but they truly capture what our school community is all about.

## Once a St Catherine's girl...

Always a St Catherine's girl. Our Old Girls' Union was established in 1898. When you graduate we celebrate you as our alumni and you form an integral part of our school community. You will be invited to reunions and functions throughout your life and if your own daughters and granddaughters are students of St Catherine's, you will have opportunities to attend intergenerational celebrations.

#### Real friends, fun times

Our P&F Association has been an incredibly active part of our school community since 1934. In fact, your parents will be having so much fun you might get a little envious. They go to balls, attend cocktail parties, they're invited to special breakfasts, great concerts, moonlight dinners and to top it off they run the most fantastic fair in our local area. Called the Magnolia Fair and held every two years, it is an event you'll remember long after you leave school.

#### Your love, our heart

So what makes a great school community? You, our teachers, your parents, our gardeners, your grandma, our boarders, your sisters, our Old Girls, your love, our heart.



# How to be a St Catherine's girl

Thank you for considering St Catherine's. By now you'll have a much better idea about who we are and what we do, and just how proud we are of our school.



To keep our enrolment process as straightforward as possible we have broken it into five steps.

Step I. Enrolment

**Step 2.** An Interview

Step 3. Letter of Offer, subject to availability

**Step 4.** Acceptance of Place

**Step 5.** Orientation

Most girls start at St Catherine's in Kindergarten, Year 3 or Year 5 in the Junior School, and Year 7 in the Senior School. If places become available in other years, they are offered to girls on our waitlist.

# **Boarding**

You could be coming to us from China, Singapore or Indonesia, or you might call Papua New Guinea, Fiji or Hong Kong home; your best friend might live in Cootamundra or Cowra and that lovely girl in Year 8 is from LA but is staying with us for a couple of terms. Our boarding house has a diverse mix of cultures and we love it that way. We offer boarding places from Years 7 to I2. Most of our boarders are full-time but weekly boarding or short stays may be available if there is room.

# Scholarships

All St Catherine's girls have special qualities but we know some of you have already achieved a level of academic excellence, or have a serious talent for performance, sport or music. If you are one of these girls, St Catherine's offers a broad range of scholarships which could allow you to develop your talent further while enjoying all our school has to offer.

Since the early 70s our school has been working with Indigenous communities to offer students access to a St Catherine's education. We now work closely with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) to provide places to Indigenous students who would like to be boarders at our school.



You can find detailed information on the enrolment process on our website: www.stcatherines.nsw.edu.au

Of course we are always here to help or to answer any questions you may have. Please contact our Enrolments Manager on +6l 2 8305 6206 or email enrol@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

#### You're invited

We would love to welcome you and your parents to our school at one of the open days throughout the year. Alternatively, we are happy to arrange a private tour if you have limited time in Sydney or your schedule is tight. So come and have a look around! We are looking forward to seeing you.





For enrolment information please contact: Enrolments Manager, St Catherine's School 26 Albion Street, Waverley NSW 2024, Australia

Telephone: +61 2 8305 6206 Email: enrol@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

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