

# 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

The Education Act 2006 requires all schools in Queensland to provide a formal report each year on a range of school contextual and performance information from the previous school year. This information provides students, parents, staff and the wider community with meaningful information about the school.

## General Information

St Teresa's Catholic College is a Brisbane Archdiocesan Co-educational Catholic secondary school offering education for Year 8-12 and situated at Noosaville on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Opened in 2004, it has 8 ha of land on Sea Eagle Drive.

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Contact Person: Bro Paul Creevey (Principal)

## Enrolments

The enrolment for 2013 was 762 students across five year levels as below:

| Year Level | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 |
|------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number     | 167    | 148    | 163     | 145     | 139     |
| Boys       | 87     | 79     | 87      | 73      | 73      |
| Girls      | 80     | 69     | 76      | 72      | 66      |

## Principals Report 2013

The Vatican document *"The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium"* is a powerful document that is still relevant to every educator, and every parent, charged with the responsibility of forming the minds and hearts of the young person. It states clearly (n.8) that the Catholic school *"should be able to offer young people the means to acquire the knowledge they need in order to find a place in society which is strongly characterised by technical and scientific skill. But at the same time, it should be able, above all, to impart a solid Christian formation."* It states also (n.9) *"the person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching."*

At St Teresa's Catholic College we offer a holistic approach to education. We encourage our students to be involved in making the choices about their learning, their co-curricular activities and their values. We believe that the best way to do this is by first establishing a vibrant community where students feel respected and loved for their own unique talents and abilities. We strive to develop a community where students feel supported and recognised for their efforts both in and outside their formal schooling. As a non-selective catholic school we are open to all so that when they graduate as a young man or woman they feel equipped and confident that they have a place in the world. We

hope that they see also the importance of the gospel and the example of Jesus and the saints as a moral compass that will lead to a true sense of happiness and hope about the future.

Young people today are living in a fast changing world where multi-culturalism and a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is both an enrichment and a challenge to the way in which our society operates harmoniously. As technology advances into every facet of life we must always keep them grounded in the challenge of growing up as a person who respects the integrity and dignity of human beings as persons "*made in the image and likeness of God.*" (Gen 1:22) As such Catholic schools, and parents, have a responsibility to present not only knowledge of the world, but also the necessary values to be acquired and truths to be discovered.

As we developed the College Strategic plan in 2013 for the next few years the importance of the above points was a constant reminder. We recognised that we needed to make the curriculum more relevant and accessible to the youth of today. We need to ensure diversity yet maintain the challenge that is at the heart of learning. We also needed to be aware that there is a crucial interplay between faith, culture and reason. Faith without reason becomes superstition and reason without faith becomes humanism and leaves humanity without hope or meaning. As such one of the key foci for 2013 has been the new Religious Education curriculum that has been written and implemented throughout the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Together with the National Curriculum guidelines the College will embark on a new curriculum structure and a range of new subjects for 2014. Students have been given greater personal freedom to engage with the subjects in which they have an interest and a sense that will give them the skills to take their part in a world that demands innovation and creative thinking.

The College has also been assessing the level of our pastoral care for students. In discussing different options we have been able to identify the strengths and weaknesses in our present model with the view to putting in place a structure that will ensure that each student is known by at least one teacher. In this context professional development has been provided to a number of staff that are working with the new PSDE programme commenced in 2013. This Personal, and Social Development Education teachers have been working with students on topics such as self-esteem, body image, substance abuse, personal choice and responsibility, emotional and psychological challenges as well as vocational options and life skills. It is important that we give time to these issues as education must give due regard to the unique challenges that young people face in a world that demands of them perfection, success and immediate gratification. We are presenting to students that a successful life is not reduced to our social media profile but to the way we live authentically the person we have been called to be by our own unique genetic and cultural influences.

The College has also been preparing for the Year 7/8 transition in 2015. This is going to place its own unique demands on the community to provide the resources necessary for another 150 students. There is also the financial challenge of the College having to find at least an extra million dollars out of its own funds to ensure that we can provide a sustainable future for education on this site.

Academically our Year 12 results from 2012 have shown that our senior students are performing well. Similarly our 2013 NAPLAN results show that the College is improving its literacy and numeracy results. The challenge remains however in the engagement of boys in the curriculum particularly in the face of peer pressure to conform.

Finally my thanks must go to the College Pastoral Board for their support of the College throughout the year. We welcomed the following new members Jenelle Davis (Staff representative) and Alain Sauvage (Administration Representative). I thank them for their enthusiasm to the vision that has been part of our strategic planning.

In conclusion as a Catholic College let us all reflect on the wisdom of St Teresa in the following words: *"However quietly we speak, God is so near that He will hear us."*

## **Vision and Mission**

**College Motto:** Dare the Dream

### ***Statement of Special Religious Character***

The religious character of the College resides within the foundation story of the College, the local Catholic community and the continuing commitment and practices of the parents, students and staff who gather to form a learning environment.

This living ethos is expressed in this Catholic College community by:

- Bringing about an integration of faith, life and culture through education of the whole person
- Being a place of faith, hope and love expressed through the Catholic faith tradition
- A commitment to the charisms of St Teresa of Jesus (Avila) and St Marcellin Champagnat in its everyday activities.

### ***Vision***

Our vision is that St Teresa's Catholic College is an authentic Christian community where Gospel values are evident and lived out in relationships and practices between students, staff and parents. The spirit of the school is that of a family which provides a safe and positive learning environment. There will be equity of opportunity for all to achieve their full potential. It will provide a quality education rich in values and resources, which are in keeping with contemporary educational needs.

### ***Mission***

In the spirit of St Teresa of Jesus (Avila) and St Marcellin Champagnat we bring Christ to our community as we educate and witness through the seven foundation of our College.

Aspiration: St Teresa's and St Marcellin's determination, drive and daring emerged from a belief that God would provide, especially during times of trial and suffering.

Contemplation: Our spirituality calls us to see God in all things.

Family Spirit: Our way of relating to each other is characterised by love and forgiveness, support and help, forgetfulness of self, openness to others and joy.

- Presence: To bring up children properly we must love them; we must love them all equally.
- Simplicity: To adopt simplicity is our way of relating to God and others.
- Wisdom: Our lived experience within a Christian community finds inspiration from our belief in Jesus and our desire to follow His example.
- In the Way Of Mary: Mary's journey of faith is the perfect model for our spiritual journey.

## Curriculum

St Teresa's Catholic College offers a unique Middle schooling programme that aims to assist students an easier transition into High School environment. In Year 8 and 9 students are organised into Homeroom classes and do all their subjects in this cohort. In Year 8 students will have the same teacher for 2 or 3 of their classes whilst in Year 9 students will have the same teacher for 1 or 2 classes. The timetable is a two-week rotating timetable that allows for subject lessons, interschool sport, PSDE and assembly.

### Year 8/9 subjects

(All Year)

|                         |                                |                 |       |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 7 lessons per fortnight | Religious Education<br>Science | English<br>SOSE | Maths |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|

(Half year)

|                         |                     |              |                                      |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 lessons per fortnight | Art/Drama<br>French | HPE<br>Music | Design Technology<br>Food Technology |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|

### Year 10 subjects

The Year 10 students study 7 subjects each for 7 periods per fortnight. Of these subjects 4 are compulsory full year, Science and SOSE are half year and the other 2 lines are electives which students choose from a number of alternatives. The other lessons are given to PSDE, Assembly and Homeroom.

|                    |                             |         |             |         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| <b>Compulsory:</b> | Religious Education<br>SOSE | English | Mathematics | Science |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|

|                   |                        |                |                  |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Electives:</b> | Business Studies       | Drama          | Geography        | History           |
|                   | Design Technology      | French         | Media            | Music             |
|                   | Food Technology        | Graphics       | HPE              | Creative Literacy |
|                   | Computer Studies       | Visual Art     | Industry trades  | Marine Industries |
|                   | Fashion Design         | Digital Design | Forensic Science | Sports Coaching   |
|                   | Electrical Engineering |                |                  |                   |

## **Year 11/12**

The College offers a wide range of courses for the senior Years. We offer both OP (Authority subjects) and non-OP (Authority registered subjects). We also have the option for students to engage in school based apprenticeships and studying a large number of certificate options.

The students do 6 subjects + a study (making 7 subjects) which are allocated 7 periods per fortnight. The other lessons are given over to QCS, PSDE, Assemblies and Homeroom.

The following subjects were offered in 2013:

### ***OP subjects***

|                       |          |                     |                |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|
| Study of Religion     | English  | Mathematics A, B, C | Biology        |
| Chemistry             | Physics  | Accounting          | BCT            |
| Drama                 | Music    | Film and Television | French         |
| Geography             | Graphics | Hospitality Studies | ITS            |
| Legal Studies         | HPE      | Modern History      | Marine Studies |
| Philosophy and Reason | Dance    | Ancient History     | Visual Art     |

### ***Non-OP subjects***

|                     |   |                      |
|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| Religion and Ethics | English Communication                     | Pre-Vocational Maths |
| Hospitality         | Manufacturing (Building and Construction) |                      |
| Recreation Studies  |   |                      |

### ***Certificate Courses***

|                               |                                |                        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cert III Fitness & Health     | Cert II Hospitality            | Cert III Business      |
| Cert III Early Childhood      | Cert III Health Administration | Cert III Media         |
| Cert III Technical Production | Cert III Tourism               | Cert III Allied Health |
| Cert III Sport & Recreation   | Cert III Info Tech Production  | Cert II Animal Studies |
| Cert IV Justice Studies       | Cert IV Music Business         |                        |

### ***Technology***

The College offers a 1:1 laptop programme. In Year 8/9 all students have access to an iPad mini. In Years 10-12 all students have access to an Apple laptop. Besides these devices the College has two dedicated computer labs that are used for high-end computer work related to Film and TV, ITS and Computer Graphic courses.

These devices are provided and maintained by the College. Any applications that are required by the students are loaded at the beginning of the academic year. Any applications and/or textbooks need to be approved by the relevant subject department Leader.

Teachers are encouraged to develop their IT skills and to develop multi modal presentations for students where possible. The College has also engaged in whole school surveys using IT and also uses IT programme called 'My Learning' to disseminate information to parents through regular updates.

Teachers have been encouraged to develop resources that can be accessed by students who are absent. Students have also been encouraged to submit drafts using email and teachers have been encouraged to provide feedback using the computer.

In 2013 Senior students have been encouraged to use iCal as their diary and to use Wikis and Blogs to communicate with each other.

## **Extra-Curricula Activities**

### ***Camps/Retreats***

At St Teresa's Catholic College each Year level is involved in a special camp or retreat programme.

|          |                                   |        |        |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Year 8   | Term 1 Orientation Camp           | Week 4 | 3 days |
|          | Term 2 Spirituality Day           |        |        |
| Year 9   | Term 2 "Survival Camp"            | Week 6 | 3 days |
| Year 10  | Term 3 Retreat: Who am I          |        | 3 days |
| Year 11  | Term 2: Leadership Camp           | Week 5 | 3 days |
| Year 12: | Term 3: Retreat: A Review of Life | Week 4 | 3 days |

### ***Sport***

St Teresa's Catholic College competes in the Year 8 and 9 North Zone of the Sunshine District High Schools Competition. The sports in this competition are Soccer, Touch, Basketball and Volleyball. St Teresa's Catholic College also competes in the Zone swimming, cross country and athletics events. The College won all three of these inter-school events in 2013.

St Teresa's also competes in the Sunshine Coast Cricket, Rugby, AFL, Netball and Water-Polo competitions. For the first time St Teresa's Open Girls won the Water Polo competition. We also for the first time made the Open Rugby final. The College also competes in the Queensland Catholic Schools Girls Netball competition every July school holidays.

St Teresa's basketball teams compete in the Noosa District Club competition. The College also competed for the second time in the National Marist Basketball Competition. In 2013 the event was hosted by OLSH College, Alice Springs.

### ***Performing Arts/Cultural***

St Teresa's Catholic College offers students the opportunity to engage in music tuition and also has a number of school musical ensembles. The College also produces a school musical every two years. In 2012 the College musical was "Footloose" and was performed at the 'J' Theatre Noosa. A wide ranging instrumental music programme is offered to students in all Year levels and various music evenings are held to enable the students to perform.

Other cultural activities include Debating, Tournament of the Minds, Voices on the Coast, Community service at various nursing homes and disability organisations, Anzac Day, Rostrum Voice of Youth, chess competitions, Immersion experiences and Red Cross Blood Bank.

## **Pastoral Care Programmes**

### ***School Social Climate***

Saint Teresa's Catholic College encourages a happy and healthy social climate by a pastoral policy which is child centred with an emphasis on family spirit. Each class has a Pastoral Care teacher who with the Pastoral Coordinator is the personal face of the school to each student and family. There is constant contact with parents and the focus of activities is child centred.

The College has a strong emphasis in 2013 of promoting anti-bullying particularly through alerting students to the danger of cyber-bullying. Posters and guest speakers both in class and to whole year levels were engaged during the course of the year. Student protection processes were also reviewed and information relayed to students, staff and parents.

An initiative of the College in 2013 was to introduce a whole school approach to personal and Social development (PSDE). This programme uses the 'Rock and Water' approach to enabling students to develop self-confidence, resilience and communication skills.

There is an emphasis on student welfare and child centred learning with a middle school philosophy. The Learning Services Centre, catering for individual learning needs, has been a huge success at the College. The College has heavily emphasised the College spirit of care of the individual coming from the Marist Charism, with an emphasis on creating family spirit. Individuals are encouraged, supported and nurtured to achieve their best in a safe and happy environment. This is evident from responses gained from parents at

- Parent/teacher/student interviews
- Parent nights
- Parent communications
- Interviews with siblings when enrolling for entry into the school.

The social climate is also enhanced by the process and procedures established that enable and encourage students to determine, and walk towards, their individual career pathways. College personnel provide opportunities for students to take an active role in their own learning pathways leading to greater commitment and success, and a positive social environment.

### ***Strategies for Involving Parents***

At Saint Teresa's we take every opportunity to involve parents in our family spirit. Parents are encouraged to attend:

- Significant Task nights to see student learning achievements
- Drama and musical performances
- Sporting events
- Religious liturgies
- Student led parent/teacher interviews

- Hospitality nights
- Parent Information nights.

Parents are also encouraged to become involved in the school by volunteering in areas such as:

- Champagnat Learning Centre (CLC) - Library
- Uniform Shop
- Coaching and supporting sporting teams, events and carnivals
- Guest speakers
- Members of the College Pastoral Board.
- Work Placement for students
- St Teresa's Catholic College Parish facilitated Masses

## **Staffing Information**

### ***Staffing Allocation***

The number of staff employed in 2013

Teaching Staff: **52.6**

Teacher's Aides: **8**

Ancillary Staff: **30**

### ***Teacher Qualifications***

Master Degrees: **12**

Post Graduate: **16**

Bachelor's Degree: **21**

Diploma: **4**

(only highest level recorded – many staff have multiple qualifications)

The percentage of staff retained for 2013 from 2012 was: **96.6 %**

Staff attendance for 2013 was: **97.13 %**

### ***Teacher Professional Development***

The total budget for Staff Professional Development was \$105,000. This was from funding from Brisbane Catholic Education and the school's internal budget.

All staff were involved in seven Professional Learning days during the year. Key priorities for Professional learning were:

- Curriculum review and reporting
- IT in the classroom
- Vocational Education training
- Pastoral care review
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Spiritual and Theological Training

## School Financial Income

The 2013 figures are not available on the My School site but the following figures show the 2012 income from various sources.

| Source of Income              | 2011 \$ per student | 2012 \$ per student |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Australian Federal Government | 7 260               | 8 383               |
| Queensland State Government   | 2 642               | 2 878               |
| Parent Contribution           | 3 133               | 3 386               |
| Other Income                  | 167                 | 573                 |
| Less deductions               | 1 666               | 1 683               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>11 526</b>       | <b>13 537</b>       |

## Student Outcomes

### *Student Attendance Rates*

The average student attendance rate for 2013 was **93.0%**

| Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 94.0 % | 92.0 % | 92.0 %  | 94.0 %  | 93.0 %  |

In 2013 the College put in place a College Attendance Officer. This person assists teachers to set up appropriate processes to ensure that student absences are investigated. The College also instituted an attendance SMS system.

### *Student Retention Rates*

The following data provides information for retention rates of Year 12 students for 2013

| Year 10 |       | Year 12 |       | Apparent Retention rates |
|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------------------------|
| Year    | Enrol | Year    | Enrol |                          |
| 2011    | 141   | 2013    | 139   | <b>98.6 %</b>            |

Although the numbers show an almost similar number there has been a number of students who have both moved into and out of the College. The College exit surveys of students that leave showed a strong degree of satisfaction with the College and the range of subjects and pathways offered.



Our OP results in 2013 show a slight improvement in the OP 1-5 but also a bigger number of students in the OP 16-25. The College needs to look at the pathways that students elect to do and to closely monitor the individual results of students to ensure that they in a pathway that best reflects their ability and interests. The College also needs to continue to look at its QCS results, in particular to analyse the different baskets of skills so that these skills can be embedded into the curriculum in earlier year levels.

It is noted that the College has only 65.5 % of its students OP eligible. The College has been continually reviewing the range of courses available for students who are not looking at a pathway that is University linked.

### **VET Breakdown**

| <b>Certificate IV</b> | <b>Certificate III</b> | <b>Certificate II</b> | <b>Certificate 1</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 5                     | 44                     | 51                    | 104                  | 127          |

The College continues to look at the range of Certificate courses that it can offer so as to provide students with a viable pathway. It is imperative that students leave the College with a QCE or appropriate certificate and it is pleasing to see the large increase in the number of Certificate III and Certificate IV completions.

### ***Next Steps***

At the time of publishing the School Annual report the results of the 2013 Year 12 post-school transition was not available. Information about the post-school destination of our students will be published in September when the information is made available to the College.

## **School Renewal Priorities 2013**

In 2013 a new 5 year Strategic Plan for the College was developed. To access this plan please refer to the College website.

In 2013 the Internal School review addressed the following areas from the Brisbane Archdiocesan Strategic Development Plan 2013-2017:

- Section 1.2 Evangelisation and Faith Formation
- Section 2.3 Pedagogical Practice
- Section 3.1 Professional Learning and Development
- Section 4.1 Stewardship of Resources

The College evaluated each of the above areas within the College identifying the strengths and weaknesses in each criteria. From this information the College has put in place different strategies to improve the areas in which potential weaknesses were identified.

Some of these outcomes include:

- developing a stronger link with the parish in the delivery of sacramental availability
- continue to develop resources for the teaching of Religious education
- continue to develop an AITSIL framework for teacher improvement
- develop Professional Learning Teams for teachers across departments
- ensure that Professional Learning matches College priorities
- develop a maintenance programme for the College buildings
- review College policy on fees and fee collection

## **Parent Satisfaction**

The College does not conduct a parental satisfaction survey annually. The only information that we can analyse is the exit surveys that are completed when a student terminates at the College. From these surveys it would appear that most families are happy with the education that their child receives at St Teresa's.