



VILLANOVA COLLEGE

Developing boys into fine young men



PROSPECTUS

Welcome

Welcome to Villanova College. I hope exploring and discovering the many facets of our College will be of benefit to both you and your son.

Over 67 years ago five pioneering Augustinian Priests from Ireland established Villanova College on the north side of Brisbane in the suburb of Hamilton in 1948. In 1954 the Augustinian fathers made a decision to move to the present site at Coorparoo where the College has grown from very humble beginnings. Since those early days the historic Order's spirit, aptly symbolised by the symbol of the heart, book, arrow and flame has been vitally expressed at Villanova.

"As part of the Order that recognises St Augustine as its founder, the College promotes his ideal of community where the members are "one in mind and heart on the way towards God". An Augustinian education seeks to create a community context in which learning can occur." (One Mind, One Heart, Villanova Its Story and Traditions)

Today the College has a total enrolment of over 1220 students. Villanova College recognises the distinct stages of development of boys through organising the campus into three distinct precincts; Junior School from Years 5 to 6, Middle School from Years 7 to 9 and Senior School from Years 10 to 12. Each School allows the unique social, educational and emotional stages of development to be attended to through the specific programs offered in each school.

Students have access to a rich variety of cultural, sporting and social justice programs at the College. In developing

the 'whole person' the College staff recognises the need to provide opportunities for students to develop their gifts and talents and to explore new opportunities that challenge students to not only do their best but also to reach for the stars.

Central to our beliefs and dedication to quality education is our Catholic faith. We teach boys about life and quality relationships, modelled to us by Jesus. We teach about the interior journey, spiritual reflections and actions. We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to share our story of hope.

A distinct feature of our Augustinian charism and of the College is the strong sense of welcome and community that unites staff, parents and students.

It is in this way that we continue to forge our reputation as a Catholic College "striving for excellence in boys' education as an Augustinian community one in mind and heart on the way towards God". (College Vision Statement)
On behalf of the community of Villanova College I extend a warm welcome to our College.

Mr Mark Stower

Principal

Dip Teach., B.Ed., Grad Cert Arts (RE), M. Ed Leadership,
MACE



An Augustinian Education

As part of the Order that traces its origins back to St Augustine, the College promotes his ideal of community where the members are 'of one mind and heart on the way towards God.' An Augustinian approach to education seeks to create a community context in which learning can occur. The community extends to students, staff and parents. The work of the school involves a partnership between student and teacher, and a partnership between teachers and parents. It also extends to the other members of the community, including past students and parents.

Education in the Augustinian tradition is concerned with building a firm foundation of knowledge for personal and spiritual life, as well as a basis for professional or work life. Real education is characterised by a searching for knowledge and understanding that is integrated with personal experience. St Augustine speaks about the teacher within who can test the truth of what is being taught. This teacher is the presence of God within the person. Processes of interior reflection and evaluation are part of this. The College motto, 'Truth Conquers,' is based on the phrase from Augustine's writings 'Nothing conquers except truth and the victory of truth is love.' Ultimately, our lives need to be based on truth. Truth is true knowledge, not ignorance. Truth is living rightly, not according to false values. Ultimately, it is God who is both Truth and Love. Truth cannot be found along a narrow path.

Since its beginnings, the College has treasured open, friendly and caring relationships between teachers and students. As an educator himself, St Augustine found this an essential element of good teaching and learning for both student and teacher.

The pastoral care of students, parents and staff is a very important part of the character of the college. At all times, but in times of crisis or difficulty especially, all members of the community are encouraged to reach out to those in need. Amongst students, the College seeks to instil a sense of self-discipline. On one hand, students are called to account for their actions. On the other hand, the ultimate ideal is one of self-directed right behaviour. Again, the Augustinian ideal is of free people acting under the influence of grace, rather than slaves under the law.' Rule of St Augustine.





Our Vision

Striving for excellence in boys' education as an Augustinian community one in mind and heart on the way towards God.

Our Mission

Villanova College is a Catholic school for boys where education is the formation of the whole person within a faith community. Our staff, parents and students both past and present contribute their gifts and talents towards the development of young men of Gospel values who seek the common good. Our community promotes life-long learning through continually challenging itself in the restless search for Truth.



The religious dimension of the community is a lively part of College life. The promotion of both personal and communal spirituality is done through prayer and worship which are part of everyday life at Villanova. Numerous activities which promote reflection, as well as a sense of justice and compassion, occur both within and outside of the classroom. There are also the many activities of the various ministry groups within the College. There are many fun activities such as AID Days held by students in favour of various charities and functions shared with surrounding schools.

The College community celebrates its faith in major liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Students and staff contribute the great variety of their talents to make such occasions truly worthy of the community and its faith. By planning themes and ways to communicate them through Music, Drama, Visual Arts, and multi-media presentations community members use their many gifts to make these events speak to those present. Parents and other family members are welcomed to such celebrations. In addition to these special occasions, students are invited to participate in the Eucharist and other forms of the liturgy before school in the College chapel and during class. Students are welcome to use the College chapel throughout the day.



Junior School

Years 5-6

A key aspect of education at Villanova is the attention given to the particular needs of boys at different stages. Junior School teachers work to provide boys with a sense of belonging especially by encouraging friendships amongst the boys themselves and among parents and staff. These relationships are particularly important to boys at this stage of pre-adolescence.

Junior School staff are aware of the particular challenges for boys at this stage of their lives, such as peer friendships and the need to promote self-esteem, as well as the need to manage basic feelings such as aggression, frustration and hurt. Activities both within and outside the classroom respond to the specific needs of boys at this age. These include opportunities to express themselves during activities such as Circle Time and to build relationships with their classmates through sport and practical music and drama activities.

Teaching and Learning

Our teaching and learning approaches are based on an understanding of learning derived from recent research in the fields of cognitive science and psychology, are informed by our understanding of the specific learning needs of young pre-adolescent males and are infused with an understanding and appreciation of an authentic Augustinian pedagogy.

The specific model of learning that we employ is based on the Dimensions of Learning framework. This model adapts readily to enhance our understandings of a particularly Augustinian approach to education. The units of work are collaboratively planned by year level teachers, whose shared professional experience is a vital component in delivering an engaging and challenging curriculum. Currently the units are thematically planned across many of the Key Learning Areas, providing connected content rather than unrelated and disjointed learning experiences.



Middle School

Years 7 - 9

The Middle School at Villanova aims to provide an engaging and joyful experience of schooling which is specifically suited to the developmental needs of boys in Years Seven, Eight and Nine.

This experience of schooling encompasses not only the formal curriculum structured around the nine key learning areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Technology, the Arts, Languages other than English, and Health and Physical Education, but also addresses the social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of students through activities and programs within and outside the classroom. The Villanova Curriculum Framework describes our beliefs, our values, and our aims for each Villanova student.

Based on sound academic research in both education and psychology, our approaches in the Middle School aim to meet the needs of young adolescent males, including:

- **Identity:** the students' need to address their own identity issues as young men, as students, as sons and brothers, and as Villanovans;
- **Relationships:** developing productive and affirming relationships with adults and peers in an environment that respects difference and diversity;
- **Purpose:** a need to develop a sense of purpose; to see benefits in learning, to have a reason to come to school, to go to class, to do a task;
- **Empowerment:** viewing the world critically and acting independently, cooperatively and responsibly; freedom to question and to search for meaning;
- **Success:** having multiple opportunities to learn valued knowledge and skills as well as the opportunity to use talents and expertise that students bring to the learning environment; being able to have success recognised;
- **Rigour:** taking on realistic learning challenges in an environment characterised by high expectations and constructive and honest feedback;
- **Safety:** learning in a safe, caring and stimulating environment that actively addresses issues of discrimination and harassment.



Senior School

Years 10 - 12

In Year Ten Villanova provides a balanced general education, as well as the opportunity for students to tailor their program to their own individual needs and talents. As the first year of our Senior School, Year Ten is an opportunity for students to prepare for their Senior Program in Years Eleven and Twelve.

The usual program for a Year Ten student consists of six Core Subjects with four semester units from the Elective Subjects.

A usual program of study for a full-time student in Years 11 and 12 consists in each Semester of seven subjects, or six subjects and the Independent Study Program. Each subject is of two years in duration.

Students are required to take as their Core Studies the subject Study of Religion, and either English Communication or English, and one of Prevocational Mathematics, Mathematics A or Mathematics B.

Authority Subjects

An Authority subject is one which has been approved by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and for which Villanova has had its work program accredited by the QCAA. These subjects are four semester units in length and are taken over two years. Students may choose from:

- Accounting
- Biology
- Business Organisation and Management
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Drama
- Economics
- Geography
- Modern History
- Graphics
- Mathematics C
- Music
- Hospitality Studies
- Physical Education
- Information Processing & Technology
- Physics
- Italian

- Science21
- Legal Studies
- Visual Art

Authority-Registered Subjects

An Authority-Registered subject is one which has been approved by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority, and for which Villanova has had its work program or study plan accredited by the QCAA. Students may choose from:

- Information and Communications Technology
- Recreation Practices
- Visual Art Studies

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Courses

Villanova College is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO No 30478), and is able to offer nationally recognised certificates to our students as part of their everyday curriculum. Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects are complete training packages in which successful completion leads to the award of a VET Certificate, in addition to any other certification students receive. To receive the VET Certificate, students must complete the course and demonstrate competency in each of the required VET modules. Students may choose from the following courses:

- Certificate II in Hospitality
- Certificate I in Hospitality
- Certificate III in Fitness
- Certificate I in Furnishing
- Computer Aided Drawing (partial Diploma of Engineering (Technical))

Co-Curricular

Our search for learning, understanding and the development of personal, social and spiritual dimensions of our students occurs not only in the classroom but also through the ministry, cultural, sporting and other activities of the co-curricular program.

Villanova has a structured co-curricular program which in its variety, offers students opportunities to develop their personal talents in an atmosphere that promotes enjoyment, friendship, community participation and spiritual growth. The program also enhances the community's sense of identity and achieves outcomes such as cooperation, teamwork, sportsmanship and develops pride in achieving to potential.

Music

Music at Villanova College is truly a Community enterprise, with enthusiastic support from staff, students, parents, the Villanova community, and the greater Brisbane community. Music is an inclusive art, and there is a place for any student in our program who has the necessary desire and commitment to create music at a high standard.

Villanova College is proud of its reputation in this area and encourages all students to be a part of the music program.





Sport

Sport plays an integral part in the development of students at Villanova. The College enjoys an excellent sporting reputation and is very proud of its sporting achievements.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the school's representative teams, which play in the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) competition. Teams participate in Chess, Cricket, Swimming, Volleyball, Rugby, Football, Chess, Cross Country, Basketball, Tennis, Track and Field and Waterpolo.

Ministry

The best metaphor for the way the different ministries work at Villanova is that of a human body (1 Cor 12): different groups are like different limbs, and the whole body can come together for big initiatives and events. Also, as with a body, it's important that new growth occurs each year, so that each particular generation of students feels free to discern new avenues through which to build a better community (new ways of being church). The action of the ministry groups is meant first and foremost to deepen community spirit. We also seek to raise awareness of the experience and stories of others who might be seen as the "least" within our school or community. Further, we seek, when appropriate, to offer direct service to those who might really appreciate a friendly hand or smile, especially remembering that we are very likely to receive far more than what we tentatively offer (cf Matthew 25: 31-46).

The current ministry groups are:

- Young Augustinian Youth Ministries
- Australian-Filipino Augustinian Solidarity
- St Vincent De Paul
- Young Christian Students
- Rosies

Students can become involved in:

- Debating and Public Speaking
- Tournament of the Minds
- Villanova-Loreto College Music Productions (every two years)



Location & Enquiries

Villanova College is located 4 kilometres from the Brisbane GPO on the south side of the Brisbane River, in the suburb of Coorparoo. Dowar Street leads off Old Cleveland Road directly into the main entrance of the College. Coorparoo train station is only a 10 minute walk away. A network of buses bring students in from the Bayside area, and most areas south of the College.

Enrolment Enquiries

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General Enquiries

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