



VILLANOVA COLLEGE

Developing fine young men



PROSPECTUS

WELCOME

Welcome to Villanova College.

In 1948, five visionary Augustinian priests from Ireland established Villanova College in the northern Brisbane suburb of Hamilton. In 1954 the decision was made to move to the present site at Coorparoo where the College has grown from very humble beginnings.

The College has at its heart the ideals and teachings of St Augustine where its members are “one in mind and heart on the way towards God”.

What translates for our graduates are young men who are humble and self-reflective; young men of integrity who value the ideals of community built on quality relationships, and ultimately, who possess a restless search for truth.

Today, the College has a total enrolment of over 1270 students. In recognition of the distinct stages of boys' development, the College is organised into three distinct precincts: Junior School (Years 5 and 6), Middle School (Years 7 to 9) and Senior School (Years 10 to 12). Specific programs in each of these schools cater to the unique social, educational and emotional stages of the development of boys.

In growing the whole person, our students have access to a rich array of cultural, sporting and social justice programs at the College.

Recently, the College embarked on the most transformative building program for our Coorparoo

campus and playing fields at Tingalpa since the College's foundation. We look forward to the benefits these innovative learning spaces will deliver in facilitating the development of key skills and attributes for successful learners and leaders of the future.

On behalf of the community of Villanova College I extend a very warm welcome.

Mr Mark Stower

Principal

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



AN AUGUSTINIAN EDUCATION

An Augustinian approach to education seeks to create a community context in which learning occurs. Since its origin, the College has treasured open, friendly and caring relationships between teachers and students. This partnership extends to other members of the community including parents and past students.

In following Augustinian traditions, we seek to build in our boys a firm foundation of knowledge for personal and spiritual life, as well as providing the basis for their professional or work life. It is important that real education not only includes the search for knowledge and understanding but also personal experience.

It is our hope that our Augustinian 'lenses' of humility, interiority (self-reflection), community, the restless search for truth, and ongoing conversion continue to guide our graduates as they find value and renewal in their life journey.

OUR FAITH

Central to our pursuit of 'excellence in boys' education' is our Catholic faith. In sharing our story of hope, we welcome people of all faiths and denominations.

The religious dimension is a lively part of the College. The promotion of both personal and communal spirituality is achieved through prayer and worship. Numerous activities which promote reflection, as well as a sense of justice and compassion, occur both within and outside of the classroom.

The College community celebrates its faith in major liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Parents and other family members are welcome to join us. Students are also invited to participate in the Eucharist and other liturgy before school in the College Chapel and during class.



A PLACE TO BELONG

We know that engaged and connected boys are far more likely to achieve successful learning outcomes. There are many ways that boys and families can find their place at Villanova College. Dedicated support structures and staff work to ensure that every boy is known and valued at every stage of his Villanova College journey. Opportunities for boys to participate and grow connections with staff and their peers are available throughout the year.

PASTORAL CARE

In the Junior School, a team approach is taken with Pastoral Care. Students are under the primary care of their classroom teacher with additional support available from the Junior School Pastoral Area Leader and the Head of Junior School. In the Middle and Senior Schools, the Pastoral Area Leader, with the support of the Head of School, oversees the personal growth of boys in each year level. Opportunities to develop comradery and peer support among students across all year levels (Years 7 – 12) is facilitated by House groups which meet every morning.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Our College Counsellor, Psychologist and Chaplain are available at any time to discuss the emotional, spiritual and mental health needs of all boys and families.

LEADERSHIP

At Villanova College, we value the role of our student leaders and the service they provide to the College community as role models. Leadership positions exist across all schools in many portfolios. Our Year 12 students hold significant leadership responsibilities and are active in fostering school spirit and engaging students across all years.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Our annual camp program for all years sees boys venturing off campus for three to five days. The focus is to develop their confidence, resilience and self-reliance while also working to enhance relationships between their peers and staff.



THE ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA LEARNING CENTRE -

A NEW VISION FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

The St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre welcomes its first students in 2020 and forms stage one of an exciting master plan for the development of the College's Coorparoo campus.

The three-level building incorporates the Junior School precinct for Years 5 and 6 students across two levels and a new hub for the College's Senior students.

The design was informed by research about how boys learn best.

The Centre provide teachers with new delivery methods for teaching and learning. The flexibility of the spaces promotes teamwork and collaboration and drives crucial skills in our students like critical thinking, creativity, communication.

The Senior level of the St Thomas of Villanova Learning Centre, incorporating classrooms, an auditorium and study common, models a tertiary education environment, preparing Year 12 students for learning and their transition beyond Villanova.





JUNIOR SCHOOL

Years 5-6

GENERAL

A key aspect of education at Villanova College is the attention given to the particular needs of boys at different stages of their development. 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.

Correctly managing peer friendships, self-esteem and basic feelings such as aggression, frustration and hurt is crucial at this stage of boys' development. Activities both within and outside the classroom respond to the specific needs of boys at this age. These include opportunities to express themselves through activities such as 'Circle Time' and to build relationships with their classmates through sport, music and drama activities.

At Villanova College we believe a positive school climate in which our young people feel connected, is the best environment for learning. Our 'Restorative Practice' approach to behaviour management emphasises the importance of relationships. It encourages students to appreciate the consequences of their actions, to make amends if their actions may have harmed others, be accountable for their actions and to respect others.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our teaching and learning approaches are based on research in the fields of cognitive science and psychology. It is also informed by our understanding of the specific learning needs of young pre-adolescent males and is infused with an understanding and appreciation of an authentic Augustinian pedagogy as well as meeting the requirements of the Australian Curriculum.

Building upon the foundations of literacy and numeracy is a key focus of all Junior School staff as students progress through their first years at Villanova College. Providing this basis is key to future learning success in the Middle and Senior Schools.

Students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science, Health and Physical Education and Religious Education in Years 5 and 6. Students also study subjects within the Creative Arts (Music, Drama and Visual Art), Languages Other Than English (Italian) and Technologies on a rotating basis. The units of work in all subjects are collaboratively planned by the Curriculum Area Leaders and Junior School staff to ensure that content is rich and connected and that learning experiences are personalised and differentiated to meet the needs of all students.





MIDDLE SCHOOL

Years 7 - 9

GENERAL

The Middle School at Villanova College aims to provide an engaging and joyful experience of schooling which is specifically suited to the developmental needs of boys in Years 7, 8 and 9.

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, co-operatively 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.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Middle School encompasses a formal program structured around the Australian Curriculum. Students continue to build on their knowledge in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science, Religion, and Health and Physical Education. Within the core program, the curriculum also addresses the social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of students through activities and programs within and outside of the classroom.

Students in Year 7 experience a range of subjects on a term-by-term basis. Students study similar subjects to those in Year 5 and 6 whilst also experiencing Chinese, Business and a project-based subject around the key soft skills of collaboration, problem-solving and decision making.

Students begin to take ownership of their course of study in Years 8 and 9 as they choose a series of electives based on their previous experiences. It is here where our boys begin to immerse themselves in subjects that they find most motivating and engaging, and may lead to the discovery of specific areas of interest.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Years 10 - 12

GENERAL

The introduction of the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) in 2019 provided Villanova College with a unique opportunity to continue to prepare Senior School students for the future. The focus of this period of schooling is to prepare students for their chosen pathway and to also equip them with the skills to be highly effective, highly functioning citizens once they have graduated from the College.

YEAR 10

Year 10 at Villanova College can be viewed as a preparatory year for students in the Senior School. All Year 11 and 12 General subjects are available for Year 10 students to study. This allows our students to make informed decisions around their future course of study. Year 10 students undertake seven subjects. Mathematics, English and Religion are studied across the year. It is here that students continue to consider their options for the following two years, and beyond.

YEARS 11 AND 12

Upon finishing their Year 10 studies, students should have a firm idea around their chosen pathway in Years 11 and 12. Students can continue with a course of General subjects, which makes them eligible for an ATAR and possible tertiary study, or they can choose a range of Applied and/or VET courses that lead

toward an 'Industry Pathway'. The College ensures that students and parents are aware of the rigours and requirements of the Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance (SATE) system through a series of parent information evenings, communication to families and student meetings.

Ten Curriculum Areas offer a comprehensive range of subjects to suit many career aspirations and pathways. A complete list of General and Applied subjects, and VET courses can be found on our website.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER SUPPORT

Villanova College is serious about the academic outcomes for every boy. Led by the Dean of Teaching and Learning, our Curriculum and Pastoral Area Leaders, together with classroom teachers, are responsible for the academic performance of all students. In Years 11 and 12, every boy meets an Academic Coach four times a week to monitor progress and ensure the demands of this crucial stage of their education are being met.

The College employs a number of staff who are available to provide career guidance to help students make informed choices about future careers and pathways beyond school.



CO-CURRICULAR LIFE

Villanova College boys enjoy a comprehensive and vibrant co-curricular program which comprises Sport, Music and Ministry activities. These opportunities develop their personal talents in an atmosphere that promotes enjoyment, friendship, participation and spiritual growth while building life skills like co-operation, teamwork and sportsmanship.

SPORT

Sport is an integral part of life at Villanova College. The College enjoys an excellent sporting reputation and is very proud of its many sporting achievements. Across the year-long program, over 200 teams (and three squads) proudly wearing the green and gold of Villanova, take to fields and courts across Brisbane. Villanova is a member of the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) competition.

Teams compete in AFL, basketball, chess, cricket, cross country, football, golf, rugby league, rugby union, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball and water polo. Villanova Park at Tingalpa (20 minutes from the College) provides 14 hectares of playing fields for training and games. Additional fields are also located on and adjacent to the College campus.

Students can also become involved in:

- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Tournament of Minds
- School Musical (held every two years with Loreto College)

MUSIC

Music at Villanova College is truly a community enterprise with enthusiastic participation from staff, students, parents and the Villanova community. Our Queensland Catholic Schools and Colleges Music Festival (founded in 1991) now sees over 15,000 students from across Queensland and interstate join us at this annual four-day celebration.

Music is an inclusive art, and there is a place for any student in our program who has the desire and commitment to create music to a high standard. Our Year 5 program sees every boy enjoying the educational and social benefits that participation in ensemble programs provide.

Across our choral, bands and strings program, over 30 ensembles are offered, in addition to regular performance opportunities including interstate and international tours. The Augustine Centre, which includes the 500-seat Hanrahan Theatre, is the hub of performing arts at the College. Dedicated rehearsal facilities are available for individual, small group and ensemble rehearsals.

MINISTRY

A large number of Villanova College students generously commit their time and energy to the service of others through the College's Ministry groups. The students employ the see-judge-act method, making a difference for others who are at risk, on campus, at our doorstep, and in the wider world. Whilst the Ministry groups create community spirit through fundraising activities, amazing transformations occur when students personally encounter the people to whom we humbly reach out the hand of friendship.

Ministry groups include:

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



An aerial photograph of Villanova College in Brisbane, Australia, taken during the 'golden hour' of sunset. The college's main building, a large multi-story structure with a prominent central tower, is in the foreground. Surrounding it are various other school buildings, sports fields, and parking areas. In the background, the dense urban landscape of Brisbane leads up to the city's skyline, with numerous skyscrapers visible against the bright orange and yellow sky. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, creating a strong lens flare and casting a warm glow over the entire scene.

LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

Villanova College is located four kilometres from the Brisbane CBD on the south side of the Brisbane River.

Many students travel to and from the College each day by bus. Old Cleveland Road is a major corridor for buses on the Translink network and is only 200 metres from the College. Dedicated school bus services provide additional transportation options. The Coorparoo Train Station lies on the Cleveland line of the Brisbane rail network. The station is a 10 minute walk from the College.

ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES

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GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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