



# Avila College Mount Waverley

## 2022 Annual Report to the School Community



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### Mission

We offer Avila girls the best Catholic education and inspire successful futures. We give our students options and opportunities to explore and understand what a great future looks like and what it takes to get there. We teach, guide and support our girls to achieve that vision for themselves. We challenge them to always strive to be their best ... both today while they're students and tomorrow, long after they have left the college.

### Vision

Nestled in the leafy green suburb of Mt Waverley in Melbourne, Victoria, Avila College is a Catholic secondary college with approximately 1050 students. Founded in 1965, Avila has a proud tradition of educating girls, fostering intellectual curiosity and empowering students to achieve their own personal best. Avila College is a positive, vibrant learning community which finds continuing inspiration in the charisma of the Presentation Sisters and the teachings of St Teresa of Avila.

With a focus on academic diversity, innovation and engagement, Avila students are encouraged to be agile thinkers, take ownership of their learning journey and embrace a broad range of educational pathways.

After two years of intermittent lockdowns and extended periods of remote learning, the Avila College community enjoyed a full year of face to face learning on campus in 2022. With a continued focus on health and safety, Avila College delivered curriculum together with VCE, VCAL and VET programs and cautiously reintroduced a range of co-curricular activities and major school events.

The energy and opportunity that our theme for the year, 'Create', has offered us has enabled an individual and collective experience of school life. The journey together this year has at times been with bold strides and other times with tentative steps. At times we have known what is ahead and at other times we have been more cautious.

What has been most joyful though are the sprigs of growth, development and change. After two years of extended remote learning our community has had the opportunity to reconnect, enjoy the chance to learn and teach in person and celebrate school life together. Students have embraced the rich tapestry of opportunities that abound at Avila. Staff have dug deep to nourish the minds, hearts and spirits of the young people they seek to inspire each day in their learning. Families and the wider community have embraced our spirit of 'Create' and shared in the exclamations of sporting, performance, debating, spiritual and community engagement.

Our Year 7s have excelled at leaping into secondary school and our Year 12s have taken steps towards refining their skills, knowledge and aptitude, ready to take the next step into adulthood in the coming year. The adventures and explorations of the middle years of schooling have been reshaped and contextualised too; students growing to understand themselves and their learning community better and how they contribute to making Avila flourish.

We undertook a school review this year and this opportunity to look in the mirror at how we are achieving our school improvement goals and what our areas for growth in the next four years

As the College community emerged into a changed landscape, this year's inspirational theme 'Create' provided a wonderful springboard into all the richness and diversity of Avila life. Accompanied by the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, it reminded all of us that in, through and with our good God all things are indeed possible.

This year the Avila College School Advisory Council (ACSAC) was pleased to welcome three new parent members. The Council is enriched by each member and grateful for their generosity with their time, diverse skills and experience.

The ACSAC has navigated the evolving Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) arrangements alongside the Avila College leadership, continuing to admire the collaboration evident in the Executive Team, and the cascading of learning and responsibility that is a hallmark of the Avila staff. They have continued to negotiate the ever-changing landscape with grace and professionalism for which we are very grateful.

In keeping with the objectives of the MACS Constitution, which states "The good work of educating the young, undertaken in the light of the Gospel, is a co-responsible task led by every member of the Catholic school community.", the ACSAC provides a crucial point of connection between the wider school community and school leaders.

As a forum for discussion and discernment, the Council engaged in understanding and offering constructive comment on the sphere leaders bi-monthly reports and participated in opportunities that arose to support and celebrate the life of the College.

As part of the ongoing school improvement process, this year was a review year for the College. Council members participated in Self-





three-day retreat which started with a Mass celebrated by Fr Justel Callos at Holy Family, where he blessed the students before sending them forth. The theme was “One Step Beyond” drawing on Nano Nagle’s words to go out into the community and be a light and used Luke’s 'Road to Emmaus' text to engage students in an examination of their own life journey; the times Christ

**Goals & Intended Outcomes**



major curriculum changes in the senior school as many VCE study designs were updated and the current VCAL program will be replaced in 2023 with the VCE Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate. In preparing for the new pathways requirements two additional VET studies will be offered for 2023; Laboratory Skills and Business Studies. These additional VET certificate courses will be on offer for all senior students.

#### MEDIAN NAPLAN RESULTS FOR YEAR 9

Year 9 Grammar & Punctuation	596.1
Year 9 Numeracy	593.4
Year 9 Reading	616.8
Year 9 Spelling	596.9
Year 9 Writing	609.0



## Goals & Intended Outcomes

To strengthen a culture where wellbeing is integral to learning and consciously connected to student growth.

- That student resilience, resourcefulness and self-esteem are strengthened and students develop a clear sense of hope and purpose.

## Achievements

In 2022, the overwhelming imperative was to reconnect students as they returned to the routines and relationships of daily school life onsite after the uncertainties of the COVID lockdowns. Wellbeing initiatives were designed carefully to create a sense of hope and optimism, equip students with the knowledge and skills to re-establish and nurture healthy relationships while promoting resilience and agency. Student engagement and attendance at school continued to be high and the supportive approach to encourage and inspire all students to seek their personal best continued throughout the year.

The Year Level Coordinators (YLC) worked in a targeted way with their Homeroom / Mentor teachers to develop knowledge, awareness and skills of the students in each cohort on matters relating to their age group. At times topics and activities were planned and developed well in advance and at other times they responded with agility to the immediate needs of a particular day. Students and families were supported on a needs basis by YLCs, Homeroom / Mentor teachers, the Counselling Team and on occasion external agencies.

The Living and Values Program (LAVP) was a regular wellbeing touchpoint for all students providing age specific and appropriate topics for each year level cohort that could be delivered in a flexible and timely manner. Themes explored included healthy relationships, goal setting, mental health, mindfulness, vision board planning, time management and cyber safety.

The transition of new Year 7 students into secondary school was supported by a





## STUDENT SATISFACTION

The results of the MACSSIS 2022 survey demonstrated that Avila College students continued to report higher overall results as compared to the MACS average. Student satisfaction was particularly strong in the Year 7, 8 and 12 cohorts and with reference to school climate, student safety and student voice. The comparison with 2021 results was attributed to the return to face-to-face learning, daily routines and structure of school life.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE



**Goals**









STAFF COMPOSITION	
Principal Class (Headcount)	3.0
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	108.0
Teaching Staff (FTE)	93.7
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	60.0
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	47.7
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0.0



### Goals & Intended Outcomes

That Avila students, staff, parents and alumnae work collaboratively to build connectedness and deepen

This year over 200 students applied to represent the school as part of the Community Ambassador Program. A Year 11 Mentoring initiative was introduced providing senior

- Quill & Ink Writers Guild
- Junior Dragons
- Stage Crew
- Peer Helpers
- SRC
- Games Club

## PARENT SATISFACTION

Family survey data from the MACSSIS (Annual School Improvement Surveys) came from the seven families who completed the survey. With so few survey participants, the strength of the data validity was agreed to be limited. Nonetheless, the theme for consideration is family engagement.

Following the external school review conducted in 2022, Avila College looks forward to continue to be driven by evidence based school improvement with the formal structure of a collaboratively developed Annual Action Plan derived from the review.