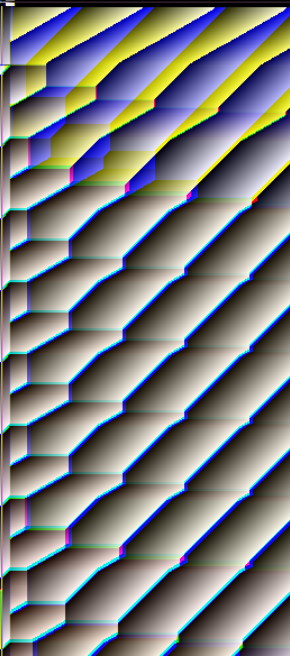


35 Charles Street, MOUNT WAVERLEY 3149  
Principal: Michelle Cotter  
Web: [www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au)  
Registration: 1651, E Number: E1247



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I, Michelle Cotter, attest

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Avila College is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the school community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

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When Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) launched our inaugural strategic plan MACS 2030: Forming Lives to Enrich the World just over a year ago, I spoke about the need for our whole organisation to reflect on the biggest challenges that confront us, and to work at speed to find practical, ambitious, student-centred solutions.

As a relatively new governing authority, 2023 set us on the path to achieving our first goals, as we focussed our efforts on building strong foundations for success. The four

I would like to pay tribute to our MACS school and office colleagues who have worked so hard to achieve our goals. We look forward to further strengthening those partnerships as we work together to deliver an education that inspires young people to enrich the world.

Yours sincerely

Dr Edward Simons

Executive Director

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd

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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.

We inspire our girls today to become successful women tomorrow.

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Founded in 1965, Avila has a proud tradition of educating girls, fostering intellectual curiosity and empowering students to achieve their own personal best. Nestled in the leafy green suburb of Mt Waverley in Melbourne, Victoria, Avila College is a Catholic secondary college with approximately 1050 students.

Avila College is a positive, vibrant learning community which finds continuing inspiration in the charism 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.

In 2023, Avila College delivered curriculum together with VCE, VCE VM and VET programs and enjoyed a full calendar of co-curricular activities and major school events. Student leadership, agency and voice was supported through a range of workshops, mentoring and collaborative committees. Throughout the year, Avila College continued to foster a culture of continuous and collaborative school improvement with a keen emphasis on all spheres of the Annual Action Plan.

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Inspired by the Presentation values of Community and Action, our annual theme 'Unite as One' was a fitting goal for our school. We challenged ourselves to unite as a school community after three years of COVID-19-shaped disruption and celebrate our unique gifts in line with the scripture reference; Use whatever gift you have to serve others (1 Peter 4:10).

United we were in 2023 through vision, action and celebration. For the first time in three years, we were able to hold whole school events, including our Eucharistic Celebrations, and host performances such as the Avila-Mazenod production of the Freaky Friday musical. Our gifts were enthusiastically shared to serve the school through social justice activities, sporting prowess, musical talents and more, creating a positive, tangible and united community spirit in our classrooms and beyond.

There were many highlights in a year where we both physically and spiritually united as one, but one in particular stands out. In March the Avila musicians and choir were invited to lead the liturgical music at the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools St Patrick's Day Mass. Their voices and instrumental arrangements amplified the joyous Eucharist and captivated the congregation. It was a very





The Year 11 Youth Ministry students were involved in the planning and execution of the Year 8 Reflection Day, developed around the theme of Laudato Si which proved to be a very positive experience for both cohorts. The Year 9 Reflection day focussed on Relationships and Belonging where students were encouraged to appreciate the gift of their own uniqueness more fully and to recognise that it is both possible and desirable to know Jesus as an intimate friend. Passionist Youth facilitated the Year 10 Reflection day and introduced

and came away inspired and motivated. Closing the Gap, Reconciliation Week and the ongoing work of Avila's REC Group continued to raise awareness and understanding within our school community.

This year, our school community united to raise funds for a variety of worthy causes. Students busked, baked and explored creative ways to encourage students to look outward to those who are suffering in our world with Project Compassion for Caritas Australia. Students and staff supported St Vincent de Paul by sleeping overnight in the Hall and engaged in meaningful conversations about why people are homeless and what can be done on the micro and macro scale to alleviate this. The sleepout raised \$3000 online and we raised a further \$1000 from the BBQ and food stall at the athletics carnival. REC Group activities raised money for the Opening the Door Foundation and our inaugural Christmas Campaign supported MacKillop Family Services with raffle proceeds and baskets full of products for the Vinnies Christmas Gift Appeal.

This year our Youth Ministry class embraced a key role in designing and leading our faith celebrations. For the first time they led a pre-Easter whole school liturgy which was a tremendous success. The Youth Ministry students also led activities for the Year 8 Reflection Day themed around the Encyclical.

During Reconciliation Week, Avila College held a public screening of the documentary 'In My Blood it Runs' in the Bunjil Creation Centre. The screening included a presentation from special guest speaker, Jane Vadeloo, founder of the First-Nations charity, Children's Ground, and a contributor to the film production.

Fundraising and awareness raising for Caritas Australia exceeded expectation.

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- To enhance student agency in their learning.
  - To continue to provide leadership that guides, directs and supports improvement in teacher practice, staff expertise and student outcomes.
  - That every student is known and understood as a valued member of our Catholic school community.
  - That consistent use of student-centred feedback and reflection strategies are embedded.
  - That an agreed instructional model for core pedagogical practices at Avila is created.
  - That Avila's professional learning framework be renewed, enhanced and targeted.

The 2023 cohort of Year 12 students achieved outstanding results both in terms of ATAR scores and pathways to study and employment. The 2023 College Dux achieved an ATAR of 97.65.

- 15% of the class achieved an ATAR score over 90 placing them in the top 10% of Victoria.
- 39% achieved a score over 80, placing them in the top 20% of the state.
- 14 students also received the VCE Baccalaureate, an additional form of recognition for students who successfully meet the demands of studying a higher-level mathematics subject and a language in their VCE program.

Avila College's Pedagogy Framework was successfully implemented this year, providing teachers with evidence-based strategies and best practice methods that are inclusive, targeted and visible. In 2023 we continued to engage with MACS on a number of projects including the Secondary Disciplinary Literacy Project and the STEM Based Learning Project. These projects provide consultants who work with teaching teams to develop evidence-based strategies for improving learning. Mirroring the Pedagogy Framework, student leaders

worked with the Pedagogy Leader to develop a Learning Framework in order for students to have voice and agency in their own learning journey. This was a great experience for the students as they worked collaboratively to reflect on how they learned best and identify strategies and actions to maximise learning engagement, enjoyment and achievement

Together with classroom curriculum, a number of Avila's signature learning programs were delivered across the cohorts. These included the Beyond 2040 program where Year 7 students worked collaboratively to research, discuss and consider what the future could look like if we embraced the best solutions available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths today. The new NaviGate program at Year 9 provided opportunities to develop enterprising skills, collaborate in teams and embrace physical challenges. The program took place in a variety of settings and gave students the opportunity to have choice and agency. Our inaugural Digi-Day saw Year 10 students teach Grade 4's coding, drones and robotics and the Primary School Art Immersion allowed students to get creative and teach the principles of Surrealism to primary school students. Avila also partnered with Salesian College to deliver the VCE Food Studies unit to both cohorts of students together on campus.

High numbers of students continued to engage with Avila's tutoring program in Mathematics and Literacy. Students were willing to spend extra time after school to work with teachers to understand the more complex aspects of their subjects. Students have gained confidence working in tutorial groups and these sessions also proved successful for examination preparation.

A diverse range of co-curricular activities were also run this year, providing students with the chance to thrive and develop their passions. These included the Melbourne University Amazing Spaghetti Machine, VEX robotics competitions, the Da Vinci Decathlon and the Model United Nations. Year 9 students undertook a Mission to Mars at the Victorian Space Science Education Centre, junior and senior debating competitions took place and a wide range of sports were played competitively.

A key focus this year has been to ensure that students and families had the necessary information and opportunities for conversations to assist with the subject selection process for 2024. This process emphasised informed student choice and provided opportunities for students to tailor their learning and maximise their growth and engagement. Year levels were supported in a variety of ways and could all access up-to-date information on the curriculum guide located on the College website. Targeted EDMs were sent out and the learning



\*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2023 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

VCE Median Score	31
VCE Completion Rate (includes VCE VM completions)	99.30%
VCAL Completion Rate (VCAL Intermediate)	100.00%

\*Not reported due to insufficient data i.e. less than 4 student enrolments for VCE/VCAL.

Tertiary Study	[ASR_PostSchoolDestinations.tertiary]
TAFE / VET	[ASR_PostSchoolDestinations.tafevet]
Apprenticeship / Traineeship	[ASR_PostSchoolDestinations.apprenticeship]
Deferred	[ASR_PostSchoolDestinations.deferred]
Employment	[ASR_PostSchoolDestinations.employment]
Other - The category of Other includes both students Looking for Work and those classed as Other	[ASR_PostSchoolDestinations.other]

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To enhance student agency in their learning.

That every student is known and understood as a valued member of our Catholic school community.

That consistent use of student-centred feedback and reflection strategies are embedded.

The Wellbeing team have continued to work in partnership with staff and families to support student engagement and wellbeing. Utilising the annual theme of 'Unite as One', in 2023 we have aimed to promote connection and collaboration within our school community. Further enhancing student voice and agency was also a key focus this year.

Building student resilience, resourcefulness and self-esteem are key values that strengthen and help students develop a clear sense of hope and purpose. The Living and Values Program (LAVP) was a scheduled wellbeing touchpoint for students and this year covered topics such as character strengths, communication skills, healthy relationships, goal setting, vision boards and study techniques. Year 8 students also engaged with the Expect



gender

The SMASH collaboration has continued to thrive in 2023 with a very successful year including Conversation, netball competition and music soiree. This collaboration provided an opportunity for our four local Catholic Secondary schools to build connections and work together on a variety of projects.

Lunchtime co-curricular clubs and activities further built school connectedness for students and staff. These included:

- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- RUOK? Day
- Harmony Day
- Games Club
- Craft Club
- No Bullying Day

The results of the MACSSIS 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 vnd


Y07	92.0%
Y08	89.4%
Y09	89.7%
Y10	87.5%
Overall average attendance	89.6%

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- To continue to provide leadership that guides, directs and supports improvement in teacher practice, staff expertise and student outcomes.
  - That Avila's professional learning framework be renewed, enhanced and targeted.

The 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP) for School Improvement guided our endeavours for innovation and excellence across key priority goals and sat comfortably within the College theme of 'Unite as One'. Staff and students embraced the 'new normal', a school year without explicit COVID restrictions, but understood it was still different to pre-pandemic times. Together, united as one, new traditions were forged and old traditions such as physically coming together as a whole school community were celebrated.

The College Executive Team undertook a year-long focused formation program to build leadership consensus and further consolidate the team identity and trust. Modelled on a leadership

The physical campus site continued to be renewed throughout the year with scheduled maintenance activities and small scale renovations in the Carroll Centre and the Junior School Building. In line with the next phase of the Master Plan, the planning, design and submission requirements for the development of the new administration and food technology building were finalised. The new Food Technology learning space will provide enhanced student access to modern equipment and contemporary learning and will meet the needs of both the Hospitality and Food Technology curriculum. Enhancing the school's Catholic identity was a fundamental feature of the design of the new Welcome Administration building. This year we also took the foundational steps in the development of a physical Catholic Identity Master Plan. An external consultant has been engaged to provide a scope of possibilities of religious art across the campus.

In 2023 Avila implemented a review of IT Services. Designed in the spirit of continuous improvement, it also scoped out future needs and innovations for learning, teaching and support services.

This year saw a rise in the number of staffing shortages across the education sector. In response, Avila made the strategic decision to bring the annual recruitment drive forward, refine the recruitment process and build the interview and selection base experiences of College leaders. Successful candidates reported that the College provided timely responses to expressions of interest and prompt follow through with the shortlisting, reference checking, child safety checking and interviews.






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- To create meaningful partnerships to broaden learning outcomes.
  - To create meaningful relationships with external entities such as Parishes, Schools, Tertiary Institutions, Community Organisations and Commercial Businesses.
  - That parent engagement is strengthened.

Avila College ylned



School events provided an opportunity to engage with parents and families. We saw record attendance at our popular breakfasts celebrating International Women's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day, the Creative Arts Spectacular and the Graduation Mass. Parents were involved with their daughters in in

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The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au).

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at [www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au)