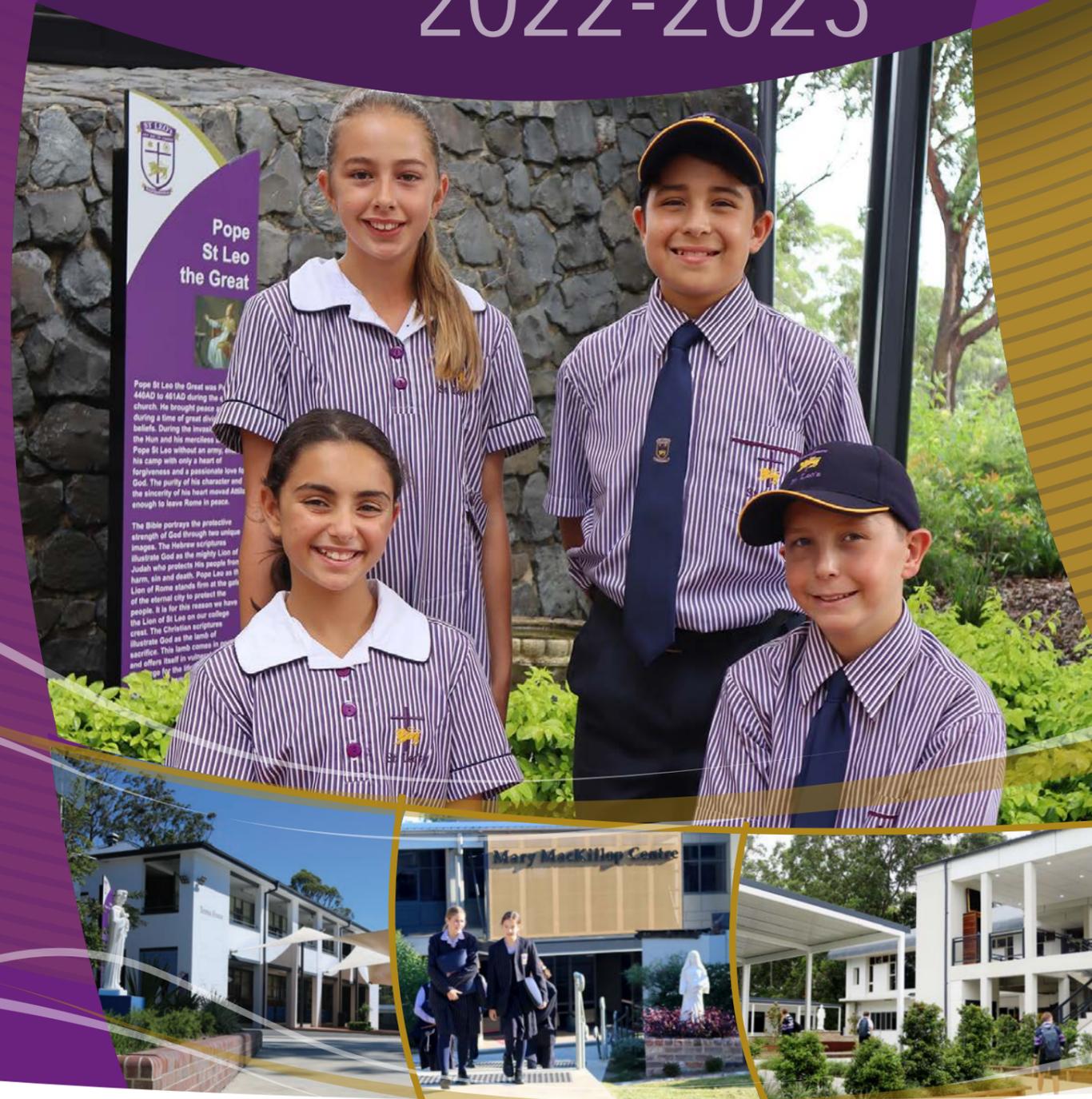


# COLLEGE PROSPECTUS 2022-2023



To find out more about St Leo's, visit our website, join us for our annual Open Day in March, or contact us to arrange a tour at a time convenient to you throughout the year.

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 St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga





“  
*A strong emphasis  
on knowing each  
student and  
growing their  
unique potential.*  
”

## Welcome to St Leo's

**St Leo's is a comprehensive co-educational Catholic college focussed on developing the whole person. It is an exceptional place to learn.**

St Leo's is proud to be a truly caring, inclusive community.

Along with our consistently strong academic results, wide range of co-curricular offerings and innovative programs, we offer a holistic view of education and wellbeing, with an emphasis on skills for lifelong learning.

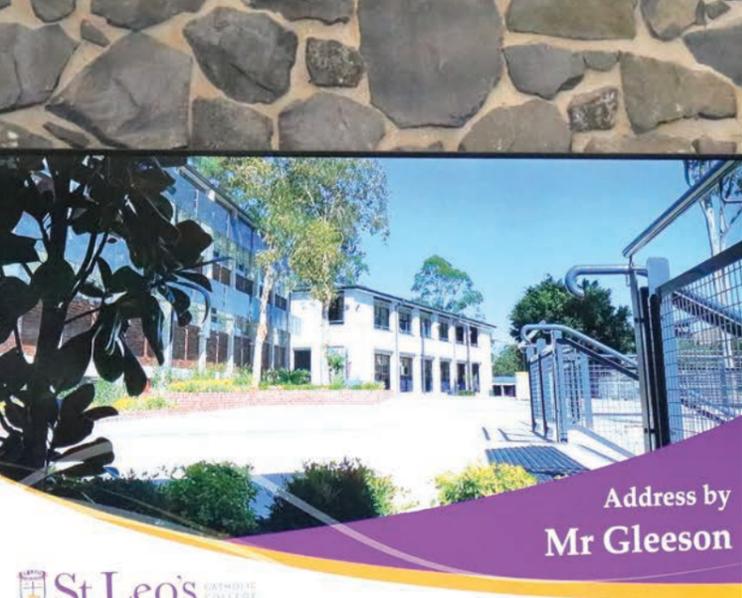
We aim to help students find their passion and develop their talents so that they can shape and change the world for the better. Our wonderful community and extensive range of opportunities form well-rounded students for whom anything is possible.



## Why choose St Leo's?

**Our newly upgraded campus is located on six hectares in the leafy suburb of Wahroonga and is the only co-educational Catholic secondary school on Sydney's Upper North Shore.**

- As a caring, inclusive community renowned for our pastoral care, we have a strong focus on knowing each student and growing their unique potential and passion.
- A distinct STEM and innovation focus, offering a range of programs to ensure our students have the skills they need for a globalised world.
- We pride ourselves on achieving consistently strong academic results, with students regularly appearing in the HSC High Achiever and All-rounder lists. Over 70 percent of students are offered a university place each year.
- We are consistently above the average student growth in NAPLAN - across both State and SSSG schools (Statistically Similar School Group).
- We focus on developing the whole person across our range of Growth Domains – spiritual, academic, cultural, social, emotional, environmental, and physical dimensions – ensuring a diverse and purposeful experience, and the balanced development of our students.
- A future-directed view of education focusing on deep learning skills and offering one-on-one student mentoring and coaching, helps our students become lifelong learners.
- Our unique 'Learning Den' online learning platform features portable digital portfolios our students can show future employers, and enables them to articulate, track and own their learning.
- Our Pathways and Partnerships Program works with students and families to navigate the many options beyond school, developing a wide variety of industry and higher education partnerships and shaping new offerings at St Leo's.
- Our recently completed \$30M campus upgrade provides state-of-the-art facilities, including a \$14M Creative and Performing Arts, Design, Technology and Hospitality Centre, new Resource Centre, and numerous purposeful, flexible learning and recreation spaces.
- We offer a strong sporting culture together with an extensive range of co-curricular offerings, including overseas tours and an emphasis on social justice opportunities.



Address by  
Mr Gleeson

St Leo's  
Catholic College

“  
*Co-education  
is inspiring,  
supportive, exciting,  
fun, realistic and,  
above all, natural.*  
”



## Why Co-ed?

We strongly believe that co-education allows students to appreciate the different perspectives boys and girls bring to the community and successfully experience the sheer complexity of gender, particularly during the formative adolescent years.

In academic terms, boys and girls attain similar merits, indicating that each gender is enhanced by the presence of the other. Our students are comfortable with who they are and have a healthy, positive and respectful attitude towards each other.

Not only do girls and boys learn differently, but so does every student, regardless of their gender. Knowing each student as a learner is one of the foundations here at St Leo's.

Socialisation is undeniably one of the essential outcomes of schooling, and it is more naturally and fully achieved within a co-education environment. The social development of students, including the formation of appropriate values and attitudes, is a prerequisite for the ongoing wellbeing of our society.

Co-education prepares students for the world after school where 'real life' is rarely gender separated. Co-education is the best environment for the future.

Our world is a 'co-ed' type of world - what better place to continue this education and develop these relationships, particularly during their formative years of adolescence?



## A Message from the Principal

I am proud to warmly welcome you to St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga.

At St Leo's, we are committed to forming confident, competent Catholic-valued young women and men of conscience, aiming to help students find their passion and develop their talents into greatness.

We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders in their fields, honouring God in what they do and how they do it.

To achieve this, we aim to provide broad educational experiences that promote the spiritual, academic, social, cultural, physical and environmental growth of our students – what we call our Growth Domain areas. By developing real-world, transferrable skills, our students graduate as well-rounded individuals ready to

successfully negotiate the challenges of the future. We strive to ensure each student develops to be the best they can be.

St Leo's is part of the Catholic Schools Broken Bay system of schools and draws upon this system for expertise and support.

I invite you to visit us at our Open Day or arrange a tour to see the wealth of opportunities available at St Leo's and experience the warmth and caring of our community for yourself.

Yours sincerely,  
**Mr Anthony Gleeson**





*“ We recognise each student and encourage them to find their personal greatness. ”*

## Teaching and Learning

**St Leo's is an award winning school acknowledged for teaching excellence. We provide an engaging and challenging environment to learn, with a focus on promoting student growth.**

Underpinned by the Catholic Schools Broken Bay 'Towards 2025' vision, the goal of St Leo's Catholic College is to establish a positive culture of learning that enables each child to achieve their best.

Students are taught to think critically, apply knowledge to new situations and develop skills needed to become lifelong learners able to adapt and thrive in our ever-changing world.



Our teaching and learning focus provides staff with the ability to guide student learning through meaningful feedback which enables them to achieve learning growth.

Our dedicated staff bring a diverse range of experience and expertise to foster the individual growth of each student. We know that relationships are imperative to a student's experience with learning and school.

We offer a wide-ranging curriculum and extra-curricular program to ensure all students can find their best at the College.

## Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

We are proud of our strong reputation for the highest quality pastoral care. We recognise each student and encourage them to find their personal greatness. Our comprehensive Pastoral Care Program focuses on promoting wellbeing, connectedness, resilience and positive relationships and contributes to our ongoing reputation as a caring, inclusive community.

We ensure balanced and diverse growth through a College-wide focus on what we call our 'St Leo's Growth Domains' - the spiritual, academic, cultural, social emotional, environmental and physical development areas of all our students.

Mentor teachers work with each student to develop a Personalised Learning Plan and digital portfolio using our custom online Learning Den, setting goals and reflecting on their growth. Our pastoral programs include retreats, outdoor programs and peer support, as well as a comprehensive mentoring program. Our



Pathways Program assists students and their families transition beyond school to the 21st century workforce through partnerships with industry and higher education, while informing new educational offerings and approaches at St Leo's.

# Catholic Life and Mission

St Leo's is first and foremost a Catholic school, with the religious dimension of the College being a shared partnership between families, parish communities and the College.

Religion is an essential and comprehensive area of study for all students, prayer an important part of daily life, regular religious gatherings and celebrations not only embraced but enthusiastically led by students, and Christian leadership fostered through our Youth Ministry Program.

Students in Years 7-10 attend a Spirituality Day each year to help them develop their spiritual lives amidst their busy academic schedules, while the College provides a three-day retreat for both Year 11 and Year 12. A real sense of community exists at St Leo's and our newly refurbished Chapel is the spiritual heart, where a weekly Mass is also held which students have the option to attend.



## Our Faith in Action – Social Justice

There is a significant focus at St Leo's putting our faith into action and giving students agency and confidence to build a world that is positive, just and inclusive.

Our Youth Ministry staff empower students to put their faith into practice with a range of social justice opportunities. The College's Vinnies School Conference raised over \$30,000 in 2021 with activities including Project Compassion, the Vinnies Winter Sleepout and Christmas Appeal.

Students from Year 7-12 can express their passion to make a difference in our world through our Social Justice League and our Environmental Care Group. Outreach opportunities include Street Retreats in the city to learn about homelessness and visits to local nursing homes.



# Our College Facilities – Prepared for the Future

St Leo's is located on six hectares in the leafy Upper North Shore suburb of Wahroonga and has just completed an extensive \$30M campus and technology upgrade.

Our facilities include:

- the new state-of-the-art Mary MacKillop Centre for Creative and Performing Arts, Design, Technology and Hospitality, including:
  - dance theatre with retractable seating
  - separate drama studio
  - art gallery and visual art studios
  - specialty music, rehearsal rooms and individual instrumental tuition rooms
  - two commercial-grade kitchens
  - two TAS workshops for woodwork
  - several large meeting and gallery spaces
  - numerous purposeful and flexible learning spaces

- the Light of Christ Centre – a multipurpose complex for over 1500 people used for indoor sports, assemblies, musical productions and a range of College functions and events
- a newly refurbished Chapel
- two full-sized sports ovals
- two large, shaded outdoor recreational areas
- a well-equipped Aquinas Resource Centre including library and cafe
- newly refurbished canteen.





“ We offer a range of programs to ensure our students have the skills they need for a globalised world. ”

## Preparing Students for the Future – Technology, Innovation and More

We have a distinct STEM and innovation focus, offering a range of programs to ensure our students have the skills they need for a globalised world.

Technology is an integral part of daily learning, with individual student iPads or MacBooks and other learning technologies serving as important tools in developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills. Our experience has found that technology-enabled teaching and learning allows for more active engagement, it allows teaching to meet the student at their particular point of learning, and students are encouraged to advance their skills in a safe environment.

Our Learning Den is a custom-built online learning platform on which students can record and track their progress in a range of areas, giving them learning ownership and a digital portfolio to take with them to show employers when they leave.

Our innovative Pathways Program works with students and their families to navigate life beyond school, developing industry and higher education partnerships, and shaping new offerings and approaches to learning at St Leo's.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is a major focus at St Leo's. We have an interdisciplinary approach, where students apply STEM skills to make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise. We work with a range of industry experts on real-world applications and challenge-based learning activities to also foster collaboration, teamwork and other essential skills while having fun.

We run a large number of STEM co-curricular and extracurricular activities for students of all levels. A few of the many current opportunities include:

- Vex Robotics Challenge
- Minecraft Mondays
- Code Camp World
- Drone workshops
- Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality workshops
- Gaming Design workshops
- Cyber Security node
- Video challenges and competitions
- Media Crew





“ We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders in their fields. ”

## Preparing Students for the Future – Infinite Opportunities

We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders in their fields.

Overall, at St Leo's we are genuinely focussed on developing transferrable Deep Learning Skills that will equip all our students for the future by creating lifelong learners able to adapt to and challenge an ever-changing world. We are firm believers in the holistic growth of the student, across the six College Growth Domains: Academic, Spiritual, Environmental, Physical, Social/Emotional and Cultural.

To enable this, we offer an extraordinary array of opportunities across these Growth Domains for our students to find, explore and develop their passion into greatness. Just a small sample of our current opportunities include:

**Leadership:** Student Leadership programs; Ambassadors; Student Representative Council; Duke of Edinburgh program

**Academic:** debating; public speaking; Da Vinci Decathlon; maths and science competitions; Bell Shakespeare; spelling competitions

**Pathways and Careers:** a range of VET courses from Hospitality to Construction; numerous Pathways workshops, seminars and programs for all year groups; WorldSkills competitions; TVET

**Social Justice:** Street Retreats; Environmental Group; Reconciliation activities; Youth Ministry and Social Justice League; Vinnies School Conference; Youth Impact Challenge; Vinnies Sleepout; charity and awareness days; St Leo's Pacific Partnership Program (Kiribati Immersion)

**CAPA:** an extraordinary 20 co-curricular ensembles are offered to all our students, free of charge, from Girl's Rock to Accordion groups, Theatresports and Art Club to Drumline

**Sport:** A huge range of sports are offered as part of our weekly Sport for Life program, from self-defence to surfing. In addition, we have a tiered representative and high-performance program and a new partnership with Liverpool FC International Academy



# Beyond the Classroom – Creative and Performing Arts

**Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) are an integral part of the curriculum at St Leo's.**

The College specialises in Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts for Years 7 -12.

Our \$14M state-of-the-art Mary MacKillop Centre highlights our commitment to the arts and includes a drama and dance theatre with fully retractable seating, art gallery and studios, along with dedicated orchestra, band and music rooms.

Our exceptional music program includes various band, ensemble and choir programs, and an annual musical or drama production. Additionally, the College offers an impressive 20 co-curricular CAPA Ensembles (free to

all St Leo's students) and our specialist Private Music Tuition Program.

Our annual Showcase is an impressive community event featuring outstanding student works across the spectrum of Creative and Performing Arts.

St Leo's students regularly win awards and Eisteddfods, and are frequently invited to exhibit at ARTEXPRESS and ENCORE.

We are very proud to have had three students offered places at NIDA for 2019 and a First in the State for HSC Drama for 2021.



“Our new \$14m Mary MacKillop Centre highlights our commitment to the arts.”





“  
*St Leo's has a strong sporting culture and enjoys huge success in various representative sports.*  
 ”

## Beyond the Classroom – Sport for Life



**St Leo's has a strong sporting culture, and enjoys huge success in various sports.**

Students participate in a range of organised sporting events throughout the year including our regular Sport for Life program, offering high-quality tiered sporting opportunities covering a wide selection of team and individual sports.

Our representative and high-performance sports programs allow talented athletes to progress to higher levels including regional, state and national level and international tours.

We are also proud to announce our new partnership with Liverpool FC International Academy, with a Skill Development Centre right here at St Leo's!

