Quality Catholic Education

AQUINAS COLLEGE
VISION
Aquinas College is a welcoming Community enthused by the teachings of Jesus Christ where academic excellence is valued and students are nurtured and empowered to create a future of hope.

In living our vision we are inspired by:
- the academic excellence exemplified by Thomas Aquinas
- the mercy and justice witnessed by Catherine McAuley
- the faith and courage of Edmund Rice
- the proactive service embodied in the life of Caroline Chisholm
- the compassion of Oscar Romero

MISSION STATEMENT
Community
We value:
- a community where there is a love of God, of life, of others and of learning
- a welcoming community where we can feel safe, learn and be treated with respect
- the life and dignity of each person
- relationships which foster life-long learning

Learning
We value:
- a process of constant curriculum renewal
- a curriculum which offers a dynamic, challenging, rich and diverse range of learning experiences
- the learning which encourages stewardship of our environment

Inspired by our Patron, Thomas Aquinas, we value:

Spirituality
Community
Learning
A WELCOME TO AQUINAS COLLEGE
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Aquinas College. Aquinas College is a thriving, friendly community of learning which prides itself in offering quality Catholic education. The innovative curriculum, technologies and extensive resources provide the opportunity for every student to experience success. The welfare of each student is paramount. Staff are highly qualified, dedicated and committed to the teaching vocation.

Aquinas College opened its doors on January 28, 1964 with 136 boys as its first students. As a Parish School, it was administered by the Christian Brothers until 1987, when its first lay Principal was appointed.

In 1991, Aquinas College became a co-educational school. This eventuated after the closure of Star of the Sea, a Mercy College for girls, with a ninety year history. More than five decades later Aquinas College continues to thrive. There are currently over 1,100 students enrolled, and the College offers a challenging, rich and diverse curriculum and top class facilities.

The College’s development gives further witness to the spirit of Edmund Rice and Catherine McAuley who were the founders of the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy. They each inspired a spirit of courage, mercy, trust in providence and confidence in God. The learning environment of Aquinas College is animated by the spirit of freedom, love and mercy, wherein each student is able to experience respect, selfworth and unconditional acceptance.
Aquinas College is a Catholic college which draws deeply on Gospel values, and the spirit of service and mercy as established by Edmund Rice and Catherine McAuley. The Religious Education Program enables students to reflect on their own faith journey and their relationships with family, school, community and God. Students engage in compulsory Religious Education lessons throughout their years at the College culminating in the choice of Study of Religion or Religion and Ethics in senior years. While not all of our students are Catholics, parents appreciate the foundation such a program can give in establishing values for their future.

Students are encouraged to be involved in the Religious Life of the College through social justice and action initiatives.

Masses, Liturgies and attendance at Reflection Days and Retreats are integral to the faith life of the College community.
AQUINAS COLLEGE VALUES LEARNING AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE BY:

- Providing a challenging, rich and diverse curriculum
- Providing a learning environment in which all students are challenged to strive for personal excellence
- Challenging students to develop self discipline and to be active participants in their learning
- Enhancing learning through a Gifted and Talented Program
- Supporting the learning of students with additional needs through an inclusive approach to learning and teaching
- Providing opportunities for students to participate in Sporting Excellence Programs

LEARNING AT AQUINAS COLLEGE IS SUPPORTED BY EXTENSIVE FACILITIES INCLUDING:

- Contemporary classrooms and flexible learning areas designed to facilitate 21st century learning
- Information technologies that promote student learning through a range of technologies
- Modern Hospitality facilities including a full size commercial kitchen and an impressive training restaurant ‘Saniuqa’
- A creative Fashion and Design Studio
- Specialised Art, Music and Dance studios, and a Film and Media learning space
- Drama Centre with extensive sound, lighting and backstage facilities
- Elite all weather sporting facility
At Aquinas College we encourage everyone to be part of a caring and faithful community. The College Mission and Vision Statement encompasses academic excellence and a community where students are nurtured and empowered to create a future of hope. Faith, justice, service, compassion and mercy are our core values and define who we are as a community.

Pastoral Care of students at Aquinas College is centered around the strong traditions of our College patrons and the house system. At Aquinas we have four houses - Chisholm (Blue), McAuley (Yellow), Romero (Green) and Edmund Rice (Red) which actively promote school and house spirit and social justice values. The Vertical Pastoral Care (VPC) system ensures liaison between students, families and staff and is focused on the development and well-being of students. It has a strong focus on effective and supportive communication between school and families so that parents/caregivers are invited to be part of the College Community. Pastoral Care at the College also includes a strong emphasis on the healthy development of students through pastoral care lessons. The program includes emerging adolescent issues along with study skills and career development programs.

Retreats and camps are included in the curriculum to support the wholistic education of our students. These include a range of age appropriate activities that promote self-esteem and team building skills.

Opportunities exist for student leadership throughout all year levels. Students are encouraged to seek leadership opportunities and to contribute to the life of the College.

The College has full-time Counsellors who are accessible by students and families if needed. The Counsellors form part of the student well-being team at the College. Resources and advice are available on a range of issues.

At Aquinas College students have the right to feel safe, to learn and to be treated with respect.
IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

At Aquinas College, we challenge our students to develop life-long skills such as analytical thinking, clarity in written and spoken expression, collaboration, and creativity. These skills can all be developed through the arts and are valuable in any career.

Aquinas College has a thriving Arts Community at the core of its educational activities, offering a full range of academic subjects and co-curricular opportunities.

At the heart of this is the Arts Precinct, offering opportunities for students to excel in the Arts. Many students have followed creative pathways into tertiary study. The impact of the education in the Arts at Aquinas can be seen in the many past students who are still involved with the co-curricular activities at Aquinas College, including musicals and cabarets.

Drama students are provided with the unique ability to step into the shoes of others; to experience other worlds that can only be located somewhere deep within our imaginations.

Drama promotes critical thinking, so that students can formulate and express their own opinions. Students choose Drama to build their communication skills, confidence, self-discipline and collaborative learning skills.

Dance at Aquinas College encourages and enables students to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, and reflective learners and provides an outlet for artistic expression and creativity while promoting positive self-esteem and working with others. Students study and participate in a variety of dance styles and genres and learn to choreograph, appreciate and perform danceworks. Students are provided opportunities to work with guest artists, witness professional live dance performances and extra curricular activities and performance.

The fully equipped dance studio at Aquinas College provides a professional, safe space in which the students are able to explore and expand their dance skills and knowledge.

Music students at Aquinas College have several opportunities to demonstrate their exceptional talents.

The Music Department offers several diverse experiences for students within our co-curricular program. The College Concert Band and Jazz Band rehearse regularly and perform frequently throughout the school year. Additionally, the liturgical group, Pro Deo, a smaller rock band comprising vocalists, guitarists, pianists and drummers, perform at liturgical events at the College.

Our team of private instrumental tutors compliments the co-curricular groups that are offered at the College. Private tuition is offered for a number of musical instruments and students who are interested are encouraged to contact the Music Department.

Aquinas College provides students with a diverse range of approaches in the area of Visual Arts. Students are encouraged to actively engage in their learning, developing an appreciation for a variety of subject matters and cultures. All students across all year levels can embrace the rich and diverse methods and emerging technological experiences found within Visual Art and Film Television and New Media. This opportunity allows students to have a unique means of expression that captures the passion, emotion and creativity required to actively participate in this rapidly changing world.
The development of skills in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a vital component of education in a 21st century community. Aquinas College students have access to a dedicated device to use for academic study.

Aquinas College provides a wide variety of opportunities for students to develop skills formally within designated Information Technology classes from Year 7. In addition, Aquinas College students and teachers utilise technology to create contemporary learning environments and quality learning outcomes.

Aquinas College seeks to maintain pace with developments in ICT that are constantly occurring. New and emerging technologies are reviewed continuously and incorporated into the College where appropriate.

Our learning opportunities enable students to develop a rich knowledge and appropriate skills, competencies and values. Our 21st century community shares a common vision for the future of our young people to be successful in a highly developed technological world.
With its new facilities, Aquinas College has built one of the best hospitality training facilities in South East Queensland. The commercial kitchen allows our senior students to develop their skills and knowledge to function at industry level and to gain valuable life-skills. The senior programs provide students with a challenging, stimulating and creative range of learning experiences.

Many work experience opportunities are offered through our partnerships with several of the Gold Coast's leading hotels. Regular chef visits, excursions and running of functions in our home management room, gives the senior hospitality students a broad insight into the hospitality industry and its many different pathways.

With two domestic kitchens, Aquinas Hospitality is catering for the junior food technology students promoting healthy living, hygiene and safety procedures in the kitchen. The students are challenged to make healthy living choices, research and produce recipes and work in teams.

In the textiles room, students develop skills in design and the safe use of a sewing machine with many creative outcomes.

Certificate courses are offered at Aquinas College in partnership with registered providers. Vocational pathway courses are highly recognised national qualifications. Students can also use these as an alternative pathway into university and TAFE.
Aquinas College has workshop and design facilities that are modern and flexible. We are able to offer a range of learning experiences including traditional wood, plastics and metal skills. Students explore materials and solve design tasks as well as learning trade type skills including machining and welding.

Our new workshop spaces also have cutting edge machinery such as laser cutters, 3D printers and a CAD CAM Mill/Lathe. Students are able to learn how to create objects using industry standard software and by operating these machines in a modern ‘clean’ workshop place.

Graphics lends a hand to both workshops, as well as providing students with skills in areas such as engineering and architecture. Aquinas College is building opportunities for students in many employment pathways.
Aquinas College has a thriving International Program that provides opportunities for students and their families to interact with others from other countries.

At the heart of this program is our strong relationships built with our partner schools in Japan.

Annually, we welcome our partner schools to the College and this provides all students, not just those studying Japanese, the opportunity to build friendships and engage in cultural activities with our visitors. Activities such as Australian bush days, excursions to our local attractions, homestay opportunities and integration into classes at Aquinas allow students to interact and become culturally aware citizens. In today’s society it is imperative we can communicate successfully with our regional neighbours and here at Aquinas we are allowing students this opportunity thus creating a generation of globally aware citizens.

Japanese is offered at the college from Years 7-12 with many students of Aquinas College choosing to continue their language education after graduation. There are many activities that take place in the Languages other than English (LOTE) department including cultural eating opportunities, excursions to Japanese gardens and utilising Skype technologies to interact with our partner schools. The College also offers students studying Japanese the opportunity to travel to Japan.

The College is committed to the continued growth and pursuit of excellence in languages and to provide students the opportunity to become culturally aware citizens.
Aquinas College has a proud tradition of success in the sporting arena. All students are given the opportunity to participate in a range of sports at both school and representative level.

Sports at Aquinas includes:

- Weekly competition in a range of various team sports in Terms 1-3.
- Wider Sport Experience Program in Term 4. Students experience a number of different water and team based sports run by qualified coaches.
- Large inter-house based competitions, including swimming, cross-country and athletics carnivals.
- Opportunities to represent the College in different sports at district, state and national level.
- An Annual Sport Excellence Awards Night that celebrates the success of our students in individual and team sports.
- Specialised Excellence Programs designed as pathways to higher representative honours.

RUGBY LEAGUE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The Rugby League Excellence Program is an exciting innovation suited to those young men who have a commitment to, and love of, Rugby League. The Program is conducted by qualified rugby league coaches and encourages students to achieve in all of their endeavours.

The Program continues a long-standing tradition of rugby league at Aquinas College, which has produced State of Origin and Australian representatives.

ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE

Athletics Excellence is a program that caters for talented athletic students who are interested and willing to train hard to better their cross country and athletics performance.

The major aim for students will not only be to better their personal best performances, but to set goals and aim for higher representation at District, Regional and State Level.

Special training clinics at Griffith University Track will be organised to gain access to elite coaches (some coach Australian representatives and some are current Australian representatives) and provide training in a specialist facility.

Students will be provided with quality coaching from experienced staff who will give constructive feedback with the aim of improving student performance within the school environment.
NETBALL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The Netball Excellence Program is a program offering young women the chance to develop and expand their netball skills in a range of sporting endeavours.

Throughout the year, students are given the opportunity to compete in a number of competitions including the Queensland Independent Secondary Schools Netball Competition (QISSN), the Vicki Wilson Cup and the Queensland Catholic Cup, as well as a number of local competitions.

BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Basketball team members are expected to demonstrate commitment to their academics and to their development of athletic abilities.

Both teams train after school hours and compete annually at the Queensland State Championships.

Additionally, students compete as a club team within the community. Both teams allow for students of all ages to trial for team membership.

TOUCH FOOTBALL

Aquinas College offers a number of opportunities for students to compete in a range of boys, girls and mixed tournaments throughout the year. Furthermore, weekly games as part of the AGCC (Association of Gold Coast Colleges) competition enhances the development of all students. A key focus is on the work ethic, commitment and sportsmanship of the teams as they build toward the annual Queensland All Schools Competition, held in Brisbane. This competition is the biggest school-based touch football competition in the world, with over 300 teams entering each year. Aquinas College has quickly reestablished itself as a powerhouse in Queensland touch football and continues to provide students with outstanding opportunities to improve their skills and understanding of the game.

AFL PROGRAM

AFL, at Aquinas, is on offer to any student who has the desire to participate, applying the disciplines and requirements of team sport. Our AFL program includes after school practical training sessions, education in fitness, fair play, tactics, training drills and skills. The students, both male and female, engage in full contact match play. We also have a direct link with the Gold Coast Suns and they assist us with training, events and pathways to elite programmes. This is also backed by the professional staff at AFL QLD. Students have the opportunity to participate in an Inter-school competition and other events throughout the year including the AFL Aquinas Carnival (AFLAC).
Aquinas College aims to promote active student participation in the broader community through engagement in a wide range of sporting, cultural and spiritual activities. The College prides itself on its diverse range of unique and engaging extra-curricular activities that are not traditionally offered at other secondary schools.

AQUINAS COLLEGE EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The Aquinas College Equestrian team has been operating since its inception in 2011. The Equestrian scene provides students with the opportunity to represent the College at both State and National levels and to compete in various Equestrian disciplines at inter-school competitions throughout Queensland and New South Wales; as well as Regional, State and National Championship events throughout the year. Equestrian at Aquinas is a growing, yet highly respected extra-curricular discipline here at the college, which continues to exhibit great success year after year.

HUMAN POWERED VEHICLE CHALLENGE

The Human Powered Vehicle challenge has been a long-standing and extremely popular extra-curricular activity that is offered to students at Aquinas College. The Human Powered Vehicle or "HPV" challenge as it is known here at the College, involves a unified team of students and teachers with a collective goal to Design, Make and Race a mobile vehicle that is powered by the force of a "Human" or student driver. Students design and train in their vehicles over a 6 month period which leads to various HPV challenges throughout Queensland during the year.

HPV requires students to push through extreme physical and mental challenges, in addition to the mechanical and technical barriers that they often encounter throughout these events. HPV is a very unique and highly beneficial extra-curricular activity for Aquinas students to be involved in, as it promotes social development, higher order problem solving as well as collaborative team work and physical activity.

KOKODA CHALLENGE

"Upholding The Kokoda Spirit"

Aquinas College offers students the opportunity to take part in the annual Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge. The Kokoda challenge involves small teams of 4 students and 1 "teacher-leader" working together to complete a strenuous trek through the arduous hiking trails of the Gold Coast Hinterland. Each year, Aquinas students compete against other Queensland Secondary schools in the Kokoda Challenge event. Students and their teachers are given a time limit to complete the trek in an effort to honour our fallen Australian diggers, who once trekked the famous Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea during World War 2. Ironically, the original Australian diggers of the 39th Militia Battalion also completed the PNG Kokoda trail in 1942 within this designated time limit. Through this event, students and teachers get to experience similar physical and mental struggles that our fallen diggers once faced whilst trekking along the Kokoda trail. In their teams, the students and their teacher-leader, work together to overcome the physical and emotional challenges of the track and ultimately finish the race together- leaving no man behind. This event essentially encourages students to uphold the true nature of the Kokoda Spirit - Endurance, Courage, Mateship and Sacrifice. This is a life changing opportunity for any student who loves a challenge.

YEAR 7-10 CAMPS

The focus of the Aquinas College Camp program is to give students an opportunity to experience alternative activities and engage in life-long learning outside of the traditional classroom setting. Students in Years 7-10 are engaged in a range of camps that vary and offer many experiences for students throughout Years 7-10.

The success of the camp program is evidenced by the overwhelming feedback the College continues to receive from both parents and students alike, exemplifying the positive experiences, enjoyment and exciting challenges that the students faced throughout their experience. Camps are offered to students as a part of their life-long learning development as active participants within the broader Community.

An Active Community
FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS AQUINAS COLLEGE HAS PROVIDED THE ENVIRONMENT THAT HAS HELPED TO SHAPE THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOOD OF OUR STUDENTS.

In choosing a school, you choose a community. When you choose Aquinas College, you choose a caring, warm and dynamic community that prepares students for a changing and challenging world.

We are proud of the achievements of our past students who have gone from strength to strength as young men and women of integrity based on the quality of their secondary education. This background of success strengthens the College in meeting the challenges of the new millennium.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Aquinas College community.