

Discover Aquinas College



PROSPECTUS



COLLEGE



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Discover Aquinas College

Welcome to Aquinas College, the oldest co-educational Catholic College on the Gold Coast. Founded in 1964 by the Christian Brothers as a boy's school, it later became co-educational when girls attended with the closing of Star of the Sea College which was founded by the Sisters of Mercy. Since that time, Aquinas has grown to become a dynamic and contemporary community of learners.

As a student at Aquinas College, your child will join an impressive legacy of men and women who have been educated at our College since 1964. Today we remain one of Queensland's leading Catholic Colleges on the Gold Coast.

We invite you to visit our campus for a tour.

Visit our website at: www.aquinas.qld.edu.au

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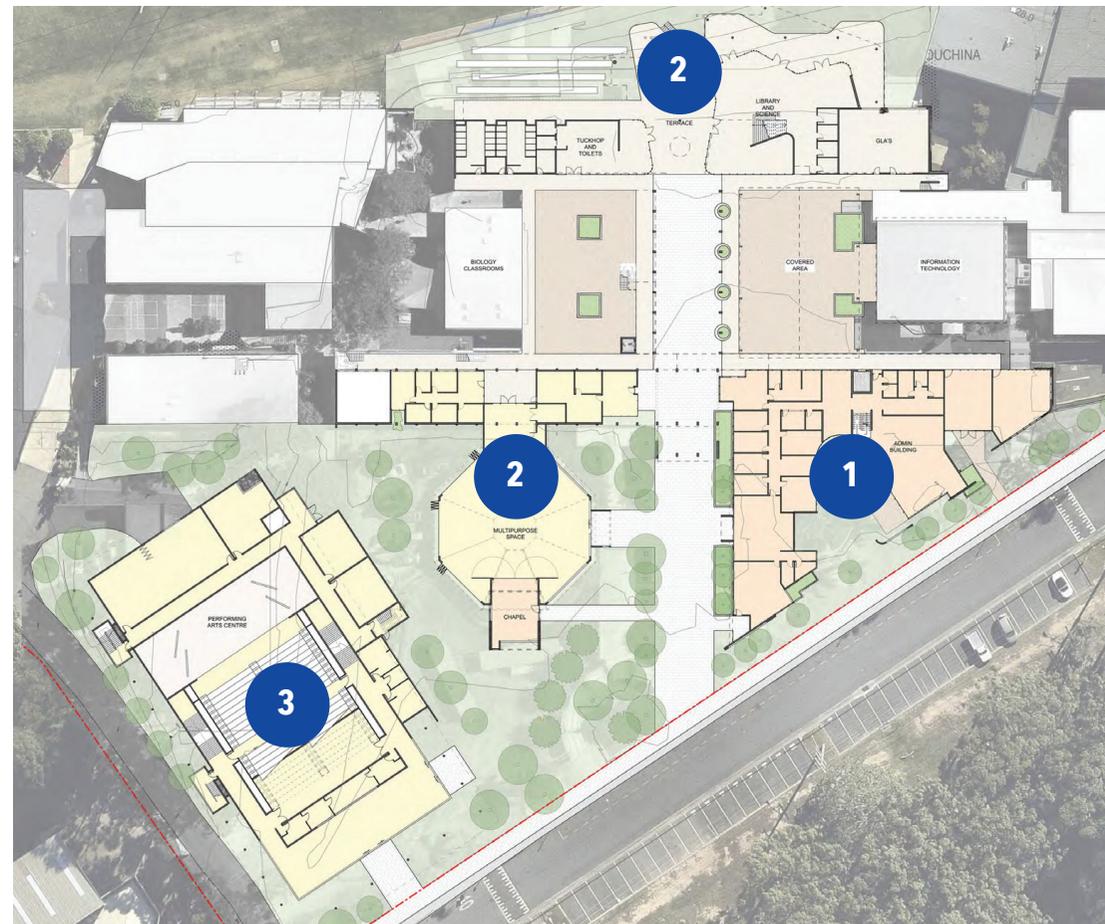
Master Plan

We are excited that Aquinas College is embarking on a new journey.

The development and commencement of the Masterplan will provide more contemporary and engaging learning environments.

The Masterplan development has three stages:

- Stage 1** Administration Building and Staff work space.
Expected completion date - 2020.
- Stage 2** New College Library and conversion of existing library into flexible space and chapel.
Expected commencement date - 2024
- Stage 3** Performing Arts Centre.
Expected commencement date - 2028





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Strategic Goals

The Strategic Plan: 2019-2021, identifies key 'touch stones' that will drive our engagement in areas of our Religious Identity, Teaching and Learning and professional accountability.

STRONG CATHOLIC IDENTITY



Aspiration

Strengthen our capacity to lead, engage and teach with a re-contextualised Catholic world-view within a contemporary multi-charism Catholic College.

STRATEGIES

- Grow the holistic and inclusive formation of students
- Grow the holistic and inclusive formation of staff
- Sustain and enhance authentic expressions of Catholic identity
- Embed a contemporary Catholic perspective in identified learning areas and student well-being processes
- Improve classroom teaching of religion through effective teaching practice, including the monitoring of student progress and enhancing teacher knowledge of the Catholic story

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Aspiration

To cultivate an inclusive College community where academic excellence is valued, and all are empowered to nurture a dynamic, challenging, rich and diverse range of learning and teaching experiences.



STRATEGIES

- Improve student progress and achievement through engagement through enhanced pedagogical practices
- Accelerate the profile of literacy and numeracy at the College
- Seek opportunities and develop processes for teachers and students to work in collaboration with each other and the wider school community

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Aspiration

Strengthen processes and policies to support accountability to achieve our priorities with staff and students.



STRATEGIES

- Implement a Professional Learning Strategy to build capacity in all staff
- Strengthen processes and systems to support evidence-based decision making, accountability, and governance to achieve our priorities
- Ensuring sustainability elements are considered in all master planning and actions

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Academic Programs

Aquinas College is a vibrant, close-knit community where students, teachers and parents share in the process of learning. We strive to provide individualised learning for students with varying abilities. Our transition program into Year 7 and beyond ensures a successful pathway through the Junior School into the Senior School.

Our teachers understand the complexity of today's learning environment and provide educational experiences that challenge and extend students to achieve their personal best. Every student has the opportunity to excel, through an exciting and progressive curriculum within a sound moral, ethical and supportive environment.

Our students are prepared for life after school with a strong focus on 21st Century skills including Creative Thinking, Communication, Collaboration & Teamwork, Social Skills and ICT Skills.







A photograph of two students, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both wearing white school uniforms with blue and red accents. They are smiling and looking towards each other. The background shows a building and trees under a clear blue sky.

Our Catholic Identity

Aquinas College is a contemporary Catholic College inspired by our Christian Brothers and Mercy Sisters heritage. The College is a ministry of the Southport Catholic Parish and aims to be a community where Christ's message is expressed in relevant and meaningful ways to students.

Aquinas College has a distinctive and vibrant Catholic Identity built around the person and vision of Christ, and the faith and spirituality of our College patrons: St Thomas Aquinas, Edmund Rice, Catherine McAuley, Caroline Chisholm and Oscar Romero.

The spirituality and faith of each student is nurtured and valued as an important part of their growth and development as they journey through the College.

We hope to foster and develop the values of mercy, justice, faith, courage, service and compassion in our students to empower and enable students to not only be transformational in their own lives, but also in the lives of others.

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Wellbeing

At Aquinas College students are guided through their transition from adolescence to adulthood with a focus on developing spiritual, resilient and courageous global citizens.

With more than half a century of experience in assisting parents and young people in their educational journey, our teaching staff draw on a rich tradition of pastoral care, behaviour support and wellbeing programs.

Our House System

A student will usually spend their time at the College with the same Vertical Pastoral Care (VPC) teacher who assists and supports the social, emotional, physical and academic journey of each student in their Pastoral Care Group.







Careers and Future Pathways

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is a learning pathway providing senior students the opportunity to engage in education and training which may lead to employment and/or further study.

Aquinas College has built relationships with several external partners to provide students with well defined pathways to tertiary study or employment.

Aquinas aims to provide programs to meet the needs of students of all academic levels and give them the opportunity to achieve their full potential in a supportive educational environment. VET allows the College to provide students with individual pathway plans to assist them in transitioning from the College to employment, further training or tertiary education.

VET qualifications can be undertaken in Years 10, 11 and 12 and may provide credit towards the Queensland Certificate of Education.

Some of the benefits of participating in VET include:

- Providing direct pathways to tertiary study (University, TAFE, Private Training Providers)
- Obtaining practical experience from work
- Gaining familiarity with workplace operations
- Developing employability skills
- Developing and improving interpersonal skills
- Allowing students to explore the potential career path they would like to pursue

Successful completion also provides students with nationally recognised qualifications that deliver the skills and knowledge required for specific industries and occupations.

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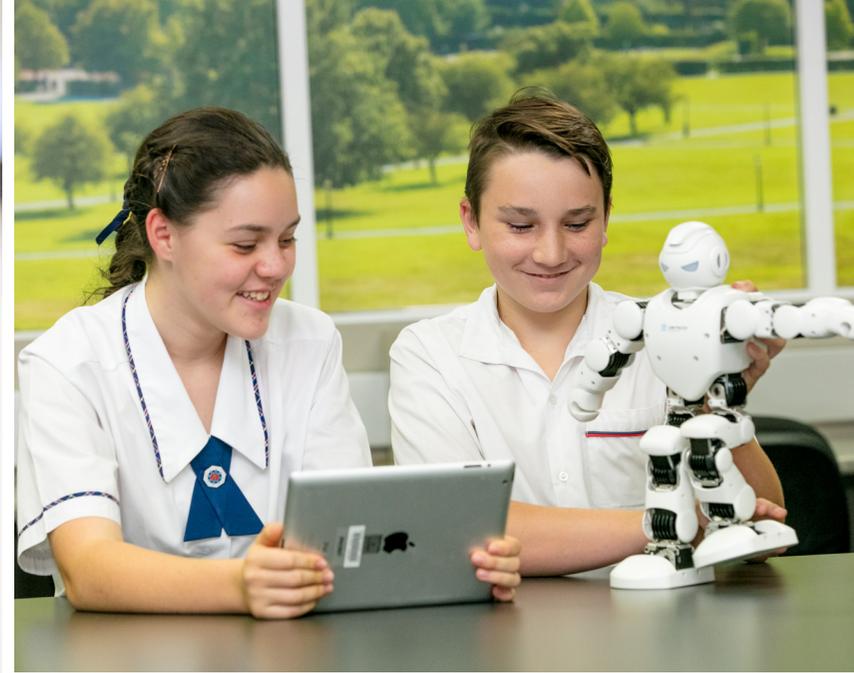
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Science, Design and Technology

With 6 well-equipped Science laboratories, a state-of-the-art Technology precinct and opportunities to be involved in extra-curricular clubs and activities in the areas of Science, Design & Technology, students are well placed to embrace the technological world.

Within the Science and Technologies curriculum, Aquinas College allows students opportunities for exploration and discovery using project based learning in a creative and engaging environment.







The Arts

At Aquinas College, The Arts is a flourishing area in which students are able to express their creative thoughts and explore a variety of concepts. Students develop new skills and knowledge in a wide range of mediums to become positively involved in this world.

Complimenting the classroom curriculum is a comprehensive Arts program that is dedicated to excellence and has an outstanding reputation for the variety and professionalism of our productions and performances.

Through jazz and wind ensembles, rock bands, vocal groups, dance excellence, drama and musical productions we develop talents, practise to perfection and create remarkable experiences for every student.

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Sport

Whether for fun, fitness or the excitement of serious competition, our sports program offers students opportunities to participate in a range of sports at a level of their choice. Aquinas College has a strong tradition of sport with all students participating annually in carnivals that are held for Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country.

At Aquinas College, we acknowledge that sport enhances learning in the classroom through improving cognitive skills, critical thinking skills, decision making, problem solving and organisation. Participating in teams enables students to build confidence in themselves and encourages positive relationships with their peers, teachers and coaches. Students are encouraged to strive to achieve their best within their chosen sporting pursuit.









Service and Leadership

Nurturing a culture of compassion, mercy, justice, faith, courage and service, Aquinas provides students with continual opportunities to work together to develop relationships and initiatives that will help those less fortunate in our local and International communities. Leadership experiences allow students to grow and develop confidence, resilience and working with others.

Community

Aquinas College is a vibrant, close-knit community where students, teachers and parents share in the journey of learning. Aquinas families, past, present and future, as well as our Parents and Friends Association and Alumni, all form part of the unique and supportive environment that makes the Aquinas community so special.

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