



St Philip's Christian College - Newcastle

Prospectus





| History

St Philip's Christian College, Waratah, a co-educational K-12 independent school, established in 1982 with 25 students, currently has a student population of 1,400. The College is ideally located in the heart of Newcastle, in close proximity to Newcastle University.

The College seeks to acknowledge the potential and uniqueness of each student, and aims to provide opportunities for intellectual, social, cultural, moral, spiritual and physical development, which will stand students in good stead for the whole of their life.

Being passionate about the pursuit of excellence in all areas, the College moved to a 3 sub-school model in 2001; Junior School (K-4), which supports children in their foundation years of schooling by providing a creative and nurturing environment, Middle School (5-8), which focuses on meeting the needs of emerging adolescents by developing confident and resilient young people who enjoy life's journey and achieve their unique God-given potential in all areas, and Senior School (9-12), which assists students in finishing strong, and stepping into the future with the passion, motivation and the ability to make a difference in the world. In 2020, an additional pathway for completing Stage 6 (11&12), HSC SmartTrack, was successfully pioneered, providing students with the opportunity to achieve an HSC, as well as vocational qualifications with industry experience.

The College is constantly updating facilities, the most recent being new K-2 and 7-10 flexible learning spaces. In 2022, a new state-of-the-art Active Learning Centre will be opened.



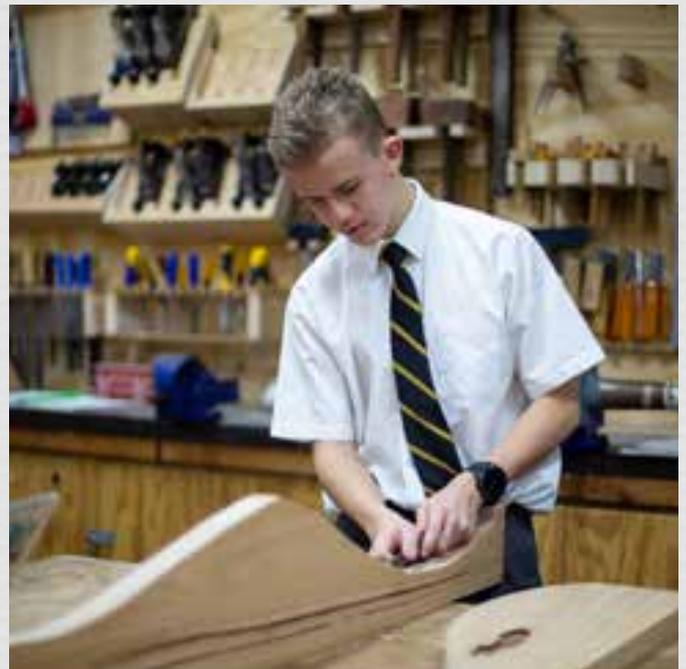


| Vision, Mission & Values

OUR VISION

St Philip's Christian College seeks to be a leading provider of quality Christian schooling within our nation, where:

- Every student develops a personal faith in Jesus Christ and is empowered to live with purpose, integrity and joy.
- Every student achieves their God-given potential and is well equipped to make a significant contribution to society.
- Every student benefits from innovative and effective learning experiences taught by skilled and dedicated teachers.
- Every student enjoys a safe and secure learning environment wherein they feel connected and affirmed.
- Every student contributes to a culture of respect, dignity, care and concern for others.
- Every student has access to excellent learning resources and is taught in the best learning facilities we can provide.



OUR MISSION

St Philip's Christian College will continue to provide quality education in a caring, secure and challenging learning environment based on Christian beliefs, values and practice

OUR CORE VALUES

Christ first
Serve one another
Strive for excellence
Do what is right
Build community



| Christian Ministry

OUR BELIEF

Every student is made in the image of God. Therefore, meeting their unique needs is our primary motivation. The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians emphasises the importance of supporting students' social, emotional, physical and spiritual development. As a Christian School, our aim is to meet these important objectives, so that we provide them with the best opportunities to prepare them 'for the whole of their life'.

OUR AIM

The aim of the College is to empower students to explore and develop a personal Christian faith through a range of experiences and teaching, including, but not limited to:

- Regular vibrant Chapel services
- Christian Life Studies from Preschool to Year 12
- School prayer groups and Bible studies
- Nurture programs and one-on-one student support
- Leadership development and life skills development
- Opportunities to engage in service learning locally, in Australia and overseas in countries such as Vanuatu, Malawi and the USA.

As they strengthen their Christian beliefs and values, they will make a positive difference in the community and beyond.

OUR MISSION

Opportunities to impact the community are made available through mission outreach, service programs and the performing arts. For example, every year, students from across the College perform in outstanding musical productions that attract thousands of people from our local community. Students in Year 10 are encouraged to participate in a service mission trip to the remote indigenous community of Boggabilla, NSW. Overseas mission opportunities are also available in India, Malawi, and the USA (The Dream Center in Los Angeles). In Year 12, students are offered the opportunity to serve in Vanuatu as an alternative to 'schoolies'.





I Nurturing the Individual

At St Philip's Christian College, we seek to personally affirm and positively recognise students as individuals in a nurturing and caring K-12 learning community.

One of the College's greatest strengths is the positive relationship that exists between students and teachers. Together, we aim to explore the individual interests and talents of each individual student, so that every student is supported in realising their unique, God-given potential. Some of the programs available include:

- Academic, Sporting, Creative & Performing Arts, and Gifted and Talented Programs
- Special Education support and Individual Plans for students with special needs
- Award-winning Vocational Education and Training programs
- State and National STEM competitions
- Extracurricular opportunities in STEM, Sport, and the Creative & Performing Arts
- Award-winning Musical and Theatre Productions
- Individual Academic Mentoring for every student in Year 12

STUDENT WELLBEING SUPPORT

We believe that in order to learn and thrive, every student in our College needs to be individually known. Whether in Junior School, Middle School or Senior School, every student in the College has a homeroom teacher who sees them on a daily basis, ensuring that each individual feels safe, secure and known at school.

The Dean of Students, supported by the Student Support Services team, including a qualified psychologist, oversees the student welfare of the College. On a day to day basis, the individual is managed by a sub-school team including Head of School, Assistant Head(s) of School, Lead Educators and Wellbeing Advisors, who by activating effective systems and structures to meet the needs of each individual student.

Our Ministry Team, including accredited School Chaplains, provide additional one-on-one support and spiritual leadership to individual students, staff and the College community.

A range of both formal and informal leadership development opportunities exist for students as they move through the College. Formal roles include Student Leaders, Prefects, House Captains and Captains in each of the sub-schools. Additionally, a range of other leadership opportunities also exist in sport, ministry and community events throughout the life of the College.





| Learning and Teaching

Because every student is uniquely created, deserving of love and respect, and bears the image of God, it is our aim to know each child as an individual and to create pathways within classrooms, so that every child is appropriately challenged and supported to take the next step in their learning.

We live in an exciting, dynamic world that makes complex demands on children and young people. Therefore, it is essential that students are not only well-prepared 'for the whole of their life', but are empowered with an understanding of how to learn, and how learning contributes to an abundant life.

By providing a learning framework that is relevant to their present and future lives, students have the possibility of being empowered for true life-long learning and human flourishing. With the intention to embed the 25 learning habits of the SPCC 'Whole of Life Framework' into all teaching and learning experiences through explicit teaching and practice, the foundation is laid for our students to become skilled learners, and live lives that are richer and more joyful.



Ultimately, our approach to learning and teaching can be summed up in the phrase, 'Student-Centred Learning', because our aim is to provide educational programs, learning experiences, instructional and support strategies that address the unique learning needs, interests, cultural backgrounds and aspirations of all of our students, both individually and corporately.

We recognise that teaching is both a science and an art; a science, in designing effective strategies and practices that enhance learning and inspire student progress, as well as the need for research to inform practice; an art, in understanding how to evoke a passion for learning through intentionally choosing the tools and materials that will create the desired learning outcome.

Because teachers and leaders in the College are professionals, who view themselves as learners also, they work collaboratively to improve their practice so that all SPCC students can engage in vibrant experiences that facilitate the development of skills, knowledge, understanding and a mindset to understand and realise all that they were created to be, and do. For this reason, there is a deliberate focus on evidence-based professional development, founded on the belief that every teacher and every student can continue to learn and grow. Thus, every teacher and student should be on a trajectory of continuous improvement.

| Narnia

Narnia Christian Preschool and Early Childhood Centre caters for children from birth to five years of age, and offers a dynamic and creative environment tailored to meet the needs of your child.

Narnia aims to provide environments indoors and out that allow children to be themselves; to experience joy, wonder and fun, to become engrossed with new ideas, discovery and interests and to learn more about who they are as created by a loving God.

We follow the Early Years Learning Framework and focus on the beauty of the individual. We celebrate learning and discovery together, and explore every marvellous aspect of the present in an unhurried and natural way.



I Junior School (K-4)

Laying Strong Foundations

At St Philip's Christian College Junior School, we believe that every child has been created with special gifts and talents. With the aim to inspire, to draw out the 'gold' within, and to equip each student to become the best they can be, in every area of their life, students are provided with opportunities to help them discover their unique gifts and talents, whether it be academic learning, experiential play, focussed STEM lessons or participation in Junior School Musical productions, to name but a few.

Each year group from Kindergarten to Year 4 consists of three classes, with all cohorts accommodated in large, flexible learning environments that can be managed to suit the learning requirements, accordingly. Each year group is further supported daily by additional Learning Support staff and Gifted Education specialists, alongside specialist teachers, who deliver weekly PE, Spanish, Library, Music, Dance and Drama lessons.

Junior School students have age-appropriate access to technology, including iPads and MacBooks, and, in the STEM makerspace, can explore robotics, coding programs and experiment with 3D printers.

Using a two-tiered approach, students receive evidence-informed explicit instruction for essential skill development, and, for wider and deeper learning with real-world connections, have the opportunity to independently and collaboratively, discover and expand their understanding, by taking responsibility for their learning, with well-structured and strategised teacher support.

The SPCC 'Whole of Life' Framework is embedded in the life of the College, providing a larger, holistic context for Junior School students to begin developing the essential habits of learning that will not only benefit them in the early and later years of schooling, but in life, beyond.



| Middle School (5-8)

Enjoying the Journey

At St Philip's Christian College Middle School, we believe that emerging adolescents have unique needs and should be supported in their transition from childhood to adolescence, so that they become confident, resilient and responsible young people.

Because of the varying rates of emotional and cognitive development during these years, Middle School teachers are trained to understand that, because 'the emotional brain' develops more quickly, there is a need to create activities that channel students' energies in constructive directions, by activating their imaginations, making learning relevant to their personal lives and allowing a place for humour and laughter. In order to develop 'the rational brain' of early and young adolescents, Middle School teachers provide learning experiences that develop a growth mindset, strengthen goal-setting behaviours, increase self-regulation and necessitate critical thinking.

Because the Middle School is an environment where students' learning is engaging, relevant, rewarding and exciting, opportunities are provided for these students to have unique experiences that enable them to discover who they are and develop meaningful friendships, while receiving the support they need.

A crucial factor for Middle School students' success is the opportunity to enter into positive and meaningful student-teacher relationships. Understanding the crucial nature of such relationships, Middle School teachers work diligently to foster these with all of their students.

With a passion to see students thrive, grow and 'enjoy the journey', St Philip's Christian College Middle School provides flexible and interactive learning environments that cater to the needs of emerging adolescents, inspiring them to be lifelong learners. In such innovative and dynamic spaces, students' curiosity is ignited, and they become active participants in their learning and community.



| Senior School (9-12)

Securing the Future

Students in Years 9 to 12 at St Philip's Christian College are encouraged, through a range of high-quality learning experiences, to realise their unique, God-given potential, and to achieve academic excellence, as well as personal, physical and spiritual growth and development.

Senior School students, supported by enthusiastic and dedicated teachers, have ready access to excellent instruction, technology and resource networks.

With a rich curriculum being offered, students have the opportunity to engage with their learning in powerful and transformational ways. Extracurricular experiences such as representative sports, musical productions, choirs, bands, camps and mission trips, provide further opportunity for every student to find a place where they can thrive.

The academic pathway inspires Senior School students wanting to gain University entrance with confidence, as the percentage of students offered University placements is generally above 75%.

An outstanding Vocational Education and Training Program is also available.

All students undertaking the Higher School Certificate are provided with one-to-one academic mentoring support, with staff providing guidance, encouragement, examination preparation, study plans and well-being support.



| Senior School (9-12)

Every student has an individual timetable, providing flexibility and the opportunity for study leave.

As students mature and seek to grow and develop as leaders, training and leadership opportunities are provided.

A trained and experienced Careers Advisor is able to support students in seeking future pathways, and providing opportunity for visits to universities, careers expos, work placement experiences.

For students who want to study subjects that are not delivered face to face on-site, opportunity is afforded for distance education with tutor support. Extension courses are provided for students who are seeking higher levels of academic challenge, and for academically-gifted students, opportunities to gain university accreditation during their Senior School years are offered.

A highlight of the Senior School is the opportunity it provides for students to be involved in Christian Ministry and service, both at the College, locally and, even, globally.

A well-structured and supported pastoral care and welfare program is established, providing students with the support they need in these demanding years of schooling. One of the strengths of the Senior School is the strong student-teacher bonds that are created, particularly in Years 11 & 12, when the classes are smaller, and the student usually has the same teacher for 2 years.



I HSC SmartTrack

HSC SmartTrack is a Year 11 and 12, non-ATAR, HSC pathway that is about 'doing school differently'. Students achieve their Higher School Certificate, without undertaking examinations, gain nationally recognised vocational qualifications, and valuable industry experience in the workplace. Through a focus on goal setting, collaboration, project-based learning and 21st century employability skills, students can achieve their HSC in a manner best-suited to their style of learning.

HSC SmartTrack introduces students to an adult learning environment with flexible class times, an alternative school uniform, and increased choice and voice in their education. The learning is integrated, real-world, and project-based, with ventures that are designed to be relevant and challenging for young adults, such as planning and running a community event, navigating the challenges of buying your first car, or growing a small entrepreneurial idea into an exciting business start-up.

HSC SmartTrack accelerates students towards their goals for the future. Whether they are pursuing further study at University, TAFE, entering the workforce, or commencing a trade, HSC SmartTrack provides students with the skills, qualifications and experience they need to step into their future with confidence, optimism and expertise.





I VET Program

Vocational Education and Training (VET) provides students with a wide range of alternative pathways towards the HSC and post-school options. VET courses offered at SPCC are dual-accredited, allowing students to obtain a nationally recognised qualification while contributing to the completion their HSC. Some courses will also contribute to the calculation of an ATAR.

School-based vocational education and training enables students to gain skills and experience for a smooth transition from school to work, and assists young people to be industry-ready, whilst engaging them in real-world quality learning experiences.

St Philip's Christian College was the first Newcastle independent school to embrace an alternative HSC VET pathway, and is now recognised as a leader of school-based vocational education and training in the Hunter region.

SPCC Newcastle currently delivers a range of VET courses including Hospitality, Construction, Entertainment Industry, Screen and Media and Visual Arts. We also partner with external training providers to deliver courses such as Allied Health, Christian Ministry and Outdoor Recreation.





| **Beyond** the Classroom

At St Philip's Christian College, students have the opportunity to participate in a range of experiences that take them beyond the classroom, to grow, to think and to be challenged.

Students engage in challenging, age-appropriate experiences, from day trips in Kindergarten, to annual camps in Years 3-12, and even optional overseas study tours and mission trips in the senior years.

These experiences are each designed to stretch, challenge and enrich students by broadening their experience, challenging their thinking and inspiring them to consider the world beyond themselves.

Student experiences include (but are not limited to):

- Strapping on a backpack and hiking for 3 days through a gorge,
- Exploring remote Australian communities and engaging in missional projects,
- Working with an NGO in Malawi Africa to help bring justice and support effective community development,
- Celebrating the conclusion of Year 12 with friends in Vanuatu, as volunteers in a community project.

Every one of these experiences provide a unique opportunity for SPCC students to grow and engage with life beyond themselves.



| Performing Arts

MUSICALS

College Musicals are an outstanding community event staged every year. The Junior and Middle School present theirs in the same year, alternating with the Senior School the following year. Musicals are an exciting avenue for students to express their talent through music, drama, dance, voice and stage production.

MUSIC

Music permeates our society and plays an important part in life. It is a significant part of every culture. Music is an effective channel for people to express their God-given creativity, to communicate their feelings and emotions, and to relate to the world around them.

Music at St Philip's Christian College enriches the whole community and is an activity that students enjoy. They can be part of a choir, stage or concert band, instrumental ensemble or ministry team band. Music is a required subject up to Year 8, and an elective subject in Years 9 to 12. Students can also undertake individual instrumental tuition during school time.

DRAMA

The aim of drama is to provide students with experiences in which the intellect, the emotions, the imagination and the body are all involved and developed through expression, performance, observation and reflection. Drama is a dynamic and exciting subject, taught to all Junior School students through their class teacher and available as an elective subject in the Senior School. The College also operates 'High Street Productions', which facilitates a range of after school performing arts and technical classes for students in Years 3-8.

DEBATING

Debating and Public Speaking promotes confidence and communication skills. In the classroom and also in external competitions, there are opportunities for students in Middle and Senior School to participate in debating, for personal development and enjoyment.







| Sport

St Philip's Christian College is the largest Independent School in the Hunter Region, maintaining a high level of success across a wide range of sports and competitive pursuits. Students have many opportunities to represent the College, both during and outside school hours.

Three major Inter-House Sports Carnivals are held each year: Swimming, Cross-Country and Athletics, involving all students K-12, either in a fun day (K-2) or with competition (Years 3 – 6; 7 & 8; 9-12). Pathways are then provided for successful students to represent the College at Hunter Region, NSW State and National levels.

Many other representative sporting opportunities are also offered through Hunter Region Independent Schools (HRIS) Sport. Students have sporting opportunities in a broad range of sports including; Football, Netball, Gymnastics, Futsal, Cricket, Hockey, Rugby Union, Equestrian, Basketball, Tennis, AFL and Golf.

The College's students and teams regularly attain Regional, State and National Championship success in the sporting arena, and past students have achieved Australian Olympic, Paralympic and National Sporting Code success and representation, as well as player and administration roles in professional sports such as the W-League, A-League, and NRL.





For the Whole of Their Life

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