

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Prospectus 2026



celebrating 150 years

1876 - 2026



*“Live your life with purpose
and passion, knowing that you
are loved by God.”*

- Catherine McAuley

COLLEGE PRAYER

Loving God,

We ask you to bless Catherine McAuley
College Bendigo and challenge us to act
in the spirit of Catherine.

May we inspire all in our community to
be learners impelled to thrive and serve.

Guide our community to live our
Mercy Values and the Gospel
message of Jesus Christ.

Amen



Learning for life

Prospectus 2026

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Find your purpose through learning for life

A message from our Principal, Mr Brian Turner



With 150 years of delivering educational excellence, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo is passionate about arming students with the skills they need to thrive and serve. Inspired by Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, our College is committed to education and service in a faith-filled community.

Since 1876, when Sister Aloysius Martyn and the Sisters of Mercy first arrived in Sandhurst from Ireland, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo has been part of the community of Bendigo, helping generations of young people to experience personal success.

As we celebrate our sesquicentenary in 2026, we are inspired by the pioneering spirit of our founders to continue their legacy of service, offering an outstanding Catholic education to the families of Central Victoria and working towards a secure, sustainable future.

Become a positive agent for change

We are dedicated to developing students who are independent, adaptable, critical and creative thinkers, with a passion for lifelong learning, and striving for excellence. Our students are empowered to see themselves as positive agents of change, who are called to participate actively and ethically in society as young people of Mercy.

Our inclusive programs and innovative learning settings are stimulating and continue to evolve from our master plan. We are dedicated to evidence-based learning where growth and academic success are constantly measured and celebrated.

Dedicated learning spaces promote visual and performing arts, allied health, STEAM, agriculture and vocational training, and encourage pathways to higher learning.

'...dedicated to developing students who are independent, adaptable, critical and creative thinkers, with a passion for lifelong learning, and striving for excellence.'

Innovative educational approaches

Bright and expansive learning spaces that accommodate growing enrolments and innovative educational approaches are complemented by attractively designed passive and active recreation areas.

Substantial development is anticipated in coming years to provide specialist learning opportunities at Coolock for more year levels, making the most of the space we are fortunate to have at Junortoun.

The Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct (MJSP) is a high-quality junior sporting hub facilitating a wide range of sports in contemporary, spacious grounds that serve both our school and local community, in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo.

Partnering to deliver learning for life

Partnerships to support outstanding learning opportunities and facilities for our students and the community are valued at our College. We are a Mercy Education Limited school, a dynamic community of Catholic schools working towards a bold and courageous future.

We also partner with:

- Mercy Health
- Australian Catholic University
- Cricket Australia
- Liverpool FC
- Richmond Football Club Korin Gamadji Program
- Danihers
- Local businesses and community organisations

Our future is exciting, so we invite you to visit and learn about all the opportunities on offer to help your child thrive – and choose their pathway to success – at Catherine McAuley College Bendigo.

— Mr Brian Turner, Principal

WE EMPOWER YOU

Your future is collaborative

Contemporary facilities and innovative programs

Innovative programs and building developments at Catherine McAuley College Bendigo create learning opportunities designed to support the many different educational pathways for students.

The future of employment is increasingly collaborative, so it is vital that students learn to work together, interact and develop a range of independent and co-dependent skills.



Sister Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre

At Coolock, the Sister Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre features:

- a performance area
- specialist classrooms for music and performing arts
- vibrant learning spaces to support integrated learning across the STEAM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)



Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct

The industry-leading Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct provides the latest technology and equipment to support physical education learning, including:

- cricket
- football
- soccer
- netball
- basketball

In addition, the area is complemented with fresh green spaces and an indoor gathering area for the entire school.

Trade Training Centre

The Trade Training Centre offers specialist facilities, infrastructure and equipment for students across all year levels to gain skills and qualifications in high-demand vocational pathways such as Agriculture and Animal Care. In senior years, Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs offer nationally recognised industry qualifications in the VET sector.



Food Technology and Allied Health

At St Mary's, students have opportunities for diverse specialisations tailored to student pathways.

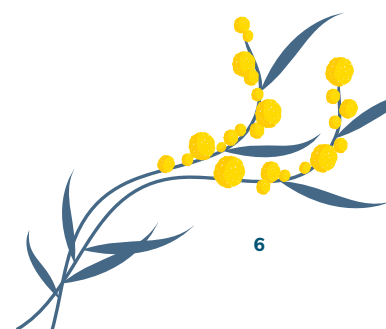
Our modern commercial kitchen provides opportunities for Food Technology and Hospitality, incorporating a canteen and indoor-outdoor dining areas.

A purpose-built Allied Health area includes a simulated hospital ward for practical learning. Allied Health is a major growth area and our iGEN partnership with Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged and Australian Catholic University (ACU) provides an entry into the health and business industries and real intergenerational experience.

More exciting developments to come

The College Masterplan includes many exciting developments across both campuses in the coming years. Facilities at both campuses will continue to evolve and integrate with existing infrastructure, providing students with the learning resources and pathway opportunities to be prepared for their future direction.

These buildings are complemented by an integrated approach to learning that engages and inspires our students to discover their way in a dynamic contemporary environment. Dedicated Learning Leaders ensure progress across Years 7 to 12 in all subjects.



Develop your God-given talents



Faith and Justice

Catherine McAuley College Bendigo is built on the Mercy Charism inspired by Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy and is actively engaged in the community of the Sandhurst Diocese. Like Catherine, the teachings of Jesus and the Gospels inspire our words and actions and support the Mercy Values of Service, Courage, Compassion, Hospitality, Respect and Justice.

An education in the Mercy tradition invites us to take up a challenge – one that encourages us to develop fully our own God-given talents. At the same time, it enkindles within us a desire to assist others, so that they too may have life and have it to the full.

Understanding faith and justice

The Gospel values and teachings are at the centre of the Religious Education program at Catholic McAuley College Bendigo. The subject supports students in developing a greater understanding of faith and justice issues and connects to all areas of the curriculum. Outreach, community service and awareness of the needs of others are integral parts of the program undertaken across all year levels.

Students are supported in developing a meaningful, contemporary connection to their faith through social justice activities, prayer, liturgies, community service and Mercy in Action.

Opportunities to serve

Inspired by Catherine McAuley's courage and determination to educate, empower and serve the poor, students are offered opportunities to engage in activities to support both local and global projects, including:

- Seeds of Justice conference
- iGEN intergenerational partnership
- Leadership days
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- McAuley Family Services
- Mercy Works
- Caritas Australia's Project Compassion

We can never say 'it is enough' is the College theme for 2025.

The quote from Catherine McAuley comes from her Familiar Instructions which were her collection of spiritual guidance and teachings. These instructions are derived from her advice to the Sisters of Mercy.

The phrase **"We can never say 'it is enough'"** encapsulates her call to constant dedication in living out the works of mercy and following Christ's example.

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."

– (Laudato Si', Paragraph 14)



WE SUPPORT YOU



Learn and
grow the way
that works for you

Pastoral Care

As an integral element of an inspiring and rewarding education, Catherine McAuley College Bendigo offers a formative and responsive student pastoral care program.

We nurture our students in a safe environment to become confident and independent young adults. We acknowledge that all students grow and develop differently, therefore our structures and programs support students' academic as well as social and emotional learning.

All students' classroom teachers actively monitor and support their learning and wellbeing. Classroom teachers work in collaboration with students and families to develop an understanding of their learning.

Individual support for students may also be provided by Year Level Coordinators, Year Level Learning Leaders and the Learning Diversity leader to ensure that appropriate resources and specialised expertise are available to students who need additional support.

Further supports are provided by:

- Learning Diversity and Wellbeing teams
- Educational Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech Therapist
- Koorie Education Workers
- Careers Practitioners



An inclusive community

At Catherine McAuley College Bendigo, we are proud to be an inclusive community that is enriched through cultural diversity, empathy and understanding. All members are expected to be respectful and considerate, be of service to others and to care for our common home.

In the transition program, we work with you to prepare a thorough student profile for your child when they start in 2026. All students are given individual support through the orientation and enrolment process to ensure a smooth transition.

WE PREPARE YOU

Challenge yourself to aim for excellence

Academic curriculum

Catherine McAuley College Bendigo provides a broad and challenging academic curriculum which fosters a passion for learning, develops independent, critical thinkers and focuses on excellence for all students.



Innovative Learners

We engage students in an integrated curriculum that is reflective of the skills that will be required for jobs of the future. Students learn to research, design and adapt to a range of real-world problems. Students develop their own learning strategies and processes so that they can adjust to new challenges, situations and curriculum. Above all, our students learn how to learn and how to be innovative.



Applying skills beyond the classroom

Community partnerships provide students with authentic and realistic learning which is critical to their development. For instance, students learn about biology and agriculture in a working agriculture space, they learn about allied health in local hospitals and aged care through the iGEN program and partnerships with Mercy Health and the Australian Catholic University.



Supports and interventions

There are a range of targeted interventions to support students in developing their literacy and numeracy skills which see students gain confidence to collaborate more readily with their peers and to achieve success across their subjects. Interventions are regularly reviewed through ongoing assessment and feedback to ensure they effectively target individual and group needs.



iGEN: Intergenerational Learning

A partnership between Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University and Catherine McAuley College Bendigo.

Year 10 students in the iGEN program engage with residents of a local aged care home, Mercy Health Bethlehem Home for the Aged. They undertake pre-education modules including infection control, ageing, dementia and Mercy Model of Care. Attending Bethlehem twice a week, students engage with residents in a wide range of activities, including gardening, cards, painting, exercise, reading the newspaper, cooking and bingo.

STEAM

Employment in the fields of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) is increasing rapidly, as is the need for workers who have combinations of these skills. Our Coolock Campus has a dedicated STEAM space that enables students to apply and develop their skills. Students learn to use a range of modern equipment, including drones, 3D printers, laser cutters and they make use of their knowledge in a range of applications during their studies.

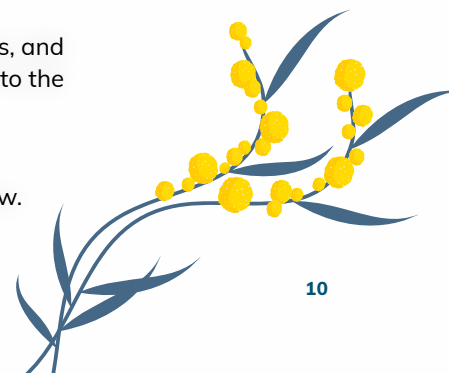
Agriculture and Animal Studies

The Coolock Campus hosts a dedicated Trade Training Centre, focused on developing students' skills in Agriculture and Animal Care. Students engage in these programs at a range of year levels, including having the option of completing senior certificates in Years 10 to 12.

Co-Curricular Learning

Music, debating, sports, performing arts, visual arts, academic competitions, justice camps, and the Frayne Speech Festival are examples of co-curricular opportunities on offer to appeal to the wide range of student interests.

The College frequently successfully competes in state and national competitions. Students are encouraged to have fun, extend their knowledge and discover something new.



Participate and learn to lead

Student engagement and leadership

We value student voice, and we are always looking for ways to listen to students and enhance their participation in the life of the College. This not only boosts individual student confidence but also fosters a stronger connection to the College.

There are many opportunities for students to become involved in leadership from Year 7 to Year 12, working with and for the school community. Students are empowered to actively participate and develop their capacity to lead.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) provides a structured opportunity for students to raise issues, foster house spirit, make recommendations and improve communication between all members of the College.



Be a driving force

The SRC is also involved in planning, organising and leading liturgies, assemblies and whole-school events such as Mercy Day and Caritas Ks. Students are the driving force for securing a sustainable future for our community.

Students are consulted about significant developments and the future direction of our College. We nurture a culture that encourages and supports individuals and groups to create change, challenge themselves and others, inspire action and share ideas and opinions.

Inspired by our 2025 theme, **We can never say 'it is enough'** students are encouraged to become proactive agents of change, individuals who identify needs and respond with compassion. Together, we strive to foster a sense of belonging respectful interactions and inclusive practice.



We nurture a culture that encourages and supports individuals.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU

Pursue your passion



Sports

At Catherine McAuley College Bendigo, sport enables students to develop both physical and emotional skills, encouraging participation, confidence and success. We provide opportunities at a variety of levels for students to take part.

Our College offers a selection of individual and team sports, represented at local, state and national levels. The College is one of the most successful regional schools in Victoria, with multiple individuals and teams qualifying for the State finals each year across a wide variety of sports.

House competitions in swimming, athletics and at break times during the school day provide great competition and friendly rivalry.

The new Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct provides school and community joint-use sporting facilities at the Coolock Campus. The partnership with Liverpool FC International Academy has opened up new opportunities to deliver programs within our Physical Education curriculum and provide skill development opportunities to the community beyond school hours.

Express yourself

Arts

The Sister Aloysius Martyn Arts Centre at Coolock provides contemporary specialist facilities for music, drama and the visual arts, fostering creativity and increased participation in the arts.

College students have regularly been included in the Season of Excellence Top Class, Top Designs and Top Arts performances and exhibitions.

Drama

Students perform in year level drama nights and a highlight of the performance calendar is the fully staged College production performed in the stunning Ulumbarra Theatre, alternating with an intensive play in an intimate setting in the College's Marian Theatre.

The most recent show was Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and this year's large production is The Addams Family.

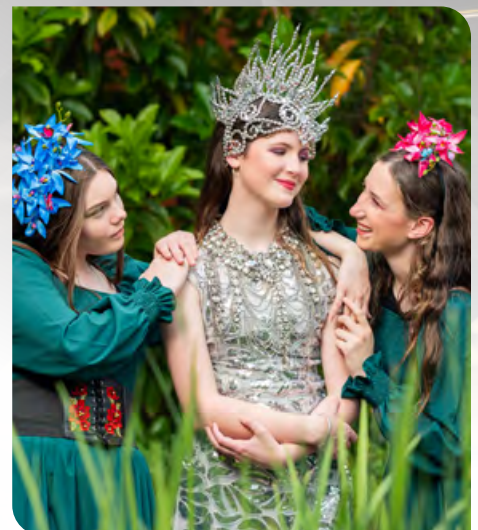
Students have many opportunities to connect with the production, including performing, backstage, lighting, costumes and promotion.



Music

The College provides a high-quality instrumental music program, accessible to all families. Every Year 7 student begins their studies in music with an intensive practical program.

Learning an instrument beyond Year 7 is a co-curricular activity, providing small-group tuition and large ensemble experiences. Instruments include saxophone, percussion, trumpet, flute, euphonium, guitar, trombone, clarinet, piano and voice. Students have a range of opportunities to showcase and develop their musical talents through instrumental ensembles, Stage and Concert Bands, choirs and the Rock Band.



Exhibitions

Exhibitions and awards evenings display student work including art, ceramics, photography, media, graphics, textiles and fashion.







Respect
Justice
Compassion
Hospitality
Service
Courage

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and tour bookings:**

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