Assumption College KILMORE

A Catholic Co-educational Day & Boarding School in the Marist Tradition
History of the Marist Brothers and the College

The Marist Brothers were founded in 1817 by French priest Marcellin Champagnat to provide the rural youth of France with a Catholic education. His style of education spread to 80 countries where more than 5000 brothers now help educate half a million young people in widely diverse circumstances and settings. Marist spirituality centres on leading the Christian life like Mary. This involves ‘doing good quietly’ and responding to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Marist schools are known for their academic, cultural and sporting achievements, for their closeness to the communities they serve and for their strong spirit.

Assumption College, a member school of Marist Schools Australia, boasts a long history of Catholic education in Kilmore. Established in 1893 by the Marist Brothers, the College was at first a primary school for local boys. In 1901 the first male boarders were enrolled and girls began boarding in 1995. In 2014, three new boarding houses were opened. The school has been fully co-educational for 30 years.

ACK has grown rapidly in recent years with an enrolment of over 1200 students, including 72 boarders. As well as serving our local community, we remain committed to educating the marginalised and those from isolated areas.
Greetings,

and welcome to the Assumption College community. As one of Australia’s best-known Catholic co-educational day and boarding schools, we are delighted that you are considering our ever-growing family as a possible pathway for your child. We have a long history of providing outstanding opportunities for the young people in our care, and are committed to catering for their diverse educational, physical, social and spiritual needs.

Achievement comes in many guises. Our dedicated teachers and extraordinary team of support staff are here to guide and support your child so that they can embrace and respond to their future with confidence and passion. Similarly, our outstanding facilities provide space for engaging learning experiences, where personal endeavour can be celebrated and individual talent brought to life. In a world where speed, multi-tasking and constant connection are important, we also make time for quiet, reflective and prayerful moments, so that our whole community can know and value God’s love.

Our students are confident, creative and collaborative learners, who are welcomed into universities, training spaces and workplaces worldwide. Our alumni excel in fields as diverse as business, science, technology, healthcare, education, the armed forces, the arts, religious life and sport.

Choosing a secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. If your child joins us, our partnership will be integral to the fulfilment of their goals.

This prospectus gives you a glimpse into the life of our college and the many opportunities available to our students. Our motto: ‘Seek the things that are above’, is an invitation that calls to all those who are looking for a Catholic, contemporary, joy-filled and rigorous education. If you choose Assumption, I look forward to sharing your child’s life journey with you.

Kate Fogarty
Principal
A Family School

There is a strong family spirit at Assumption College. It is there at school functions, in the cooperative approach of students willing to help each other and in the dedication of teachers who tutor students after hours. It is found in the willingness of former students and parents to coach sporting teams. Our alumni feel welcome when they return to enrol their children or to see how the College has changed since they left.

Our pastoral care structure fosters a sense of belonging and provides a basis for nominating student leaders. Each student is part of a house-based pastoral care group (PCG) which allows them to consolidate friendships and cultivate a sense of belonging and loyalty in their group at the start of each day.

PCG teachers have immediate responsibility for the academic and general progress of students and are a parent’s first point of contact with the College. House coordinators work closely with PCG teachers to get to know students and to become more aware of their needs.

Students, or their families, requiring specialist support can visit our psychologist or counsellor, or be put in contact with other professionals who can help.

Religious Education

At Assumption College we strive to cultivate a climate that gives students a lived experience of Christian values and beliefs.

Our formal religious education program is based on the curriculum framework for religious education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Religious education is not a matter of imposing a set of beliefs upon young people but rather, it is a process of education from within. Teachers endeavour to foster critical and reflective thinking, and ethical decision making. They also try to help our young people understand their beliefs and draw out their spiritual potential.

Classroom religious education is complemented by our Champagnat Ministry [Christian service] program, retreats, immersions to East Timor and Santa Teresa, reflection days and liturgies celebrated by pastoral care groups, houses and the whole school.
reflective thinking, and ethical decision making

Pastoral Care and Religious Education
energy, enthusiasm and purpose

Curriculum
At Assumption College, we prepare students for careers that have not yet been invented. Faced with a rapidly changing future, the challenge for our teachers is to equip tomorrow’s leaders and innovators with the creativity, collaborative skills and critical literacies needed to adapt to an ever-changing world.

Inspired by this challenge, Assumption College is a learning community of energy, enthusiasm and purpose.

Our students engage in digitally-infused learning, expanding their interactions beyond the classroom, connecting them with broader and intellectually vibrant learning communities. Within this framework, we develop active knowledge seekers who can use technology with discernment to enhance their thinking and learning.

At Years 7 and 8, Assumption’s academic program includes creative, hands-on subjects in the visual and performing arts and technology. These offerings expand further in Years 9 and 10, with many electives including extension mathematics and science options, literature, agricultural and horticultural studies, drama, dance, music, design and technology, and visual arts. These provide students with learning experiences involving ‘controlled challenge’ which encourages them to extend themselves and to develop into resilient and self-reflective learners.

In the senior years, our broad curriculum and vocational pathways opportunities provide for each student’s individual learning needs which are discovered through thoughtful mentoring. We offer numerous VCE subjects which cater for most of our students who go on to university. Students can accelerate into VCE studies in Year 10 and include university-level studies in Year 12, allowing the more able to challenge themselves and tailor their own programs.

In addition, Assumption’s well-developed VCAL and VET programs provide for our students’ individual pathway aspirations. Our reputation as a leading Catholic school in the development of VET certificates is, in part, a reflection of the quality of the VET studies we offer: the Marlhes Restaurant, opened during term time to the public and staffed by our VET Hospitality students, is an example of the quality of work that can be achieved by those that pursue VET studies.
The Hermitage is a striking presence on campus. Its contemporary design provides a perfect balance between the established heritage of the College and its promise to deliver avant-garde visual arts and product design and technology.

It is named after the Hermitage in France, built in 1824 by the founder of the Marist Brothers, St Marcellin Champagnat, and the early brothers as their home.

The building incorporates contemporary art studios, film and darkroom facilities, areas for visual communications and design and well-equipped textiles and product design (wood) rooms. A 50-seat theatrette is in the centre of the Hermitage where students attend lectures and tutorials, view their own films or watch educational DVDs. The College canteen is housed here too.

Our students benefit from the inspirational spaces that use colour, shape and pattern to expand their creativity. There are extensive areas for exhibiting art and design work which is never fully completed without a space to display it which, in turn, inspires and encourages others. Our visual arts and technology students have had their work featured in VCE Top Designs exhibitions. These exhibitions are highly selective and only work from a few students is accepted.

An unusual architectural feature is the ‘learning street’ or main corridor which includes an ever changing bio-filter living wall to help foster environmental awareness. The contrast between exotic plants, raw brick walls and the warmth of the wooden seating entices students to sit and admire the area and the art and design work on display.
The Hermitage Arts and Product Design Building
The Marlhes Hospitality Centre offers Assumption students a great opportunity to gain experience in a commercial kitchen and working restaurant environment. Students are involved in front and back of house programs. The centre is named after the French town where St Marcellin, founder of the Marist Brothers, spent his childhood.

The VET Hospitality course is conducted over two years, leading to a Certificate II in Hospitality at the end of the first year and a Certificate II in Hospitality - Kitchen Operations after two years of study. On completion of both certificates, students could obtain work in hospitality as kitchen assistants, bar staff or waiters. Further courses at TAFE or university, with credits given for previous study, could help them become qualified chefs, restaurant supervisors or hotel managers.

Our students are subjected to real-life situations, cooking and serving food for college functions as well as for the general public, when the Marlhes Restaurant is open every second Wednesday during term time.
real-life situations, cooking and serving

Marlhes Hospitality Centre
The performing arts are a core educational focus at all stages of development. They help to nurture creative thinking, interpersonal skills, self-expression and a love of the arts.

In Years 7 and 8, students study music, band and drama. In the extensive Year 9 and 10 elective programs, students can continue these studies with options broadening to include dance.

VCE offerings allow students to hone their talents to an elite standard. Many of our music students pursue courses in music at university and beyond.

The performing arts curriculum is complemented by our extensive co-curricular program that incorporates drama, dance and music.

We offer lessons at extra cost in singing and in a wide variety of instruments by tutors with a wealth of professional performing experience. All styles of music are catered for, and many students are prepared for AMEB exams.
Boarding

better people make better boarders
Assumption College is proud of its long boarding tradition, which began with the first intake of boys in 1901. Today, our co-educational boarding program offers contemporary, boutique living spaces, complemented by a specialised personal program of development that forms young men and women for the modern world.

Each boarding house accommodates 24 students. Senior students have their own bedrooms, whilst juniors twin-share. The rooms are bright, warm and comfortable with king-single beds, desks, generous wardrobes and storage areas. Each house has a dedicated kitchen, dining room, recreation area, all with Wi-Fi access. This more intimate style of boarding creates a family spirit which is so important in Marist education.

To engage the spiritual life of our boarders, there is regular prayer, meditation, community liturgies and Mass.

During supervised study each weeknight, our boarding staff work alongside in-house tutors. Our teachers are also available for after-school tuition. Significantly, our boarders regularly achieve higher average grades than day students.

Boarders’ healthcare needs are well catered for, with an excellent local hospital, a school doctor on call and nurses on duty daily. Counsellors and a school psychologist are also available to our students.

Our dedicated chefs prepare nutritious, well-balanced and plentiful meals using fresh ingredients. Vegetarian and gluten-free food is available.

Boarders are encouraged to actively participate in our extensive cultural and sporting programs and to be involved in the many regular social activities. A residential program, underpinned by the idea of ‘better people make better boarders’, complements the co-curricular program.

Education is a partnership between parents and the College, so we encourage regular contact between parents and our boarding staff. We are committed to creating a family atmosphere within our boarding houses where all are welcome, and where we strive to engender in our students a sense of belonging so they can flourish.
Health and physical education classes use many of our learning and recreational areas such as the Gonzales Centre, a large indoor stadium. ‘The Gonz’ also houses a dance studio and a fitness room. This gym has a variety of cardio machines, weight training and other fitness equipment. Our senior physical education classes use the gym to focus on flexibility, strength/resistance, interval and circuit training. Senior students can use the fitness room out of normal school hours at no cost, under the supervision of a qualified instructor.

Our extensive sporting program is a natural extension of our health and physical education classes. Both help develop strength, determination, physical skills and coordination, as well as a sense of sportsmanship, team spirit and cooperation. At a time when obesity among young people is a serious concern, it is vital that we encourage our students to be physically active and to eat well.

Assumption has many hectares of ovals, all-weather synthetic tennis courts and hockey pitches and indoor netball and basketball courts.
Health, Physical Education and Sport

Sportsmanship, team spirit and cooperation
Students can choose units of Agricultural and Horticultural Studies from Years 9 to 12. Electives in Agricultural Enterprise are offered at Years 9 and 10, while VCE Units 1 to 4 are available in Years 11 and 12.

The courses focus on sustainable agricultural and horticultural business, and students have an opportunity to design and implement a business plan for a small business project that involves the management and care of living plants or animals. They learn basic husbandry and management skills and must market and sell their product.

VCE studies, while maintaining a small practical component related to the business plan, focus on local agricultural and horticultural businesses, land management and the role of technology in maintaining sustainable systems.

Our courses are not vocationally skills-focused, and those considering such training should consult our vocational education and training coordinator about relevant TAFE courses.
Anna Urokohara
Outstanding Assumption Scholar

Anna was Dux of the College in 2014, achieving an ATAR of 99.60, with 4 A’s and 13 A+s. This dedicated student believes academic success comes by aiming for excellence. She says this can only be achieved through focus, effective study and being happy by getting plenty of sleep, eating well, exercising, relaxing and having a social life.

She was committed to the College’s co-curricular program, playing a main character in the musical Hairspray, and was always ready to assist her peers. Anna is studying science with a Melbourne Access Scholarship at the University of Melbourne and attended ACK from 2009-14. She retains her links with us by tutoring our boarders during study.

Lisa Haynes (nee Anderson)
Air traffic controller

Lisa followed in the footsteps of her father and grandfather when she became an Assumption College student for her final two years of schooling. After graduating from ACK, Lisa began an engineering degree at the University of Melbourne but decided it wasn’t for her and explored other careers. She applied to join Airservices Australia as an air traffic controller, signed on at Melbourne Airport in 1991 and has been in the job, which she loves, ever since.

Lisa has mostly controlled airspace across the Great Australian Bight, the area surrounding Alice Springs and Uluru and airspace in Western Australia – all from Tullamarine. She has also been an incident investigator and safety liaison officer for airlines. Lisa was an Assumption student from 1987-88.

Fred Schepisi AO
Award-winning Filmmaker and Scriptwriter

Fred Schepisi was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2004 ‘for his service to the Australian film industry as a director, producer and screenwriter and for his role in the development of creative talent as a mentor’.

He began his career in the advertising industry, and for more than 20 years directed commercials and documentaries. His first full-length feature film was the semi-autobiographical The Devil’s Playground (1976) and he has since gone on to make 16 other feature films, the most recent being The Eye of the Storm and Words and Pictures. Fred has won numerous Australian Film Institute and Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts awards. He was at Assumption from 1948-52.

Simon Costa
A Leader in Global Aid and Development

Simon works as a volunteer with the United Nations World Food Programme in Africa. Up to 50 per cent of all crop production is lost there each year and billions of kilos of good food is never eaten. Consequently, millions suffer starvation and chronic malnutrition.

Simon is working closely with the World Bank, the US government and major donors such as Bill Gates, to widen grain-storage trials so that the lives and food security of millions of suffering families can be improved. He was previously managing director of the largest horticultural and supply chain company in the Southern Hemisphere. Simon attended Assumption College from 1982-85.
Assumption College Kilmore
Sutherland Street (PO Box 111) Kilmore 3764
Phone: (61 3) 5782 1422
Fax: (61 3) 5782 1902
Website: www.assumption.vic.edu.au
email: bernard.jephson@assumption.vic.edu.au