

PROSPECTUS

heart mind life











via crucis, via lucis: the way of the cross is the way of light



nurturing the heart to educate the mind

St Andrew's Cathedral School is an Anglican coeducational day school from Kindergarten to Year 12, located in the heart of Sydney's CBD.

Our holistic approach to education embodies the growth of both heart and mind to prepare students to flourish in an ever-changing world.







St Andrew's
is indeed a
place where
every student
is encouraged
to enrich their
minds, and to lead
a life with heart.

welcome to a school with heart

Our School takes a child on a true journey of the heart. From Kindergarten to Year 12, almost 5,000 days of growth, discovery, enlightenment, wisdom and resilience are captured. Taking small, focussed steps, mingled with great bounds, a student builds his or her capacity to become an independent thinker, to problem solve and to consider issues from a higher order of thinking, so that as she/he graduates, she/ he can confidently take that magnificent rite of passage from school to the world beyond.

At St Andrew's we aim to fully prepare students for the most exciting steps of their lives. True journeys of the heart not only capture a passion for learning, a commitment to do one's best and to grow from challenges, but encompass the pivotal stepping stones of understanding and compassion for others, forming lasting friendships and taking a world view of justice for all.

For over 125 years, St Andrew's has guided students through their educational journeys in an environment that is uniquely shaped by our dynamic city location. Conveniently located adjacent to the magnificent buildings of the Sydney Town Hall and St Andrew's Cathedral, and close to major train, bus and ferry routes, our School attracts students from over 200 suburbs in Sydney. From our humble beginnings in 1885, as a small school to educate the Cathedral's choristers, we have grown to become fully coeducational, catering for over 1100 girls and boys from Kindergarten to Year 12. Our proud heritage of partnership with the Cathedral represents the strong link between the School and the Anglican Church and our firm foundation as a Christian community.

A stimulating learning environment

At the School's doorstep is a diversity of city-based educational resources and learning experiences: civic, government, business, legal and commercial centres; museums, art galleries and theatres; tertiary institutions and the cityscape itself. These resources create a stimulating learning environment where students can develop personally and creatively within Australia's most vibrant city.

Our rich history highlights the many cherished aspects of our School philosophy. Well known for our outstanding and distinctive pastoral care, St Andrew's is a place of belonging, where each student is nurtured as an individual with their own special needs and potential. Our internationally acclaimed music

programme, which has flourished since our beginnings as a Cathedral Choir over 12 decades ago, offers opportunities for both gifted and enthusiastic students. This, in turn, has led to an impressive culture of involvement in other aspects of the School, including sport, performing arts and community service.

A forward thinking School

St Andrew's has proven to be a forward thinking School, creating innovative and modern working environments that enhance student learning, fostering a passion and a culture of participation in all aspects of school life. Offering an open, comprehensive enrolment policy, our School presents extensive opportunities for students with differing academic abilities.

St Andrew's is grounded in values that nurture the individual, promoting understanding and commitment within a tolerant school community, where integrity, justice, compassion and grace are honoured. It is indeed a place where every student is encouraged to enrich their minds, and to lead a life with heart.

I warmly invite you to visit our School and discover the vitality of education at St Andrew's.

Dr John Collier

BA DipEd DipBiblSt EdD FACE MACEL Head of School



Our Cathedral ties represent a value that is core to education at St Andrew's: to exercise godly virtues such as grace, integrity and justice.

a strong heritage

Since our foundation in 1885, over 125 years ago, we have been dedicated to integrating the values of grace, integrity and justice into our educational philosophy. Our school has changed a lot since those first days, educating the choristers of the Cathedral, but these cherished legacies of both social-emotional learning and authentic Christian values are passed from generation to generation of Andreans. Positive and enduring relationships are at the core of our Cathedral Heritage.

Though now proudly coeducational from Kindergarten to Year 12, St Andrew's was an all boys' school for much of its history. We opened our doors to Senior girl students in 1999, a move met with resounding success, and introduced coeducation across the whole school in 2008.

In 2007, we established our Gawura School for inner-city based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Set within St Andrew's House, it promotes a tailored curriculum for those in Kindergarten to Year 6 that is literacy and numeracy intensive, set within a context that celebrates Indigenous culture.

Community marked by care

The inimitable balance of change and continuity that is a hallmark of St Andrew's is based on our wish to provide a learning community marked by care. Change is integral to remaining at the forefront of educational innovation. The Cathedral still represents a symbol of our beginnings and strong links with the Christian community, an ever-present site for assemblies and school performances, as well as gatherings of faith. As one of Australia's leading schools for musical excellence, we are also one of the oldest – and our Choristers still form a thriving part of the Cathedral's programmes.







On the surface it may seem as if St Andrew's today is almost unrecognisable from the School I attended. I am sure students of every generation have a similar experience. But a fundamental constant remains: St Andrew's is a caring school with a genuine heart for everyone who comes through its doors, reflecting the authentic Christianity it seeks to uphold. St Andrew's is a unique school, and may it continue to be so.

OLD ANDREAN REFLECTING ON
OVER 125 YEARS OF EDUCATION AT SACS





Our core values strive to grow whole people: spiritually, intellectually, physically, in creative expression and in wisdom.

a dynamic city environment

Our city location, in the heart of Sydney's Central Business District, lets students enjoy the best of both worlds. While we foster independence from an early age, it occurs within a supportive network of pastoral care and strong teacher-student relationships. At our doorstep lies an unrivalled diversity of educational resources - and we make use of them constantly to enrich our dynamic curriculum.



At St Andrew's we believe in education that goes beyond the traditional, by challenging our students to expand their knowledge beyond textbooks. Our School sees no definable classroom walls between it and the City, which is a resource centre for our students. In the interaction between St Andrew's and the City, students come to understand and learn the social and psychological skills necessary for flexible, independent learning.

Convenient location

Our location at Sydney Town Hall, where all public transport routes to the city converge, makes travel to and from school direct and convenient from all suburbs, whether it is by train, bus, ferry, walk, car - or a combination. Junior and Middle School students travelling by train enter the School via undercover access from Town Hall Station with no streets to cross.

As our students progress to Senior College, they enjoy an increased sense of a preuniversity setting, experiencing the city at recess and lunch within set boundaries. At this point, there is a strong, curriculum-integrated emphasis on the development of personal responsibility and self-awareness in a busy city setting.

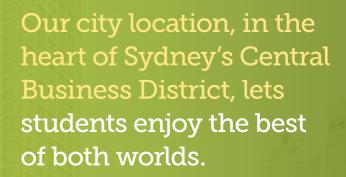


journeys (†) of the **heart**

Our School takes a child on a true journey of the heart. True journeys of the heart not only capture a passion for learning, a commitment to do one's best and to grow from challenges, but encompass the pivotal stepping stones of understanding and compassion for others, forming lasting friendships and taking a world view of justice for all.

St Andrew's Cathedral School is located in a real world setting and because of this you get to see yourself in a global context it will give you real world opportunities.

ST ANDREW'S GRADUATE



Quality, committed teaching staff work across the School to cultivate a passion for learning within each student, one that is enlivened and deepened as they move from Kindergarten to Year 12.





Our core values seek to emphasise the worth of each person, individually and in community.

qualityeducation

Quality, committed teaching staff work across the School to cultivate a passion for learning within each student, one that is enlivened and deepened as they move from Kindergarten to Year 12.

St Andrew's is a community of learners, academically driven, but aiming to make knowledge accessible to all students. As a comprehensive school, we enrol a diverse intake of students, who graduate with wide-ranging career and tertiary study choices. Our student-focussed philosophy of education is simple: we facilitate independent learning that encourages students to go beyond the curriculum wherever possible, to broaden the classroom experience. We strive to accommodate all types of learners at St Andrew's.

Preparing students

We believe education is a life-long process that continues after the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or International Baccalaureate (IB). Our graduates must be equipped with a determination to reach their academic potential, prepared as best they can be for the 'coeducational' workplaces and universities, and other tertiary institutions into which they will step.

I love the school buildings and the classrooms... I feel our learning environment prepares us for the world after school. That's why I also like that SACS is coeducational; it makes for a very natural interaction.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

At other schools the teachers are quite separate from the students. Here, they're amongst us, we're closer to them. They don't try to keep the interaction to the classroom; they're willing to give up their lunch breaks to work with us.

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT





As students grow older, we offer more challenging and life-changing optional overseas expeditions.

kirrikee outdoor education: beyond the urban realm

Outdoor Education is an important aspect for the development of young adults.

St Andrew's offers a carefully developed and age appropriate Outdoor Education Programme that includes Year-based camping expeditions and outdoor activities. We have our own outdoor education department working exclusively to tailor such adventures to our students in a way that builds upon their educational experiences, with some graduates opting to return to the School and assist.

Challenging opportunities

Commencing in Year 3 and continuing until Year 10, the programmes foster an appreciation and awareness of the created world; giving opportunities for students to learn about themselves, discover their strengths and weaknesses while meeting challenges that develop logical thinking as well as organisational and leadership skills. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is offered to all students in Year 9 and above.

As students grow older, we offer more challenging and life-changing optional overseas expeditions; points from which inevitable personal growth occurs and even tighter student communities develop. Our students have walked the Inca Trail, climbed in the Himalayas and built play areas for the children of Indian and African villages.









As an Anglican School, we believe that higher order thinking is the key to intellectual development.

christian education is foundational to our culture and ethos

At St Andrew's, the highest priority is placed on offering quality education to all our students, and within that, authentic Christian values are embedded into everyday life. At the core of all teaching and learning is the hallmark of the School: Christian belief in respect and care for everyone, grace, honesty, integrity, humility and justice for all.

As an Anglican School, we believe that higher order thinking is the key to intellectual development, and challenge students to consider philosophical issues of both the constructed and natural world; throughout the curriculum and in sessions run by our Chaplaincy team. Students at St Andrew's come from a variety of faith and non-faith backgrounds and we encourage these differing values to be discussed, critiqued and debated in an environment which is open and just.

From the Junior School through to Senior College, an active involvement in serving those less fortunate and opportunities to engage with the broader city and global community through Community Service are delivered in age-appropriate ways. The level of care on which we pride ourselves stems from a strong time-honoured partnership with the Cathedral and the Christian Faith. We desire to display to students how faith can be lived out meaningfully, through relationships based on mutual respect and service to others



between grades ... it's a positive place.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

I don't think our school would be as accepting and caring if it weren't for the Christian grounding.

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT



thoughts







junior school: true excellence

Situated on Level 7 of St Andrew's House, our Junior School facilitates the learning needs of Kindergarten to Year 6 students in a semi-open plan learning space, which exudes light and colour. The space itself inspires true excellence in learning by enhancing the opportunities for differentiation, as students naturally move from group to group.

Classrooms flow seamlessly into larger, less constructed areas and students are familiarised, from an early age, with computer technology and interactive learning equipment such as Smart Boards. Smaller class sizes enable a focus on individual academic growth – the Junior School is a place where all students are known and valued. Our unique city environment is built upon a thriving blend of contemporary educational practices, combined with the strong foundation of a tradition of outstanding care for each and every student.

Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The Junior School is in the early stages of introducing the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation. The PYP resonates strongly with our own teaching and learning

philosophy, where we wish to both empower and enrich students in intercultural knowledge that grows as they progress at St Andrew's. We offer explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy whilst also embracing opportunities for students to engage in deep learning, connecting knowledge across the curriculum. This is complemented by a diverse range of experiences in Sport, Music, Drama, Service Learning and Languages. We offer students and their families access to specialist teachers and professionals, extending to Secondary School, including Enrichment and Learning staff, Gifted and Talented teachers and, if needed, school counselling experts.



middle school matters

Catering from Years 7-9, our Middle School is a focussed and purposeful programme designed to enable the smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School; a place that makes the most of the exhilarating changes and challenges that present themselves in the first stage of adolescent education. These years are a crucial period in which personal development, confidence and academic engagement are encouraged, in the framework of a culture designed to improve each student's achievement and prepare them for Senior College.

The School is well-known for its pastoral care and helping students to have a sense of belonging. This underpins all aspects of the curriculum and is supported by a team of committed staff. Caring and teaching go hand in hand, with Year Coordinators, Academic Coordinators, Teachers and other specialists working with students and their families to develop a shared vision of success. In the first two terms of Year 7, students are welcomed by Year 11 Peer Support leaders, attend a teambuilding camp, and for the whole year, their classes and lockers are located in the Year 7 Centre, to assist in adjustment. Carefully designed tutor group activities supplement classroom learning and provide more focussed, small scale opportunities for student improvement and engagement. At the centre of Middle School education is the development of crucial higher order thinking and resilience skills needed throughout Middle School and into Senior College.

A unique model for coeducation

Our Middle School involves a unique model for coeducation that meets the changing physical, emotional and intellectual needs of students at this crucial stage. This model is based on current neurological research that takes into account divergent maturation rates throughout these three years. The developmental needs of boys and girls in Years 7 to 9 are met with flexibility, giving students, where practicable, an experience of 'twinned' single gender classes in core subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science, with coeducational classes in all other subjects. This enables our students to reap both academic and social benefits.





There's something different about St Andrew's students. They're very accepting. The environment and the way it's structured forces greater maturity amongst the students.

STUDENT REFLECTING ON MIDDLE SCHOOL

The layout of the classrooms and lockers really helps you get to become close with your own grade as well as other years.

As early as Year 7 I got to know the Year 9s because our lockers were next to each other!

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT



lenient and letting you work things out for yourself.

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT





senior college: preparing for life

Senior College at St Andrew's is a unique pre-tertiary experience, which builds on the skills fostered in Middle School and expands them, giving students growing responsibility and accountability. Our students value the independence they are entrusted with and the close relationships of mutual respect built with our dedicated teaching team. Teaching and learning is based on a commitment to realising the full potential of each student, with strong focus placed on ensuring they keep on track and on time; essential skills for the Senior years and beyond.

The Senior College is highly relational, with eight School Houses functioning as concentrated centres of care, monitoring and shaping academic progress, growth and development, and most importantly, being networks of support. Both the Higher School Certificate and International Baccalaureate are available to students from Year 11, and each cohort is advised on which best suits their learning needs and is sustainable for them personally in application throughout each academic year. The wide range of subjects offered in both of these options reflects the size of our Senior cohort. Study Halls, with specialist level tutors, are used frequently in the final years during study periods. Technology is a cornerstone to progressive classrooms, facilitating curriculum engagement and communication in all subject areas and building upon critical thinking skills.

Strong relationships

There are extensive and rewarding opportunities for leadership, cocurricular involvement and community service, each of which encourage the notion that a student is worth more than their final mark. We are extremely proud of the strong relationships forged between our students and teaching staff, a by-product of our extension of new responsibilities and greater freedoms to students in their final years, with allocated parts of the city opened up to them at lunch and recess, a mark of trust upon them. We seek to ensure St Andrew's graduates are equipped with the skills to meet the demands of future tertiary experience.



Providing a unique international curriculum that caters for future study in many countries and cultures.



HSC & IB



We believe in offering students options that reflect their divergent learning styles and tertiary prospects: thus we offer both the Higher School Certificate (HSC) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, both of which are internationally recognised exit credentials.

The HSC uses both school-based assessments and externally administered examinations to calculate an ATAR (university entry score) for students - for which St Andrew's has an excellent reputation. We offer students a broad range of specialist staff members and support networks throughout the HSC process, from subject selection, to major work drafting, to the final external exams. Since its introduction at St Andrew's in 2009, the IB has flourished, coinciding with our global focus as a city school – providing a unique international curriculum that caters for future study in many countries and cultures, encouraging students to become truly global citizens. Through study of the IB, students are further encouraged to be understanding and accepting of others and be critical and compassionate thinkers, making the Programme commensurate with St Andrew's spiritual and educational values.









My time at SACS Senior College was truly instrumental in preparing me for my tertiary course, not only academically, but psychologically. Being a part of the Leadership team equipped me with abundant interpersonal skills - the opportunities at SACS were endless. It really was both the academic skills as well as the non – academic skills that led me and prepared me for my degree - I was awarded a full scholarship to the International College of Management Sydney (Macquarie University).

HSC GRADUATE

I'm really glad I did it (the IB)!
I've really enjoyed the past two
years. It's a much smaller cohort
so therefore we're a very tight-knit
group and we were able to really
motivate one another and help
each other through.

IB GRADUATE

I came to St Andrew's an ordinary girl with little confidence in my ability. However, I proved to myself that if you take in some of the St Andrew's magic that exists within this School, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. I achieved academic results that I never thought would be possible and graduated at St Andrew's as a content, happy, healthy and confident person.

HSC GRADUATE

I believe that the IB experience will really benefit me in my future university studies. It's given me that valuable introduction I need into conducting independent research, which is such a vital part of university study.

IB GRADUATE



Gawura works
closely with many
sectors of Sydney's
Indigenous
community and
the broader
St Andrew's
student body.



gawura



Formed in 2007, Gawura is St Andrew's 'school within a school', catering for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Gawura is situated alongside our Junior School within St Andrew's House, which overlooks the surrounding cityscape. The highly-acclaimed academic model is tailored to the learning needs and levels of students, placing strong focus on both literacy and numeracy acquisition, coupled with high levels of parent and community involvement. Gawura works closely with many sectors of Sydney's Indigenous community and the broader St Andrew's student body, uniting all three in a celebration and furthering of our nation's Indigenous heritage. It is now recognised as a leading model for education, and reflective of St Andrew's continual desire to meet the changing learning needs of its students. Students generally graduate to Year 7 at St Andrew's.





parents voices

Most elders who have lived the hard road throughout their lives... will always advise that education is the way forward. As a mother, my dreams were answered; Gawura has given our girls a wonderful opportunity to be the best they can be and to live their dreams. Thank you to those who had the vision.

GAWURA PARENT



Our community of inclusion reflects our core value to depend on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance, to act in conformity to the teaching of the scripture as God's word.



a community of care

St Andrew's Cathedral School is a place to belong. We operate as a community that treats each student as an individual with God-given potential, as someone that matters. This sense of community extends beyond the walls of our City School and into broader society – we believe that in preparing for life, students should experience ways and means to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Genuine Christian values of pastoral care are at the heart of relationships at our School, giving greater and more meaningful purpose to interactions. Community at St Andrew's stretches through age and grades, between students and teaching staff, and out into the world. We stress the value of providing helping hands to those in need, speaking out for those whose voices are not heard and giving to those who have little. Our students also belong in a caring and nurturing environment - where ideals of Christian service are expressed through our teaching staff's professionalism and pastoral care to the littlest of details, such as the long standing tradition of personal acknowledgement of students' birthdays by the Head of School.

A highly articulated web of pastoral support that spans from the Junior School to Senior College is aimed at ensuring each student feels genuinely known and supported. Our House system encourages engagement across year groups, with older students acting as mentors. In the Secondary School, all students become a member of an academic tutor group, concentrated small groups under the care of a member of the teaching staff. We have a highly successful Peer Support Programme as well as a strong year group structure to meet the unique needs of each stage of school life.

A platform for ideas

Christian Development is an integral part of learning at St Andrew's where we aim to provide students with an understanding of the faith that can motivate and inspire them, allowing for question and challenge and providing a platform where ideas can be freely exchanged. We encourage our students to be aware of greater social needs than their own. The School's location next to St Andrew's Cathedral and our strong links with it historically contributes to our Christian character. Every student attends chapel once a week and takes an active role in the services. A number of voluntary student Christian groups provide opportunities for fellowship and Christian leadership, as well as the option of a yearly camp. Pastoral care for the whole School family – students, families and staff - is fundamental to St Andrew's. We seek, wherever possible, to work in partnership with our families, acknowledging that our parents are, in fact, the first educators of their children.



I think St Andrew's has given me a really good sense of self.
[In this community] you're important, you're respected and you're somebody.

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT



beyond the curriculum

Our rich and extensive cocurricular programme caters to the varied skill and interest levels of students, aiming to facilitate a broader and more fulfilling educational experience, which reflects the diversity of our student body. There is no stereotypical St Andrew's student: our community is so vibrant because of this differentiation. The depth of learning and attention to personal development goes beyond the classroom at St Andrew's, engaging the mind, body and spirit and serving to challenge and build on a student's creative, athletic and endurance abilities.













Every second year we run international music tours.





performing arts

There are extensive opportunities for self and collective expression at St Andrew's, beginning at the start of Junior School, and integrated with the curriculum to build confidence, interpersonal skills and focus, and developing through curricular and cocurricular opportunities all the way to Senior College.

Music at St Andrew's is a well-established institution, a legacy gained from our beginnings as a school for choristers and expanded to cater for the wide range of talents and interests of our student body. We provide the opportunity for all students to learn an instrument (with private tutorials available on-campus) and integrate performance opportunities and master classes into the daily workings of the School, whether in Cathedral-based assemblies, community gatherings in our glass-walled school foyer and Sydney Square or lunch-time concerts open to the city community.

Music tours

Students are able to participate in an innumerable range of choirs, ensembles, orchestras and groups. Recently, every second

year we have run international music tours. School musicals are also highly valued amongst the St Andrew's community.

Rich experiences in Drama

Our Drama department is a flourishing hub of activity, with open classrooms and an in-house black-box theatre giving Secondary students ample space to prepare their in-class works, often performed for other year groups and to the wider community. Cocurricular activities include an Improvisation Ensemble, who perform regularly with professional Theatre sports players, annual involvement in the Intermediate and Senior levels of a state-wide Theatresports Competition, Middle School and Senior drama ensembles and an Old Andreans Drama Ensemble.

I love music and I definitely want to continue playing music throughout high school. I'd also really like to learn the violin and the guitar.

JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENT

One of the best ways to learn is to get involved and St Andrew's gives you so many opportunities to get involved in lots of different things. For example, for me, performance is a big part of my life and I'm just happy I go to a school where they encourage me to follow that interest in lots of different ways – theatre sports, drama, music, performance.

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT



Students are able to play and participate in safe, high-quality environments.







sport

We provide sports activities for the full range of abilities, believing positive physical activity to be the best support for an active, learning mind. Our programme is designed to be inclusive, with a sport or cocurricular activity achievable for any student of any level.

The School delivers programmes that have high standards of sporting excellence. Our Advances in Sports programme gives students of ability the opportunity to work in a smaller more focused group, with tailored personal programmes created to assist with fitness, strength, diet, academic outcomes and skills development.

Sporting competitions

There is a growing base of Junior School sporting competition, generally taking place within easy access of the city. As part of our compulsory Winter Sport Programme, Middle School and Senior College students choose from over 20 different sports and activities

ranging from rugby, netball, soccer and hockey to debating, fencing, rock climbing, chess and dance.

St Andrew's bases our sporting programmes at Sydney University and Wentworth Park. In addition to the home grounds of St Andrew's and St John's Ovals within the university and the oval at Wentworth Park, coupled with basketball and other sports facilities at Sydney University, students are able to play and participate in safe, high-quality environments. We compete within the ISA sporting competition and provide our students with sporting pathways to CIS, NSW All Schools and Australian levels.

I play water polo, cricket and rugby [at School]; sport is a great release. I also love getting involved in athletics in House groups. I have always really enjoyed the House spirit at SACS because it gives unity to students from all year groups!

SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT

Since Year 7 I've been part of the Advances in Sports programme and I love it! It's really good getting to bond with other grades every second morning who are passionate about the same sports as I am and get opportunities to be part of larger sport competitions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

