

Marian College

304 Barkly Street,
ARARAT VIC 3377

Phone (03) 5352 3861
principal@mcararat.catholic.edu.au
www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au

Strength and Gentleness



A Kildare Education Ministries College in the Brigidine tradition

From The Principal

Dear Prospective Parents, Guardians and Students,

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions a family will face as young people prepare to transition from primary to secondary school.

Marian College is a Catholic Secondary College infused with the importance of honouring individual strengths to flourish within a safe, supportive environment.

Our motto, Strength and Gentleness (Fortiter et Suaviter) is such a powerful statement for our young people. Based on the Gospel values and attributes of our founding Brigidine Sisters, our students are called to be courageous in voice and action, hopeful and just, and compassionate in their leadership.

I am very proud of our holistic approach to educating our young people at Marian College, that includes real challenges, high expectations, diversity of pathway options and strong wellbeing support.

You know you are doing something right when students are happy; when they work well together, laugh together, respect each other and when they embrace diversity. Creating memories, good friendships, a compassionate heart and achieving solid results are all important aspects of a good education at Marian College.

Students need clear boundaries and teachers who are passionate about their subjects. Students also need staff who care about them, who get to know their likes and dislikes, their interests and aspirations. At Marian College we pride ourselves on providing the right support at the right time for all students to thrive. We have a wonderful, very dedicated team of teachers and support staff to support your child's individual needs and aspirations.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child into our community and to sharing our story of what it means to journey with us as your child navigates the secondary years in a safe supportive community.

Mrs Carmel Barker
Principal



Faith Development

Marian College is a Kildare Education Ministries Catholic secondary school in the Brigidine tradition. Established in 1889 by the Brigidine Sisters, we are very proud of our Catholic heritage, and believe our mission is to walk in the footsteps of these courageous women and to live out and promote the Gospel in our community.

Young people face many challenges today. As a College we must meet the needs of the contemporary world on a path that is continually evolving. At Marian College we are committed to an education that integrates and celebrates faith, learning and life. We understand that our students come from many cultural and faith experiences and that parents are the first educators of your children. Our approach to faith education is invitational.

Enrolment at Marian College is an invitation to engage in the spirit of the Gospels. Students, staff and families are invited to encounter the mystery of God in community, as a life-giving way to experience meaning, joy, fulfillment and peace in our lives. Students are encouraged to engage in civic and public life, involving community service and social justice.

Guided by our motto, Strength and Gentleness, the College supports the spiritual journey of students within the context of the Catholic faith and practice. Students are inspired to act with strength and gentleness and live out the Gospel values to make a difference in the world. Through experiences of prayer, liturgy, retreat and service to others, students are encouraged to develop a personal spirituality that will sustain them and provide a sense of meaning to their lives.

At Marian College we envision an inclusive Catholic Learning community where all people are valued, where all creation is sacred, where the pursuit of personal excellence is paramount, and where our core values of compassion, courage, hope, hospitality, justice and wonder are at the forefront of our mission.

Our Core Values:

Hope – Bringing a sense of purpose

Compassion – Walking with and having empathy for all

Justice – Making the needs of the vulnerable paramount

Wonder – Celebrating all that is good with joy and gratitude

Courage – Speaking and acting with integrity

Hospitality – Welcoming all

Students at Marian College are called to be strong and sensitive leaders in their own lives and in the lives of others - to be people of influence and compassion in their local and global communities.



Junior School

Year 7 Transition, not transfer

The aim of the Year 7 Transition Program at Marian College is to give students an equitable and positive start to secondary school. With this in mind, the priority in the first weeks of the school year is about building relationships and focusing on the students and how they learn; not on our curriculum. The program empowers students and gives them an opportunity to learn about themselves and their new surroundings, perhaps saving weeks/months of anxiety.

Integral to the Transition Program is the Year 7 Camp, a three day camp to Lorne. Staying at the Lorne Surf Life Saving Club, students focus on getting to know each other, friendship-making and team-building activities. They also have surfing lessons with instructors from Club Lorne and have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities including beach/bush walks, sandcastle competitions, boogie boarding and night walks.

Over the first few weeks the Year 7 students settle into our Brigidine Centre. This learning centre is designed to aid the smooth transition of students to secondary education, knowing they have different needs and skills at this time. We understand that all students do not learn in the same way or at the same time. The curriculum at Year 7 is designed with smaller targeted classes provided in literacy and numeracy for extra support or extensions.

Subjects for Year 7 and Year 8

Religious Education
English
Mathematics
Science
History
Physical Education
Digital Technology

Art
Textiles
Chinese
Home Economics
Performing Arts (Drama and Music)
Material Technology (wood, metal, plastics, electronics)



Teaching and Learning

Marian College offers a place where imagination, curiosity and love of learning are fostered and treasured. Our commitment to learning encourages excellence and perseverance in learning. We strive for continuous improvement. We understand the critical role of teachers and parents in partnership engaged in the education and shaping of our students.

Through the framework of Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) utilizing evidenced-based, high impact teaching strategies and student data to inform teaching and learning, teachers continually monitor, review and evaluate best teaching practices and students' growth. Collaboration and sharing of resources, skills and data is important for the continual growth and development of all students.

Our Student Learning Action Statement empowers students to take control of their own learning:

As part of Marian College students make a commitment to:

- Learn in every lesson
- Come prepared for every lesson in attitude and action
- Respect the learning environment
- Respect the rights of others to learn
- Accept new challenges
- Persevere and complete all tasks to the best of my ability
- Accept feedback as a chance to grow.

As students grow they develop mastery of both skills and content, and grow in confidence to independently apply this learning to new and unfamiliar situations. At Year 9 and Year 10 greater subject choice is provided as students understand the opportunities and options for the future.

During Year 10, teachers work closely with students and their parents, the Careers counsellor, the VCE and Applied Learning Coordinators and Hub Leaders to help students consider the right pathway and subject choices to further education, employment or training. Marian College offers a diverse curriculum that caters for the needs of our students. The timetable is a construct of mandated and elective courses for students of all abilities, including extension opportunities, remediation and life skills and wellbeing programs.

Middle School

Subjects in Year 9 and 10

For a complete outline of the Year 9 and 10 curriculum please visit the Marian College website and download the Subject Information Handbook.

<https://www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au/uploads/Files/Year-9-and-10-Handbook.pdf>



Senior School

Senior School Curriculum Year 11 and Year 12

Valued Pathways to Success

- **VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education)**
- **VM (Vocational Major)**
- **VET (Vocational Education and Training)**

For a complete outline of the Year 11 and 12 curriculum please visit the Marian College website and download the Subject Information Handbook.

<https://www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au/uploads/Files/Year-11-and-12-Handbook.pdf>

The **VCE** provides students with a post-compulsory certificate which allows students to access diverse pathways beyond school and attests to their readiness to enter post-compulsory education. It is awarded to students who satisfactorily complete a program of studies as described by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). This program for a full time student at Marian College will consist of units taken over four semesters or two years. At the end of Year 12 students would normally receive an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) which can be used for University and/or Tertiary and Further education (TAFE) entrance.

VET Courses contribute units to either VCE (including ATAR) or VM Certificates. VCE/VET Courses have end of year exams similar to other VCE courses and it is compulsory for VM students to undertake at least one VET course.

Students may pursue VET Courses within Marian College, within the VET Cluster, or with other external providers, so they can pursue a qualification appropriate for their career choice. The Central Grampians LLEN (Ararat/Stawell) and Highlands LLEN (Ballarat) coordinate courses as a VET Cluster group.

VET Programs within Marian College currently include Automotive, Building and Construction, Business (for VM), Community Services, Early Childhood, Engineering, Furniture Making, Music and Sport & Recreation.

VM is an accredited secondary certificate issued by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, as is the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). VM focuses on careers-based 'hands-on learning' whereas the VCE is widely used by students as a direct pathway to university.

Students who study VM are more likely to be interested in continuing their studies at TAFE, doing an apprenticeship or traineeship, or finding employment after they complete their course. At Marian College students who undertake a VM course over the two years are required to complete at least one VET subject and work experience.



Co-Curricular and Electives

Co-curricular activities are those activities that are outside of but usually complementing or linked to the regular curriculum. Electives provide great subject choice for students within the timetable that is beyond the mandated core subjects.

Marian College recognises that co-curricular opportunities play an important role in the education of students, helping to nurture and develop the individual in all aspects of life: physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and cognitively. Students are assisted in developing teamwork, critical thinking and social skills, thereby increasing confidence and resilience. Our extensive range of sporting activities and opportunities to engage in inter-school competitions, Music and Band, the Performing Arts, Ceramics, Sculpture, Photography, Debating, Public Speaking, Creative Writing, Drama and Technology provide important opportunities for students to experience new ways to demonstrate and learn skills and to gain pleasure from creating something special.



Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Marian College comprises an incredibly welcoming, compassionate and supportive community that values the development, achievement and contribution of all students and their families. We understand that good education is intrinsically linked to good wellbeing.

At Marian College, the care, safety and wellbeing of all students is paramount. It is the responsibility of all staff members, who work in partnership with parents. Our vertical Home Rooms (Teacher Advisor Groups) provide an opportunity for students and their families to build strong relationships with the Teacher Advisor, and for students at all levels to develop friendship, to mentor and lead, and to inspire others. Here students are given the opportunity to discover and develop their individual talents and interests, to set goals for the future, and to understand their rights and responsibilities as students within the Marian College community.



Timetabled age-appropriate wellbeing lessons are provided for all students every week. This provides an opportunity for teachers to focus on the Positive Education program, respectful relationships, study skills, personal safety, mental health and wellbeing, e-smart strategies and safety, and individual character strengths.



Our very proactive Wellbeing team consisting of: the Head of Wellbeing, House Leaders, Counsellors, Teacher Advisors, the Learning Diversity Leader, Behaviour Support staff, oversee an environment that has as its focus: the spiritual, academic, emotional, physical and personal safety of the students.

