ST MARY’S COLLEGE – EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH

Did you know? - Only 10 Words Make Up 25% Of the English Language!!

*English* at St Mary’s College is much more than a simple study of language. The St Mary’s College English Curriculum provides the opportunity for students to participate more fully in lifelong learning. The courses provide a foundation for further studies in all disciplines. Literary and non-literary texts studied aim to develop intellectual and emotional intelligence. All English courses place a strong emphasis on developing the language and literacy skills which will ensure students are competent communicators in written and oral contexts reflecting a range of real life situations. In summary, English at St Mary’s is designed for students whose future pathways may involve English skills at any level.
Our Middle Years (Year 7 – Year 9) and transition to Senior (Year 10) curriculum offerings are aligned to the Language, Literacy and Literature strands of the Australian Curriculum. Our Senior Curriculum provides a rich immersion in a plethora of literary and non-literary texts that engage and challenge the students to think critically and appreciate the skill of the creators of written and aural and visual texts. We pride ourselves on flexibility in our curriculum to respond suits the specific needs and interests of our students and our pedagogy is based on best practice.

English courses offered at St. Mary’s College are organised into the areas of:

- **Year 7 to Year 9 English (Australian Curriculum):**

  The program focus is on essential language and literacy skills necessary for effective communication, thus supporting their ability to be achieve in all other subject areas. Literature study (short story, novel, play, feature film) is introduced in selected units.

- **Year 10 English and English Extension (Australian Curriculum):**

  English continues to develop the language and literacy skills for students who require further guidance and dedicated practice in these skills. Some literary texts are used to support this learning. The English Literacy Short Course is introduced at this level to ensure that all students will comply with the prerequisites for their QCE at the end of Year 12.

  *English Extension* introduces the students to the rigour of language, literacy and literature skills that will prepare them for their Senior studies.

- **Year 11 to Year 12 Authority English and English Communication (QCCA Syllabi):**

  Authority English has a Literature focus, complemented by the continued development of Senior Language and Literacy skills that will prepare students for further tertiary study at the completion of Year 12. Students experience a mix of classic and contemporary literary texts which offer a diverse range of topics relevant to our world. The individual in society: Australian Identity; freedom and oppression; Film as Literature; the Power of Poetry through the Ages to move and shake the status quo; Novels that matter. These are some of the areas our students respond to, exploring, discussing, evaluating, and creating their own persuasive, expository and imaginative texts.

  English Communication offers students who are pursuing a vocational pathway the opportunity to continue to develop the thinking, communicating and organisational skills that they will need in the world of work. Students are offered authentic experiences such as dealing with communication and conflict in the workplace, organising a charity event, moving out of home complemented by media and literary units to develop a balanced curriculum.

### ST MARY’S COLLEGE – DEDICATED STAFF AND REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES

St Mary’s College teachers are dedicated professionals who are experts in their field. Their passion for education and commitment to getting the best possible outcomes for every student ensures each child in their care is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. St Mary’s College teachers go above and beyond the call of duty to provide their students with real-life experiences. Additionally, our staff, provide a homework club two days per week, subject specific tutorials as needed and weekend library sessions prior to assessment blocks.
St Mary’s College is always seeking ways to provide students with the most up-to-date facilities possible. Year 7 students enjoy the innovative and spacious rooms designed specifically for the middle years. The building program was undertaken prior to the Year 7 students starting at the College to ensure each and every student can experience their chosen areas of study in state-of-the-art surroundings. St Mary’s College is proud of its tradition of providing excellent facilities that enable students to fully explore their passions.

English is no exception, with students actively using a range of digital technologies to research, construct quality visual accompaniments to their oral and written responses and organise their day to day class notes. Students use relevant software packages on personal laptops and present to their classmates using interactive whiteboards.

Students are encouraged to participate in Public Speaking and Writing competitions that are on offer during the year. We organise Book Clubs and Writing Clubs to accommodate those students who are looking to explore the literary world further.

Our wonderful facilities, together with dedicated, expert staff ensure our students can not only explore their passions to the fullest, but are prepared for life beyond school in the real world.
“It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations--something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own.” (Katherine Patterson)

This philosophy of Katherine Patterson underpins much of what we offer our students in the English Faculty, whether it is the academic or vocational pathway they choose.

“21st century education integrates technologies, engaging students in ways not previously possible, creating new learning and teaching possibilities, enhancing achievement and extending interactions with local and global communities.”

MCEETYA – Contemporary Learning: Learning in an Online World (2005)