

ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



St Columba
Anglican School

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WELCOME

I am very proud of the students at St Columba Anglican School because they are successful, well-mannered and happy; they are enthused by their school and the challenges before them. As you look through this prospectus, to help you decide if SCAS is the right school for your child, I trust that you will find the contents inspiring and helpful to you in making your decision. As Principal, I believe SCAS provides an outstanding education,

combining academic excellence and pastoral support with a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities, all underpinned by a deep commitment to the needs and enthusiasm of each student. At St Columba we believe that education is about recognising and realising a student's potential and providing a safe community in which to grow. We welcome your application to become a part of our learning community.

Terry Muldoon
BA DipEd GradDipEdAdmin MEd MACEL
Principal



OUR SCHOOL

"It has been over a year since I graduated from St Columba, and I just wanted to let you know how grateful I am for the support and encouragement given to me by the staff and school community. Before I began at SCAS I had little confidence and low self-esteem. By the time I had graduated I truly felt like a valuable and confident adult and a role model to inspire others. One of the school's greatest assets is the lack of bullying and division I had experienced at my previous school."

Year 12 Graduate

St Columba Anglican School, an independent school situated in Port Macquarie on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, is an Anglican co-educational school for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12.

The school campus is located on 14 hectares off the Oxley Highway, five kilometres from the centre of Port Macquarie. It has an Early Learning Centre, Primary and Secondary Schools on a campus established in 2002.

The school has built a reputation for academic excellence, pastoral care of students and for developing the whole child.

At St Columba we believe that education is about recognising and realising a student's potential and providing a safe community in which to grow.

St Columba's reputation is founded on:

- academic excellence
- educational continuity from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12

- state of the art technology
- vibrant and dynamic performing and visual arts programs
- extensive sporting facilities
- a strong sense of community
- extensive co-curricular programs

Columba Cottage Early Learning Centre (CCELC) provides an excellent place for children from six weeks to school age. Owned by St Columba Anglican School, the CCELC shares the school's dedication to offering the very best in education, with well-programmed and stimulating activities.

The CCELC also offers Outside of School Hours Care and Vacation Care for children from Kindergarten to Year 6.

St Columba Anglican School is within driving distance of Wauchope, the Camden Haven and Kempsey areas, and a network of buses service the school.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

St Columba's commitment to academic excellence, pastoral care and participation in a breadth of sporting, creative and performing arts activities promotes a rich cultural ethos within the school and develops the individual talents of each student.

A wide-ranging curriculum caters for all students - from the intellectually gifted to those more interested in vocational courses.

Through Primary years to the Higher School Certificate, St Columba offers students access to challenging courses that promise real academic accomplishment achievable through hard work and good teaching. Experienced and highly trained staff work alongside students in their care to provide a nurturing and challenging educational experience.

Within this framework St Columba aims to provide its students with a Christian education, which recognises the importance of spiritual qualities in every sphere of learning and living.

"Thank you is barely adequate to convey my sentiments to you and all of the teaching and support staff at St Columba Anglican School. You have enabled my son to proceed into a life after school equipped and empowered with a variety of skills, abilities, values and attitudes that will stand him in good stead as he embraces the challenges of his future life. "

Parent of graduating Year 12 student

A



WORLD



OF



OPPORTUNITIES





THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Primary School is a busy, happy place where all children can experience success and know that they have an important contribution to make. We are committed to providing a rich and diverse educational experience that promotes engagement, equity and excellence.

Our students experience learning opportunities to develop and grow in a supportive, caring, challenging and inspiring environment. Our teaching and learning staff are committed to developing strong, positive relationships with their students in a learning atmosphere that enables students to be engaged and to grow at a rate that is commensurate with their levels of knowledge and understanding.

The Primary School offers a stimulating curriculum to its students. We aim to foster in each child a love for learning through the delivery of an integrated learning approach by each class teacher in a safe and secure environment. There is a strong emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy within the academic program.

All students in the Primary School study the following curriculum areas: English, Mathematics,

Science, History, Geography, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Creative Arts, LOTE and Religious Education. Each class teacher identifies students within the class who would benefit from extension work or learning support. The teacher liaises with the Learning Support and Enrichment teachers so as to cater for the academic needs for these students.

In addition, the students have opportunities to participate in a wide range of sporting, outdoor and cultural activities, which help to develop their self-esteem and social interactions. Along with the rest of the school, the Primary School has a Christian foundation and we believe that it is important for each child to understand the basis of the Christian faith. We achieve this through our daily approach, Christian Education lessons and our weekly Chapel Services. We endeavour to instil in each child an understanding of tolerance, respect, co-operation and appropriate manners towards others within the School community.

We value, very much, the importance of parent involvement within the classroom.

"Thank you for another wonderful year. My daughter's teacher this year had a style that was encouraging, inspiring and inclusive. Our child went from not wanting to even try a sport to embracing a 'have a go' attitude. She was encouraged to help others, to be happy, and to do her best."

Parent of a Primary student

THE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Secondary School at St Columba is a rich, varied and exciting place. Our aim is to open up a new world of opportunities for our students where they are encouraged to aim high and every student can strive for his or her personal best.

At St Columba we foster and encourage independent thinking, a commitment to the community and an excitement for knowledge and learning, in a supportive and enriching environment.

Students in Secondary School are encouraged to push boundaries, grow in self-confidence and improve their performance whilst working collaboratively to create a strong community.

Students develop self-confidence, high self esteem, a commitment to personal excellence based on a positive set of values and respect for the values of others, and a sense of responsibility both to self and to the wider community. The pastoral care program is delivered by Classroom Teachers, House Tutors and Year

Patrons, assisted by the Director of Pastoral Care and Chaplain, to ensure the well-being of each student.

The mostly traditional academic model offered at the school encompasses a wide range of subject choices within the Board of Studies Approved Course framework. Some Vocational and Category B subjects are also on offer to our Senior cohort. The academic program is complemented by an eclectic range of extra-curricular experiences and collegial support from our staff.

Students graduate knowing they have established life-long friendships with the staff as well as their peers. They graduate as individuals whose hopes, dreams and ambitions are known and supported by sound work habits and solid values. They are prepared for the ever changing world which they will face, knowing that they are willing and able to continue to learn throughout their lives wherever they may find themselves.

"Being part of the diverse, talented and fantastic Year 7 group has been an awesome experience for me. Being a new member of the school, I didn't know what to expect, but the diversity of the group has made it easy to fit in. St Columba is a school like no other with opportunities offered in all parts of the curriculum. Everyone is unique and here at SCAS this is for the better. Being part of a year level like this has been an eye-opening experience which shows off the school in a great light."

New Year 7 student





PASTORAL CARE

"My son has had a wonderful first term in Year 9 and I am so happy with all the experiences he has been able to enjoy. I believe that up to date equipment and lovely playing fields are great, but it is the heart of the school and the attitude of the people who spend their days there that really make the difference."

Parent of current Secondary student

The wellbeing of all students is central to the mission of St Columba Anglican School. Research shows that students who are happy and well connected at school are more successful and find schooling more purposeful. St Columba provides students with opportunities which proactively promote relationships, community connection and personal development.

The focus at St Columba is the development of the whole child. This involves the nurturing of their physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

While all staff members are involved in student welfare and care, the school also has established structures to facilitate relationships and personal development. The system of commendations is provided to encourage students in positive endeavour. The system of demerits and detentions is used to discourage students from, and educate them about, inappropriate behaviour.

A high level of care is achieved for all students through the Tutor system. In Years K to 6 the class teachers take this responsibility. In Years 7 to 12 a teacher is allocated a group of students with whom they meet regularly and over whom they have a general oversight.

The physical and mental wellbeing of students is supported through programs woven around our five tenets: Take Notice, Be Active, Connect, Keep Learning and Give. This K-12 language provides a well researched basic structure to guide students into the development of habits which allow human beings the best conditions in which to flourish.

Student welfare is managed in the Primary School by the Director of Primary Pastoral Care and in the Secondary School by the Director of Secondary Pastoral Care.

CO-CURRICULAR

The co-curricular program at SCAS recognises that education does not only occur in the classroom, but on the sporting fields, practice rooms, stages and many other areas where students might learn and excel.

St Columba students are renowned for the breadth of their talents and achievements. A large part of this comes from taking advantage of the opportunities the school provides both in the classroom and in its co-curricular program.

Our programs seek to inspire interest, encourage passion and develop our students' talents in the widest possible range of activities.

We believe that, linked to the formal learning offered by St Columba, we will provide our students an education that is more than the sum of marks, rather it is a process that recognises that true learning is ongoing, exciting and the key to long-term individual achievement.

The staff who lead these activities are passionate in their approach and eager to support the students in developing their skills, knowledge and passion.

Co-curricular activities include Drama, Chess Club, Debating, Interact Club, Public Speaking, Crusaders, Mock Trial, Circus Club, Vegetable Garden Group, Primary and Secondary Bands and Orchestras, Chamber Ensembles, Primary and Secondary Choir Groups and Primary and Secondary Eisteddfod Dance Groups.

Our students have the opportunity to compete in Hunter Region Independent Schools (HRIS) Gala Days and Hastings Inter-Schools competitions in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Tennis, Hockey, Rugby, Football (Soccer), Basketball, Netball, Touch Football, Futsal, Cricket, Softball, Equestrian and Golf. Representative pathways exist across these and other sports at Combined Independent School (CIS)/NSW All-Schools levels and beyond. Students are also provided with the opportunity to participate in local community competitions in Basketball, Hockey, Touch Football and Rugby.

Students are also encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

"The reasons I like SCAS as a new student are that being a bigger school SCAS has the ability to create a wide range of options. Each teacher gets to know you and your abilities and help you to be the best you can be. The respect from the students towards the teachers creates an enjoyable environment to work in. Overall SCAS is equipping me to be a model citizen for the next stage of my life."

Year 8 student





PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

St Columba is proud to be a place where the Performing Arts are a vital part of the school's educational culture. The Performing Arts curriculum focuses on the areas of Dance, Drama and Music. It also incorporates the vocational area of Entertainment Industry.

The SCAS Performing Arts Program is recognised for its excellence and high levels of academic and cultural achievement across the state and nationally. In all three disciplines, Dance, Drama and Music, SCAS sets a benchmark for the delivery of outstanding Performing Arts Programs. The successes of our graduates in joining the very best universities, conservatoria, dance companies and theatre groups bears testimony to our efforts.

The philosophical underpinning of PACE is the offering enrichment opportunities on all levels for students across the K-12 program. The results of this passion for excellence and inclusion are to be found in the outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate and the ongoing popularity of our K-12 co-curricular program.

Our programs seek to inspire interest, encourage passion and develop our students' talents in the widest possible range of activities while offering great opportunities to foster their talents in their chosen artistic fields.

One of our strengths is our capacity to work with students and develop their love of the performing arts and its disciplines from preschool through to HSC.

As well as highly qualified and passionate Performing Arts teaching staff, SCAS has an exceptional and dedicated group of instrumental and vocal teachers offering private tuition for a range of instruments including woodwind, strings, brass, piano, keyboard and drums.

Few K-12 schools can offer the dance facilities offered by SCAS. We have two dedicated dance studios, a thriving Co-curricular Dance program that is recognised as among the best in the country, an excellent working relationship with the local Dance schools and formal academic instruction that begins in early Secondary School.

The Dance elective that begins as an elective subject in Year 8 is based on the study of dance ensuring an all-round dance education in Performance, Composition and Appreciation. This is complemented by a diverse range of dance classes in the co-curricular program, which are held before and after school.

Drama begins its journey to the Higher School Certificate in Primary School, building along the way a body of knowledge of the elements of Drama and the theatrical traditions and performance styles of the world. The nature of this art-form, as it is expressed at SCAS, engages students in a creative process where they can communicate in complex and powerful ways. Drama co-curricular opportunities run in conjunction with and in addition to the elective drama program.

"Six years ago our son embarked on his high school journey at SCAS. During those years he has been given some amazing opportunities - Rock Eisteddfod, Duke of Edinburgh, camps, Mock Trial, competitions and sporting events, just to name a few. The quality of his teachers has always been outstanding and we want to thank you for the great education he has received. It has been a pleasure to have our son attend SCAS and we appreciate all that you have done for him."

Parent of Year 12 graduate

SPORT & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Sport is an important part of the co-curricular life at our school and students are provided with many opportunities to experience the physical benefits and joys of sport and the invaluable lessons of being a member of a team.

All students participate in school sport on a weekly basis. The school sport program encompasses a wide variety of sports and physical activities available on campus (Primary and Secondary), utilising SCAS facilities, and off site (Secondary only) in the local area with external providers.

St Columba representative teams compete in Hunter Region Independent Schools (HRIS) Gala Days and Hastings Inter-Schools competitions in Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics, Tennis, Hockey, Rugby, Rugby League, Soccer, Basketball, Netball, Touch Football, Futsal, Cricket, Mountain Biking, Equestrian and Golf. SCAS also competes in local community competitions

in Basketball and Rugby.

Education beyond the classroom is vital in developing students who will thrive beyond their school experience.

The camp program at St Columba aims to provide all students with the opportunity to access experiences that will challenge them to develop outdoor skills, teamwork and communication, organisational skills and leadership.

Our camp program also provides valuable time for Year Groups to bond and deepen friendships through shared experiences and overcoming adversity.

Our Outdoor Education camps in Year 7 and 9 also encourage students to engage with the environment and understand the impact humans have upon it.

Our school also encourages participation in the Duke of Edinburgh program available to students from Year 9 to 12 which aligns with our school values and promotes active lifestyles.

"I started at SCAS this year and found SCAS to be a great school. Everyone has been really friendly and made me feel very welcome, and I have made lots of new friends. I have enjoyed being part of the School netball team, and one of my favourite things this year was going on a school camp to Barrington Tops for my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. It has been a great first year for me at SCAS and I look forward to another great year next year."

Year 9 student



How to Enrol

For more information, or to discuss the opportunities for your child at St Columba Anglican School, please contact our Enrolments staff on 02 6581 4188 or via email to enrolments@scas.nsw.edu.au

Additional information and the enrolment application form is available on the school website www.scas.nsw.edu.au

School Tours

A school tour allows you to explore our facilities and grounds, as well as discuss your child's educational needs with us.

Tours are available by appointment during school term so that you can see the School in action. If you would like to organise a tour, please contact the Enrolments Department on 02 6581 4188.

Faith † Hope † Truth † Love

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dream
big
dreams
be bold
love
wisdom
and you will
know
no limits



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