



Mount Alexander College



School Prospectus

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Welcome

At MAC, we empower our students with their learning through vertical classes and subject choice. We believe in developing creativity, critical thinking skills and independent learning. Our vertical curriculum creates a deeper love of learning through greater subject choice.

The school has made extensive improvements to the buildings and grounds; however, the quality of teachers is what makes a great school. We place a high priority on Professional Learning across the school in order to build the capacity of all staff.

The school is as cosmopolitan as Melbourne is and there is no better place to learn about the customs and traditions of other cultures than at school.

We believe that everyone deserves respect, regardless of whether they are an entry-level student, graduate, teacher, principal or parent. We have zero tolerance of bullying of any kind, smoking, alcohol, illegal drugs or violence, and instill in our staff and students a sense of respect for self, others and the environment.

Student wellbeing is the foundation of academic success and we provide a wide range of student wellbeing resources. All students have access to study and social skills, resilience programs, student leadership development, positive school-wide behaviours, mentor programs, house structure and a dedicated wellbeing team.

"The teachers at MAC are very supportive and I make friends really easily and feel that I fit in." Year 7 student

At Mount Alexander College, excellence is as important as endeavour. All students are able to be their best by being empowered to take control of their learning, encouraged to follow their passions while having fun, and challenged and supported along the way.

Vision and Values

Our Vision

MAC's vision is to foster an inclusive and supportive environment, empowering students to direct their own learning. We endeavour to create a school that remains connected and engaged with the community and caters for all kinds of success. Students are inspired to work towards their full potential and become the voices of the future.

Our School Values

Community

The provision of a safe inclusive learning environment in which all members of the school community feel a sense of belonging and are valued for their contributions to the school. A sense of community is encouraged through inclusive practices that reflect a respect for individual differences and a celebration of diversity.

Engagement

The implementation of a meaningful, relevant and appropriately challenging curriculum and the provision of co-curricular programs that encourage participation, citizenship and student leadership.

Excellence

The development of a passion to learn and high aspirations through the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. The celebration of personal achievement and success.

Integrity

The promotion and modelling of consistently honest, transparent, responsible and ethical behaviour that upholds these core values and principles.

Respect

The respect of oneself, others and our environment is a fundamental value. Being courteous and valuing the dignity of everyone is an essential pillar of our learning community.



Our Principal Team

Ms Dani Angelico, Principal

Dani Angelico was appointed Principal of Mount Alexander College in Term 2, 2019. Dani has been in education for almost 30 years and has worked across all facets of school operations, administration and instructional leadership. She was the Assistant Principal at Maribyrnong College for nine years and in 2018 was the Acting Principal at Buckley Park College. She also worked at Wyndham Central, formerly known as Galvin Park Secondary College in a number of leadership roles including Acting Assistant Principal. As the Assistant Principal at Maribyrnong College she led the transformation and growth of the College from a school of 700 to 1300 students. This included the planning and expenditure of more than \$1 million of school council funds in canteen, library, senior Art/Media, instrumental music and sub-school re-developments. As head of the Senior School, she led the development and implementation of the Senior School Curriculum (Years 10 to 12), to a vertical structure which resulted in breadth of subject choice and the opportunity for acceleration.



Dani led the improvement of the VCE results from a median of 24 to 30 in less than five years. Her leadership in curriculum, assessment and reporting resulted in the implementation of five-weekly reporting, a practice that has been adopted by many other schools across the state. Aside from her Assistant Principal role at Maribyrnong, she has produced and directed seven musical productions at Maribyrnong College and has taken a keen interest in the performing arts at Maribyrnong and other schools. Ms Angelico is supported by Assistant Principal Ms Meg Rawlins, and leading teachers Kate Stevanovic, Claire Runci, Duncan Hillier, Erin Murphy, Loiuse Leong, Julie Stephens, and Michael Buckingham.

Ms Meg Rawlins, Assistant Principal Senior School



Meg Rawlins has been at Mount Alexander College for just over ten years. She has held various leadership roles in Curriculum, Student Engagement/Wellbeing and Community Engagement during the significant changes in the transformation of the school. Meg currently oversees the instructional practice, professional learning, curriculum, assessment and reporting, and school operations. She is passionate about building teaching and leadership expertise in providing professional learning opportunities for educators at MAC and beyond. Meg received her Masters Degree in Instructional Leadership from the University of Melbourne in 2018 and completed Graduate Certificate in Principal Preparation at Monash University. Meg also completed the Unlocking Principal Potential Program in 2019. Meg's journey as an educational leader has been influenced by many significant relationships she has developed with students in pushing her to want to make a difference.

Student Wellbeing

"I asked my son this morning, was he happy at school! His answer was, "Of course Mum, there is no bullying, I haven't been bullied once! Bullying is just not accepted at this school there's lots of fun stuff to learn!"

Of course I am not under any illusion that MAC is not completely free of bullying and intolerances, but for my son to believe this attitude allows him to feel comfortable and happy going to school each day! Well done MAC teacher's staff and students! I believe that vertical learning plays a big part in tearing down differences and bully like behaviour!"

Mount Alexander College considers the wellbeing of the students to be an essential part of their learning. The primary goal of our dedicated Student Wellbeing and Student Engagement Teams are to ensure students feel safe, engaged and connected at school. Kate Stevanovic, Leading Teacher Student Engagement and Wellbeing, coordinates the teams.

School Wide Positive Behaviours underpins our school philosophy and can be seen in classes and around the school. The Expectations Matrix outlines appropriate behaviours and responsibilities for all students.

Students meet with their mentor teacher on a weekly basis. Parents and students should initially contact their Head of House with any concerns.

Inclusion Support Program

Mount Alexander College has a well-established Inclusion Program that supports students with additional learning needs. Ally Paleologoudias, Disability Inclusion Coordinator, oversees the Inclusion Support Program.

Student Engagement and Wellbeing Team

Leading Teacher Student Engagement & Wellbeing:
Kate Stevanovic

Student Wellbeing Coordinator: Clark Mitchell

Disability Inclusion Coordinator: Ally Paleologoudias

Heads of House:

Artemis – Tom Grocott

Poseidon – Shannon McVeigh

Apollo – Jordan Donnelly

Athena – Maddison Whyte

Mental Health Practitioners: Elaine Wong and Julianne Sinclair

Careers & Pathways Coordinator: Alison Lovett

School Attendance Officer: Helen Gatford & Elizabeth Cassar

Community Liaison Officer: Zeituna Hussein & Halima Malaakh

School Community Nurse: Michelle Hynson

Doctors in Schools GP: Dr Erin Gordon

Doctors in Schools Practice Nurse: TBC

Student Leadership

At Mount Alexander College we value the importance of providing students opportunities to explore their leadership potential and have an active voice in the policies and programs that impact them. Our student leadership team has a strong and dynamic commitment to improving the experience of all students. While students are able to become student leaders, the school recognises that students may want to explore other avenues of student leadership. Students are able to participate in and apply for engagement and entrepreneurial programs and scholarships both within the school and wider community through our partnerships.

The Student Leadership Team is formed each year through an application and election process. The Student Leadership Team consists of the School Captains who are supported by our four House Captains and Student Mentor Leaders. The Leadership Team includes other roles: House Sports Captains, Interschool Sports Captains, Performing Arts, Art, Debating & English, Science and Environmental Captains. The Student Leadership Team represents all students in each of the school's houses providing an opportunity to lead House as well as school-wide programs and activities based on student interest and need.

College Captains

College Captains are elected by the student body to lead and represent the students in forums regarding decisions made about the school. The School Captains represent the school at local and regional events, assist in leading whole school assemblies and report back to the Student Leadership Team in fortnightly meetings.

2023 College Captains: Rea Tinoy and Luke Vella

2023 Vice-College Captain: Billhah Ryan

House Captains

Each house (Apollo, Athena, Artemis and Poseidon) has two House Captains. House Captains are responsible for organising and motivating house members to get involved in house-led activities and initiatives.

"My girls are in Year 7 and 9 and are very happy there. What they are doing educationally is very advanced and it's a matter of time before all secondary schools move to a vertical learning model like this."

Leadership Scholarships and Programs

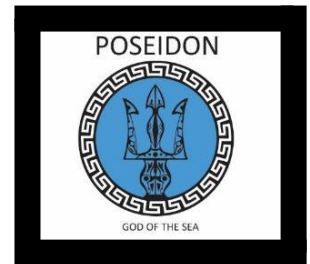
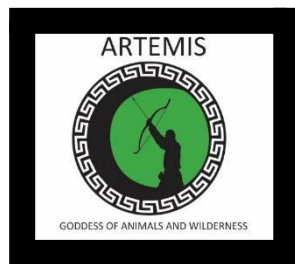
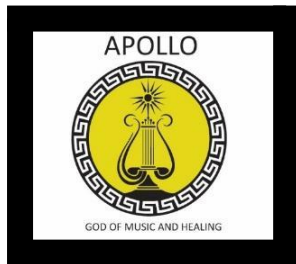
The school nominates outstanding students for leadership programs and awards. These include the Australian Defence Forces Long Tan & Future Innovators Awards, Seddon Community Bendigo Bank Scholarships, Skyline Scholarship, Harding Millar Education Scholarship, Kwong Lee Dow Award and Rotary Club programs.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for leadership programs including: The Whitten Project, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Western Chances, iLead, Department of Health and Human Services Scholarships, The David Burgess Foundation, Moonee Valley Council Youth Voice Award, UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy, School for Student Leadership and others.

Student Mentor Leaders

Each mentor group has an elected Student Mentor Leader. Student Mentor Leaders support House Captains and are supported by their Mentor Teacher. Student Mentor Leaders provide the opportunity for all students in mentor classes to have a point of contact with the Student Leadership Team.

School Houses



Students are placed into one of the four school houses when they begin at Mount Alexander College. The houses provide students support with their education and life goals. Students participate in a range of fun and academic activities throughout the year to earn points for their houses.

Houses are responsible for school activities including school assemblies and fundraising events. At the end of each year, the house with the most points wins the house cup, which is presented at the Awards Night.

The 2016 students chose the house names from the Greek Gods. Jamie Rodger, a 2016 student, designed the house logos.

Mentor Groups

Each house is divided into Mentor Groups with a Mentor Teacher.

Mentor Groups meet once a week. It is an opportunity for students to raise any issues or concerns they have, and for their Mentor Teachers to communicate with the students.

"Your efforts have ensured that our son has remained connected to his peers, has been supported by his teachers and returns to school today with optimism for the future."



Curriculum



There are over 150 possible electives available to students at MAC. All classes are vertical classrooms; they have students from different year levels. All students go through course counselling and create individual pathway plans.

Our conversation with students is about their learning, what they would like to learn, the importance of literacy and numeracy and the importance of breadth e.g. have I chosen a science subject, does my plan include the arts, humanities?

The individual pathway plans are flexible, change from year to year and require a partnership with the student's parent/guardian. We also work backwards from the senior curriculum to map out the learning.

The English and Maths classes are at the appropriate level for each individual student rather than their chronological age. Entry into pre-VCE subjects is based on students' results and recommendation. However, if a student insists on doing a subject, we do not prevent them from attempting it, as long as it does not interfere with the learning of others or a teacher's capacity to teach the class.

The Student Subject Handbook is available online on the school's website.

Students in Year 7 (Entry), Years 8-10 (Above Entry) and Year 11 (Graduate) study six subjects per semester.

At Year 7 (Entry), students undertake core subjects and spend the majority of their time in the same class group. Core subjects include: Quest (English and Humanities), Maths at their ability level, Green the Apocalypse (Science), Health and PE and one vertical class elective each semester.

In Years 8-10 (Above Entry), students choose semester-long subjects from Humanities, Sciences, Arts and Technology, and Health and PE electives. Students undertake year-long Maths at the appropriate level and semester-long English subjects that are chosen from language and text.

PreVCE subjects, notionally chosen at Year 10 level, prepare students for VCE. These subjects are available to younger students who are interested and demonstrate the required capacity.



Languages

Mount Alexander College offers two languages on site: Chinese and Japanese. Students can also study other languages, supported by the school, through Distance Education or the Victorian School of Languages.

Currently, all students have an opportunity to participate in an international tour to China.

In 2016 the school had its first tour to China and established a sister school relationship.

In 2019 the school had its first tour to Italy and established a sister school relationship with a school in Prato, Tuscany.



Music



The new and improved music program at MAC gives all students the chance to study the aspects of music they want to learn. With both instrumental lessons and classroom electives (including VCE), everyone has the opportunity to learn the instrument they dream of. The school offers instrumental lessons in a wide range of instruments to students throughout the school. Lessons take place during the school day on a rotating timetable.

Students have plenty of performance opportunities on and off the campus so they can experience what it is really like to be a musician. There are also plenty of opportunities to learn about all aspects of the music industry with students not only playing and performing music but also doing live sound mixing and lighting, songwriting and recording and producing music of their own.

Students can also join any of the current ensembles at the school, or start a new one.

*"MAC is an amazing school!
Our kids love it. It's a student
centred school and students
have a say in the school."*



Senior School

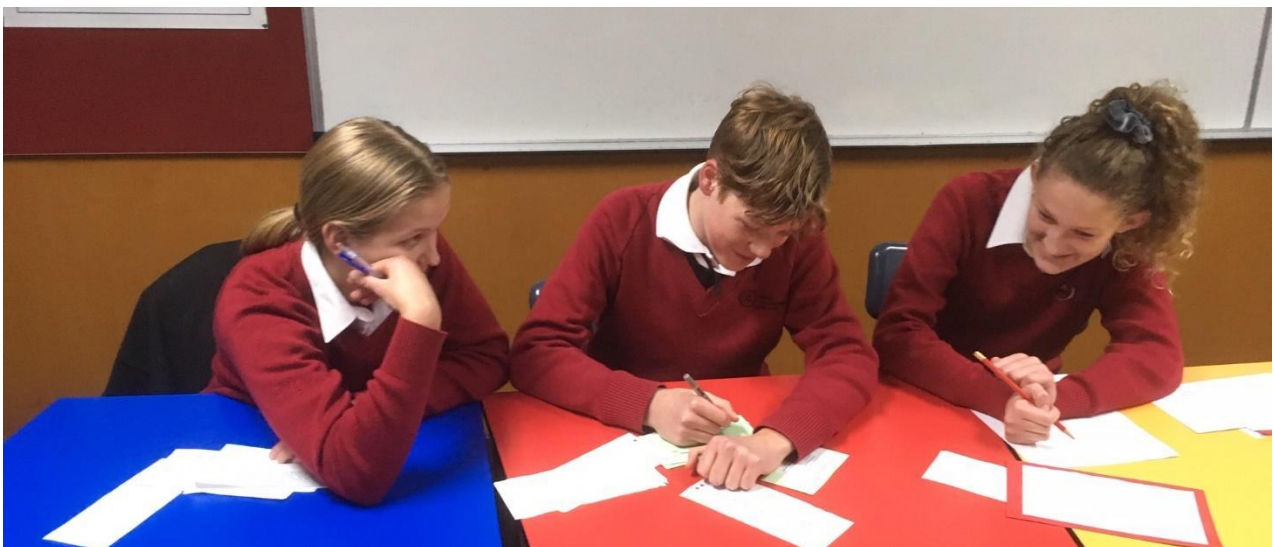
All students are guided through their decision making about VCE or VCAL. The yearly counselling with the students looks at what will be the best outcome for individual success.

Students are encouraged to follow the best pathways for their needs e.g. three year senior school plan, dual enrolment in a VET and VCE, unscored VCE pathway, scored VCE pathway or VCAL. We believe it is important to tailor the senior years to give all our students the best chance of success and look after their wellbeing.

VET

Mount Alexander College is a member of the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster. The IMVC is a unique partnership of 50 schools located in the inner Melbourne region, who have formed a collegial association to build the connection between academic learning and vocational training. The IMVC provides a central service to ensure quality management of programs.

Students can undertake a VET as part of the VCE and VCAL programs.



"Being at MAC, the feeling of warmth and enthusiasm is obvious. As well of the feeling of people being comfortable in their skin. I feel very lucky my son I is surrounded by all of you. I do not know exactly what it takes to create a school culture that is positive and inclusive and vibrant. I guess it's a mixture of careful thought, a ton of effort, and heaps of heart. But I know that in anything, the people are always the most important resource. And you guys are great!"

Transition

Mount Alexander College recognises that any kind of transition can be difficult, whether going from primary school to secondary, or from one school to another. The school has staff and programs to assist all new students to the school.

Our Entry (Year 7) program aims to ensure that our students feel happy secure and confident as they make the transition from primary to secondary education.

Students coming from primary school take part in our transition program. The transition program starts with an Information Session for parents and students in November, and the Orientation Day in December. The program continues at the beginning of the school year with transition activities for the first month, and an Entry camp. The camp is a wonderful opportunity for students and Entry staff to get to know each other.

The school works with all new students and families to ensure that the move is a comfortable and smooth process, with the aim for students to feel happy, confident, connected and engaged.



Students are tested in literacy and numeracy prior to commencing at MAC. This helps inform the individual pathway plan and ensures the student's program caters for those requiring acceleration or students who need support programs.



"We've just moved our daughter from [a private girl's school]. She's much happier and we've been impressed with the school and subjects on offer."

Co-curricular



Our co-curricular programs enrich the learning and wellbeing of all our students. All students have the access and opportunity to participate in the many camps, clubs, international programs, Melbourne City Football Club, music lessons and bands, and sporting events – social and competitive. Students at MAC also have the opportunity to be involved in many other co-curricular programs. These change every year, as they are adapted to best suit the cohort of students, and the subject electives chosen. These co-curricular activities cover a number of different disciplines.

The Arts and Technology Festival

MAC is committed to developing the whole child and recognises the importance of the arts and technology. We hold an Arts and Technology Festival with students from the arts, technology, music and the Writers Hub class. The students display their work through performances in music, drama performance or slam poetry, demonstrations in technology and art exhibitions.

Science Workshops and Shows

Our science students run workshops for the local primary schools. The science teachers support the students in their preparation for the events that run throughout the year. The science team also runs a science show for the community during National Science Week each year. They have also run highly successful science shows at local community events.

School Production

The school runs a school production every alternate year. In 2015, the school performed *The High School Musical*, and in 2017 the school performed *Alice Dreaming*. In 2019, the school production was *Animal Farm*. In 2021, the school will be writing and directing a feature film.



Drama Workshops

In addition to the school production, drama students run workshops at the local primary schools. The drama students attend performances and workshops for their own development.

Literacy Extension

MAC seeks opportunities for students who are keen writers including visiting poets and authors, visits to the 100 Stories Project and attending the Melbourne Writers' Festival. The whole school celebrates Book Week with literacy activities and a dress up parade. Students at the school also authored and illustrated a collection of short stories, launched in 2021.

The school has a literacy and numeracy booster program for students who need additional support.



Competitions

The school regularly recommends students to participate in competitions in a wide range of learning areas including: maths, science, art, writing and technology. In 2019, the Wakakirri team (a dance competition) made the state finals and the Robotics team made the Nationals.

Local partnerships

The school uses partnerships with organisations to develop our students. We actively engage in existing enterprises wherever possible across all subject areas. Some of these include the Arts Centre, ACMI, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne University and Latrobe University.

Student Employment and Entrepreneurialism

Students who undertake entrepreneurial subjects often go on to start their own business. Some of these have included catering and biscuit making. Students are also able to work for the school in a number of ways including cleaning the yards and library assistance.

"Students, teachers and staff all seem empowered to make changes and do things differently with the interest of the individual child at heart! This passion and dedication emanates from the teachers through to the students, providing every student with a sense that they are worth something and also providing them with life-skills and teaching them to be proud of their individual self!"



Sports

Students can participate in a range of sporting activities in addition to the curriculum sport, house sport and interschool sport. Some of the current activities for students include table tennis, mixed volleyball and social sport after school. The school's multipurpose court is widely used by students as well as the personal training equipment in the sports performance centre.



"Thank you and the school again for offering students such a great opportunity not just in regard to their soccer skills but also providing them with training in leadership skills and general skills in the exercise and sports domain. Providing students of all backgrounds with skills that extend beyond the core curriculum, is essential for the world of the future and also in the world we live in today!"



School Camps and Tours

The school runs many camps throughout the year including year-specific camps, and international tours. Year 9 students have the opportunity to apply for the School for Student Leadership when we are allocated a place. All students are able to apply to attend one of the international cultural tours to China or Italy.



The school runs a transition camp for Entry (Year 7) students, an adventure camp for Above Entry 8, an interstate camp for Above Entry 10 and a Study Camp at the University of Melbourne for Graduates.

"Thank you all very much for supporting our son through his second year at MAC with care, energy, humour and hard work."

"We wanted to express our gratitude to the teachers for giving our son explicit feedback when he has asked for it. It really helps his overall wellbeing and clearly shows in his progress report."

International Students

Mount Alexander College has a dedicated team that supports all international students who work with the International Student Department at the Department of Education and Training, the families and the host families.

"Each teacher is passionate about the school and their students."

The school is a good choice for international students as we are able to offer:

- airport pick-up
- orientation program (student buddy program, school tour and welcome lunch, etc...)
- Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic speaking staff to assist students settling in Australia
- assistance with the establishment of bank accounts and phone network
- friendly Homestay accommodation with local families
- International Coordinator visits to student's homestay and regular contact with family overseas
- qualified and passionate staff and highly dedicated teachers
- broad and highly innovative curriculum
- personalised learning (MAC provides a tailored learning program catering for the passion and learning needs of every student.
- English as an Additional Language support
- applications for university studies
- personal counselling through coordinators and the Student Welfare Coordinator
- academic support across all courses, including homework club, tutoring and study skills classes, etc...
- cultural and sporting activities
- diverse student body
- student-led learning and curriculum
- extensive clubs to enhance student engagement including: art, bike repair, board games, chess, choir, girls group, homework, mindfulness, movie club, sports and much more.



School Tours and Open Days

"I am so pleased that my son now comes to your school, I only wish it had been earlier."

We recommend that interested families come for a tour of the school. During the tour, you will learn more about the way the school works, and you will see students in classes.

Book a tour with the principal at a time that suits you best by calling the office on 9376 1622, emailing the school via mount.alexander.712@education.vic.gov.au, or filling out the tour booking form on the school website.

The school has an open day towards the end of first term in the school year. On the Open Day there are tours of the school, a chance to meet the principal, students and current parents.



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