



St Margaret's



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“Compassion, confidence and capability are essential qualities that sets a Maggies Girl apart. St Margaret’s places strong emphasis on establishing and developing these characteristics in our girls.”



## Dear Reader

Welcome to St Margaret’s. While my recent association with St Margaret’s has been as the Principal of our sister school (St Aidan’s Anglican Girls School) looking in, my time as Acting Principal has been made a joy by the warmth and friendliness of the students, staff and community members. It is this friendly personality and genuine warmth that I remember from my early teaching days in the 1980s when I taught many current mothers Geography and/or English.

I encourage all prospective parents to take the opportunity to visit our School and to see a school on the move. We look forward to the commencement of the \$8 million Science and Resource Centre (due for completion late 2011) and our primary students are currently enjoying the \$3million redevelopment including enhanced classrooms, library and exciting playground, partly funded by the Federal Government through the Building Education Revolution commitment.

While new and redeveloped facilities are part of our school Master Plan, of course our educational focus remains paramount. Plans are well underway for the 2014 changes that will see year seven become wholly part of our secondary school. As a Pre-Prep to Year twelve school, we are well positioned to ensure that the change is a seamless one for our students. As we look to introduce the Australian Curriculum (as required by the Federal Government), our focus will be to continue to provide opportunities for students to be enriched, extended and supported.

The heart and soul of our school is the traditions and values of a school with 115 years of history. Our Sisters (The Society of the Sacred Advent) have provided a firm Christian foundation that underpins all we do. We endeavour to ensure that all girls feel they are valued and an important member of our school family.

Together with our staff, I look forward to welcoming you to our School.

**Karen Spiller**  
B.A., B.Ed.St., M.Ed.Admin., MBA, MACE, FAIM, MACEL, FAHRI, FAICD  
Acting Principal, St Margaret’s Anglican Girls School



## *Primary (Pre-Prep to Year 7)*

The Primary School is a community of learners which fosters relationships with parents, students and staff. Students are encouraged to be responsible, take initiative and be active participants in their educative journey.

### **Personal development**

Personal development is enhanced through research based Pastoral Care Curriculum Programs; the Buddy Program, Peer Support, Social Responsibility Program, Leadership Program and Camp Program.

### **Curriculum Program**

Through the Core, Cluster and Specialist Programs, students participate in a comprehensive and balanced curriculum program drawing on nine Key Learning Areas: English, Mathematics, Studies of Society and the Environment (SOSE), Science, Health and Physical Education, Art and Music, Modern Languages, Technology and Divinity.

In addition to the Key Learning Areas, students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of additional activities. These include year level specific curriculum programs, House meetings and activities and weekly Chapel services.

### **Core Plus Cluster Learning & Teaching Program**

The Core Plus Cluster Learning and Teaching Program comprises of two components, each having an academic, social and emotional benefit.

The Core program is taught to students in their particular year level and dominates the classroom timetable. For the remainder of class time, students participate in Cluster learning with vertical groupings of P-3, Years 4/5 and Years 6 /7.

### **Staff**

Students are supported in their learning by Specialist teachers, Form teachers (who are also assigned as Cluster teachers for their Year Level), a Coordinator of Teaching and Learning and Across Curriculum Learning (ACL) staff who support students with particular learning needs.



“*In the Primary School we provide cognitive activities so the child’s knowledge grows; spiritual activities so that the child grows in faith; sporting activities so the child’s physical skills grow; cultural activities so the child learns to communicate in other ways and social activities so that the child learns to build relationships to become a valued member of society.*”





## Secondary (Years 8 - 12)

Students are encouraged to develop their full potential through a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum offering them a variety of subjects and assistance with career development.

### Years 8 and 9: Discovery

The Junior Secondary curriculum is designed to encourage students to discover their personal interests before entering specialised courses in senior years. All students study a Key Learning Area Program of English, Mathematics, The Arts, Science, Technology, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, Modern Languages and Divinity.

### Year 10: Preparation and beginning the senior phase of learning

Students in Year 10 choose from a large number of electives to aid their transition into senior studies. Four electives supplement the compulsory subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education and Divinity.

Students are exposed to a wide variety of cultures and educational experiences offered through our International Exchange Program. Year 10 students have the opportunity to study for one term at a number of participating overseas schools.

### Years 11 and 12: Completing the journey

Students select five subjects from eight Key Learning Areas in addition to English, which is a requisite Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) subject. Senior students continue their studies in Divinity and Health and Physical Education and in addition undertake a course in thinking skills and preparation for the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test. Students are also offered the opportunity to study vocational subjects within our Vocational Education and Training (VET) option.

Students in Years 11 and 12 have the option to undertake private study or attend learning support sessions and tutorial sessions one afternoon a week. There is also the opportunity to gain real-world skills by undertaking part-time employment or work experience placements within different industries.

Career development is important at St Margaret's and all secondary students and their parents have access to the careers services.



*Nurturing my natural flair and passion for the sciences, St Margaret's provided me with the opportunity to explore many avenues which ultimately led me to my ideal degree, a Bachelor of Advanced Science majoring in Medicine.*

*Lucinda Burke*

Studying Medicine at University of Sydney



## *Boarding (Years 8 - 12)*

Boarders have been an integral part of the School since its inception and together they are encouraged to embrace a set of values based on respect, consideration and honesty.

St Margaret's Boarding House is a busy place with a warm and friendly atmosphere for its 170 boarders. Boarding students are provided with the opportunity to develop character, self-discipline, leadership skills and initiative while nurturing lifelong friendships within a Christian environment.

### **Supervision and support**

The Head of Boarding is supported by House Mothers, who supervise the eight dormitories. These House Mothers act as role models and assist students with their academic work where needed. They provide daily care and also ensure a sense of homeliness is maintained throughout the Boarding House.

### **An accommodating environment**

Accommodation is designed to meet the particular needs of each age group. Girls in Years 8 to 10 share four-bed cubicles, whilst senior students, who have demanding schedules and workloads, share two-bed cubicles and where available, single accommodation.

Students have their own bed and wardrobe, bookshelves, bedside table, desk and chair. Each year level also has their own common room, bathroom, private study with internet facilities, telephone and television area. All boarders' dietary needs are met by the school's dedicated catering staff.

### **A wide range of activities**

Students are provided with activities which focus on introducing a tangible sense of family and belonging. With parental approval, a number of other community, cultural and social outings are offered to enrich their lives.



*St Margaret's boarding environment not only nurtured but encouraged my ambition to pursue a career in design. The School recognised my desire to succeed across a variety of extra curricular activities and through its support and facilities gave me the direction I needed to achieve them.*

*Penelope Bell*

Emerging Fashion Designer



## *International*

St Margaret's offers a supportive, balanced and flexible mainstream curriculum to enable all International students to reach their academic potential and to ensure they become productive and valued members of the School community.

International students bring to St Margaret's an abundance of skills, ideas and cultures which add to our diverse culture.

St Margaret's values the role International students have in our School community and the inclusive environment means that International students are able to experience all aspects of St Margaret's life. International students are encouraged to become productive members of the School community by participating in co-curricular activities including School committees, a variety of sporting teams, cultural and musical groups.

### **Academic support**

International students are provided with extensive support, both with the transition between their Intensive English Studies and mainstream schooling, and with their daily life at St Margaret's. A full-time Coordinator of International Education is available to assist International students. In addition, English as a Second Language (ESL) support classes and subject specific support classes are offered. All students at St Margaret's receive pastoral and academic support.

### **Living arrangements**

International students are encouraged to live in Homestay accommodation as this provides a safe and secure Australian family environment. St Margaret's has boarding facilities on campus, with limited places available.



*Whilst studying at St Margaret's, I received not only individual attention from my teachers but lots of support from my classmates, enabling me to perform to the best of my ability. Being an International student has given me the confidence and results to further my education at a prestigious university in Brisbane.*

*Yiwen Yang*

Studying Dentistry at the University of Queensland



## Co-curricular

Through a wide range of learning experiences such as sporting, artistic and cultural activities, students may enrich their lives and go on to pursue careers or lifelong interests in such fields.

### Cultural and community

St Margaret's offers cultural ventures including debating, art workshops, musicals and theatrical events. These activities are intended to develop organisational skills, independence and personal pride in a fun and creative environment. Students are encouraged to think globally and act locally to achieve social justice and help the wider community through the on campus Toc H Action, Inter House Charities and the Oaktree Foundation.

### Music

The music program at St Margaret's provides students with the opportunity to experience music at a variety of levels. Students may involve themselves in Choir, String Orchestras, Concert Band, Rock Band, Jazz Ensemble or a number of other ensembles. Performance opportunities include School events, musicals, music tours (both domestic and international) eisteddfods and community functions. Private music tuition is also offered with the option of undertaking AMEB/Trinity College exams.

### Sport

Students are offered the opportunity to participate in a range of sporting activities through interschool sporting competitions, Andrews Cup (Primary Schools) and QGSSA (Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Sporting Association). The sports available include athletics, cross country, lifesaving, netball, softball, swimming and touch football. Additionally, basketball, hockey, rowing and water polo are offered to Secondary students. Qualified coaches provide students with specialised coaching in each of these sports.

St Margaret's boasts a wide range of sporting facilities including:

- Multi-purpose sports hall and gymnasium with tennis courts.
- 50-metre Olympic pool and a 25-metre lap pool.
- Exclusive access to Windsor Park which offers two large ovals, four all-weather netball courts, full athletic facilities, a clubhouse and change rooms.
- Fully equipped Rowing Shed at Breakfast Creek.



*The support and flexible environment of St Margaret's enabled me to focus on rowing while at the same time succeeding in both academic studies and other co-curricular activities.*

*Sally Kehoe*  
Member of the Olympic Rowing Team

## *Spiritual & personal development*

The emotional health and well-being of students, staff and families is a priority at St Margaret's. Through a holistic approach to Personal Development, we aim to develop the spiritual, social and emotional competencies of individuals in addition to enhancing the relationships of students.

### **Developing spiritual awareness**

Students are encouraged to apply their faith to everyday life. We believe that the Christian faith – the heart and soul of the school – provides students with solid principles that will assist them in making moral choices in the future.

Divinity lessons are an integral part of the curriculum throughout the school. Students are encouraged to contribute to informal discussion, question and answer sessions and debates on moral issues.

The Chaplains are responsible for worship, which is set within the Anglican tradition and in conjunction with the history and the presence of the Sisters of The Society of the Sacred Advent.

Students attend Services regularly; Boarders twice a week, Primary School students weekly and Secondary students throughout the term. Students wishing to be confirmed have the opportunity to attend classes prior to Confirmation.

### **Support is always close**

A student's personal development is enhanced through her participation in the Pastoral Care Curriculum Programs, Leadership Programs, Camp Program and Community Service.

To ensure a caring environment is maintained throughout the School, St Margaret's students have access to a full-time Personal Counsellor who is available to discuss a student's personal welfare with the individual and her parents.

Each year level in the Secondary School is under the care of a Year Level Supervisor who supervises and supports each girl throughout her schooling.





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