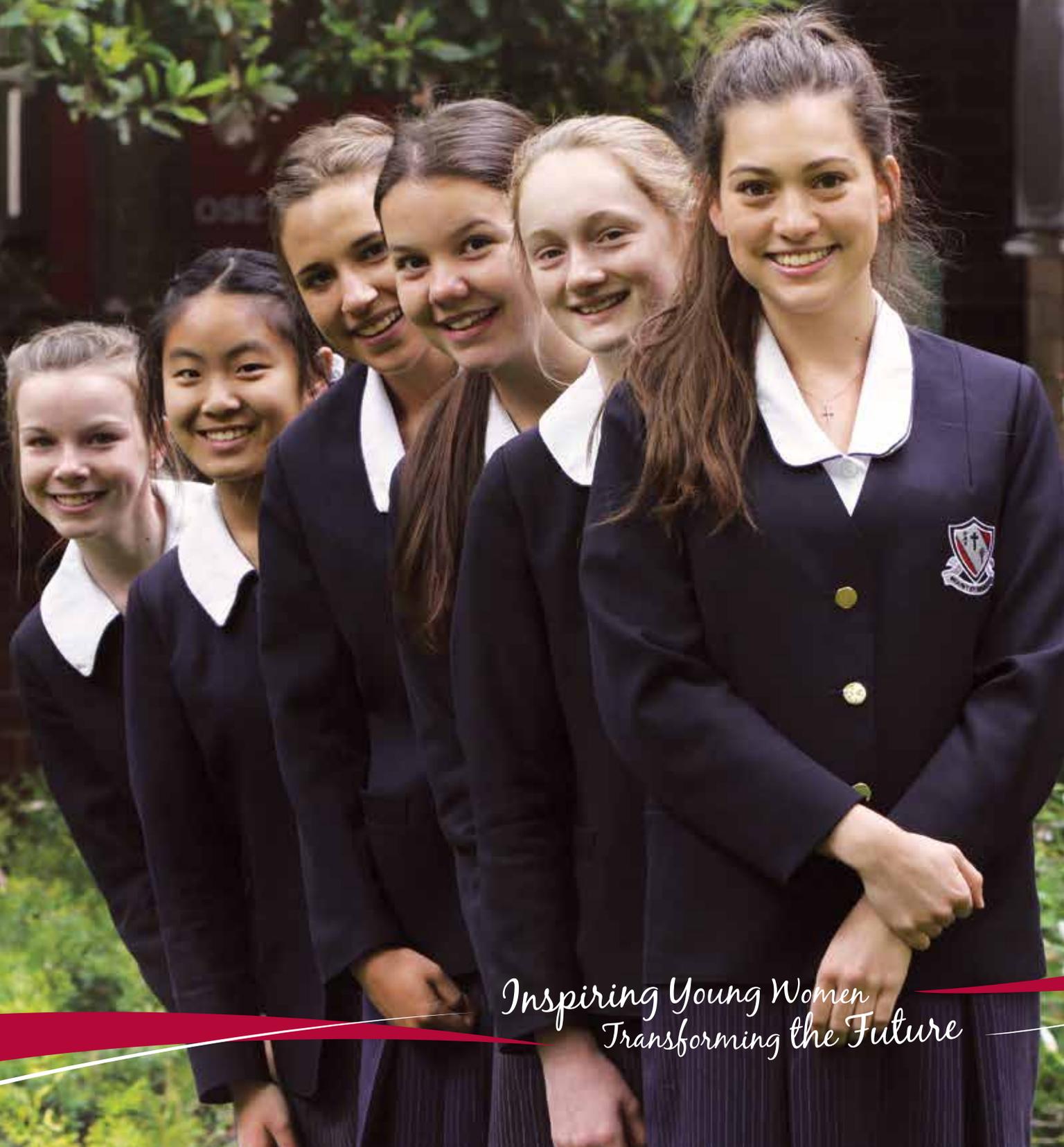




Strategic Plan 2014-2016



*Inspiring Young Women
Transforming the Future*



*Called by God, to listen
with the ear of your heart.*

Rule of Benedict

Strategic Plan

On behalf of the Mount St Benedict College Board, we are delighted to present the College Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2016.

This plan has been developed in consultation with a range of stakeholders and emerges from the College Mission Statement. Underlying the plan are the College values of Pax, Hospitality and Stewardship, which are at the heart of the charism of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, who founded the College in 1966.

Mount St Benedict College is a Catholic Congregational School with a proud tradition of excellence in the education of young women in the north-west of Sydney. Our students are given every opportunity and encouragement to develop their faith and their personal spirituality. Academic standards are high, as reflected in student performances in external tests and credentials. We have a strong system of Pastoral Care which nurtures students in an environment which allows them to be simultaneously challenged and encouraged. Consistent with our Good Samaritan heritage we have mission programs which focus on justice and allow students to use their gifts in the service of others.

The next three years will see the College build on the developments of the recent past, a time during which there has been significant upgrading and enhancement of facilities, changes in the technologies available to students and staff, and increasing awareness of the importance of our Good Samaritan heritage in determining our future. Recent work to develop plans to enhance the engagement of students in the

middle years of schooling (Years 7 to 9) will begin to impact on approaches to pedagogy, curriculum delivery and other school programs.

This document is a summary of the College Strategic Plan. The full-length document includes more detailed Action Plans, which bring the plan to life. Our actions over the next three years will be driven by these plans and we will monitor and report on our progress towards achieving our goals. As we do this, we are ever conscious of the need to be aware of our longer term future, and the need to plan beyond the next three years. In the final year of this plan we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the College and we anticipate doing so with great pride in our achievements.

We look forward to working with the College community to implement our Strategic Plan as we continue to inspire our young women to use their gifts in transforming the world of the future.

Bill Raeside
Board Chair

Maria Pearson
Principal



Good Samaritan Benedictine Charism

Charism is the word used to describe the spiritual orientation and special characteristics of a person or group of people. At Mount St Benedict College, as a school founded by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, it is the charism of the Sisters which informs and guides our Mission and Vision.

Throughout their history, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan have worked in a variety of ministries. Whatever their ministries, they have responded to the needs of the time with energy, compassion, professionalism and adaptability. Hospitality is a special focus of their work and they attempt to imitate the Benedictine practice of receiving everyone as Christ. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) and the Rule of Benedict provide their particular inspiration.

The Sisters are committed to:

- Living in deeper communion with God and each other (Pax);
- Embracing hospitality, welcoming difference without judgement or prejudice;
- Being re-shaped by cross-cultural richness;
- Cherishing the whole of creation (stewardship).

It is this charism which guides our work at Mount St Benedict College.

www.goodsams.org.au

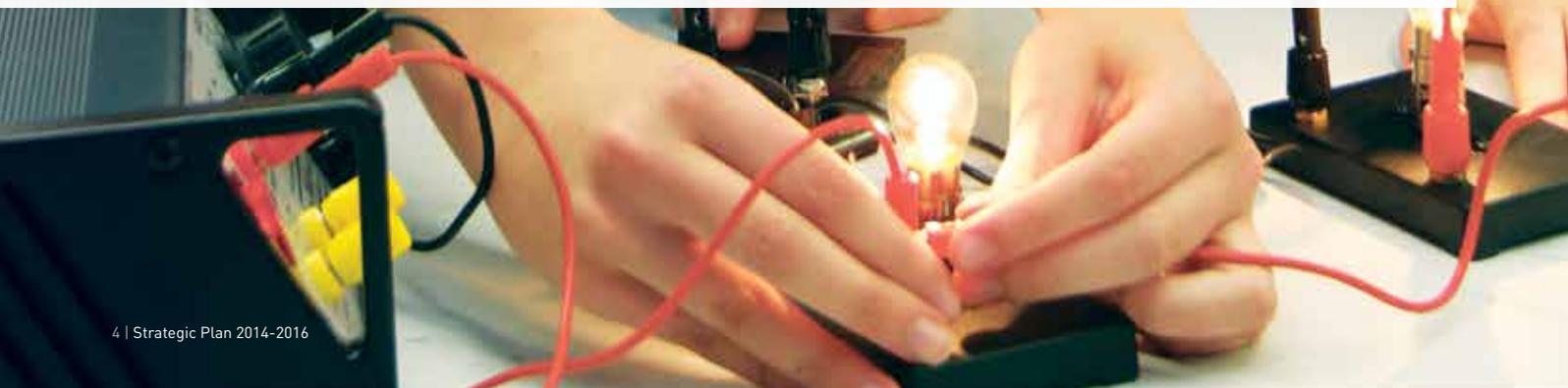


Mission Statement

Inspired and informed by our Good Samaritan heritage, Mount St Benedict College educates young women in a Catholic community where all are encouraged to contribute with the gifts given to them to make a difference in the world.

In pursuing our Mission, Mount St Benedict College:

- **Encourages** students and community members to recognise God's presence in their lives and to develop their lives in the Benedictine tradition of simplicity, community and balance.
- **Embraces** the Benedictine values of Pax, Hospitality and Stewardship.
- **Fosters** in each student a desire to pursue personal excellence and fulfilment through life long learning, reflection and sharing of their gifts and talents in service of others.
- **Challenges** each student to listen, question and discern meaning in the search for truth, understanding and wisdom.
- **Responds** to and supports the needs and interests of each student through a broad, flexible and innovative curriculum.
- **Provides** an environment which allows girls to develop and affirm their strength as women of and for the world.
- **Nurtures** and promotes respectful relationships.
- **Equips** students to face life's challenges with resourcefulness, confidence and compassion.
- **Stirs** a personal and community response to injustice through reflection and action.
- **Instils** in each student a responsibility to be active stewards of the environment and natural resources.





We intend to be a leader in girls' education for students, parents and staff...

2020 Vision

Guided by the Good Samaritan Benedictine charism, Mount St Benedict College is recognised for leadership in holistic education of girls, engaging and inspiring young women to use their gifts in transforming the future.

Strategic Intent

Identity

We intend to have our Catholic Benedictine, Good Samaritan charism embedded in all aspects of College life.

Engagement

We intend to fully engage students, parents and staff in the life of the College community, responding to individual needs and empowering all to develop their gifts and use them to transform communities, both now and in the future.

Leadership and Learning

We intend to be a leader in girls' education for students, parents and staff, as well as the wider community and to provide for our students an outstanding level of teaching and learning and leadership opportunities.

Sustainability

We intend to develop according to a sustainable growth model, with facilities, structures, programs and processes which facilitate the College mission effectively.





Identity

We intend to have our Catholic Benedictine, Good Samaritan charism embedded in and determining all aspects of College life.

We aim to achieve this through:

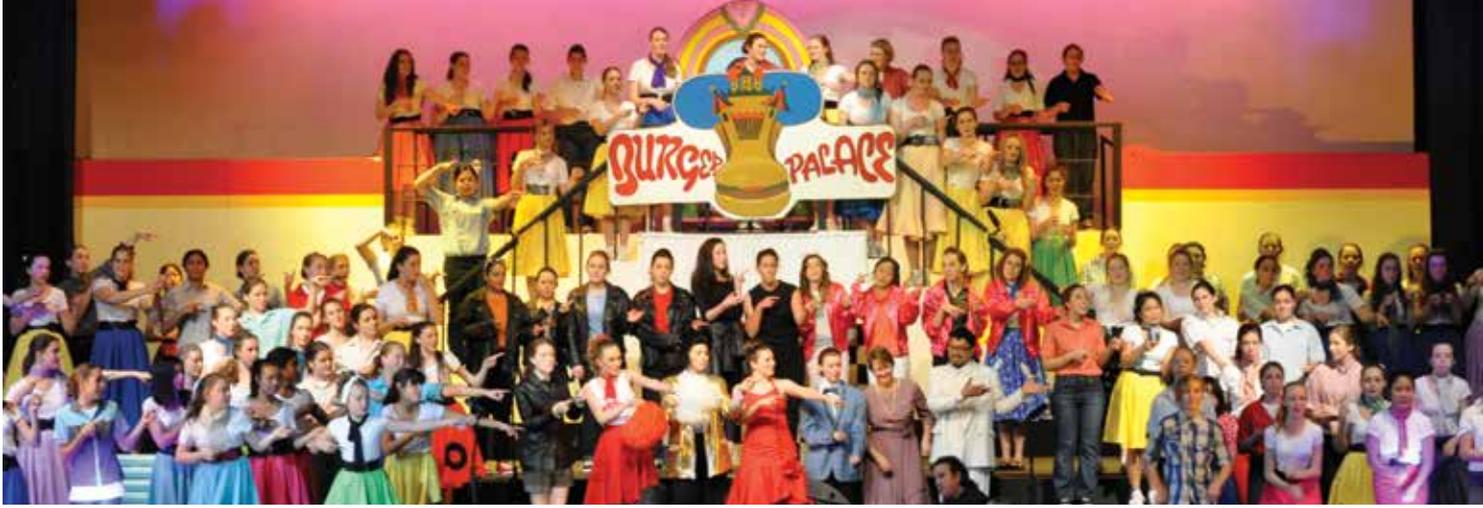
- Recruitment processes which include a focus on the capacity of individuals to align with College values and to contribute to the ethos of the College.
- An increased emphasis on the role of middle managers in promoting the College ethos and values.
- Targeted formation programs which continually move community members towards greater understanding and engagement with the College ethos.
- Induction processes which support community members to develop understandings of College values.

Engagement

We intend to fully engage students, parents and staff in the life of the College community, responding to individual needs and empowering all to develop their gifts and use them to transform communities, both now and in the future.

We aim to achieve this through:

- Implementing a structured program for parent liaison, to identify areas of need and develop programs which are responsive to these needs.
- Reviewing processes for induction of parents into the charism and ethos of the College.
- Piloting a parent induction program with the incoming class of 2015.
- Increasing the involvement of parents in the house partnership program.
- Improving communication with parents using a range of technologies.
- Working with the Parents and Friends Association to improve parent engagement in College functions.
- Implementing the Middle Years Program incorporating Teaching for Understanding, Positive Education, Good Samaritan values and ethos, and an integrated approach to learning, into all aspects of College life.
- Regularly monitoring and measuring levels of engagement of staff, parents and students.
- Reviewing the approach to delivery of sports and physical education at the College.
- Exploring further opportunities for co-curricular activities.
- Ensuring the integration of current and new initiatives for service learning with other aspects of College life.
- Reviewing and enhancing current programs for staff induction and formation.
- Investigating ways to better support staff in their roles.
- Developing individualised staff professional learning and formation plans which include a focus on leadership opportunities and career and professional development.
- Supporting staff through developing resilience and ensuring their wellbeing.



Leadership and Learning

We intend to be a leader in girls' education for students, parents and staff, as well as the wider community and to provide for our students an outstanding level of teaching and learning and leadership opportunities.

We aim to achieve this through:

- Educating staff and parents in the issues facing girls and how they learn, focusing especially on developing resilience and creating a culture of independent learners.
- Implementing the Teaching for Understanding and the Positive Education frameworks in all aspects of College life.
- Reviewing the student leadership model to enhance leadership skills and give a greater voice to students in the College.
- Developing opportunities for students to exercise leadership, especially in the middle years .
- Fostering partnerships with parents, alumni, and the wider community through regular showcases, conferences, programs, teacher exchanges and forums in leadership and learning.
- Monitoring and evaluating the quality of opportunities, showcases, conferences, programs, exchanges and forums.
- Developing outstanding teaching and learning through curriculum differentiation, where space and technology better serve pedagogy, and supporting integrated learning through a process of curriculum mapping.
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching.

Sustainability

We intend to develop according to a sustainable growth model, with facilities, structures, programs and processes which facilitate the College mission effectively.

We aim to achieve this through:

- Identifying areas in which facilities need to be upgraded.
- Reviewing staffing structures to ensure they meet the needs of the College.
- Monitoring the pastoral care structure to ensure it continues to meet student pastoral needs.
- Reviewing the current plans for number of enrolments, to ensure community needs are being met.
- Discerning the appropriate College structure to ensure future financial stability and viability.
- Exploring possible future property needs and possibilities.



Mount St Benedict College

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