



From the desk of the Principal

14 July 2022

Dear St Joseph's College families

Choices

The process of subject selection for Year 11 will commence early next term. In the lead up to this, we will be holding an assembly with the Year 10 students, looking at their options and what will be best for them moving forward. This is a critical time in your child's education, in many ways, VCE/VCE VM and VPC will have a profound impact on your child's future. We believe we are particularly well positioned to provide the best possible opportunities for your child to achieve their potential in Years 11 and 12.

Some key questions you might consider discussing with your child leading up to this important period.

- What are their aspirations and hopes for the next five years? Where would they like to be in 5 years?
- What is the best way to attain this plan?
- What do you think would help you achieve in Years 11 and 12?

Other critical questions to consider:

How do you ensure your child has the best opportunity to get where they want to be in 5 years? What will St Joseph's College offer to help your child achieve their goals in Years 11 and 12 on their pathway to success?

- Small Classes in Years 11 and 12
- Dedicated teachers
- Good academic results
- Great facilities and learning environment
- Excellent Wellbeing support
- Extended library open hours
- Academic Support Officer
- English and Maths tutoring
- Provided laptop
- Edrolo online academic support
- Leadership opportunities
- Pastoral care programs
- Teachers knowing their students (relationships built up over the full six years of secondary education)
- Debutante balls
- After school catering in study areas
- Year 11 Seminar Day
- Year 11 and 12 Common Rooms
- Photocopying allowance
- Year 11 Snow Camp
- Year 12 Retreat
- Novus VCE Head Start Program
- Academe – early departure
- A dedicated and passionate VCAL team with unique student offerings
- Large variety of subjects offered at VCE – did you know that we timetable more subjects than Scotch College (Melbourne) offers in Year 12?

ENRIGHT CAMPUS
154 TWELFTH STREET
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

MERCY CAMPUS
CORNER RIVERSIDE AVENUE
& ELEVENTH STREET
MILDURA VICTORIA 3500

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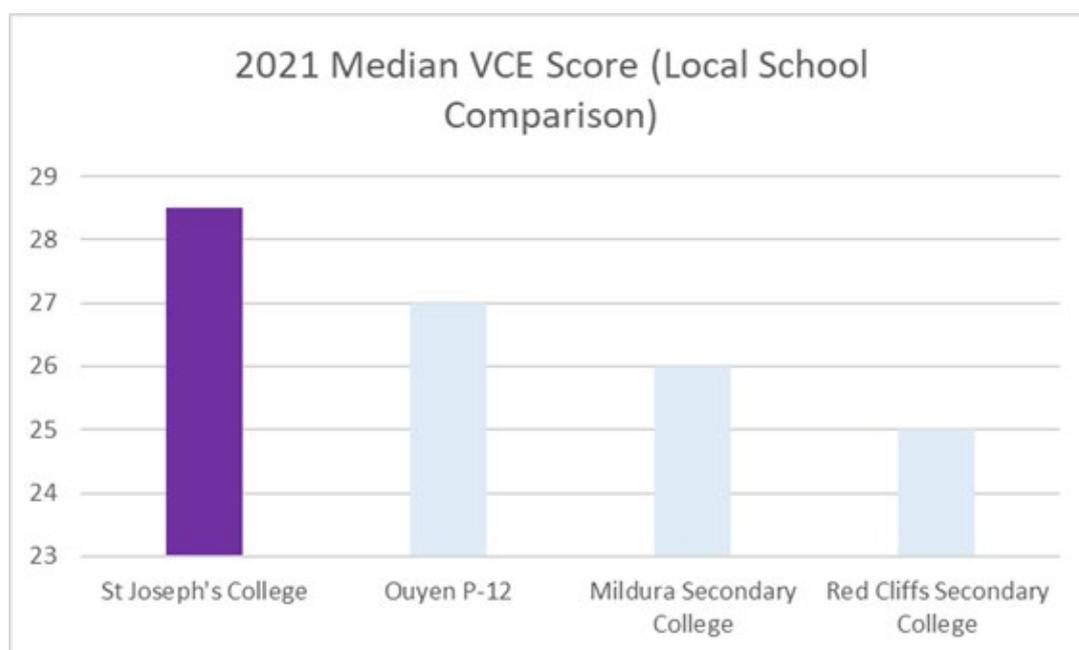
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Academic Data

Below we have included some important data highlighting what St Joseph's College can do to provide the best possible opportunity for your child to achieve their potential in Years 11 and 12.

Local Secondary Colleges Better Education Ranking based on 2021 VCE Results

Better Education Rank	School Name	Median VCE Score	Locality	Unit 3/4 Cohort
350	St Joseph's College	28	Mildura	146
372	Ouyen P-12 College	27	Ouyen	20
390	Robinvale College	27	Robinvale	22
445	Mildura Senior College	26	Mildura	487
493	Red Cliffs Secondary College	25	Red Cliffs	75

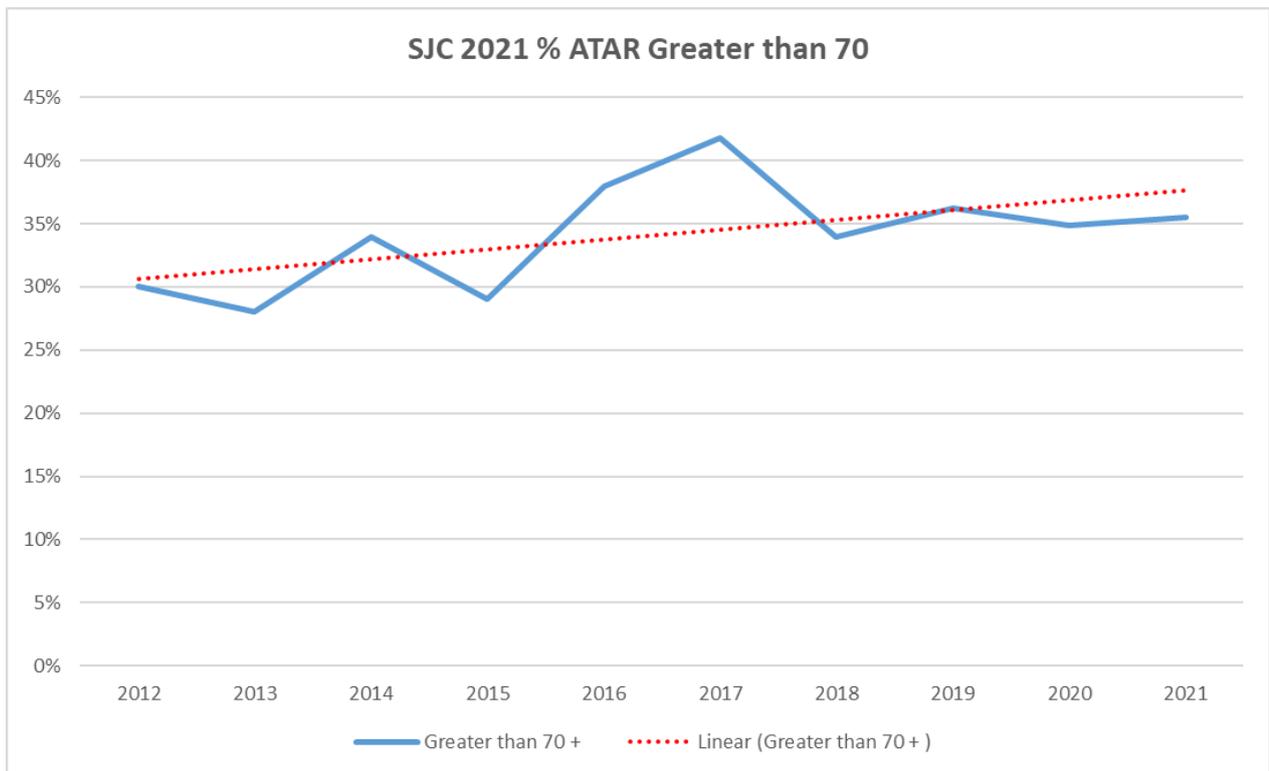
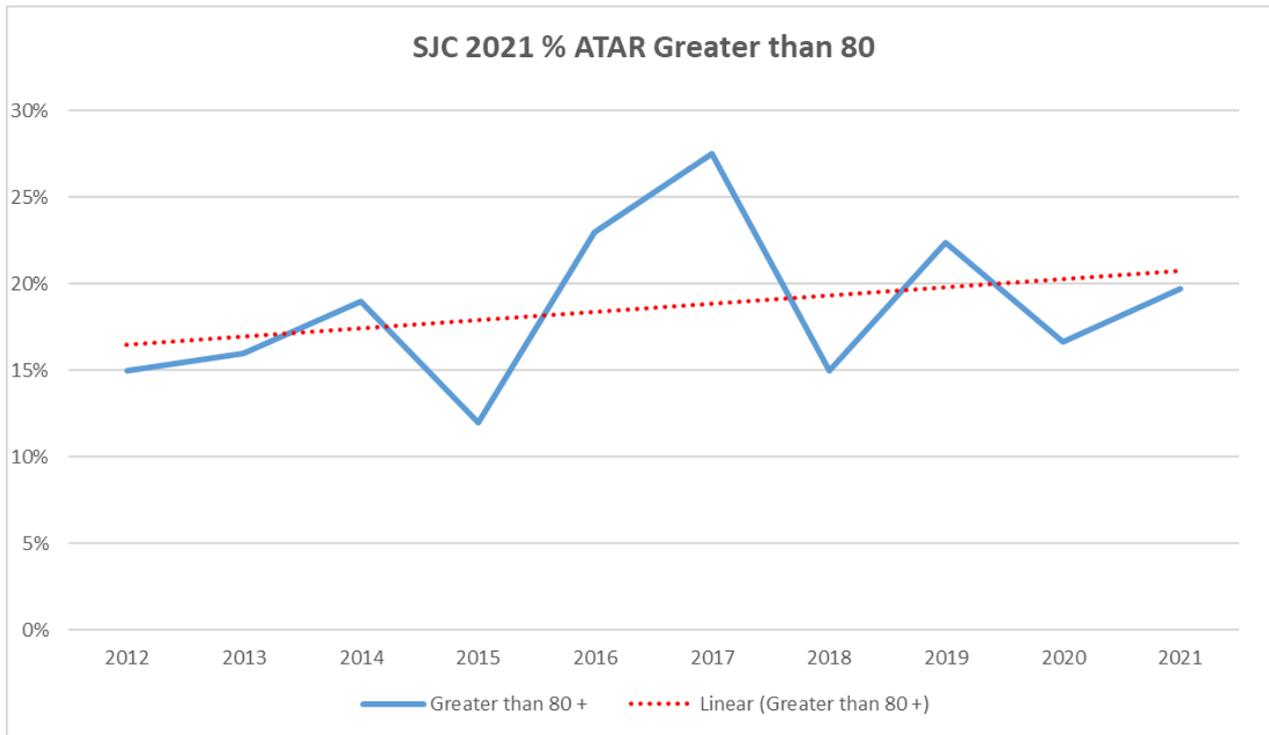


These results are not a one off, and they are a pattern that has existed for a while, as you can see when you look at the previous year's results as well; see below.

Ballarat Diocese 2020 School VCE Rankings plus District Schools

Better Education Rank	School Name	Scores of 40+	Median VCE Score	Locality	Unit 3/4 Cohort
142	Loreto College	6.3	31	Ballarat	225
246	St Joseph's College	4.2	29	Mildura	123
300	St Patrick's College	4.7	28	Ballarat	292
300	Trinity College	4.7	28	Colac	162
303	Monivae College	4.5	28	Hamilton	156
323	Damascus College	2.9	28	Ballarat	205
327	St Mary MacKillop College	2.8	28	Swan Hill	116
354	St Brigid's College	4.8	27	Horsham	74
362	Emmanuel College	3.1	27	Warrnambool	291
403	Ouyen P-12 College	0	27	Ouyen	18
426	Marian College	2.2	26	Ararat	103
467	Mildura Senior College	1.3	25	Mildura	577
507	Red Cliffs Secondary College	0.6	24	Red Cliffs	81

Our data continues to show growth, as seen in the following graphs.



Small Class Sizes

The average class size in Year 12 in 2022 is 12 students per class and the average class size in Year 11 in 2022 is 17 students per class. Smaller class sizes lead to more one-on-one attention from the teacher. With smaller class sizes, teachers can get to know a student as an individual, working with them to enhance their strengths and improve their weaknesses and students get to know each other better.

Instead of your student just being another face in a huge crowd, they will be more likely to develop deep and lasting relationships with the other students around them. That also has an academic benefit: if your student has a question about the homework, they will be more likely to know who to call for a quick chat.

Teachers can tailor instruction more individually. In a small class, the teacher is more likely to be able to tailor the instruction so that it stays on their level. With fewer students, the top and bottom students in the class usually aren't quite so far apart, and the teacher can work with each of them to ensure that they're getting the instruction they need.

There is less disruption. In a large class, personality conflicts are more likely to occur and to happen in extremes. Discipline begins to take up more of the class period than actual instruction. There is more time for instruction. In a smaller class, less time is required for administration duties, so there is more time for a teacher to instruct and be well prepared for lessons. They are quieter, allowing the student to focus on their learning.

Impact of Moving Schools

What does the research say? In terms of academic development and learning, the research clearly shows that moving schools generally negatively impacts student learning.

John Hattie became known to the broader public with his two books, *Visible Learning* and *Visible Learning for Teachers* and has been called 'possibly the world's most influential education academic'. *Visible Learning* is a synthesis of more than 800 meta-studies covering more than 80 million students and the result of 15 years of research about what works best for learning in schools.

Of the 256 factors that John Hattie's research considered, 'Moving Schools' came in as having a negative effect - 0.34. That is, it has an effect of lowering achievement below average expected achievement. According to John Hattie's meta-analysis, students generally will go backwards in their learning and achievement when moving schools.

When you think about this, it is not surprising. Valuable time and effort are required to become familiar and comfortable and to gain an understanding of the new learning environment – this is time that could be better spent undertaking academic pursuits. Teachers at the new school will not be as familiar with the student, so they may not understand what works for individual students, as there is no transfer of information about a student's learning style, strengths and weaknesses to the teachers at the new school. If they stay at their current school, this information is readily available.

In terms of academic development and learning, John Hattie's research clearly shows that moving schools generally have a negative impact on a student's education, something to be kept in mind. The information below comes from another recent study.

Catholic schools ATAR advantage June 2015

An independent study on the 'value-add' performance of non-government education shows that Catholic schools add an average of six ATAR points at the career-defining end of a student's journey.

Key Catholic–government sector differences (2008–2011)

- Catholic school Year 12 results are six points higher.
- Students who move from Catholic to government schools achieve lower Year 12 ATARs.
- Victorian sector differences are probably more significant than NSW and nationwide.

Tracking the actual Year 9 NAPLAN and Year 12 VCE results of more than 40,000 Victorian students for the first time, the new research evaluates school sector differences taking into account socio-economic background and prior achievement to produce a definitive finding. 'The analysis by University of

Melbourne researcher Dr Gary Marks shows that a student completing Years 9 to 12 at a Catholic school will achieve a result on average six ATAR points higher than a comparable student at a government school.

Using the best school-performance data that has ever been available in this country, the analysis accounts for all known factors affecting student performance, including Socio Economic Status, prior achievement, gender and language background. These results follow earlier studies showing Catholic school students perform better at university and have a better chance of higher salaries in the workforce. Dr Marks suggests reasons for the differential include higher expectations, better teachers, stronger discipline and a more rigorous curriculum in the latter years of secondary school.

'These findings confirm that Catholic schools add value to student performance. The effects are not trivial,' Dr Marks said. Do [Catholic and Independent schools](#) 'add value' to students' tertiary entrance performance? (Released by Australian Journal of Education).

Academic Support

St Joseph's College invests heavily in academic support for students. The Haenan Library is open every afternoon as a place of study. The college also provides an Academic Support Officer, Dr Larry O'Connor, in the Library every afternoon for students to access. Dr O'Connor is available to work with individuals or groups between 3.30pm and 6.00pm Monday to Thursday and between 3.30pm and 5.00pm on Fridays. Also, the college provides an Academe program, which is supervised study time scheduled within the timetable for our senior students.

Laptops and their Maintenance

St Joseph's College provides all our students with impressive, powerful, and up to date touch screen laptops. A full-time operational IT Help Desk ensures no matter what the circumstances, students are not left without a laptop, guaranteeing there is no downtime in their academic studies. In most schools, families are expected to provide their child with a laptop and chase up warranty and maintenance issues. At the college, we follow up on the warranty and maintenance issues - this effectively means less hassle for parents/guardians.

Save the Date

The VO and Senior Pathways Information Evening will be held on **Tuesday July 26**. This is an important event to ensure students select subjects best suited to their goals and interests. There will also be a Year 11 Snow Camp Information Session held in conjunction with the subject selection market. All teachers will be available, so this is an excellent opportunity to have one-on-one conversions with the teachers of specific subjects.

Careers Team

Our Careers team are dedicated to providing an array of options to our students that will best prepare them to achieve their chosen pathway, be it educational, vocational or further study.

Career education is a carefully planned program of events, activities and workshops to support students, highlighting the connection between the importance of school and their future, thus enabling students to have a clearly defined pathway beyond Year 12.

The Careers team work closely with students, offering individualised support to assist students and their families in making informed decisions about subject selections and career pathways. Numerous opportunities exist, including:

- NOVUS Year 10 Headstart Camp.
- Careers Expo Camp.

- Guest Speakers from University, Industry and Vocation.
- Careers Newsletter fortnightly publication keeps our college community well informed of opportunities, upcoming dates, and events.
- VET Courses and School Based Apprenticeship (SBAT) opportunities.
- Structured Work Placement (SWPL) and Work Experience with industry employers.
- Future employment referral, advice and pathway options.

Our Careers team is overseen by Mr Mel Ficarra – Head of VCE, VET and VM/VPC. Mr Ficarra works closely with Ms Fiona Dimasi – Careers Practitioner, Mrs Adele Kennedy – VET Coordinator and Ms Chelsea Hooper – VCE and VASS Assistant.

Community/Pastoral Care/Relationships

The college staff take great pride in forming positive relationships with our students. We understand that for students to flourish and achieve their best results, they need to feel safe, valued, and respected. The purpose of the Homeroom and vertical Pastoral Care system is to allow students to build positive relationships with students from different year levels, some whom they look up to and others they role model for. The role of the Homeroom teacher is invaluable in a student's educational journey at the college. Apart from being the parent's first point of contact, they really get to know the students and how best to support them pastorally and academically.

The college focuses on positive relationships built on genuine care and respect, allowing our students to thrive in a supportive faith community.

Wellbeing Support

The safety and wellbeing of students at St Joseph's College is our highest priority, and we strive to create an environment where students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness. The college employs four qualified wellbeing members, Mrs Jane Sparks, Mr Sam De Luca, Mr Nick Mazza and Miss Rebecca Dea, who are overseen by our Deputy Principal Students, Mr Heath McClair. The college also employs a full-time registered nurse, Mrs Louise Clohesy, to ensure we meet all students' wellbeing and safety needs in our care.

Scholarships

St Joseph's College presents scholarships annually to Year 10 students who respect and display our Mercy Core Values: Hospitality, Compassion, Service, Community, Justice, Excellence and Spirituality. The college will offer up to nine internal scholarships of \$1,500 to Year 10 students transitioning into Year 11 at the college. These internal scholarships will recognise students who have shown excellence both in their academic and personal school life. Further information regarding the scholarships and bursaries can be found on our [college website](#).

We also offer [Mercy Academic Internal Scholarships](#). St Joseph's College is committed to valuing effort, achievement and excellence in learning. Providing academic scholarships is one way of making explicit this value placed on the pursuit of excellence—conscientious, hard-working individuals who love learning to provide an outstanding model for their peers and younger students. Scholarship provision also reflects the confidence that the college offers the high standard of teaching and learning required to allow highly academic students to realise their full potential.

The Mercy Academic Scholarships are offered based on academic merit to students continuing Years 11 and 12 at St Joseph's College in 2023 and 2024. These scholarships have a tenure of two years. The scholarships are for the remission of 50% of the school fee for each year of the scholarship.

We value our relationship with the students, we value them as individuals and as a group and look forward to helping them achieve their goals.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching, Mr Greg Kluske or Deputy Principal Students, Mr Heath McClær, at the college on 5018 8000 or email gkluske@sjcmda.vic.edu.au/hmcclaer@sjcmda.vic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Blythman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs Marg Blythman
Principal