



# Downlands

Where your *heart* finds a home<sup>®</sup>



YEARS PREP-12 | COEDUCATIONAL | INDEPENDENT | CATHOLIC | DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL

A Missionaries of the Sacred Heart School | 72 Ruthven Street Toowoomba QLD | 07 4690 9500

*Our vision is simple:*

a Downlands educational journey is one that will develop selfless leaders who are advocates for values-based communities.



# Principal's *Welcome*

Downlands College is an exceptional school that provides individual journeys to students from all over Australia. Our wider community provides a broad network and ensures students have an extended Downlands family for the rest of their lives.

Downlands College extends a warm welcome to you and your family.

I am very proud and humbled to be the Principal of this exceptional school that has developed leaders, entrepreneurs and individuals who have made a difference in the world.

Founded by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in 1931, Downlands College has a rich history and continues to be characterised by its strong Catholic ethos and MSC spirit which underpins all we do.

At Downlands we acknowledge and embrace the diverse cultures and backgrounds of our students, staff and broader school community. The development of strong, life-giving relationships forms the cornerstone of a Downlands education, and our unique MSC heritage ensures

that the Downlands journey is intertwined with an 'education of the heart'.

A focus on relationships allows our core values of love, courage, compassion, understanding and humility to be woven through all interactions.

Widely recognised as a leading coeducational day and boarding school, Downlands College is known as a school 'where your heart finds a home'. We journey with each individual student academically and pastorally to provide the best possible school and post-school pathway. Opportunities include a very broad curriculum offering (academic and Vocational Education and Training), sport, performing arts, agriculture, leadership, social justice projects and community service.

Downlands has an outstanding record of academic success through expecting the best from our pupils. We also want them to enjoy their learning and to take ownership for this.

Our goal is to have happy students who perform to their personal best in all situations and who take responsibility for their educational journey and relationships. This includes student presentation, excellence in academic pursuits, co-curricular involvement, treating peers and community members with respect and kindness, and having a sense of humour.

I invite you to visit and experience the Downlands difference.

**Mr Stephen Koch**  
*Principal, Downlands College, 2019 - present*

## Who are the *Missionaries of the Sacred Heart?*

Founded by Fr Jules Chevalier in Issoudun, France in 1854, the MSC are a Catholic congregation.

The charism of the MSC focuses on the love that Jesus showed each of us through His life and death and the belief that through experiencing and showing compassionate love towards all people, we can help to make our world a better place.



# Heart *Spirituality*

Wholly owned and operated by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Downlands College continues a tradition of Gospel-centred theology, heart-based spirituality and servant leadership.

works to convince all that, strong in faith, they have a special role to play in life, through showing initiative in the communities to which they belong and embracing a vision of hope for our world.

Downlands, a Catholic, co-educational college, bears witness to the MSC spirit of faith in the love of God and to the practice of Christ's values of acceptance, compassion, trust, community and service.

Downlands recognises that it is in the family that young people gain their basic values and ideals about life. As such, the College is a vital, diverse community within which each individual student is accepted, challenged and assisted to fully develop the goodness of their own gifts and aspirations.

Enriched by the contributions of all and respecting each individual's rights and qualities, the College stresses that all must share the life and ideals of the Downlands community. The growth of both

community and individuals is enhanced by openness, empathy, perseverance, a sense of responsibility, friendliness and humour. Downlands provides opportunities to students and staff for individual and group religious experiences, in the Catholic tradition. The MSC spirituality of the Heart that has been handed on to us by the MSC Priests and Brothers who were Downlands early staff, permeates College life and sets the standard in all we do.

Relationships with others involve care, understanding, friendship and ministry to one another. It is our tradition to gather in worship and Eucharistic thanksgiving. Mutual forgiveness, sometimes shown in rituals, is a way of reflecting the example of Christ. Downlands

## *Downlands Values*

### **1. Community**

Fostering a kind and compassionate community.

### **2. Personal Growth**

Guiding people to reach their potential through connection of mind and heart.

### **3. Relationships**

Nurturing a culture founded on trust, humility and excellence.

### **4. Spirituality**

Living our Catholic faith as intended by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

### **5. Learning**

Inspiring engagement, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, skills and academic growth.



*Love sums up the whole person*

It is the whole person concentrated at one point. All the rays converge on this one centre; everything harmonises: attraction, feeling, instinct, intelligence, will; all of it echos together at the same time in the heart.

Fr Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacré Cœur*



# Wellbeing & Pastoral Care

Downlands College prides itself on the care and development of all students, encouraging them to do well at school, and also in life, by being good people - strong in mind, spirit and faith.

community. These are our guiding principles as we work with students to reach their potential through connection of mind and heart.

For staff and students alike, Downlands College really is where their heart finds a home. Downlands offers a supportive and caring environment where students are inspired to become reflective, heart-centred people. Our community places an emphasis on student wellbeing and preparing our young people to be emotionally connected and empathetic in an ever-changing world.

Downlands' support network is centred in a Pastoral Care program that is built on relationships, informed by Catholic teachings as espoused by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and cemented in love. These practices reflect kindness, understanding, compassion, forgiveness and

restorative justice, with the challenge to grow.

Our students experience a sense of belonging and 'home' as they form relationships with our caring, professional staff and within our diverse student population. Each individual is recognised as an integral part of our community and are encouraged to find their niche in a place that offers opportunities across a vast spectrum of interest areas.

In recognising the importance of relationships and the need for Downlanders to do good in their society, we acknowledge the power of working together, of understanding each other's similarities and differences, and the strength this gives us as a

**Downlands** has a comprehensive Pastoral Care team, lead by our **Assistant Principal - Pastoral Care & Wellbeing**, together with our Head of Boarding.

**Pastoral Care Teachers** check-in with students every day, and deliver our bespoke Personal Development Program.

**Year Group Leaders** guide their cohorts through age-appropriate Personal Development programs.

**Indigenous Liaison Officer** provides support and assistance for indigenous students and their families.

**Boarding Heads of House** lead their Houses, providing individual care and group management.

**Boarding House Staff** support and guide our boarder students while residing at Downlands, their 'home away from home'.

**Counsellors** two full-time College Counsellors provide direct and individualised support and intervention if required.



## MSC Constitution #33

True Community does not come about all at once. It grows by God's grace and the constant efforts of each of us. It needs to be built up each day into a community of faith and love, by prayer and the Eucharist, by listening and sharing the Word of God. At the same time, it needs to be built up as human community, knitted together by strong relationships, where each one brings their talents, and knows they are recognised, accepted, heard, encouraged and challenged.

# Teaching and Learning

Downlands encourages students to develop a love of learning by aiming to provide all students with a rich and diverse curriculum which is brought to life in classrooms. The College aims to engage students in learning processes which will help them to strengthen their learning gifts, talents and abilities. Staff at Downlands journey with each individual student academically and pastorally to provide the best possible school and post-school pathway.

## Our Mission

Downlands is a Catholic heart-centred learning and teaching community whose ethos embodies the Charism, Vision, Values and Mission of the MSC.

## Framework for Teaching and Learning

Downlands College has developed and implements the Shared Model of Pedagogy to facilitate effective teaching and learning from Prep to 12. The framework provides the

foundation to ensure consistency of expectations. This allows for a learning environment that fosters effective pedagogy while catering for the needs of the individual student and encourages growth of the student as a learner.

## Learning at Downlands involves 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills:

- Collaborating with others
- Being a critical and creative thinker
- Communicating effectively

- Interacting in the digital world
- Demonstrating personal and social skills

## Teaching at Downlands involves:

- Knowing the students and how they learn
- Knowing the content and how to teach it
- Implementing effective teaching and learning using evidence-based practice
- Providing progressive feedback to students and parents through My.Downlands portal

## Students at Downlands strive for:

- Individual growth as a learner
- Resilience and persistence during their Downlands journey
- Compassion, kindness, respect, tolerance and integrity
- Engagement in their learning

*Inside and outside the classroom,*  
in all activities at Downlands, we are working towards enhancement of the life of the individual; physically, psychologically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.



## Want More Information?

Our Curriculum Handbooks are available on our website or at the College Reception. Scan the QR code below to view our online publications.





# Our Junior School *Difference*

With care, compassion and kindness as hallmark qualities, we strive to empower students to become active and engaged learners who are heart-centred individuals.

In preparation for future-focused exploration of the curriculum, our students will come to know and apply our Junior School Learning Behaviours throughout their learning journey. These are evoking curiosity, courage, collaboration and communication in all aspects of College life. These dispositions very much align with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart values and bring to life the social, cognitive and emotional learning we aim to foster in the Junior School.

Our teachers work in partnership to implement impactful learning across the Key Learning Areas of the Australian Curriculum. Within our learning structure and processes, students will participate in Journey Groups, journeying

between our classroom teachers and collaborative ways of working for an expertly delivered HaSS, Science, Visual Arts and Technology curriculum. In Mathematics, learning is focused on developing strong foundations in numbers, through our fluid group structure. Downlands Junior School has a strong focus on reading and this is supported through our explicit teaching and learning within our guided reading rotations.

Downlands Junior School students have access to a variety of co-curricular opportunities. Our students participate in weekly specialist lessons in, Dance, Drama, French and Music. From Year 5, students have access to the Music Immersion program, bringing a love

of music into the home through the learning of an instrument. All Junior School students can participate in co-curricular activities throughout the year such as various sports, visiting the Rural Centre, accessing the STEM Lab, joining the Dance Troupe and/or Instrumental Ensemble.

We embed the Downlands heart-centred values into every aspect of the Junior School curriculum and with a strong sense of family, we build our learning community to respect and celebrate each other's successes through developing a love of learning in the Downlands Junior School.

## *Strong faith in God*

Strong faith in the goodness of your young people; Strong faith in the staff that they will deliver the best possible education, that is founded on love.

This is not a soft sentimental love, but a love which challenges and yet comforts... a love that is strong and determined but does not crush the weak.

Fr Bob Irwin, MSC



*We want them to come to know the value of their own lives*

in order to make a contribution for the betterment of the world in which they live.

*MSC Philosophy of Education*



# Prep to Year 3

The Journey of the Heart begins as you enter our Early Years Precinct, inclusive of Prep to Year 3 in 2023. A school founded on the spirituality of the heart, we are learner-centred and built on a strong commitment to relationships and fostering the awe and wonderment of learning.

## Early Years Curriculum

Our Early Years' Curriculum offers current age-appropriate, researched-based practices in evoking a love of learning and embedding foundational skills in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. We embrace inquiry learning through exploratory play opportunities aligned to the Australian Curriculum and support our Early Years learners to be confident and inquisitive across all learning areas.

## Founded on Rich Traditions

We have a caring, committed staff who are dedicated to implementing an engaging curriculum through our MSC

values and ethos. Relationships are the foundation for education at Downlands and we value your partnership in educating your child to reach their potential. As one of only four Missionaries of the Sacred Heart schools in Australia, and the first of its kind to introduce a Prep to Year 12 schooling option, we celebrate both our uniqueness and pioneering approach to establishing learning formed on rich traditions of the journey of the heart.

## Developing the Potential of the Whole Child

The co-curricular offerings aim to build the capacity of each student to experience and develop as a whole child. Through our social sports teams and individual sporting events, our exemplary performing

arts culture and agricultural centre, a Downlands Early Years learner will be allowed to experience several co-curricular opportunities, establish skills, and friendships and be introduced to the 'spirit of being a Downlander'.

## Pastoral Care

Our Junior School Pastoral Care Program is integrated into the Religious Education curriculum with a focus on teaching what it means to be a true Downlander and demonstrating attitudes, words and actions which are kind, selfless and gentle. We aim to develop our students to be equipped with faith, skills and knowledge for the future and who will contribute positively to their communities.

## The Learning Environment

The design of the Early Years Precinct mirrors contemporary learning environments whilst holding firmly the rich traditions our College is founded and built upon. Our Missionaries of the Sacred Heart's connection to the environment and stewardship will be seen through the landscaped gardens and outdoor learning spaces designed with consideration for the Early Years learner. A welcoming place to learn, supports our goal of fostering happy learners who have a sense of belonging.

Want more information on Prep to Year 3 at Downlands?

Scan the QR Code below.



"It is by the  
*Heart*  
that we are  
something"

Fr Jules Chevalier MSC



# Sporting Activities

There is a rich tradition of sporting excellence at Downlands College. Participating in sport encourages physical fitness and is an opportunity to develop character and integrity.

- Netball
- Rugby Union
- Swimming
- Touch Football
- Volleyball

It is these greater lessons that Downlanders take with them through life - learning about fair play, being strong, teamwork, resilience, supporting others, giving your best, perseverance, leadership, strategic thinking and learning what being 'a good sport' entails, such as being humble in both defeat and victory.

- Seven ovals
- Five tennis courts
- Two basketball courts
- Cricket nets
- Triple jump tartan track.

Part of the Downlands sporting tradition involves competing at school, club, regional and state level as well as optional interstate and overseas sporting tours.

Interstate and overseas trips enhance the Downlands sporting program, and each year a number of outstanding individuals are selected for state and national teams.

Qualified coaches include current teachers, parents and past students. They understand the Downlands Ethos and the importance of positive sportsmanship.

#### Sporting options

Many sporting options are available to students of every ability and include:

- Athletics
- Australian Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Football (Soccer)
- Futsal

#### Extensive facilities

Downlands is well appointed with quality amenities, including:

- Sacré Coeur Sports Centre
- 50m outdoor swimming pool
- Fully equipped fitness centre



## The Downlands Prayer

Lord, be with us in our studies that we may master the difficulties and be formed by wisdom and knowledge.  
 Be with us in our sport, that we may win without boasting, lose without begrudging.  
 Be with us in our leisure time, that our pleasures bring us no shame, but rest to our bodies, peace to our minds.  
 Be with us with our friends, that we may be ready to help whatever the cost, bring happiness wherever we go.  
 Be with us in the Chapel, that we pray and listen and worship and let you guide our lives.  
 Lord, make us strong in faith, courageous to follow your call, true to you, to Downlands, to ourselves.  
 Amen.

### Sport by Term

#### Term 1

- Australian Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Futsal
- Swimming
- Touch Football
- Volleyball

#### Term 2

- Cross Country
- Football (Soccer)
- Netball
- Volleyball

#### Term 3

- Football (Soccer)
- Netball
- Rugby Union
- Track and Field

#### Term 4

- Cricket
- Rugby 7s
- Swimming
- Touch Football



# Performing Arts

Students with an interest in, or passion for music, dance, acting, singing, film and production can choose from many school-based and external opportunities to learn and perform.

Downlands College offers a nationally recognised co-curricular Performing Arts program led by passionate and highly qualified staff who continue to pursue their career in the Performing Arts industry, alongside their work as teachers and mentors.

Downlands College has well-equipped specialist facilities, including an industry-standard dance studio and media production suite, which provides students access to the latest equipment and contemporary processes.

The Downlands Performing Arts Co-Curricular Program was recognised as a national finalist in the Best Co-Curricular Program category of the 2019 Australian Education Awards.

#### Performing Arts Ensembles

There is a Performing Arts ensemble for all Downlanders to join at all ability levels. These currently include:

#### Choral Groups

- Junior School Voices (commencing 2023)
- Canticum Choir (girls)

- The Fortesmen (boys)
- Gryphon Chorale (auditioned excellence group)

#### Instrumental Ensemble

- Wind Ensemble (beginner woodwind, brass & percussion)
- Symphonic Band (intermediate & advanced woodwind, brass & percussion)
- Big Band (auditioned excellence group)
- String Ensemble (beginner upper & lower strings)
- Chamber Strings (intermediate and advanced upper and lower strings)
- String Quartet/Trio (auditioned excellence group)
- Guitar Ensemble (beginner to advanced guitarists)
- Percussion Ensemble (auditioned excellence group)

#### Dance Troupes

Our Dance Troupes cater to various styles of dance and are all offered at beginner, development and elite levels.

#### Drama & Media

- Middle School Drama Club

#### Music Tuition

Downlands offer a range of private tuition options, taught by a leading instrumental specialist.

The instruments on offer include:

- Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium/Baritone or Tuba
- Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone (Alto/Tenor/Baritone) or Bass Clarinet
- Percussion: Mallet or Drum Kit
- Guitar
- Voice (male and female voice specialists)
- Piano
- Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass)

The College also operates an affordable instrument hire program for most instruments.

*... it is enough to have a heart that is able to love,*  
to sympathise, and to be compassionate ...  
God has given you a good, kind, sensitive heart ...  
the human heart is the most powerful means for doing good.

Fr Jules Chevalier, *Le Sacré Cœur*

Ours is a spirit of family and a spirit of true friendship formed by kindness and understanding, by compassion and mutual forgiveness, by gentleness, humility and simplicity, by hospitality and a sense of humour.

MSC Constitutions #32



# Performing Arts

Downlands have a long and proud history of excellence in musical theatre and acting, having produced plays or musicals for the last 50 years

## College Musical and Play

The College Musical and College Play are produced on alternate years and provide all Downlands students with the opportunity to be involved in the production either on stage, in the orchestra, as a creative or as part of the crew.

In recent years the College's musicals have included Les Misérables, Crazy for You, Wicked and in 2022, the College performed The Addams Family as our musical to be performed at the Empire Theatre.

Students who are involved in the College Musical or College playwork with our own Performing Arts team, past students who are now working professionally in the

Arts industry and external Arts industry professionals. Each production is structured as a real-world learning experience, mirroring what the students would experience working with local community groups and professional production companies alike.

## Performance Opportunities

Each year, the Downlands Performing Arts students have numerous opportunities to perform both at the College and externally. These opportunities include:

- Gala concerts
- Downlands Proms
- Paul Morton Choral Festival
- Qld Catholic Music Festival
- Toowoomba Eisteddfod

- State & national competitions
- Performing Arts Scholarship Showcase
- Interstate and international Performing Arts tours
- Other school & community events

## 2019 Australian Education Awards Finalist

*In 2019, the Downlands Performing Arts program was selected as a Finalist in the Best Co-Curriculum Program category of the 2019 Australian Education Awards and the only Toowoomba school selected as a finalist.*

*The Australian Education Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of the country's top performing schools, principals, department heads and teachers.*

*Being selected as a finalist acknowledges the fantastic work of our highly skilled Performing Arts staff who have developed an innovative and contemporary co-curricular program that fosters inclusivity, enjoyment, resilience, persistence and excellence.*



*As Missionaries of the Sacred Heart,  
we must be marked as Jesus was with this two-fold quality of gentleness  
and strength.*

*Fr Jules Chevalier, Le Sacré Cœur de Jésus*

# Your school home

## Boarding

Boarding is integral to the Downlands community and our boarders are the heart and soul of the College.

Downlands adopts the family as our model for boarding, and caters for many rural families located throughout Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory. The boarding experience is much more than just meals and beds. Downlands provides an environment that promotes growth as an individual, the development of interpersonal skills and access to a wide variety of opportunities and activities that may not otherwise be available.

### Boarding options

Full time, weekday and casual boarding options are available. Of course, coeducation has the advantage of brothers and sisters being able to stay, live and grow up together. These are memories that

last a lifetime.

As a home away from home for about a quarter of Downlands students, the choice to board is increasing in popularity for farming and other families, with recently refurbished boarding houses.

### Tutoring and Mentoring

A tutoring and mentoring program runs four nights a week during evening study time. Boarders in small groups receive assistance with their homework by tutors employed by the College.

### Experienced staff

For our staff, caring for boarding students is more than a job, it is a vocation. The family is a model for the level of care provided by our professional, dedicated staff, including registered nurses who are available in our Health and

Wellness Centre.

A busy boarder is a happy boarder, and through an energetic Activities Committee, boarding students are kept active with a full calendar of events, such as:

- theme parks
- climbing Tabletop Mountain
- attending sporting events
- rock climbing
- go-karting
- pool parties
- trivia nights
- social events with students attending other boarding schools.

All activities are covered by an inclusive boarding fee and levy, so no-one misses out.

*Downlands seems to have something for everyone.*

Not only do we have a girl and a boy, our children have very different interests and they have both been very busy and very happy here.

The school really does operate and feel like one big family and the children are taken care of almost as if they were at home. They have found that there is always help when they need it.

*Helen and Chris, parents of two boarding students*



With two boarding houses for girls and three for boys, and with 90 years of experience,

*we are experts in boarding.*

Up to 250 students, along with 15 residential staff call Downlands home during the school term.

There are also three College families who live on-campus on a permanent basis.

The Downslands Rural Centre  
*is a fully functioning farm.*

Only seven minutes from Toowoomba city, students benefit greatly from the 14 hectare Rural Centre located on our 38 hectare College campus.



# Rural & Agricultural

Inclusion of rural and agricultural studies has been an integral part of Downslands since 1931. This commitment to country families helps boarders from rural properties adjust to being away from home, as well as providing skills for a future in agriculture.

Agricultural Science is a vital aspect of the Science Curriculum from Year 8 onwards.

A very hands-on subject, it provides opportunities for students of all ages to participate in a variety of projects at the 14 hectare on-site farm, including:

- Fencing
- Cattle handling and show preparation
- Beef, sheep & chicken feed trials
- Low input vegetables
- Crop production
- Rotation and pasture management
- Citrus and fruiting tree orchard

management

- Aquaculture.

Through the Agricultural Show Teams (Cattle and Sheep) students can also participate in Judging, Paraders and Herdsman competitions.

#### The future in agriculture

Senior students may choose to obtain a Certificate II in Rural Operations or undertake Agricultural Science subjects to contribute to an ATAR.

Downlands is a Gateway School to Agribusiness, assisting the transition to further agricultural studies or work within the Agricultural sector.

Beyond the school gates, the rural program operates a Cattle Show team which supports students to:

- attend and exhibit a variety of cattle breeds at local, regional and major Royal Agricultural Shows and specialist breeder shows
- compete at Rockhampton Beef Week, held every three years.
- develop and maintain industry partnerships with AgForce, hosting agricultural days and the *Moo Baa Munch* event at Downslands.



*Where  
your heart  
finds a home*

rings true for us.  
We are so grateful  
that our children are  
enrolled at Downslands  
and everyday they  
walk into a school  
where they are happy,  
loved and safe.

*Bec and Gavin,  
parents of three day students*



# Experience Downlands

You are always welcome at Downlands. We look forward to meeting you and your family.



## Open Day

Join us in Term Two for our College Open Day. Experience life as a Downlander as you tour through our College, meet current students and hear from our teaching staff. There will be College tours, interactive activities and much more.

## College Tour

Personalised College tours allow you to meet and talk with current students and staff as you walk through the beautiful grounds and discover what Downlands College has to offer. Tours may be organised between 10am and 2pm on school days. Please contact the College to arrange a suitable time.

For more information, email us at [enrol@downlands.qld.edu.au](mailto:enrol@downlands.qld.edu.au) or call us on 07 4690 9500

[downlands.qld.edu.au](http://downlands.qld.edu.au)



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