

St Margaret's



What

is it like to learn and live
at St Margaret's?

Your guide to learning and living at
St Margaret's, as told by its students,
parents, staff and Old Girls.





We compiled a list of frequently asked questions about learning and living at St Margaret's, then asked our students, staff, parents and Old Girls to share their experiences with you.



Learning and living at St Margaret's: Frequently Asked Questions

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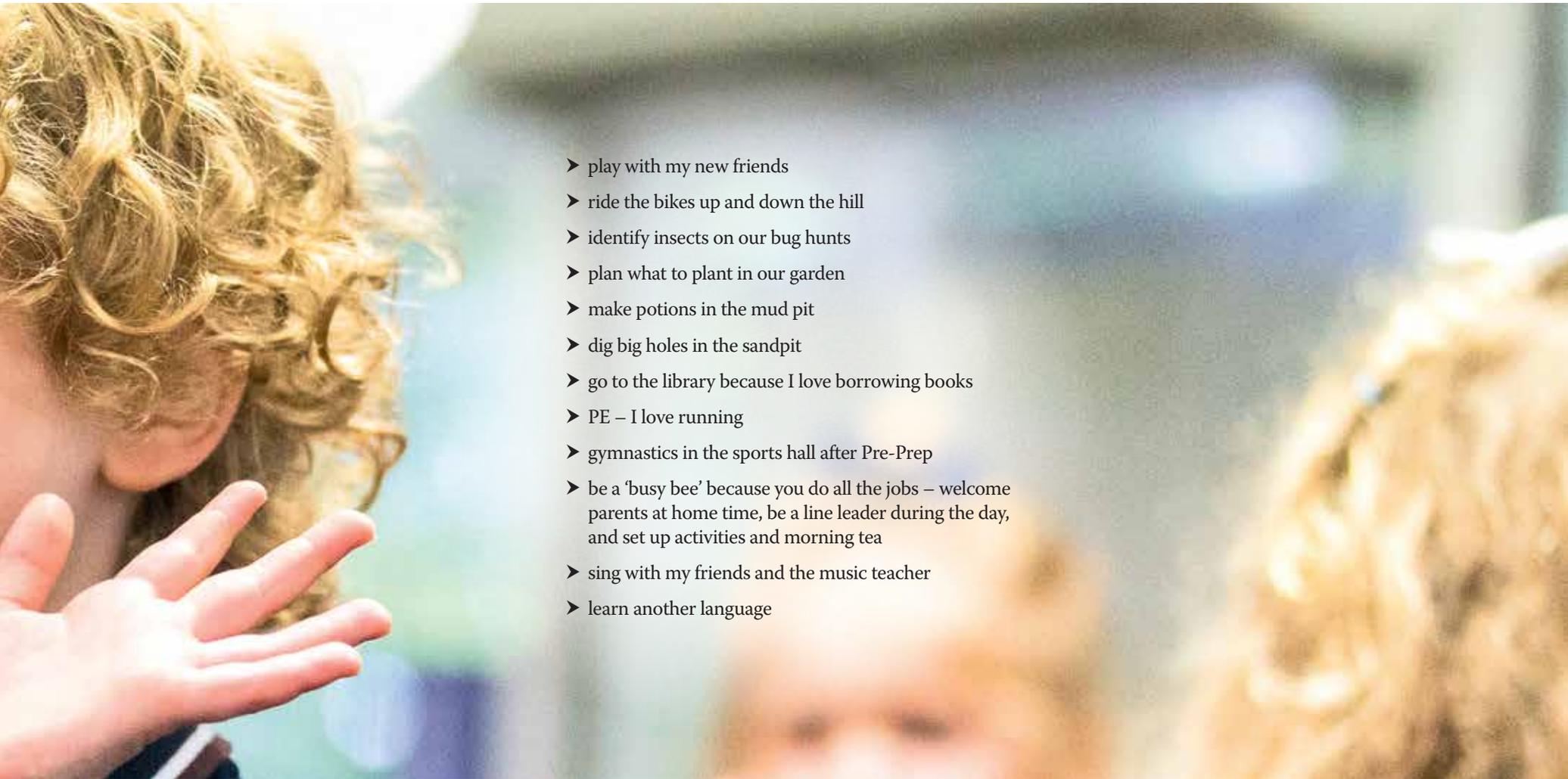
What

do you like to do in Pre-Prep?



“They have so much fun but they don’t realise how much they are learning. It’s a real privilege to teach Pre-Prep and to see how much they grow and learn here.”

Pre-Prep Teacher



- play with my new friends
- ride the bikes up and down the hill
- identify insects on our bug hunts
- plan what to plant in our garden
- make potions in the mud pit
- dig big holes in the sandpit
- go to the library because I love borrowing books
- PE – I love running
- gymnastics in the sports hall after Pre-Prep
- be a 'busy bee' because you do all the jobs – welcome parents at home time, be a line leader during the day, and set up activities and morning tea
- sing with my friends and the music teacher
- learn another language

St Margaret's operates a five-day a week, co-educational, one-unit Pre-Prep program, from 8.20am to 2.30pm, during school term. Set in the spacious Advent Centre, the program offers a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for girls and boys turning four by 30 June of the year of enrolment.

What

have you learnt to do in Prep?

- count to 100 in 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s
- do part, part, whole (maths)
- how to code
- read the news
- read Dr Seuss books
- read vocab words and do the actions
- plant seeds and water our organic garden
- write letters, stories and books
- make portraits of our mums and dads
- paint and draw and do collage in Art
- be like Gabby Get Along, Oscar Organised and Ricky Resilience
- race at Athletics Carnival
- post letters
- follow The St Margaret's Way



*“When I went to grade 1
I looked at all the hard work I had
done in Prep and felt proud.”*



The importance of the foundational learning achieved in Prep cannot be underestimated. It is the key to growing great learners.



St Margaret's



St Margaret's



St Margaret's



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What

were the highlights of your primary school years?



- ▶ The Year 6 Canberra trip. Going to places like Parliament House, Questacon and the Australian War Memorial was lots of fun, but at the same time you learnt so many things.
- ▶ Year 4 camp because all the activities were challenging but also fun and exciting. You got the chance to interact with different people and make new friends.
- ▶ The Strings concert in Year 3 as I got to learn violin.
- ▶ The Strings concert because of the lovely pieces played through the night. You feel proud during your performance.
- ▶ Grandparents Day: All our grandparents come and watch us perform a poem and see what we do during class and we have activities we do with them.
- ▶ Millionaire Readers Morning Tea: It makes you feel like you have accomplished something.
- ▶ Primary Arts Spectacular. There is a great sense of community as we prepare for the event because different subjects like art, music and HPE come together to make the night unforgettable and each girl feels welcomed and loved. The lights and vibe of the performance make you feel like you're in a QPAC show. It truly is spectacular!
- ▶ Andrews Cup as we get involved with sport and we always encourage our St Margaret's friends.
- ▶ Becoming a leader: When I started at St Margaret's in Year 4 the first thing I thought about was when I could be a leader of the primary school like the other Year 6 girls. To become a leader in Year 4 we do the gift of giving where we use our own time to do something for someone in need. In Year 5 we practise leadership skills on camp. In Year 6 we put our leadership skills to the test by trying to make a difference in the school that is beneficial.
- ▶ I found many great friendships here and so many great teachers to guide me through my primary school life.
- ▶ Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts because I loved making their presents during art and giving them their gifts at the breakfast.
- ▶ In Year 5, I really liked how all the girls made me feel really welcome when I first started.
- ▶ All the interhouse activities like choral, swimming, athletics and poetry. Also house picnics with the secondary school, as we get to know the older girls and interact with them.
- ▶ I love sport and I love St Margaret's for all the sporting opportunities I am given here.



What

was it like starting at a new school in Year 7?

Caring staff work together to support the new girls as they transition into secondary school life. Their new surroundings include a dedicated Year 7 precinct with purpose-built classrooms and lockers. Subject teachers come to the girls' Form room to deliver their lessons, while speciality subjects, such as health and physical education (HPE), science, art and music, are within very close walking distance. The Head of Year office is situated right beside the classrooms and the girls eat together on the adjoining verandah. There are many activities designed to help the girls settle in, including buddy morning teas, lunchtime activities with their Year 11 buddies, and visits from the Year 12 leaders. The Year 7 camp occurs during Term 1 and focuses on establishing friendships. This is a great opportunity for the girls to reconnect with the new friends they made at the Year 7 transition and orientation days held the previous year. The Heads of Sport and Performance encourage the new girls to involve themselves in the range of extra-curricular activities available.

Head of Year 7



I was a bit nervous when I started school as I had never been a boarder before, but it was also very exciting as I was ready for a new start and to meet new friends. I overcame my nerves by keeping myself busy with my new friends. My teachers and friends helped me settle in by comforting me and making me feel welcome. So far this year I have enjoyed the Year 7 camp, starting new sports, the MAYO Arts Festival, meeting new people and making new friends and the weekend boarding activities.

I found starting school very exciting and a little scary. I didn't know many people but I soon made lots of new friends and I was no longer scared. Everyone was very welcoming and helped me settle in. All the teachers and older students have helped me when I was lost or didn't know where to go or what to do. This year I have enjoyed the camp, the MAYO Arts Festival, the athletics carnival, making new friends and supporting the swimmers at QGSSSA swimming.

I was excited to start at St Margaret's as I could do all the sports I wanted to do. All the teachers are very nice and supportive and that helps us learn. There were also many activities to help us make new friends. All the house competitions and school sport competitions have been lots of fun.

At the beginning of the year I was a bit nervous but very excited to come into high school and a new school. It was exciting to make new friends and start a new sport I hadn't tried before. So far, I have loved camp, the weekend boarder activities, the sports carnivals and being in the boarding house with my friends.



What

is your favourite subject
in secondary school?

- I love Geography because we learn about the world, the way it works and what's changing in it. We can express our opinions and ideas freely and debate ideas to gain a better understanding.
- History, because we understand what has shaped our world today by learning about the past. It's fascinating!
- Maths, because there is always just one answer. Once you know the formula you can work anything out.
- Visual Art: I've always enjoyed art as a hobby but studying it as a subject provides more opportunity to learn about different artists, different styles and techniques and apply these to my own works. I like doing experiments, and in Visual Art we experiment with colours, shapes and techniques. In Art, I can express my creativity and my thoughts freely in a powerful form.
- Home Economics: I enjoy this subject because I can be creative while still learning valuable skills for the future.
- French: I love learning a new language and the fact that St Margaret's offers such a challenging, yet engaging and enjoyable subject is one of my favourite reasons to come to school.
- Music: As it is an elective, we have a small class and all share the same passion. This has made us quite close over the years. I love the lack of creative boundaries meaning we can personalise our work. We never leave class without a new perspective or insight towards a certain piece of music.
- Science is fascinating. I love to say 'why' about everything and find out and understand how everything works. I really want to go into medical science and work in a lab.
- HPE: We play and learn about sport but we also learn things like health and wellbeing, which I'm really into.
- English: We are given creative freedom with our work. I love that the work is interactive on one note and the teachers involve us in class discussions where everyone shares their ideas. My teacher is really supportive of everyone's ideas and encourages us to have confidence in our abilities.
- Drama: There is more to the subject than just performing plays, scripts or games. Drama is a subject where you can learn a lot about yourself and the world around you; the content and exercises help boost confidence and teach you about the outside world and real situations; and it helps improve your people and communication skills.





Is
St Margaret's
a sporty school?

YES!

You can choose from 18 sports that all have interschool competitions.

In the secondary school, St Margaret's is a member of the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools Sports Association (QGSSSA), Brisbane Schoolgirls' Rowing Association (BSRA), Brisbane Water Polo Association Inc (BWPI) and Downey Park Netball Association (DPNA). The primary school is a member of Andrews Cup and the Brisbane Netball Association. All these associations have strong member schools that provide high standards of competition.

St Margaret's has bred national and international competitors in many sports to the highest level, including Olympic level, most notably in swimming, athletics, lifesaving, netball and rowing.

Outside of interschool sports, there is an interhouse competition across swimming, cross country, and athletics where the emphasis is on fun and participation for everyone.

We have an indoor sports hall, swimming pool, and tennis courts onsite, and fields close by that have three fields (including an athletics track) and netball courts. The rowing shed is just five minutes down the road on the banks of Breakfast Creek at Albion.

Most girls compete in at least one or more sports and many will sign up to compete in the maximum number of sports possible!







“St Margaret’s girls are very keen to be involved in everything. For a smaller sized school we achieve a lot due to their spirit and enthusiasm.”

What

other extracurricular opportunities are there?

- ▶ Music is fantastic here. There are 23 music ensembles to choose from and a musical production every second year.
- ▶ Lots of community service activities.
- ▶ Global Exchange for a term in Year 10.
- ▶ International trips for community service, language studies and music.
- ▶ A long list of clubs and activities like smART Club, Astronomy, Chess, Dance, Debating, Robotics Club and even a Drone Academy where you can get your drone licence!
- ▶ Girls who love drama can do Speech and Drama, compete in theatresports and vie for the sought-after roles in the school musical.



What's

the best thing about boarding?



- always having friends around
- the community
- you get to meet new people and it's a good experience
- all the girls and how close we are and have so much fun together
- being able to sit with my friends and joke around and not have to worry about getting home on time
- being with our friends that understand when to leave you alone
- the housemothers
- being near the city to go shopping
- the girls and the housemothers, becoming independent, weekend activities, and the food
- that I have all the opportunities of the city while having a band of friends and support system
- the feeling of safety you get when you're in the boarding house
- having a family away from home
- the bond between the boarders
- having millions of activities to do on the weekend
- the special day/boarders extra-long weekend when we take day girls to our home



Who helps with homework?

- We usually have two teachers at prep time and the housemothers can help as well
- There is lots of help as the teachers who help at prep time are the actual teachers from the day school who know what I am learning
- My friends can help me

What's the food like?

- There is a wide selection of food that tastes amazing
- There are cooked meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- I absolutely love the food because there are healthy options and I have lots of choice
- Interesting, as we have home cooked style meals from around the globe
- The food is 10/10 and you can eat a variety of cuisines
- It's very good; every Thursday is pasta night!
- They are very accommodating as they cater for my food intolerances and other allergies, as well as any cultural and religious requirements

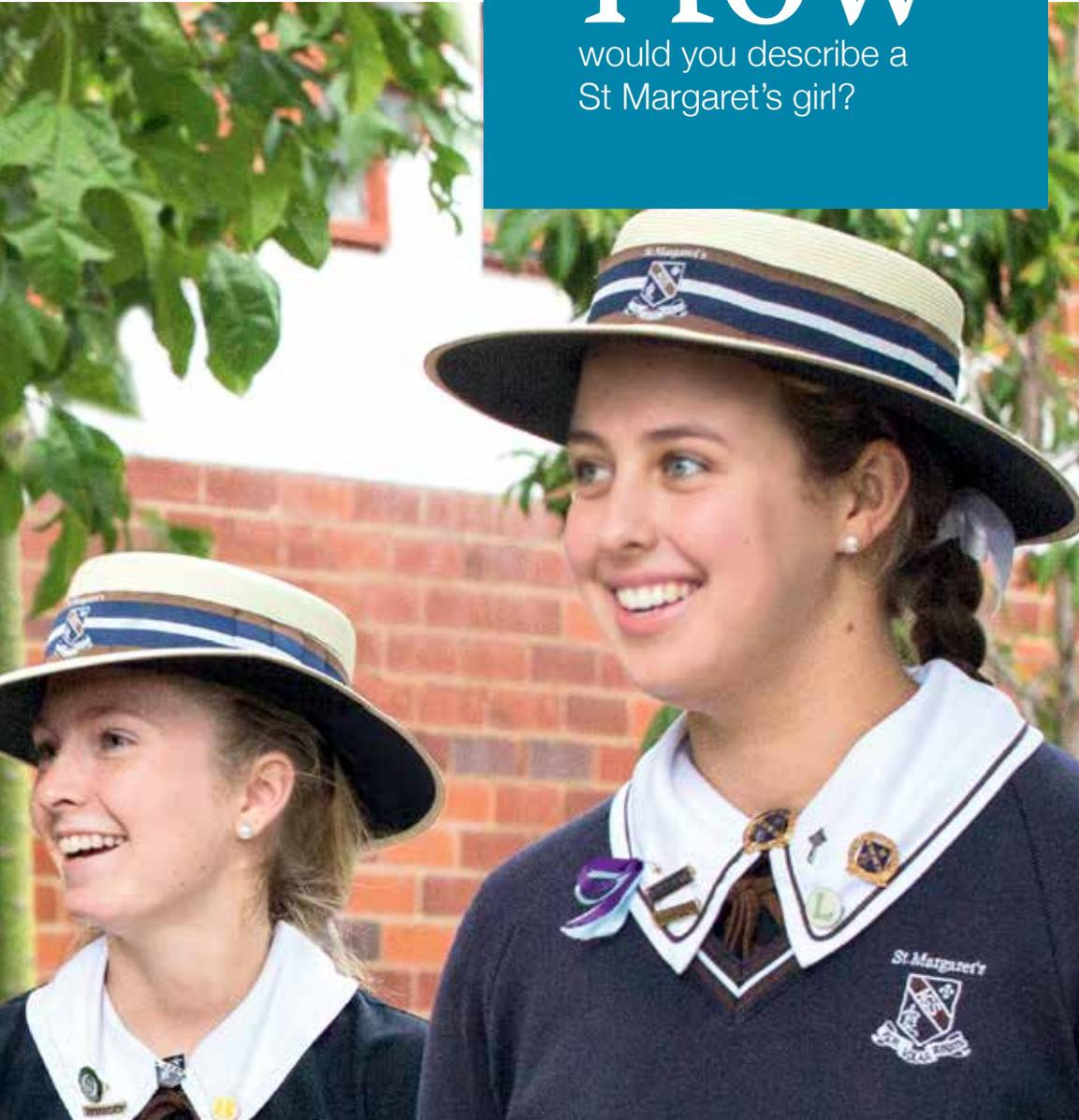
What do you do on the weekends?

- Lots of fun activities like going to the beach, the movies or to the city
- We go to Wet 'n' Wild, and can go ice skating
- I hang out with friends and chat, and do some of the great activities organised for us
- Activities with other schools, time to bond, study and lots of sports which is great
- Go on leave or stay in and hang with friends
- We go to exciting places and have socials
- Study, read, socialise or we can participate in the activities or go on the excursions
- On Friday's we can go to Toombul Shopping Centre
- Go to the gym



How

would you describe a
St Margaret's girl?



A St Margaret's Girl...

- helps others tie their laces
- likes making new friends
- does brave things like talking in front of the class and asking someone new to play with her
- shows spirit, passion and faith
- is an enthusiastic learner and a great listener
- practices reading and writing every day
- is persistent
- helps others when they are in the learning pit
- is well-rounded and balanced
- has integrity
- is kind, caring, confident and inclusive
- has her eyes open to the world
- is willing to be involved and try different things
- is approachable
- is supportive
- is like a sister and is loyal, fun and kind to everyone
- is a kind, honest, independent woman who is strong
- is a friendly all-round girl who is responsible, brave, considerate and open minded
- is positive
- is dedicated and passionate
- never gives up
- is a friend forever
- lives The St Margaret's Way
- is proud to be a St Margaret's girl

What

are some of St Margaret's traditions?



- P – 4 Celebration
- Grandparents Day
- Years 5 and 6 Arts Spectacular
- Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts
- Sister School relationship with Konan Elementary School

- The Musical
- Classics in the Cathedral
- The Music Dinner
- Eight Houses named after writers and poets

- Closed Boarder Weekends
- Day/Boarder Weekends
- Themed boarder dinners
- St Margaret's Day Service and Fun Run
- Speech Night
- Our mascot – the Dragon

- Ponytail Project
- Sony Camp





SCHOOL WAR CRY

*Kumata Kumata Kiora Kiora
Anthropopagi Tarramatta Wattagi,
Auchi Kolata Per Volar Sunata
Wangi Kiata, St Margaret's, St Margaret's.*



How

is St Margaret's different?



Where do I start? The communication, the care, the attention to detail, the sense of community, leading in technological advances (the talks on internet security), the amazing arts spectacular, academic and sporting success, the vegie garden, the amazing after school holiday care...all of this points to fantastic leadership and a school that has developed a great fun loving culture.

St Margaret's provides a holistic environment in which the girls are encouraged in all aspects of their lives to try, to learn and grow.

St Margaret's sees the girls as individuals and treats them accordingly – individual people, individual learners, individual contributors to society. The staff take the time to know each student, and what makes them smile.

St Margaret's is organised, professional and in touch with its community. It is also transparent. While other schools will not disclose where and how fees are distributed, St Margaret's makes it their business to ensure parents are informed. They are leaders in education and 100 per cent dedicated to their students.

St Margaret's provides an individual education for each and every student. They have exceptional teachers, support staff and leadership who work together to develop a program at the level of each child. They set high, but reasonable, expectations that allow the students to achieve incredible things.

The girls truly do live the school's wonderful philosophy of 'how do I want to feel today at school and how do I make others feel the same way'.

St Margaret's makes you feel like you are part of a family that dates back generations. It is an amazing community to be a part of.

People are seen and supported through their problems, whatever they may be.

The spirit of this school is something not experienced anywhere else. It is intangible but it is definitely there.

St Margaret's makes it its mission to do more than just educate the minds of our young women; we make a conscious effort to educate their hearts too. We really care about the community we build and the way in which that community shapes the culture of education

we strive to achieve. To do this, we invest in our students and our staff as people, not just numbers. Individualism is not only encouraged but utilised to make our teams stronger. We have a shared vision which is all the more powerful for the recognition that everyone has a role to play in creating it.

St Margaret's is different to other schools because there's an indescribable aura that you feel the moment you walk in the gates. It's one of warmth and belonging. Irrespective of who you are, you are welcomed with open arms and, in no time at all, St Margaret's feels like home.





What

do you like about an all-girls' school?

Students

- it's a sisterhood
- girls lift each other up
- there's more chance for us to put our ideas out there
- you get to ask for help from others who understand what you are going through
- it gives you a strong sense of belonging, and the girls are less afraid to be themselves
- girls don't have to impress boys for school and we can relate more to girls
- there's no social pressure from boys which can be distracting
- there are more opportunities to participate, whether it's making the sports team, the music ensemble or getting to be a school leader
- every leadership position at school is held by a girl!





Teachers

- I love watching the way the girls can step into their identities as young women and encourage each other to do so outside of some of the extra pressures that are so present in our current world. There is a shared space and sense of community which is deeper and more authentic because of that sense of sisterhood. Women here are affirmed, empowered and, ultimately, celebrated.
- All students are equal. There are no restrictions to what the girls can do and, as their teacher, the sky is the limit for your own ideas and aspirations.
- Anything worth celebrating is celebrated, and with youthful exuberance. It keeps you young.
- Every day, I get the opportunity to influence the future of tomorrow. The lawyers, doctors, artists and world changers of the future are in my classroom today. I get the privilege of being one of their biggest cheerleaders and watching them smash glass ceilings and stand empowered and united as one sisterhood.



What's

your favourite place
on campus?



*“My
favourite
place is
everything”*

- M's Café
- The library because it's peaceful and I can read books
- The playground because I like hanging on the monkey bars
- The swimming pool because I like going under water and collecting toys
- Maggies Garden where we plant vegetables
- The Primary Art Room
- The Music Room
- Our classroom – the kindness tree, the reading tree and the puppet show
- On the top of the art room where you look out to the city because you're up high and there's fresh air
- The new Toorak Gardens area
- Being outside on the terraces overlooking the city
- The Dining Hall
- My room – my roommates are all different personalities but we all go together
- Barley Sugar Garden
- The Boarding House



St Margaret's says it is a local school with a global outlook.

What

does this mean?





St Margaret's is situated in the very safe and suburban enclave of Ascot, in Brisbane's northern suburbs. It's tucked away up at the top of a hill – many would not even know a school of our size (catering for almost 1000 students) existed there.

It's a moderate sized school, still small enough to truly personalise its offerings and have a palpable sense of community, but at the same time, it has this outward focus, ensuring the students are exposed to global experiences and global ways of thinking.

While much of our community is drawn from surrounding suburbs, people from all over Brisbane attend St Margaret's, and, as it has a large boarding community, they also come from all over Australia and the world. Our community embraces and celebrates this diversity.

Being a "local school with a global outlook" aligns with our mission statement that we are preparing confident, compassionate, capable women able to contribute to a global community.

There are explicit opportunities for global experiences, whether through learning a language, taking a language tour overseas, participating in the Year 10 Global Exchange Program, going on a philanthropic antipodeans tour or the primary Japan trip, or through simply embracing our international students and students from many and varied different cultural backgrounds.

There is a lot more to being global ready than international travel and meeting people from different countries. It's a mindset and having 20th century skills that will be transferable in any situation or country, as well as the cultural literacy to work with people from across the globe (even if they never leave Australia's shores). A flexible mind will be the most valuable of resources in the workplace of the future – and this is how we prepare them for an unknown future on the global stage. We school them in the ability to be able to 'forage' amongst their different knowledge areas to frame possible solutions to new and age-old problems.

In STEM (for example) students develop skills to attempt to complete a task, even when they can't see the entire solution – and then modify their ideas as they learn more about the task or the problem to be solved. This cycle of reflection and modification needs to be accepted, and not seen as some level of failure. The 'not knowing' is to be embraced, then learning strategies are deployed to find the solution. These are the processes that promote higher order thinking and the deepest level of learning. This is the learning that best prepares our girls for all their futures on any stage.



*"I don't really love anything the most
because I love it all the same."*



What

do students love most
about St Margaret's?

- It's homely
- The teachers – they are always there to support you and look out for you
- The friends you make
- Our school spirit
- The Global Exchange Program
- Extracurricular opportunities especially the sporting program
- Its size: it's a smaller school and you are known and teachers want you to succeed
- The community – everyone gets on really well and looks out for one another
- Boarding and the food in the dining hall
- Everyone has fun together
- The sisterhood
- We're like a family
- There are so many opportunities to be a part of things through the extracurricular program
- Opportunities like Sony Camp – the special things we do outside of the classroom
- The range of excellent sports I can play and that I can go to the gym in Eton Hall whenever I want. There is an amazing team spirit in school and sport
- Everyone (teachers and students) is so happy and cheerful

What

do parents love most
about St Margaret's?

*“The happy faces...
that's how you tell it's a good school.”*

- The teachers – they are fabulous – supportive and approachable from the beginning years right through until graduation.
- The pursuit of excellence – the girls are encouraged to do their best across all endeavours – they are always challenged.
- The depth of skills the teachers have and what they can bring to the girls.
- The boarding community – being a boarding school adds a whole other dimension to the community which makes it quite unique – and it offers a lot of opportunities for the day girls, and the families of day girls take the boarders under their wings as well.
- The way the teachers find each students' talent and nurture and develop this particular strength irrelevant of where they sit amongst others.
- The atmosphere – from the playground to the classroom there is always an atmosphere of fun, support and I would even say love. The teachers are clearly dedicated and care deeply about not only the children in their charge but the school community as a whole. I wouldn't have my daughters anywhere else.
- That I feel so right about sending my four daughters to school there every single day. I know that they're not only learning how to read and write, but they're learning about their place in the world. And while they're doing that, they feel safe and loved and supported. As a parent, you cannot ask for more.
- The personalised experience across every facet of school life.
- The interest and warmth you see and feel from all levels of staff towards the girls. It is not just about delivering a quality academic education, but also I find the community spirit that is instilled is just as important for their future.







What

do staff love most about
St Margaret's?

*"We are a small school
with big hearts."*

- Being part of an amazing community of women who build each other up and value each other for their individual differences.
- St Margaret's lives its beliefs. They are present in everything that happens.
- How our school is its own special community full of spirit and looking out for each other.
- The way that it feels like home.
- The contagious energy throughout, from both students and staff.
- Being part of a dynamic and spirited community that embraces all members of that community.
- The community, positive culture and sisterhood. Girls and staff alike are championed to be the very best versions of themselves.
- The feeling of belonging. You are part of a very special community, a very special family.
- I love how the strategic direction of the school is clear; it's inspiring to work in a school that looks to the future and always strives to be better. It's also very innovative in its approach.
- Our staff are highly professional, collegial and supportive.
- St Margaret's is a school where I can grow. It's not just about the growth and development of students but of staff as well.

Where

do our graduates go?

Nearly all (consistently close to 100%) of our eligible students will get an offer of a tertiary place.

Approximately 40 per cent of Year 12 graduates will go on to study at The University of Queensland and a similar percentage will study at QUT. Others will choose to go to Griffith University, ACU or interstate or overseas (often on sporting scholarships).

The three top areas of study are consistently business, health and law, with other areas including engineering, creative arts and pure sciences.

St Margaret's teaches its students to have a global outlook, and you will find an Old Girl in every possible occupation in many corners of the globe – from artists in New York and bankers in London, to doctors in Africa and musicians in Sydney.





What

do past students say
about St Margaret's?



Sally Kehoe ('03) *Olympic Rower*

Often, I am asked how a girl from Toowoomba, a water-less city, ended up becoming an Olympic rower. I love this question because it immediately leads me back to my time at St Margaret's and the sliding door moments I experienced. I was not a rower beforehand. The athlete I became was formed by the opportunities and support of St Margaret's and the successful rowing program.



Amanda Lacaze ('76)
*CEO and MD of ASX listed
Lynas Corporation, which
mines rare earth materials.*

At St Margaret's I learned the skills required to achieve the academic excellence which was so highly valued. This included approaching challenges with an open mind, gathering information, critically analyzing this information, forming my own view and then presenting it in a carefully considered argument.

I learned the value of engagement and empathy from my teachers. They spent time with each of us and ensured we appreciated the lessons from each experience.

I learned the value of teamwork and friendship and of ensuring you contributed to the team to the best of your ability.

St Margaret's is, at its core, a feminist institution, devoted to assisting girls to achieve their best and to preparing young women to address the world with confidence, unencumbered by notions of gender.

Dr Alex Markwell ('95)
*Emergency Physician
(Senior Staff Specialist)
and one of the Directors
of Emergency Medicine
Training at the Royal
Brisbane and Women's
Hospital Emergency and
Trauma Centre.*

I enjoyed school and the support I received from my teachers and other staff. I loved that as students we could try anything (sport, music etc) even if we weren't necessarily already skilled in that discipline. It has been wonderful to see how St Margaret's has further developed their facilities and philosophy to really promote all opportunities for their students.

Frances Becker ('02)
*Senior Associate at
McCullough Robertson
Lawyers.*

I commenced at St Margaret's in Year 8, as a boarder, having been originally a Rockhampton girl. Being a 'Maggies girl' was something of a tradition in my family – I am a third generation St Margaret's girl (and proud of that), with my grandmother, mother (and aunties) having all attended, as well as my sisters and cousins. I loved my time at St Margaret's and feel particularly lucky to have attended, and to have been a boarder. I learnt many things from my time including the importance of education, hard work, friendship and family. The Maggies traditions, experiences and friendships are ones that will remain with me always.

What do I do next?



Now that our community has shared some of their thoughts about life at St Margaret's, I hope you have a real sense of what it is like to learn and even live here.

Our Admissions Booklet (available on the website or as a hard copy on request) will give you more specific information, such as subjects offered, sports, activities and clubs available, fees, how to get here, outside school hours care, the enrolment process etc. We produce the booklet each year, so it contains all the information relevant to the current year.

Our website is also a great source of information about the school, so be sure to visit www.stmargarets.qld.edu.au and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn for the very latest updates.

Please take the opportunity to book in for a tour with an admissions team member or visit us for our open house events held in March and August each year.

When you are ready and have decided you would like to join the St Margaret's community, the next step is to submit an application online or download an application form from our website.

I look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret's.

Ros Curtis

Principal

St Margaret's Anglican Girls School



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St Margaret's School Council Ltd
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A School of the Society of the Sacred Advent

