



EVERY EXPERIENCE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN







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WELCOME TO AQUINAS

At Aquinas College, your son will receive a holistic education that encompasses academic studies, sport, culture and community service. While these subjects are important within themselves, their true value lies in helping your son discover and develop his inner spirit and strength of character – his heart and soul. Learning about himself, and the difference he can make, is as important as what he learns inside the classroom. We believe success is not what he becomes, but who he becomes.

Each boy's journey within the school is sacred as it involves building a relationship between intellectual development, personal and physical growth and spiritual life. We celebrate the individual, while recognising and promoting teamwork and leadership.

Aquinas is a vibrant learning environment that motivates boys to define and develop their unique talents. It is through the collaborative wisdom and input of our staff, that boys are provided with opportunities to be the best they can.

As we continue our journey, Aquinas College is dedicated to attracting and retaining qualified, skilled and committed staff. They are there to assist today's Aquinians and continue the tradition of excellence.

Part of our tradition at Aquinas College is welcoming people to our wonderful campus. I invite you to join Aquinas College and to be part of your son's educational journey.

David McFadden, Headmaster



OUR HISTORY

Aquinas College is one of Western Australia's oldest and most respected boys' Colleges, and is a founding member of the Public Schools Association.

Our history as a College dates back to 1894, with the foundation of Christian Brothers College Perth on St George's Terrace in the Perth CBD. While CBC was founded for day students, it soon attracted an increasing number of boarding students and it became apparent that a much larger campus would be needed.

In 1938, Aquinas College was opened on its current site – an elevated 62-hectare property, with over two kilometres of water frontage on the Canning River. Our beautiful campus includes the Mount Henry Peninsula, an area of significant bushland that adds much to the site.

When the College was first established, all teaching staff were Christian Brothers. Over time, they were joined and eventually replaced by lay teaching staff, and in 2000, the first lay headmaster was appointed.

To give boys the strongest start to their educational journey, Aquinas started a Kindergarten program in 2014. From 2018 Aquinas will offer K-12 education for boys in all year levels.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Aquinas will always be committed to educating young men within a Catholic framework, encouraging faith, justice, service, respect and excellence.







THE VALUES WE WANT TO SHARE

Aquinas College is a member of Edmund Rice Education Australia - the organisation responsible for all schools that have a Christian Brothers heritage.

Edmund Rice was a wealthy businessman from Waterford in Ireland, who abandoned his business at age 40 in order to dedicate himself to educating underprivileged Irish boys. At the turn of the 19th Century, Ireland was under English rule and laws prohibited the education of Catholic Irish boys. Despite this, Edmund courageously established both 'poor' and 'pay' schools.

We are committed to fulfilling Blessed Edmund's vision for boys by providing a Catholic education based on these core values and beliefs:

- Faith in action
- Justice with compassion
- Service with generosity
- Respect for all
- Excellence every day

Our goal is to inspire Aquinas boys to make a difference in the world.

After 120 years, our mission remains unchanged:
to provide a holistic education within a Catholic framework
to support boys on their journey to becoming good men in
our community.







HOW WE NURTURE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Every Aquinian is called to be a 'man for others'. In all pursuits across all areas of learning, the essential message is one of prayer and service to others. We believe it is an integral part of a holistic education.

Through a dynamic religious education program, all students are involved in all areas of Religious Formation. The 'head, heart and hands' approach is essential for a full encounter with Christ and this is reinforced through several reflective processes during a student's life at Aquinas College.

Your son will participate in a wide variety of activities through a Community Service Learning Program - knowledge about the marginalised is nothing if not matched with actions. He will take part in experiences like Red Cross soup patrols, teaching English to migrants and refugees, visiting aged care homes and peer support activities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Each year, Aquinas students also immerse in overseas communities in the Philippines as well as the Kimberley region.

Service experiences and activities are incorporated into all year levels, giving boys the opportunity to continually learn and grow spiritually.



EARLY YEARS PROGRAM – KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 3

Your son's first experience with formal education is crucial; it can shape both how he views himself and his attitude to learning. Our Early Years Program is designed to support the special learning needs of boys, with a strong emphasis on the literacy and numeracy skills that form the foundation for their future.

Our curriculum nurtures little boys' natural curiosity. It encourages exploration and discovery in a supportive, enriching, multi-sensory learning environment. Boys thrive when given opportunities to engage in hands on learning that provides opportunities for movement and space; they love to construct, investigate, experiment and question. Through inquiry play-based learning, our teachers guide boys to discover and explore new concepts. We are dedicated to tailoring our teaching methods to support how boys learn best.

Completed in 2014, our purpose built Early Learning Centre has a village-style feel and spacious, air-conditioned learning spaces. All classrooms open to outdoor courtyards, creating flexible indoor-outdoor learning areas that can be quickly and easily adapted for different activities. Not only is the space aesthetically inviting, but it meets the needs of curious young boys who require space and diversity to further enrich their learning experiences in the early years of school.

We welcomed our first Kindergarten class in 2014. By 2018, we will offer a full K-3 program.





JUNIOR SCHOOL – YEARS 4 TO 6

Our Junior School provides an exciting boy-friendly experience in a technology rich setting. Everything from our teaching methods to our campus is designed around the needs of boys.

Class sizes are small, so each boy can receive the attention he needs. Our emphasis on literacy and numeracy ensures boys have a foundation for the challenging secondary school years ahead. To help your son discover his passions and talents, he will also receive specialist teaching in Art, LOTE, Music and Physical Education. Boys thrive with structure and routine. We make sure boys know what we expect from them and we help them to take responsibility for their own learning. In this way, they develop independence, initiative, and self-confidence within a safe, secure environment.

We also recognise that young boys have energy to burn; they need lots of room to move, play and explore. Our beautiful grounds and ovals give boys the space and freedom to learn and grow in an open, unrestricted environment.







SECONDARY SCHOOL – YEARS 7 TO 12

During the first two years of Secondary School, your son is going through a period of intense change – physically, emotionally and academically. Our curriculum is designed to help him find his feet during this time of upheaval.

In addition to traditional core subjects, he can choose from a breadth of challenging electives that enable him to discover where his strengths and passions lay. There's nothing like finding an area where he excels, to give a teen boy a confidence boost. This exposure also helps him make informed decisions on future subject selections that can influence his post-school options.

Our teaching philosophy is to encourage all boys to strive for their personal best. Our innovative extension program challenges academically gifted boys so they always find work engaging. Conversely, boys who may be struggling in certain areas are given the support and assistance they need to reach their full potential.

From Year 10 to Year 12, your son can choose between a diversity of courses appropriate for his interests. These include the ability to gain university entry through ATAR, or get hands-on work experience through INSTEP.

We know how hard it is for parents to get information out of teen boys, so we send you an online report of your son's progress every 5 weeks. By building a strong partnership between school and home, together we can create the right environment for your son to thrive.

PASTORAL CARE

The individual is at the heart of any pastoral program. Your son's personal welfare is catered for by a well-structured pastoral system where teachers are involved in all facets of his life. The pastoral program is based on an eight House system with each boy belonging to a House.

Students are placed in one of the eight Houses and each House is comprised of year level Tutor Groups of approximately 23 students. The groups meet with their House Tutor every morning, which provides an integral link between the College and home. The House system is designed so that your son will hopefully have the same Tutor throughout Secondary School, allowing a strong relationship to develop over time.

Overseeing secondary student welfare at the College is the Deputy Principal of Pastoral Care. Students are also supported by their Head of Year.









SPORT, PART OF A BALANCED LIFE

Given our extensive playing fields, and 2 km of shoreline, it's not surprising sport is keenly embraced at Aquinas College. In addition to physical education classes, your son has the opportunity to participate in rowing, swimming, tennis, cricket, basketball, water polo, athletics, AFL, hockey, soccer, rugby union, cross country, volleyball and badminton. Aquinas also offers students an exciting range of outdoor education and recreation options including golf and surfing.

We are a member of the Public Schools Association of Western Australia and regularly field teams to compete against six other boys' schools in Perth. It is expected all boys will participate in the PSA sporting program from Year 4 through to Year 12.

We also conduct healthy inter-House competitions. Sporting tours are periodically arranged both within Australia and overseas, adding a further dimension to the sporting arena.

Regardless of a boy's physical ability, we believe sport teaches important life skills such as leadership, teamwork, resilience and perseverance. We encourage our boys to live balanced lives, where both academic work and physical activity are embraced.







CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Every experience is an opportunity to learn, so we give boys as many as possible through our comprehensive cultural program.

Our art and design courses teach students to appreciate the visual world around them. They are challenged to think creatively about visual issues and to communicate their ideas through a variety of media such as drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, media and computer studies. Ongoing exhibitions offer students the opportunity to showcase individual creativity and achievements.

Drama is offered as part of the curriculum. The annual drama production is one of the most anticipated events on the school calendar and boys have the opportunity to be involved as actors, managers, stagehands and audio/lighting technicians.

Musical activity abounds at Aquinas. A large number of students participate in the instrumental program through individual tuition and their involvement in one or more of the College's ensembles. The College, through a partnership with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, also gives students the opportunity to connect with some of the finest musicians in Perth.





A NURTURING BOARDING ENVIRONMENT

Aquinas College has a long and outstanding tradition in residential care. The College has carried on the tradition from CBC Perth in providing a home environment for boarding students from Years 7 to 12.

Residential life for Aquinas College boarders is caring, safe and comfortable. It is also vigorous and energetic - as you would expect with so many boys from vastly different backgrounds. Students from all over Western Australia, Australia and overseas come together during term time to create a truly vibrant community.

The four boarding houses - Gibney, Nunan, and Pinder Boor and a new Year 7 house from 2017 - give students the opportunity to develop a sense of identity and belonging, while still being a part of the broader school community. The Year 7 house will focus on the needs of the younger boys with the other three houses being made up of boys from Years 8 to 12.

Attending school as a boarder is, for many, their first experience of living away from home. Regardless, most students adapt very quickly and soon appreciate their new friendships. This rapid adaptation is facilitated through a strong sense of family and mutual support, fostered in every aspect of residential life.

Boarding offers special opportunities for young men to learn the values of sharing and respect, to have the time to know and appreciate other people from different backgrounds, and to develop and nurture close friendships with their peers.

Lifelong friendships are developed by both boys and boarding families.





OUR COMMUNITY

The Aquinas community encompasses students, staff, past and present parents, 'old boys' of Aquinas, and friends of the College. Many of these people continue to be involved in College activities and offer significant support in physical, spiritual and economic terms. The contributions are often made long after sons have graduated, or years after positions have been resigned. Aquinas' exceptional facilities and reputation are due to the continuing physical and financial support of committed community members.

The Old Aquinians Association plays an important role in bringing alumni together, helping to preserve relationships built up while at the College. They also fund a scholarship to the College each year, so other boys can enjoy the life changing benefits of an Aquinas education.

PARENTS WELCOME

As a parent, you have opportunities for involvement in College life and in your son's activities. These are through the Parents and Friends' Association, Ladies' Auxiliary, Parent Support Group, Aquinas Care, the Mount Henry Peninsula Conservation Group and many other support groups. Offers of participation are always welcome!

ARRANGE A PERSONAL TOUR

The best way to experience what life is like at Aquinas is to visit our College and see classes in action. A personal tour gives you a sense of our magnificent campus and the opportunities on offer to your son. Please do not hesitate to organise a visit by contacting Michelle O'Neil on 9450 0672 or email michelle.oneil@aquinas.wa.edu.au





AQUINAS COLLEGE

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