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# Mount Alexander College



## School Prospectus

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## Welcome

At MAC, we empower our students with their learning through vertical classes and subject choice. We believe in developing creativity, critical thinking skills and independent learning. Our vertical curriculum creates a deeper love of learning through greater subject choice.

The school has had extensive improvements on the buildings and grounds; however, the quality of the teachers make a great school. We place a high priority on Professional Learning across the school in order to build the capacity of all staff.

The school is as cosmopolitan as Melbourne is and there is no better place to learn about the customs and traditions of other cultures than at school.

We believe that everyone deserves respect, regardless of whether you are an entry-level student, graduate, teacher, principal or parent. We have zero tolerance to bullying of any kind, smoking, alcohol, illegal drugs or violence, and instil in our staff and students a sense of respect for self, others and the environment.

Student wellbeing is the foundation of academic success and we provide a wide range of student wellbeing resources. All students have access to study and social skills, resilience programs, student leadership development, positive school-wide behaviours, mentor programs, house structure and a dedicated wellbeing team.

**"The teachers at MAC are very supportive and I make friends really easily and feel that I fit in." Year 7 student**

At Mount Alexander College, excellence is as important as endeavour. All students are able to be their best by being empowered to take control of their learning, encouraged to follow their passions while having fun, and challenged and supported along the way.

# Vision and Values

## Our Vision

Our vision is to foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment that empowers students to direct their own learning. We endeavour to create a school that remains connected and engaged with the community and caters for all kinds of success. Finally, we aim to help students reach their full potential as global citizens who, with integrity, can positively contribute to the world.

## Our School Values

### Community

The provision of a safe inclusive learning environment in which all members of the school community feel a sense of belonging and are valued for their contributions to the school. A sense of community is encouraged through inclusive practices that reflect a respect for individual differences and a celebration of diversity.

### Engagement

The implementation of a meaningful, relevant and appropriately challenging curriculum and the provision of co-curricular programs that encourage participation, citizenship and student leadership.

### Excellence

The development of a passion to learn and high aspirations through the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning. The celebration of personal achievement and success.

### Integrity

The promotion and modelling of consistently honest, transparent, responsible and ethical behaviour that upholds these core values and principles.

### Respect

The respect of oneself, others and our environment is a fundamental value. Being courteous and valuing the dignity of everyone is an essential pillar of our learning community.



## Our Principal Team

### Ms Dani Angelico, Principal

Dani Angelico has been appointed Acting Principal of Mount Alexander College for the commencement of 2019. Dani has been in education for almost 30 years and has worked across all facets of school operations, administration and instructional leadership. She has been the Assistant Principal at Maribyrnong College for nine years and last year was the Acting Principal at Buckley Park College. She also worked at Wyndham Central, formerly known as Galvin Park Secondary College in a number of leadership roles including Acting Assistant Principal. As the Assistant Principal at Maribyrnong College she has led the transformation and growth of the College from a school of 700 to 1300 students. This has included the planning and expenditure of more than \$1 million of school council funds in canteen, library, senior Art/Media, instrumental music and sub-school re-developments. As head of the Senior School, she led the development and implementation of the Senior School Curriculum (Years 10 to 12), to a vertical structure which resulted in breadth of subject choice and the opportunity for acceleration. Dani led the improvement of the VCE results from a median of 24 to 30 in less than five years. Her leadership in curriculum, assessment and reporting resulted in the implementation of five weekly reporting/continual reporting, a practice that has been adopted by many other schools across the state. Aside from her Assistant Principal role at Maribyrnong, she has produced and directed seven musical productions at Maribyrnong College and has taken a keen interest in the performing arts at Maribyrnong and other schools. Ms Angelico is supported by two assistant principals: Ms Meg Rawlins and Mr Adam Cribbes.



### Ms Meg Rawlins, Assistant Principal Senior School



Meg Rawlins has been at Mount Alexander College for just over ten years. She has held various leadership roles in Curriculum, Student Engagement/Wellbeing and Community Engagement during the significant changes in the transformation of the school. Meg currently oversees the senior school and pedagogy. She is passionate about building teaching and leadership expertise in providing professional learning opportunities for educators at MAC and beyond. Meg received her Masters Degree in Instructional Leadership from the University of Melbourne in 2018 and is currently undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Principal Preparation at Monash University. Meg's journey as an educational leader has been influenced by many significant relationships she has developed with students in pushing her to want to make a difference.

### Mr Adam Cribbes, Assistant Principal Junior School

Adam Cribbes joined the Mount Alexander College learning community at the start of 2017 as the Leader of School Improvement. As Assistant Principal responsible for the Junior School and Curriculum, Adam oversees our Entry programme and the Above Entry learning programme. Adam completed his Bachelor of Teaching at Deakin University with a Major in Drama and has a Masters of Instructional Leadership from the University of Melbourne for which he received a scholarship from the Bastow Institute. As an experienced educational leader, Adam has held positions of responsibilities across a number of schools in Digital Technologies, Student Welfare and Curriculum Leadership. Adam is currently undertaking the Graduate Certificate in Principal Preparation at Monash University.



## Student Wellbeing

Mount Alexander College considers the wellbeing of the students to be an essential part of their learning. The primary goal of our dedicated Student Wellbeing and Student Engagement Teams are to ensure students feel safe, engaged and connected at school. The Leading Teaching Student Engagement coordinates the teams.

The school uses a Positive Behaviours Program in all classes. The Expectations Matrix that outlines appropriate behaviours and responsibilities for all students.

Students meet with their mentor teacher on a daily basis. Parents and students should initially contact their Head of House with any concerns.

### Inclusion Support Program

Mount Alexander College has a well-established Inclusion Program that supports students with additional learning needs. The Student Wellbeing Coordinator coordinates the Inclusion Support Program.

#### Student Wellbeing Team

Leading Teaching Student Engagement: Lynn Bentley

Student Wellbeing Coordinator: Carmel Nielsen

School Community Nurse: Michelle Hynson

Careers & Pathways Coordinator: Jens Boernemeyer

Youth Worker: Clarke

Community Liaison Worker: Halima Malikh

GP in School: Dr Erin Gordon

Practice Nurse: Amelia Tauoqooqo

#### Student Engagement Team

School Attendance Officer: Frances D'Andrea

Student Wellbeing Coordinator: Carmel Nielsen

#### Heads of House:

Artemis – Matthew Kilfoyle

Poseidon – Sophie Dalabiras

Apollo – Konrad Sosnowski

Athena – Andrew Stewart

## Student Leadership

Here at Mount Alexander College we value the importance of providing students opportunities to explore their leadership potential and have an active voice in the policies and programs that impact them. Our student leadership team has a strong and dynamic commitment to improving the experience of all students. While students are able to become student leaders, the school recognises that students may want to explore other avenues of student leadership. Students are able to participate in and apply for engagement and entrepreneurial programs and scholarships both within the school and wider community through our partnerships.

The Student Leadership Team is formed each year through an application and election process. The Student Leadership Team consists of the School Captains who are supported by our four House Captains and Student Mentor Leaders. The Student Leadership Team represents all students in each of the school's houses providing an opportunity to lead House as well as school-wide programs and activities based on student interest and need.

### School Captains

School Captains are elected by the student body to lead and represent the students in forums including the School Council. School Captains have voting rights at the School Council regarding decisions made about the school. The School Captains represent the school at local and regional events, assist in leading whole school assemblies and report back to the Student Leadership Team in fortnightly meetings.

### House Captains

Each house (Apollo, Athena, Artemis and Poseidon) has two House Captains. House Captains are responsible for organising and motivating house members to get involved in house-led activities and initiatives.

### Student Mentor Leaders

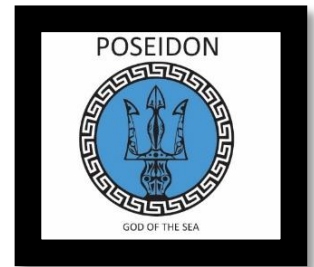
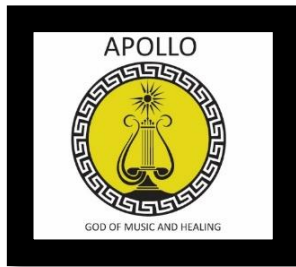
Each mentor group has an elected Student Mentor Leader. Student Mentor Leaders support House Captains and are supported by their Mentor Teacher. Student Mentor Leaders provide the opportunity for all students in mentor classes a point of contact with the Student Leadership Team.

#### Leadership Scholarships and Programs

The school nominates outstanding students for leadership programs and awards. These include the Australian Defence Forces Long Tan Scholarship, Skyline Foundation, Kwong Lee Dow Award, Trinity Summer School, Jessie Peart Award and Rotary Club programs.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for leadership programs such as: The Whitten Project, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Western Chances, iLeaD, Department of Health and Human Services Scholarships, The David Burgess Foundation, Moonee Valley Council Youth Voice Award, UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy, School for Student Leadership and others.

## School Houses



Students are placed into one of the four school houses when they begin at Mount Alexander College. The houses provide students support with their education and life goals. Students participate in a range of fun and academic activities throughout the year to earn points for their houses.

Houses are responsible for school activities including school assemblies and the Breakfast Club. At the end of each year, the house with the most points wins the house cup, which is presented at the Awards Night.

The 2016 students chose the house names from the Greek Gods. Jamie Rodger, a 2016 student, designed the house logos.

### Mentor Groups

Each house is divided into Mentor Groups with a Mentor Teacher.

Mentor Groups meet for ten minutes at the start of every day. It is an opportunity for students to raise any issues or concerns they have, and for their Mentor Teachers to communicate with the students.



## Curriculum



There are over 150 possible electives available to students at MAC. All classes are vertical classrooms; they have students from different year levels. All students go through course counselling and create individual pathway plans.

Our conversation with students is about their learning, what they would like to learn, the importance of literacy and numeracy and the importance of breadth e.g. have I chosen a science subject, does my plan include the arts, humanities?

The individual pathway plans are flexible, change from year to year and require a partnership with the student's parent/guardian. We also work backwards from the senior curriculum to map out their learning.

The English and Maths classes are at the appropriate level for each individual student rather than their chronological age. Entry into pre-VCE subjects is based on students' results and recommendation. However, if a student insists on doing a subject, we do not prevent them from attempting it, as long as it does not interfere with the learning of others or a teacher's capacity to teach the class.

The Student Subject Handbook is available online on the school's website.



"The school provides a wide variety of subject choices. This gives opportunity to children to explore and identify their potential in different areas. I like the Wednesday breakfast concept where children can not only enjoy a meal with their peers and teachers, but also contribute in cooking and cleaning in the kitchen." Parent



## Languages

Mount Alexander College offers three languages on site: Chinese, Italian and Japanese for all year levels. Students can also study other languages, supported by the school, through Distance Education or the Victorian School of Languages.

Each year all students also have an opportunity to participate in an international tour. The tours alternate year to year from China to Italy.

In 2016 the school had its first tour to China and established a sister school relationship.



## Music



The new and improved music program at MAC gives all students the chance to study the aspects of music they want to learn. With both instrumental lessons and classroom electives (including VCE), everyone has the opportunity to learn the instrument they dream of. The school offers instrumental lessons in a wide range of instruments to students throughout the school. Lessons take place during the school day on a rotating timetable.

Students have plenty of performance opportunities on and off the campus

so they can experience what it is really like to be a musician. There are also plenty of opportunities to learn about all aspects of the music industry with students not only playing and performing music but also doing live sound mixing and lighting, song writing and recording and producing music of their own.

Students can also join any of the current ensembles at the school, or start a new one.



## Senior School

All students are guided through their decision making about VCE or VCAL. The yearly counselling with the students looks at what will be the best outcome for individual success.

Students are encouraged to follow the best pathways for their needs e.g. three year senior school plan, dual enrolment in a VET and VCE, unscored VCE pathway, scored VCE pathway or VCAL. We believe it is important to tailor the senior years to give all our students the best chance of success and look after their wellbeing.

### VET

Mount Alexander College is a member of the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster. The IMVC is a unique partnership of 50 schools located in the inner Melbourne region, who have formed a collegial association to build the connection between academic learning and vocational training. The IMVC provides a central service to ensure quality management of programs.

Students can undertake a VET as part of the VCE and VCAL programs.

### Alternative Entry Program

Students in the senior years at the school can apply to participate in the Alternative Entry Program. The program provides suitable applicants with a guaranteed pathway to Swinburne University with no ATAR.



## Transition

Mount Alexander College recognises that any kind of transition can be difficult, whether going from primary school to secondary, or from one school to another. The school has staff and programs to assist all new students to the school.

Students coming from primary school take part in our transition program. The transition program starts with an Information Session for parents and students in November, and the Orientation Day in December. The program continues at the beginning of the school year with transition activities for the first month, and an Entry camp. The camp is a wonderful chance for students and Entry staff to get to know each other.

The school works with all new students and families to ensure that the move is a comfortable and smooth process, with the aim for students to feel happy, confident, connected and engaged.

**Our Entry (Year 7) program aims to ensure that our students feel happy secure and confident as they make the transition from primary to secondary education.**



## Co-curricular



Our co-curricular programs enrich the learning and wellbeing of all our students. All students have the access and opportunity to participate in the many camps, clubs, international programs, Melbourne City Football Club, music lessons and bands, and sporting events – social and competitive. Students at MAC also have the opportunity to be involved in many other co-curricular programs. These change every year, as they are adapted to best suit the cohort of students, and the subject electives chosen. These co-curricular activities cover a number of different disciplines.

### **The Arts and Technology Festival**

MAC is committed to developing the whole child and recognises the importance of the arts and technology. We hold an Arts and Technology Festival with students from the arts, technology, music and the Writers Hub class. The students display their work through performances in music, drama performance or slam poetry, demonstrations in technology and art exhibitions.

### **Science Workshops and Shows**

Our science students run workshops for the local primary schools. The science teachers support the students in their preparation for the events that run throughout the year. The science team also run a science show for the community during National Science Week each year. They have also ran highly successful science shows at local community events.

## School Production

The school runs a school production every alternate year. In 2017, the school performed *Alice Dreaming*, and in 2015, the school performed *The High School Musical*. The 2019 school production will be *Animal Farm*.

## Drama Workshops

In addition to the school production, drama students run workshops at the local primary schools. The drama students attend performances and workshops for their own development.



## Literacy Extension



MAC seeks opportunities for students who are keen writers. In 2016 and 2017 artist-in-residence, Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa ran successful poetry workshops and poetry slam competition. She prepares our students for the Poetry Aloud slams at the Melbourne Writers' Festival. We collaborated with the 100 Stories Project in 2017 to write, edit and produce a work of fiction. Students also have the opportunity to attend the Melbourne Writers' Festival.

The whole school celebrates Book Week with literacy activities and a dress up parade.

## Competitions

The school regularly recommend students to participate in competitions in a wide range of learning areas including: maths, science, art, writing and technology.

## Local partnerships

The school uses partnerships with organisations to develop our students. We actively engage in existing enterprises wherever possible across all subject areas. Some of these include the Arts Centre, ACMI, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne University and Latrobe University. Read more about some other partnerships with Mount Alexander College.

## Sports

Students can participate in a range of sporting activities in addition to the curriculum sport, house sport and interschool sport. Some of the current activities for the students include table tennis, mixed volleyball and social sport after school. A new mixed use sports facility is being created on the school grounds and this will provide even greater opportunities for all students.



## School Camps and Tours

The school runs many camps throughout the year including year-specific camps, and international tours. Year 9 students have the opportunity to apply for the School for Student Leadership when we are allocated a place. All students are able to apply to attend one of the international cultural tours to China or Italy. Year 11 students can apply for the Kokoda Trek.



## International Students

Mount Alexander College has a dedicated International Student team who work with the International Student Department at the Department of Education and Training, the families and the host families.

The school is a good choice for international students as we are able to offer:

- airport pick-up
- orientation program
- on-site English Language Centre
- two Chinese speaking staff assist students settling in Australia
- assistance with the purchase of books and the establishment of bank accounts
- applications for university studies
- personal counselling through coordinators and the Student Welfare Coordinator
- friendly Homestay accommodation with local families
- International Coordinator visits student's homestay and contact family overseas on a regular basis
- cultural and sporting activities
- qualified and passionate staff
- highly dedicated teachers
- broad and highly innovative curriculum
- academic support across all courses, including a homework club staffed by teachers and students from the University of Melbourne
- personalised learning (MAC provides a tailored learning program catering for the passion and learning needs of every student.
- English as an Additional Language support
- diverse student body
- student-led learning and curriculum
- extensive clubs to enhance student engagement including: art, bike repair, board games, chess, choir, girls group, homework, mindfulness, movie club, sports and much more.



## School Tours and Open Days

We recommend that interested families come for a tour of the school. During the tour, you will learn more about the way the school works, and you will see students in classes.

Book a tour with the principal at a time that suits you best by calling the office on 9376 1622, emailing the school via [mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au), or filling out the tour booking form on the school website.

The school has an open day towards the end of first term in the school year. On the Open Day there are tours of the school, a chance to meet the principal, students and current parents.



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