



SIENA COLLEGE

CAMBERWELL

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN
THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12





A Siena College education is about connecting girls and empowering young women through a rigorous education, enriching experiences and enduring relationships.

NEO-TECH





Connecting girls **empowering young women**

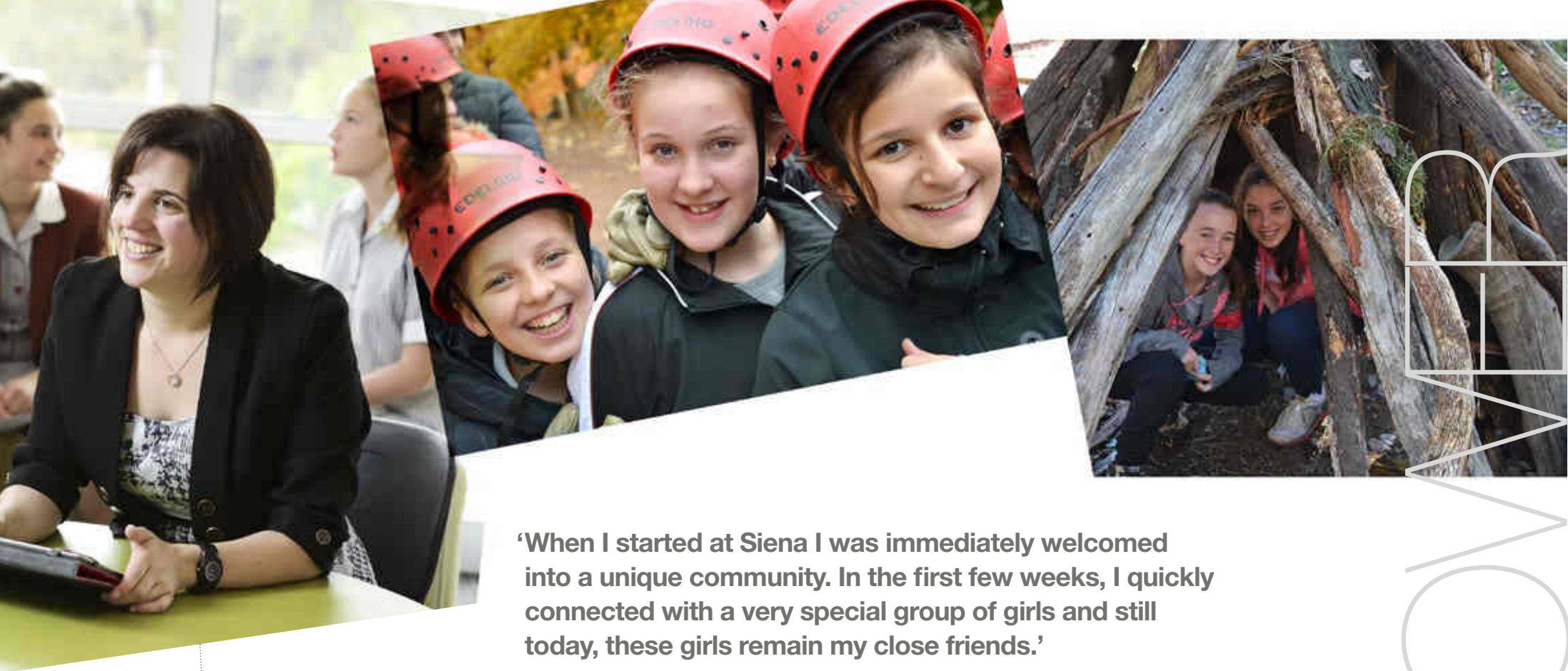
The move from primary to secondary school is an exciting time.

At Siena College, girls are warmly welcomed to the next stage of their education. Our comprehensive transition program ensures that students have many opportunities to develop friendships and feel part of the Siena community.

We get to know, support and nurture our students' individual talents and lead them in a manner that respects their family values.

In a welcoming and inclusive environment, we encourage a journey of discovery that underpins a lifetime love of learning.

Because of our timeless Catholic and Dominican values, girls at Siena chart their futures with optimism, courage and conviction.



‘When I started at Siena I was immediately welcomed into a unique community. In the first few weeks, I quickly connected with a very special group of girls and still today, these girls remain my close friends.’

Mary, Year 12



**CONNECTING
FACT ONE**

The Convent Courtyard is a special haven for students as this is where they meet their whole cohort for the first time and where lifelong friendships begin.

CONVENT

Connecting girls through the right environment

From the moment they arrive at Siena College, our students feel they can be themselves. The friendships they form and the support they receive at school allow them to flourish.

As educators, we instill in them a strong sense of belonging. By actively involving students in community activities and initiatives, they learn the importance of their roles beyond the College gates.

Secure, respectful and confident relationships at school, enhance our girls' learning so they can experience a comprehensive and enriching education.

The vertical house structure at Siena College enables students to develop lasting relationships across all year levels. This structure provides a familial, secure and supportive environment to enable young women to tap into their full potential.



CONNECTING FACT TWO

Friendships are forged through the variety of year level and whole College events including interhouse carnivals, Fiesta and SRC Week.





'From day one, I could tell that this strong sense of community and friendship was going to offer me a well rounded secondary school experience.'

Natalie, Year 12





'Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear.'

St Catherine of Siena





Connecting girls with our past to inspire their futures

As a woman of faith who broke the confines of what it was to be a woman in the 14th century, our patron, St Catherine of Siena, was both passionate and courageous. She was a revolutionary, a peacemaker, a champion of the poor, a prophetic teacher and a Truth seeker prepared to accept the consequences of her preaching.

She challenged the rich and was a thorn in the flesh of patriarchs, popes and feudal dukes. A Truth teller who today still haunts the corridors of complacency and inequity, St Catherine continues to challenge us to see corruption and our commodity based world for what it is.

Inspired by her love of God and divine goodness to do what needs to be done, we embark on the future with a commitment to truth and justice.



CONNECTING FACT THREE

Our Dominican education reflects the four pillars of Dominican life: Prayer, Study, Community and Service.

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Connecting girls with a lifelong love of learning

Learning is a lifetime activity. At Siena College, a love of learning is embraced and nurtured.

Our teaching philosophy recognises and fosters a passion for learning and excellence and caters specifically for the ways girls learn best.

At Siena College, girls experience:

- the confidence and high self esteem that comes from mastering new skills
- satisfaction from sharing their learning within a supportive and challenging environment

- inspiration from dedicated teachers who acknowledge and celebrate individual talents

Through a richly stimulating and contemporary education, girls develop their intellect, discover and hone their talents and appreciate the diversity of their own gifts and of those within the community.




CONNECTING FACT FOUR

Academic excellence and a love of learning are celebrated at Siena College. Academic Excellence across all year levels is celebrated at the annual Academic Awards Evening where the top 5% of each year level receive an Academic Excellence Award.

'Siena has helped me to become myself. I have discovered and achieved things I never thought possible for me.'

Lily, Year 8



The background of the image is a blurred photograph of a classroom. Several students are visible, some wearing maroon school uniforms. The scene is out of focus, emphasizing the text overlay.

‘My teachers have helped me exceed my expectations by being encouraging and passionate about their subjects and constantly giving us constructive feedback to help us improve our learning.’

Claire, Year 10





Connecting girls
to learning beyond
the College gates



**CONNECTING
FACT FIVE**

Students are able to participate in a variety of immersion and curriculum based experiences including the Indigenous Immersion, South African Immersion, Siena in the City, China Exchange, Italian Immersion, French Immersion, sport and music tours.

‘The most important thing I learned was just how strong these women and families are. The longer we stayed in this underprivileged community, the more strength and determination we saw.’

Emilia, Year 11 South African immersion participant

BEYOND



**CONNECTING
FACT SIX**

In order to pursue her dream to become a doctor, Dr Ursula McKenna (Class of 1944) studied Physics and Chemistry at St Kevin's College, as these subjects were not offered to girls at the time.

'We are not all the same. It's what makes us different that makes us fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. We embrace diversity and we treasure it.'

Anna, Year 11





Connecting girls **through respecting their individuality and uniqueness**

Siena College is a secondary school of ideal proportions – small enough to create inspiring learning opportunities and enduring relationships and large enough to offer a broad curriculum and a wide range of cocurricular programs.

Our traditions create a foundation that affirms the uniqueness of every person. With the encouragement and support of peers and staff, combined with diverse learning opportunities, Siena students experience the joy and satisfaction of individual and shared achievement.

From the earliest days, Siena College has inspired girls to aim high. Whatever their talents, whatever their passions, Siena College students are encouraged to pursue their dreams and excel in all that they do.

LEADERSHIP

Connecting girls through creativity and imagination

Through music and the performing and visual arts, girls express themselves creatively and appreciate the intrinsic beauty in the world.

By cultivating an appreciation for the arts, the girls gain a deeper insight into their own creative potential.

Through art, they learn to connect with their emotions and their reflective selves. Artistic expression develops their imaginations and the way they view the world.



‘Art is a great way to stimulate creativity and expand your thinking and is a key part in the girls’ learning here at Siena.’

Natalie, Year 11



**CONNECTING
FACT SEVEN**

Through the many concerts, soirees, plays, musicals and exhibitions, students across all year levels showcase their talent and creativity.

CREATIVE

Connecting girls through competitive and recreational sport and physical activity



CONNECTING FACT EIGHT

With access to over twenty sports from snow sports to water polo, girls compete at the highest levels through Girls' Sport Victoria and in state and national competitions.



‘People ask if my sporting commitments get in the way of my studies and my answer is always ‘no’. Through my running, I have experienced the satisfaction that comes from hard work. In this sense, running has benefitted my attitude to school and my daily life.’

Natalie, Year 12 State Cross Country runner

Sport and physical education build resilience, self discipline and confidence. Participation in sport makes girls feel valued and connected to the College community.

The Siena sport program promotes participation in elite, competitive and recreational sport. Being involved in sport helps girls achieve their potential on and off the field and maintains a healthy balance between study and physical activity.

Both team and individual sports call for commitment, coordination and organisation, all skills that enhance academic outcomes. The inevitable highs and lows of sport prepare girls for the challenges and successes that lie ahead.

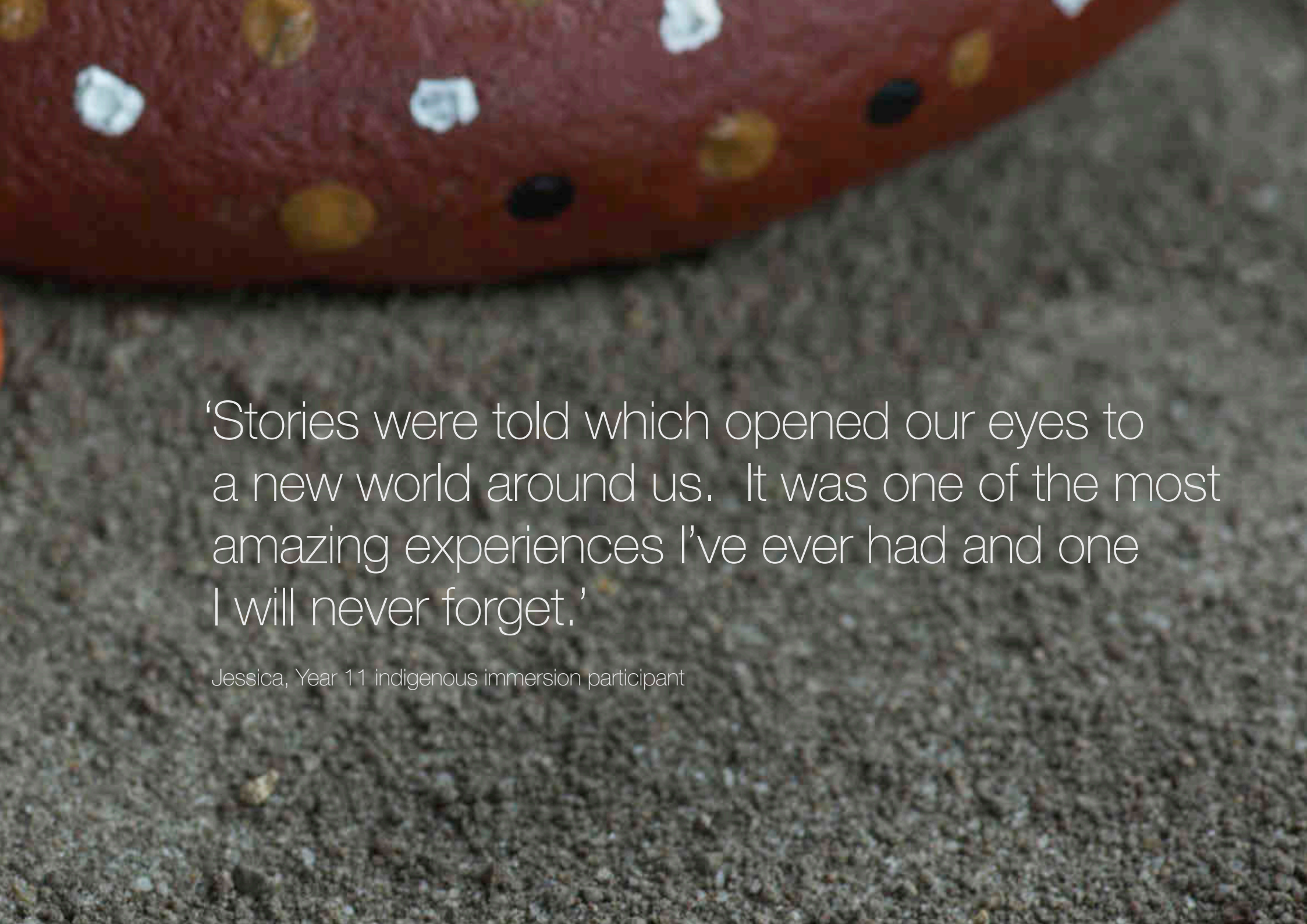
Siena College students access excellent sporting facilities and choose from a wide variety of individual, House and interschool pursuits.

Communication, friendship, fair play and teamwork are all valuable life skills, fostered through healthy competition.



ACTIVE





'Stories were told which opened our eyes to a new world around us. It was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had and one I will never forget.'

Jessica, Year 11 indigenous immersion participant

Connecting girls through commitment to environmental sustainability

We are caretakers of this planet and must share its resources with all humanity.

At Siena College, we recognise the fragility of our environment. We are all connected and have the responsibility to create a sustainable ecology.

Siena students learn not just the philosophy of sustainability, but the practicalities. At the College we take active steps to reduce our impact on the environment and consumption of resources by:

- harvesting and recycling rainwater
- monitoring our carbon emissions
- reusing and recycling materials
- composting kitchen waste for our gardens and chickens

Caring for the earth begins in our own community. The responsibility to use resources wisely rests with us. It is our Christian and universal duty.

When we care for creation we respect the Creator. When we care for creation we live in harmony and preserve valuable resources for future generations.



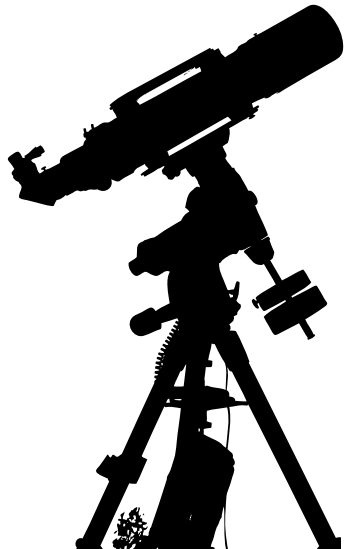
CONNECTING FACT NINE

The College harnesses over 60,000 litres of rain water in eight water tanks. Kitchen scraps from Food Technology are fed to the resident College chickens and converted to compost in the worm farm.





STEMS



‘Stand in awe and deep humility at the mystery and complexity of the universe; it is to become your heritage – you are given it in trust. Embrace it with both hands, tenderly.’

Sr Sheila Flynn OP

'It is our responsibility to help those less fortunate than ourselves, to help them rise above their constraints, and simultaneously help us to rise above ours. If one person has breathed more easily because of my influence I will know I have succeeded.'

Madeleine, Year 11



Connecting girls through service, truth and justice

Service, truth and justice are at the core of Siena's Catholic and Dominican values.

At Siena College, we are inspired by Dominicans, past and present, who are grounded in the pursuit of truth, justice and the breaking down of fences that divide and separate.

These values are reflected and upheld through our curriculum and the variety of cocurricular opportunities available, both within and beyond the boundaries of the school.

Through ongoing initiatives, support and resources are given to underprivileged communities in Australia, South Africa, the Solomon Islands and in other parts of the world.

Girls are led to recognise the needs of the vulnerable in the community and to act with compassion and understanding.



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS
MAKE POVERTY HISTORY
www.makepovertyhistory.com.au



CONNECTING FACT TEN

In Years 7,8 and 9, all students undertake fifteen hours of community service across a broad range of areas from aged care to soup kitchens.

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Connecting girls through leadership

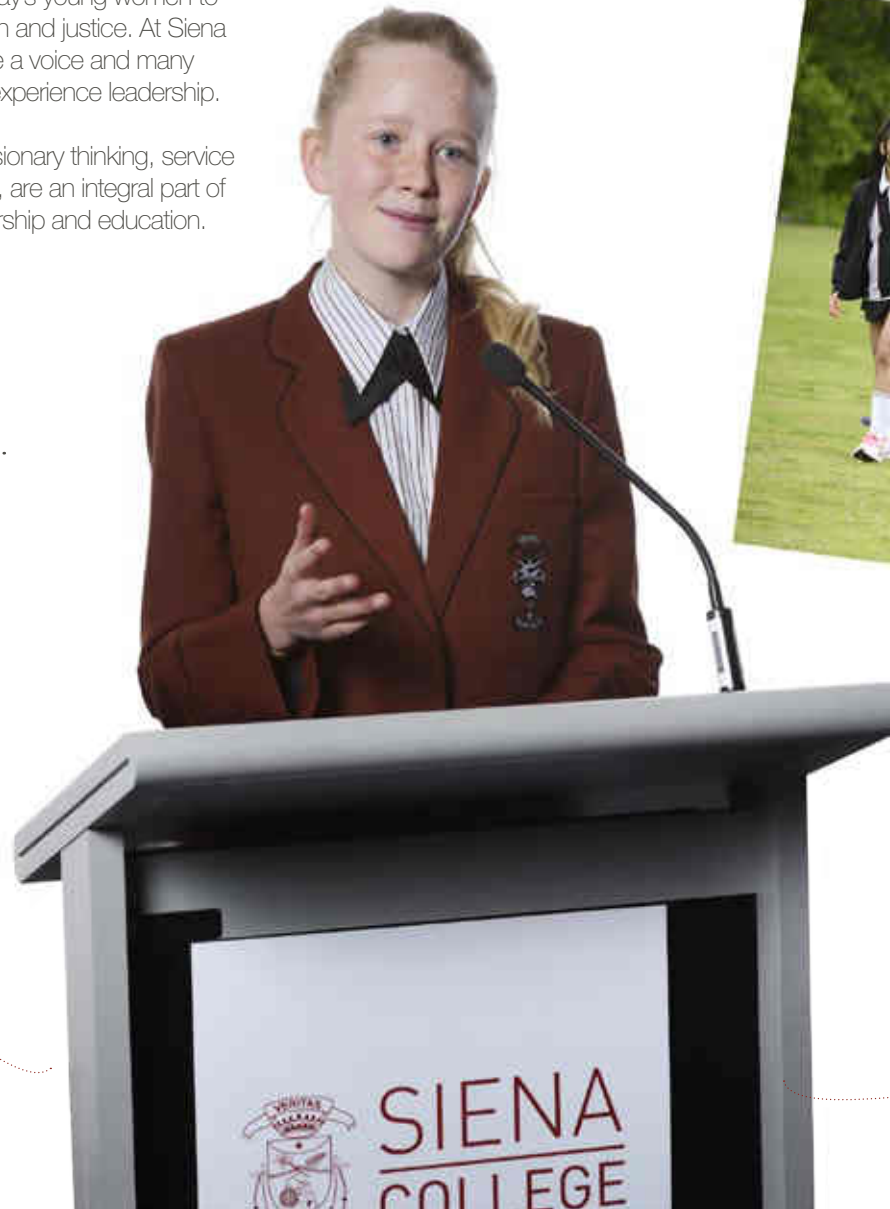
St Catherine's enduring legacy is the inspiration for today's young women to speak out for truth and justice. At Siena College girls have a voice and many opportunities to experience leadership.

Innovative and visionary thinking, service and discernment, are an integral part of Dominican leadership and education.



CONNECTING FACT ELEVEN

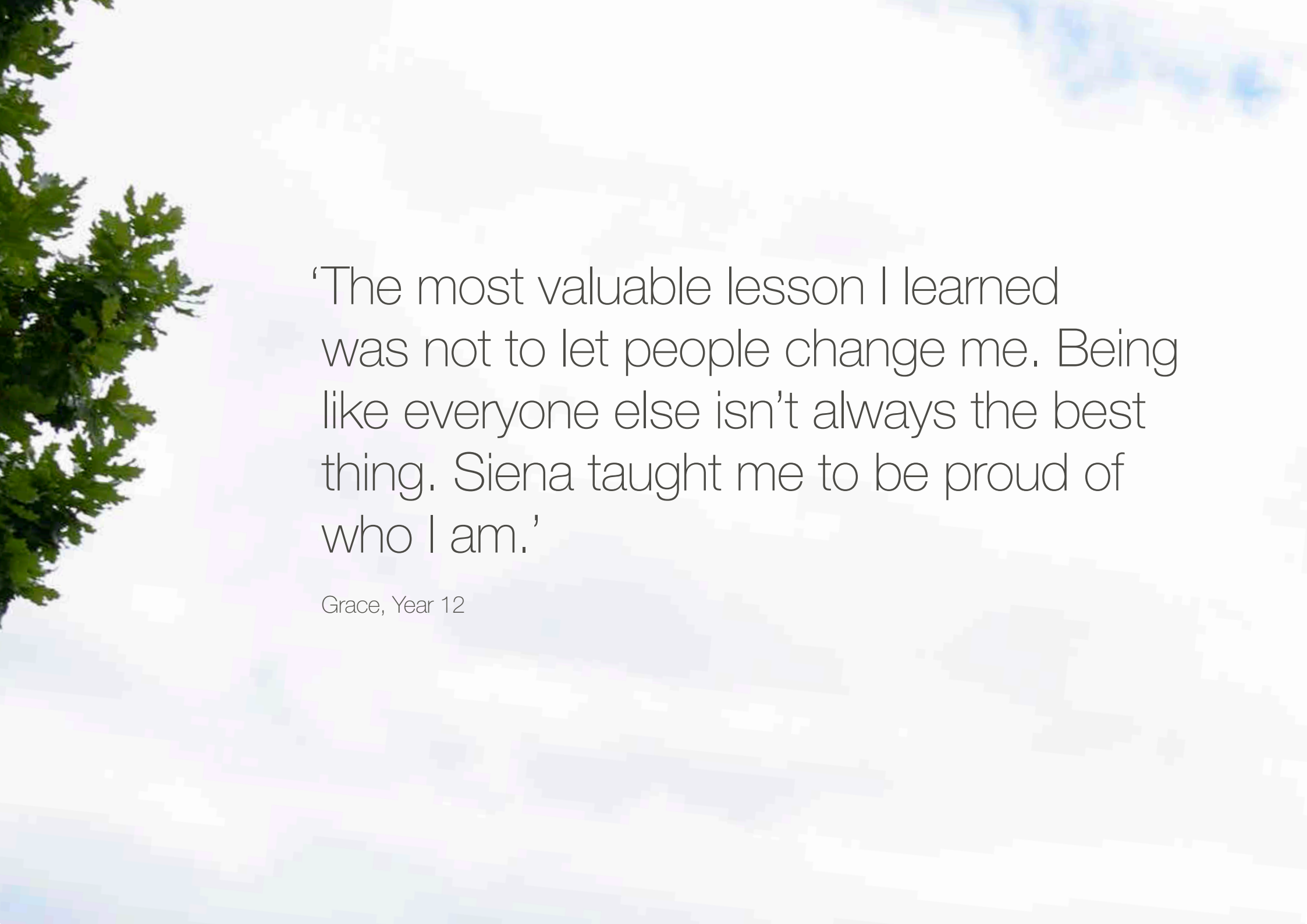
Over eighty leadership positions are available for students from Years 7 to 12. Aspirant leaders participate in a leadership program prior to elections.



'This is our time to make the most of our years at Siena; our time to write history and leave our legacy for the younger students who follow.'

Catherine, Year 11

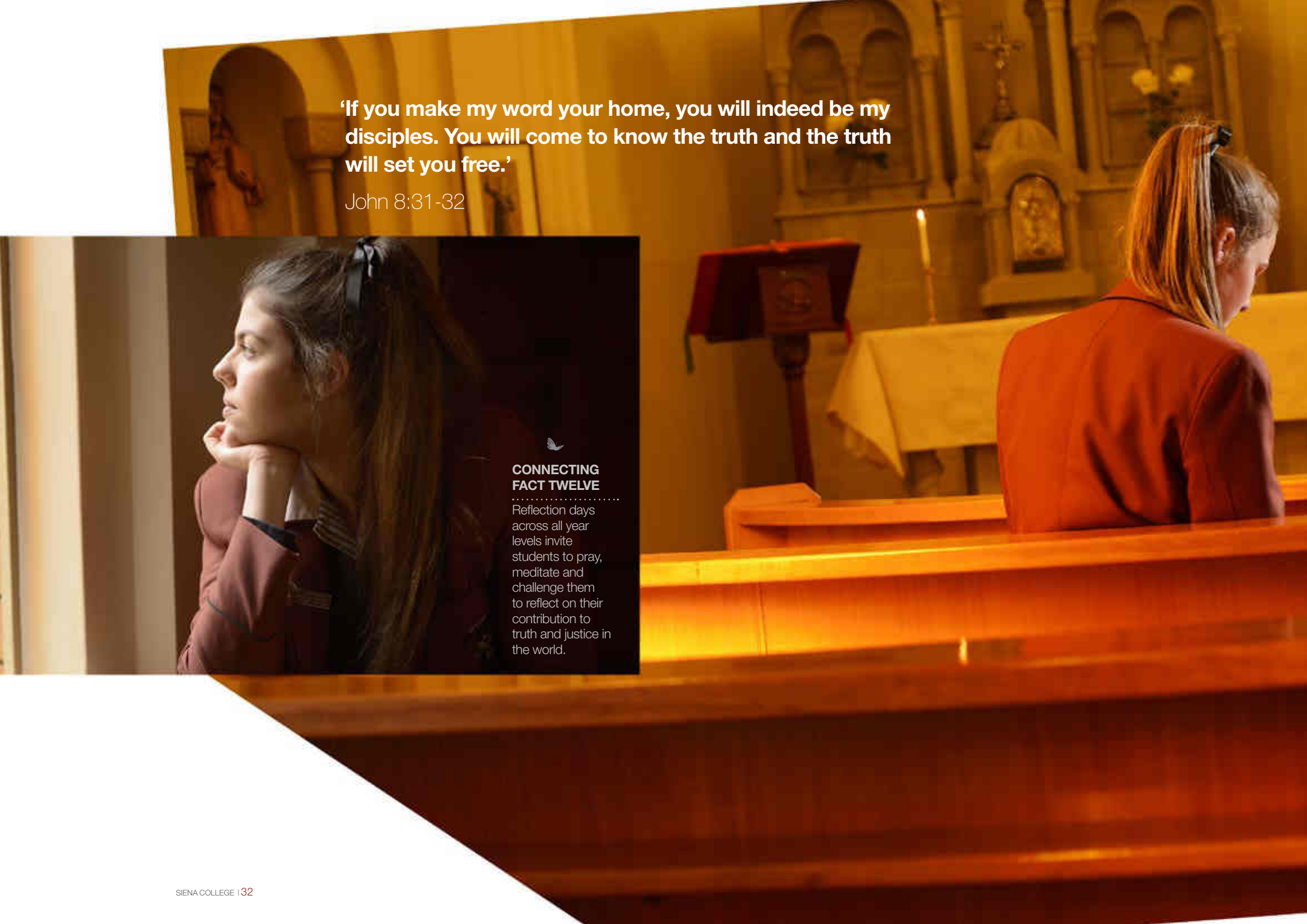




‘The most valuable lesson I learned was not to let people change me. Being like everyone else isn’t always the best thing. Siena taught me to be proud of who I am.’

Grace, Year 12





'If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples. You will come to know the truth and the truth will set you free.'

John 8:31-32



**CONNECTING
FACT TWELVE**

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Reflection days across all year levels invite students to pray, meditate and challenge them to reflect on their contribution to truth and justice in the world.



Connecting girls through prayer and contemplation

St Catherine inspired her community to live a life of faith that was both reflective and active.

At Siena College, we are faithful to her example and the Dominican spirit. We nourish our hunger for meaning and purpose by taking time to pray.

Prayer, study, service and community form the foundation of our pursuit of truth and justice. Through reflection and their daily lived experience at the College, students appreciate and understand Catholic and Dominican values.

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Connecting girls **through enduring and respectful relationships**

At Siena College, we nurture respectful relationships and a sense of belonging.

It is the immediate feeling of belonging that establishes the girls' confidence. It grounds their sense of self and sets them on a rewarding learning pathway.

Girls thrive academically and personally in a warm and engaging community.

'My vision for Siena College is for every student to enjoy the same positive experiences that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy.' Eliza, Year 12

'Working in unison with parents to establish strong partnerships is essential. It is a key element in providing a safe and supportive network that is conducive to good learning.' Martin, Siena College teacher

'Siena is her second home. She has loved her time at the College. Her friends, the indigenous immersion, French exchange, Year 9 Siena in the City, netball tournaments, being House Captain, looking after her buddy, sport..... it has been a wonderful journey. Siena has guided her every step of the way.' Vince, Year 12 parent



**CONNECTING
FACT THIRTEEN**

All relationships at Siena are grounded in the philosophy of restorative practices. We strive to ensure that all members of the College community are treated respectfully and fairly; that conflict is addressed by repairing harm and restoring relationships, and that empathy, responsibility and accountability are fundamental.

‘Wellbeing is fundamental to successful learning. Young people who are happy, confident and able to experience meaningful relationships are better placed to achieve their best learning outcomes.’

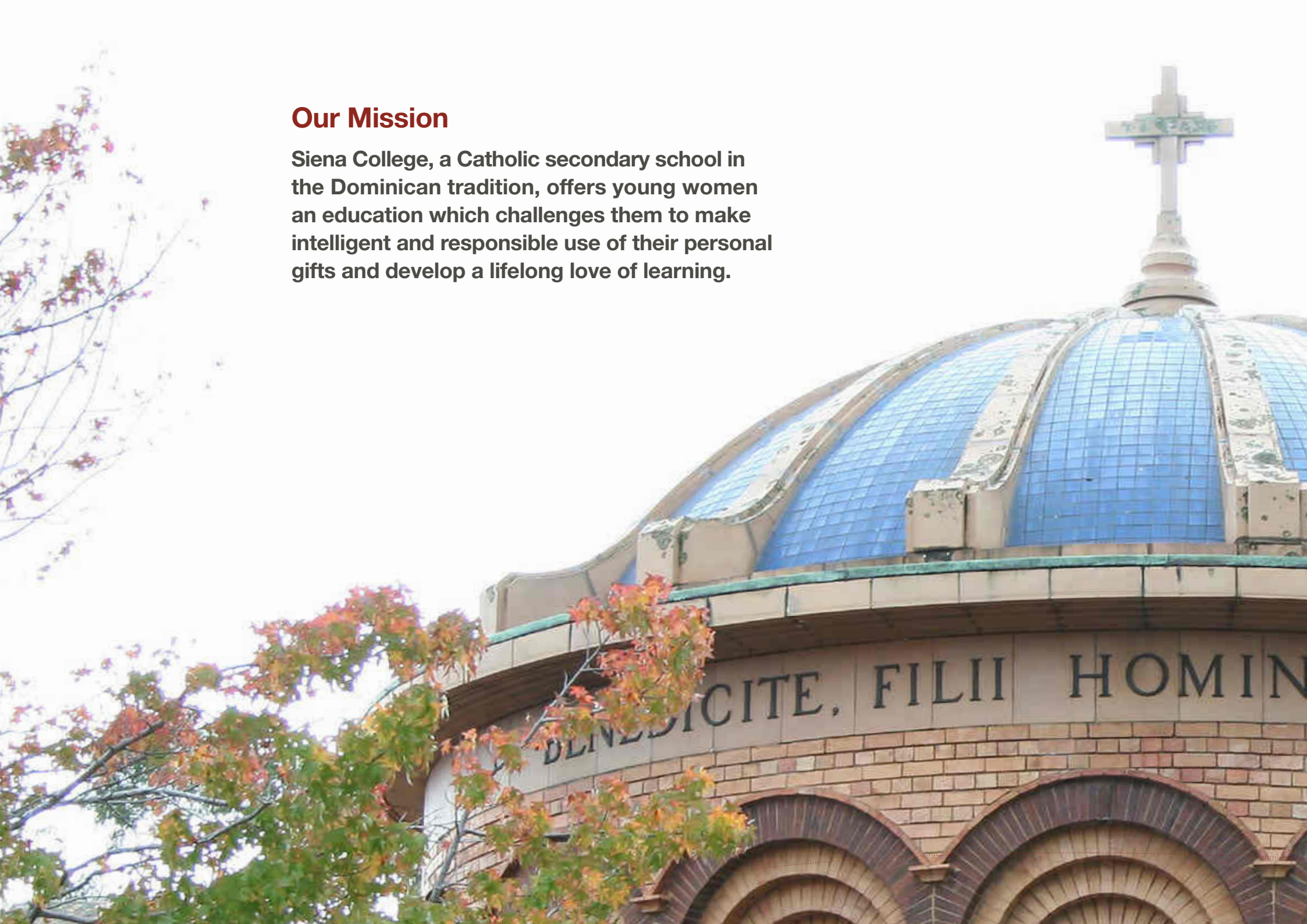
Deputy Principal Wellbeing



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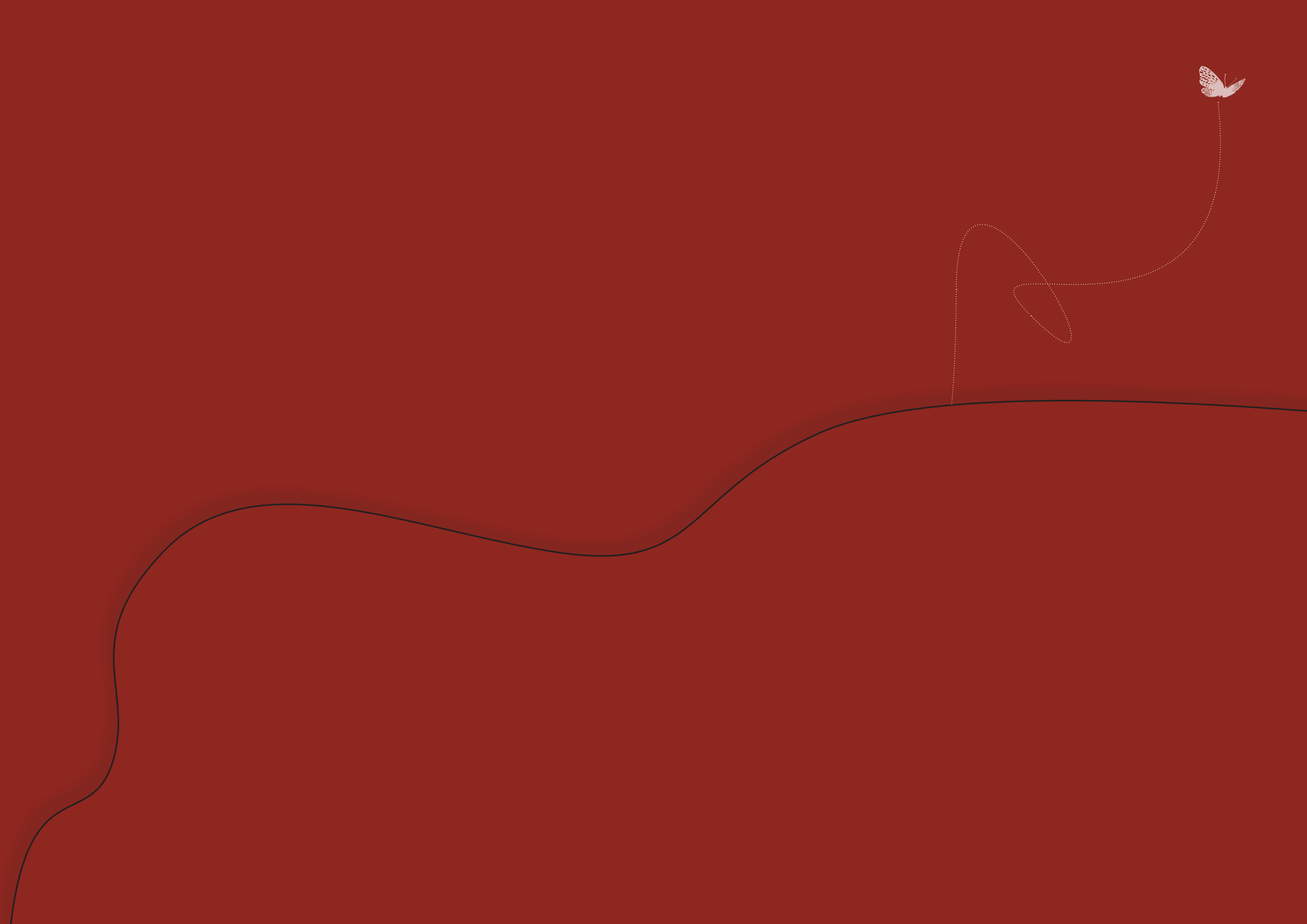
Our Mission

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, offers young women an education which challenges them to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.





UM, DOMINO.





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