

At the HEART

Issue 11 July 2026



One Small Step Into Sacred Heart, One Giant Leap Towards Your Future



Director of Transition

Jody Takos

Through friendship, connection and support, we help students embrace the journey from primary school to secondary school with confidence and excitement.

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, not only for students but also for their families. At Sacred Heart College, we believe transition is about much more than moving from one school to another – it is about building confidence, creating connections and helping every student feel a genuine sense of belonging.

Our transition journey begins long before a student's first day of Year 7. Throughout Grade 5 and Grade 6, students are invited to experience life at Sacred Heart through a variety of engaging activities designed to make them feel welcomed and excited about the future.

During our Grade 5 Experience Days, students step into the life of a Sacred Heart student. Whether they are making apricot balls, participating in an aeroplane flying competition, or exploring classes with our teachers, students have the opportunity to discover new interests while becoming familiar with the College environment.

One of the most valued aspects of our transition program is the involvement of our Year 9 Peer Support Leaders. These students play an important role in welcoming younger students, sharing their experiences and helping them feel comfortable and included. Friendships often begin to form well before students officially commence at the College.

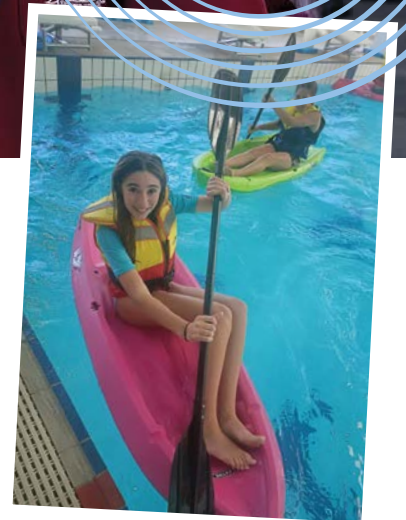
These connections continue to grow during Orientation Day, where Peer Support Leaders guide students through the day, assist them in meeting new classmates and help

them navigate their new surroundings. By the time students arrive for their first day of Year 7, many already recognise familiar faces and feel part of the Sacred Heart community.

Our commitment to building relationships extends beyond transition events. Activities such as the Splash Pool Day excursion provide further opportunities for students to connect with peers and older students in a relaxed and supportive environment. These experiences help students develop confidence, establish friendships and strengthen their sense of belonging.

At Sacred Heart, transition is supported by a caring team of educators who understand that every student begins their secondary school journey differently. From our Transition Team and Year Level Leaders to our Wellbeing and Learning Support staff, there is a network of people ready to guide, encourage and support students as they settle into college life. This shared commitment helps ensure that every student feels welcomed, connected and confident as they take their first steps into Year 7.

Through meaningful relationships, engaging experiences and a dedicated team of staff who walk alongside students and families, we strive to ensure every student begins their secondary school years feeling welcomed, valued and ready to flourish







Principal

Dr Darren Egberts

The College's byline 'Learn. Care. Flourish.' celebrates the essential principles of a Sacred Heart education. These three simple words describe the rich, deep and personalised opportunities offered as a Catholic school in the Mercy tradition.

Currently, Sacred Heart College educates just over 920 students from Years 7 – 12. Our size allows us to offer a full breadth of curriculum offerings and pathways while ensuring that every student is known personally and supported unconditionally. As Principal, I am determined that our students become the best person they can be – academically, spiritually, socially and psychologically.

The greatest asset any school has is the quality of its teaching staff – their capacity to work together with parents and students is the most important consideration in determining the learning outcomes of young people. At Sacred Heart College, we are blessed to have a fantastic team of teachers, committed to delivering personalised learning for each student in their class.

Our Year 7 students settle into school life, enjoying a comprehensive transition program that will support their fundamental move from primary school into secondary education. They are provided with many opportunities to make new friends and nourish existing relationships while enjoying the new and exciting learning experiences that Sacred Heart College offers.

Each time I meet students, parents and families new to Sacred Heart College, one of the key messages that I wish to pass on is the importance of transition and, particularly, transition from primary school into secondary school. Academically, the evidence is overwhelming in highlighting the importance of providing a rigorous, supportive and well-informed transition. Sacred Heart College works to ensure that our transition processes are first class.

The College's Transition Team liaise very closely with primary schools across the Macedon Ranges to ensure that our teachers have as much information about each student as possible in advance of their commencement in Year 7. This includes onsite visits to schools, meetings with parents and students as well as additional transition visits to Sacred Heart College in Grade 6.





Senior College Captains

Sam Haslett and Cate Mahony

As Senior School Captains in 2026, we have had the privilege of representing Sacred Heart at many school events, both within and beyond our College. From the Opening Mass, VCE Awards Assembly and ANZAC Day Assembly to school spirit days and the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, we have loved every opportunity to represent SHC.

Our favourite part of the role has been building relationships within the SHC community. Getting to know people we might not otherwise meet, and being able to connect with students and staff around the school, has been incredibly rewarding. We have also worked closely with our Junior College Captains and Student Representatives to re-establish the Student Representative Council—an initiative that reflects what we value most: lifting people up so their voices can be heard.

Q&A with Cate and Sam

Cate – What were you most nervous about going into your role?

Starting the year, I felt excited but also aware of the responsibility that comes with the role. My biggest concern was living up to the legacy of past captains, who set a very high standard.

Sam – How was the ANZAC Day Dawn Service different this year as a speaker?

Speaking at the Dawn Service was a once-in-a-lifetime honour. Sharing my voice at such a significant event for the Macedon Ranges community was a surreal and meaningful experience.

Cate – How did you find the Dawn Service as a first-time attendee?

It was an eye-opening experience as I had only attended local services in the past. From 4am, there was a powerful sense of pride, sadness and reverence. I felt proud to represent the College and honoured to speak to those in attendance.

Sam – How have you balanced Year 12 and your Captain duties?

It has been challenging, but our teachers have been super supportive. The Junior Captains, Grace and Alex, have also been a huge help throughout the year.



Junior College Captains

Gracie Cook and Alex Price

As Semester One comes to an end, it is time to reflect on our time so far as Junior College Captains.

The journey to becoming a student leader started in Term 3 last year. We completed a questionnaire covering why we wanted the role and asking us to list the qualities we believed we could bring to the position. This was then followed by an interview where we were asked about ideas or plans we had for the school and why we were the best student for the position.

The final stage was to create and present a speech to our peers. While it was a nerve-racking and challenging experience, it allowed us to develop a range of important skills that will benefit us throughout our lives.

So far in 2026 we have been blessed to have so many great experiences through this role. We have had the privilege of going to a Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, speaking and laying a wreath at the ANZAC Day service in Kyneton, contributing to student leadership meetings at school, speaking at College masses and assemblies, the list goes on. Through these two terms we have been blessed to be able to work closely with other junior leaders along with the senior cabinet, which has taught us a lot about the importance of collaboration.

Being leaders at Sacred Heart has been such a great and rewarding experience, and we will cherish the memories we have made for the rest of our lives. We have been able to build confidence, work on our communication and teamwork and, most importantly, give back to our school community. We are so happy with how it has been going so far this year and we are beyond excited to see what happens in Semester 2.





Wellbeing at the Heart of Learning

Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing

Haley Galloway

At Sacred Heart College Kyneton, we believe that a young person who feels safe, seen, and supported is a young person ready to learn. Student wellbeing is not simply a program we run; it is woven through every part of our school day.

Pastoral Care Programs

Our COMPASS Program (Years 7 to 9) and DRIVE Program (Years 10 to 12) give students regular, structured time to build essential life skills: emotional regulation, healthy relationships, resilience, and values-based decision-making. These programs are complemented by nationally recognised speakers on topics including cyber safety, respectful relationships, and mental health.

Dedicated Student Support

In 2025, we introduced the Engagement Support Assistant role, and in 2026 this continues to be one of the most valued parts of our wellbeing model. This dedicated team member provides daily check-ins, one-on-one support, and a calm, consistent presence for students who need an extra layer of care. Whether helping a student navigate a difficult moment, supporting a smooth return to class, or simply being a trusted face in the hallway, the impact of this role is felt every day.

Sitting alongside this is our Wellbeing Support Team, a multi-skilled group of professionals drawn from the fields of social work, youth work, and counselling, including staff with Masters level training. Together, they offer short-term support for students and families navigating a wide range of challenges, from anxiety and emotional wellbeing to significant life events that can make the school day feel overwhelming. Families are always welcome to reach out to the team, and we work hard alongside them, to ensure no student faces a difficult season alone.





Student Voice and Leadership

Student voice is central to life at Sacred Heart. Our Student Leadership Cabinet brings together young people representing Academics, Arts, Sport, Wellbeing, Sustainability, Mercy Justice, and Applied Learning. These leaders shape school life in real and meaningful ways, from sustainability campaigns to community service. Our Peer Support Program connects senior students with junior year levels, building a culture of mentorship and belonging.

The Rainbow Collective

This year we are proud to introduce The Rainbow Collective, a reimagining of our longstanding student diversity group. With new staff leadership guiding the way, The Rainbow Collective offers a fortnightly gathering space where students come together to connect, share, and collaborate on inclusive initiatives that strengthen our community for everyone.

A Community Built on Care

One of the highlights of our calendar is Wellbeing Week, organised and led by our own student Wellbeing Leaders. The creativity and genuine care our students bring to this event speaks to the kind of community Sacred Heart is.

Our annual Student Resilience Survey reflects what we see and hear every day: strong friendships, a genuine sense of safety, and students who feel encouraged to grow. We are proud of what our community has built together, and we are always looking for ways to do more.

If you are considering Sacred Heart College for your child, we would love to welcome your family, and we warmly invite you to come and visit. Walk through our spaces, meet our community, and see for yourself what it looks like when wellbeing and learning are truly placed at the centre of daily school life.





Where curiosity fuels success

Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching
Sam Weir

At Sacred Heart, we appreciate that learning is a shared endeavour, that is enlivened by a spirit of curiosity. In our daily learning, we recognise curiosity as the parent to creativity, as the sibling to compassion, and as one of the resources our world needs most.

Each day, we invite you to think boldly, and to ask brave questions. To be curious about our common home and your place in it. To be curious about the limits of your own thinking, and how far you can stretch your ideas. To be curious about how, together, we can make use of our learning to build a world where respect is the norm, and where warm hospitality is commonplace.

As you move through our school, our constant invitation is that you are curious about your own capacity as a leader of learning. In our classrooms, we celebrate the learning leadership that occurs in many ways: through displays of independence and initiative; through determination and perseverance in response to challenges; through innovative and creative thinking; through the generous sharing of personal gifts and talents; and through the steady growth in skills, understanding and wisdom that takes place each day. From the first day of Year 7 until your final day of Year 12, learning always begins with a curious heart, and is always an opportunity to better know ourselves, and each other.

Every Mind Can Shine



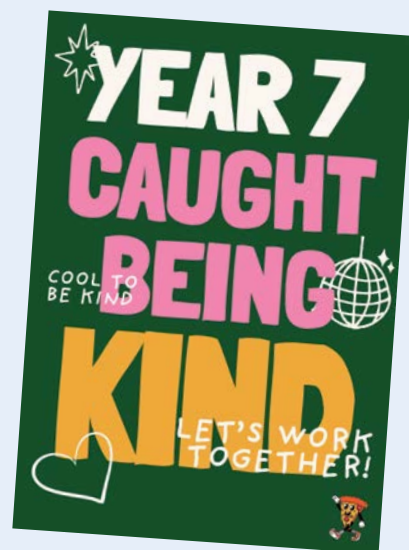
Pizza, Praise, and Purpose: Year 7 Students 'Caught Being Kind' at Sacred Heart

This term, Sacred Heart College has been buzzing with positivity, thanks to a Year 7 student-led initiative aptly titled 'Caught Being Kind.' Designed to align with the Year 7 Mercy Value of Respect, the designated focus for the group this year, the initiative encourages students to collectively work toward a goal that fosters a supportive and uplifting school environment.

The mechanics of the initiative are simple but powerful. Whenever a teacher witnesses a student going out of their way to help a peer, offer an encouraging word, or care for their environment, the act is officially logged. The collective reward for reaching their 150-act Year Level goal? A cohort-wide pizza lunch celebration.



'Caught Being Kind' serves a dual purpose within the school community. It acts as a formal platform to recognise and celebrate those quiet achievers who regularly demonstrate compassion and respect without expecting anything in return. Concurrently, it serves as a gentle, daily prompt for all students to reflect on their own behaviour and consider new ways they can inject kindness into their peer group.



The ripple effect of the initiative is already being felt across the classrooms. As a branch of the project, Year 7 students recently took the time to write heartfelt gratitude notes to their teachers. These small tokens of appreciation have not only strengthened staff-student relationships but have also highlighted the profound impact that a few words of thanks can have on a community.

By turning respect from an abstract concept into tangible, everyday actions, Sacred Heart's youngest secondary students are proving that culture is built on the small things. Through their collective effort, the Year 7 cohort reminds us that while one act of kindness can change a day, 150 of them can transform a community. And that is definitely something worth celebrating, one slice of pizza at a time.



Offering Diverse Opportunities



Fostering Teamwork and Sporting Excellence

Sacred Heart College is a member of the Northern Metropolitan Region of School Sport Victoria (SSV), providing students with opportunities to represent the College in both team and individual sports. Students can trial for team sports including basketball, cricket, football, netball, soccer and tennis, with competitions available at Year 7, Year 8, Intermediate (Years 9–10) and Senior (Years 11–12) levels throughout the school year.

These competitions promote participation in healthy physical activity while fostering teamwork, fair play, friendship and sporting excellence. They also create valuable leadership opportunities for senior students studying Certificate IV in Sport and Recreation, who gain coaching experience by supporting junior teams. Through assisting with selections, training and match-day coaching, these students develop practical skills while building connections across year levels.

Beyond team sports, students can compete in individual

SSV events such as swimming, athletics and cross-country. Selection is based on performances at College carnivals or achievements in community sporting clubs. We regularly have students' progress from regional competitions to State Championships.

Students who reach these levels of competition are often highly committed to their chosen sports outside school. Their achievements not only enhance their own development but also showcase the diverse sporting pathways available to Sacred Heart College students and the dedication required to excel.

Importantly, sport at Sacred Heart is inclusive. Students who are not selected for representative teams can still participate through House competitions and year-level events, ensuring opportunities for enjoyment, involvement and personal growth for all students.



Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)

Year 10 students Matilda and Stella proudly represented the College at the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) held in Flemington recently.

Competing in a field of 42 delegates from around the world, they demonstrated confidence, critical thinking and collaboration while debating complex global issues including artificial intelligence, refugee literacy and human rights.

While not named overall winners, the experience itself was a highlight - with both students developing a deeper understanding of global perspectives and UN processes.

A special thank you to the Rotary Clubs of Kyneton and Woodend for supporting our students' attendance at this event. Thank you also to event hosts, the Rotary Club of Keilor East and adjudicators from The University of Melbourne's Rotaract Club. Congratulations on your efforts Stella and Tilly.



Sustainability in Action!

Sacred Heart College was proudly represented at the recent Riddell's Creek Energy Expo, where our student sustainability leaders showcased their passion for environmental action and community engagement.

Throughout the day, students confidently connected with visitors, creating an interactive and welcoming space focused on sustainability. Their enthusiasm, knowledge, and leadership made a strong impression on attendees and highlighted their commitment to making a positive difference.

A popular feature of our display was the "Shoot the Hoop" recycling game, which challenged participants to correctly sort waste into appropriate bins. This fun activity

encouraged important conversations about waste management and the everyday choices we can make to reduce our environmental impact.

Visitors also enjoyed creating seed bombs, a hands-on activity promoting biodiversity and demonstrating how small actions can contribute to healthier ecosystems. It was wonderful to see people of all ages taking part and leaving inspired to make a difference at home.



Students also led simple science experiments exploring alternative energy sources, helping visitors better understand renewable energy through engaging and accessible demonstrations. These activities sparked valuable discussions about sustainability and our shared responsibility for the future.

Our students were outstanding ambassadors for the College, demonstrating confidence, initiative, and a genuine commitment to caring for our common home. They embodied the Sacred Heart values of stewardship and community, and we are incredibly proud of their contribution to this important community event.





Learn. Care.
flourish

Enrolments Closing Soon

Enrolment Applications for Year 5 students commencing
Year 7 2028 close on Friday 24 July 2026.

Please complete enrolment applications via our easy online system.

Visit the Enrolment page of the College website
www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au or use the QR code to
start your application.

For further enrolment information please contact
Rowena Rokesky-Alder, College Registrar.



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