



## SCHOOL PROFILE

School name Aquinas College

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### Principal's foreword

Aquinas College is a welcoming community enthused by the teachings of Jesus Christ, where academic excellence is valued and students are nurtured to create a future of hope.

Over the next three years we are exploring the theme of 'head, heart and hands'. In 2017, our focus is on the 'Head' - our academic, cognitive and higher order processes. We also investigated the adolescent challenges of Mental Health. In addition, the college community continued with consultation, planning and strategic renewal. A masterplan and our Vision for Learning was introduced to the college community. Aquinas continued on its path for Excellent Teaching and Learning with an enhanced Middle Leader role of Teaching and Learning Leader with an emphasis on Pedagogy and Practice. We also created a position with a focus on Literacy.

Aquinas College is committed to developing the whole person, caring for its community members and providing spiritual and faith development experiences. In 2017, we unpacked the 'Enhancing Catholic Identity' project with Leuven University. A consultative committee forms the basis for ongoing religious development and implementation of the recommendations.

Aquinas College strives to create a learning environment which is safe and happy, therefore promoting the opportunity for students to excel in all aspects of school; including academic, social, spiritual, sporting and cultural.

### School facts

Aquinas College is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational  or Single sex

Year levels offered: Primary  Secondary  P-12

Total student enrolments: 1089 Girls: 641 Boys: 548

## Characteristics of the student body

Aquinas College Gold Coast opened its doors in 1964 with 136 boys administered by the Christian Brothers. Aquinas College became a coeducational school in 1991 when Star of the Sea Southport closed. Today, Aquinas College operates as an integral entity of the Southport Catholic Parish within the Archdiocese of Brisbane and under the authority of Brisbane Catholic Education. Aquinas students are mainly drawn from schools on the northern end of the Gold Coast, particularly the Catholic primary schools, Guardian Angels, St Francis Xavier, St Kevin's, Jubilee and St Brigid's. Aquinas is an inclusive college support and integrating over 50 students with disabilities. All students are supported through a comprehensive Pastoral Care system where they are known and nurtured.

## Social climate

Aquinas College maintains a safe and happy learning community. The social climate of the College is a manifestation of the College Vision where Gospel values and those of each house patron. The College is organised through a vertical pastoral care structure where students from each year level work together in a Vertical Pastoral Care (VPC) class under the guidance of their VPC teacher. This longitudinal relationship should span a student's time at Aquinas. Groups of VPC classes form a House Group (Chisholm, Edmund Rice, McAuley, Romero) under the care of the Pastoral Leader who oversees the care of the students in that House. In addition to VPC, relationships are built during Pastoral care lessons where topics such as study skills, goal setting, friendships, personal development, cyber-bullying, camp preparation, career education, driver education, healthy habits, lifestyle and relationships are explored with a mentor teacher. An induction program for Year 7 students outlines necessary processes and procedures to assist in navigating the complexities and idiosyncrasies of Aquinas. In addition, Year 7 and Year 11 students form a close relationship through a structured Peer Support program.

## Curriculum - our distinctive offerings

Aquinas College fosters holistic education and actively engages in living the College vision. This commences in Year 7 where students from a range of catchment primary schools transition between structures and processes of primary into the diverse and dynamic organisation of secondary school. Year 7s are nurtured by core teachers and gradually experience the full life of Aquinas College through electives and integration into the academic, spiritual, pastoral and co-curricular offerings. The curriculum offered in Year 7 welcomes students to the whole range of learning faculties. Students study the core subjects of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, History, HPE. They are also introduced to the Arts (Visual Art, Music and Drama), Technology (Hospitality, Industrial Technology and Design and Information Communication Technology) and LOTE (Japanese) through studying these subjects for part of the year. Year 8 & 9 students choose a number of electives to complement their core study subjects. Year 10 students choose from a wider number of electives. Students in Years 11 and 12 study 6 senior subjects including Study of Religion or Religion and Ethics and English or English Communication. In addition, students are able to complete a range of Accredited and Authority Registered subjects. Certificate and Diploma courses are also available to students. Aquinas College offers a wide range of subjects that cater for students, varying interests and abilities. Particular note is Rugby League, Netball and Athletics classes of Excellence in Years 7 - 10, that have also added an even greater variety to the Aquinas College Physical Education Program.

## Curriculum - our extra curricula activities

Aquinas College is committed to offering students a wide range of activities designed to enrich the curriculum and to extend the students' physical, spiritual and emotional development. Extra-curricular activities including Drama, Music, Dance, Visual Arts, Public Speaking, Debating, Sport and Community Service are an integral part of a student's life at Aquinas. The fine reputation of Aquinas College in these areas is highly regarded. Students are encouraged to become active participants in the many opportunities available. Such activities include: Social Justice Groups (St Vincent's De Paul, Rosies); Social Activities - Pastoral days eg Edmund Rice Olympics, Chisholm Chant, Romero Triathlon, and McAuley Masterminds; Cultural Activities - Concert band, Choir, On the Edge Visual Art Show, Dance Eisteddfod; Interschool Debating, Science, English and Mathematics Competitions. Aquinas College offers a wide range of sporting activities. Competitive inter-school sport teams at Aquinas College include Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Rugby League, Netball, Touch Football, AFL, Basketball, Kokoda, HPV and Equestrian.

## Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

Parents continue to display high levels of confidence in the College. The Parents and Friends Association is a vibrant and energetic group who are engaged in a variety of events. Prospective parents regularly state that they 'only hear great things of Aquinas' and keen to have their children enrolled. Student satisfaction is very high. On exit from the College Year 12 students speak of the Aquinas spirit being supportive, passion, emotion, comradeship, fun and faith. Students also speak of being challenged in their learning and well prepared for the next stage of their journey. Students also have opportunities through the Student Representative Council to have their views heard and the feedback received is very positive. Teachers complete a 'Teacher Satisfaction' survey which informs processes and procedures to address and rectify areas of concern.

## Parent engagement

Aquinas College believes students achieve their best when family and College work in partnership. We appreciate the involvement of families:

- Supporting faith development at College and Parish through attendance and participation in such events as House Masses, Induction and Graduation Masses, Easter Liturgies, Mother's Day Liturgies etc
- Attending Parent/Teacher Information Evenings to discuss student progress
- Invitation attend information evenings – Year 7, Senior Schooling and specific topics of interest
- Actively participating in the Parents and Friends Association
- Providing feedback both formally and informally about how Aquinas can become even more effective
- Keeping in contact with the College regarding changes in family circumstances
- Reading and noting information received each fortnight in the College Newsletter
- Attending the many sporting and cultural events throughout the year

## SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Achievements against 2017 annual plan**

Over 2017, the college has been working to achieve the following goals:

- Engage with and unpack the recommendations contained in the Leuven Project report, and commence implementing the recommendations into the Religious Life of the College and the Religious Education Curriculum
- Enhance staff engagement with effective practice, pedagogy and high yield strategies
- Staff engagement in school wide literacy improvement with particular emphasis on the College SMART goal
- Preparation for Senior Learning Phase in 2019
- Development of College Masterplan

### **Future outlook**

Aquinas College has built a wonderful learning community over the past 54 years. We are moving forward with the master plan and pursuing the ELT initiatives as outlined through BCE. We are engaging with Literacy as a focus and utilizing Data and Effective and Expected practices in the classroom. Student numbers are stable and staff and parent engagement in the various initiatives is encouraging.

## STUDENT OUTCOMES

Whole school attendance rate	91.00 %
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Prep attendance rate	%	Year 7 attendance rate	93.00 %
Year 1 attendance rate	%	Year 8 attendance rate	93.00 %
Year 2 attendance rate	%	Year 9 attendance rate	90.00 %
Year 3 attendance rate	%	Year 10 attendance rate	91.00 %
Year 4 attendance rate	%	Year 11 attendance rate	91.00 %
Year 5 attendance rate	%	Year 12 attendance rate	91.00 %
Year 6 attendance rate	%		

### Management of non-attendance

The Assistant Principal Welfare: takes active interest in student attendance. Reports are generated and distributed to Pastoral Leaders to contact families to assist with student attendance. Processes and procedures are being developed to ensure accurate marking of rolls.

### NAPLAN results

Average NAPLAN results

	Year 3		Year 5	
	School	Aust.	School	Aust.
Reading				
Writing				
Spelling				
Numeracy				

	Year 7		Year 9	
	School	Aust.	School	Aust.
Reading	540.73	544.70	587.38	580.90
Writing	512.33	513.00	548.24	551.90
Spelling	552.64	549.60	580.43	581.50
Numeracy	546.82	553.80	578.53	592.00

### Apparent retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 (2015) student cohort	95.2 %
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### Outcomes for Year 12 cohort of 2017

Number of students receiving a Senior Education Profile	199
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement	1
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12	178
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training (VET) qualifications	87
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT)	27
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)	0
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP)	124
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD	74.2 %
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification	93.5 %
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre applicants receiving a tertiary offer	90.2 %

### Overall Position (OP) bands

Number of students in each band for OP 1 to 15

OP 1-5	OP 6-10	OP 11-15
13	28	51

### Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework

Certificate I	Certificate II	Certificate III or higher
34	49	85

### Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2017 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step, were not available. Information about the post-school destinations of students will be published in September when the information is made available to the school.

## STAFF PROFILE

Workforce composition	Teaching staff	Non-teaching staff
Headcounts	103	44
Full-time equivalents	97.90	35.11
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	0	

Highest level of attainment	Number of teaching staff (teaching staff includes school leaders)
Doctorate	0
Masters	28
Post Graduate Diploma/ Certificate	34
Bachelor Degree	39
Diploma/Certificate	2

### Expenditure on and participation in teacher professional learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2017 was \$ 25 1654 .

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

Aquinas College is fully committed to Brisbane Catholic Education's initiative on Excellent Learning and Teaching. Teaching staff have engaged in many Professional Learning sessions. In addition, 2017 has provided a focus on our transition to the new senior schooling system. Finally, there has been a significant commitment to building our religious identity.

**Average staff attendance rate** The staff attendance rate was 95.59 % in 2017.

### Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2016 school year, 91.0 % of staff were retained by the school for the 2017 year.

## SCHOOL INCOME

### School income by funding source

School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the 'Find a school' text box.

Type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select '<GO>'.

**Find a school** **Search website**

Go

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School financial information is available by selecting 'Finances' on the top menu on the school's entry web page.