



# CATHERINE MCAULEY WESTMEAD

## *Senior School Enrolment - Years 10, 11 & 12*



**At Catherine McAuley Westmead we aim to support our students to become passionate, independent and life-long learners. We encourage students to manage their own learning and establish patterns of learning that will serve them throughout their lives and careers.**

**Senior students are given every opportunity to reach their full potential**

### **Culture of Excellence and Expectations**

- Catherine McAuley is a high performing school with a culture of excellence. Staff focus on student engagement and expectations for all students to do their best.
- 2023 HSC results saw 72% of courses above State average.
- Two students from the Class of 2023 were awarded a NSW Premier's Award for All-Round Excellence.
- Classroom management is a priority and high expectations are placed on all students.

### **Study Pathways**

- Students at Catherine McAuley have many study pathways available to them. The school offers a large range of subjects, both academic and non academic.
- School of Now is an innovative program that uses technology to increase student subject choice. Years 11 and 12 students across different Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools have the opportunity to learn together from an expert teacher with specialist knowledge. This allows students to sign up for a greater range of subjects.
- Extension course options are available in Mathematics, English, Science and History. This allows for a subject to be studied at the highest secondary level.
- Students have the opportunity to further extend their studies through involvement in activities such as the Captivate Performing Arts Program (provides learning and performance opportunities that connect students with creative arts professionals); Schools STEM Challenge opportunities; International Space Settlement Design Competition; and more.

### **University Partnerships**

- The school has partnered with Western Sydney University through the Academy U program to deliver unique experiences and learning opportunities for selected students. Year 11 students have the opportunity to begin their university degree.
- University early commencement programs such as our partnership with Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the Step-Up programs in teaching, business, exercise science and health sciences is another opportunity for students to begin their university study early.

*Educating young women for the future*

## Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- A number of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses are available to students either on site or additional options offered through VET Cluster classes (offsite). VET courses are aligned to specific needs of industry and provide students with the opportunity to learn valuable industry skills and experience in their chosen sector.
- Catherine McAuley Westmead was awarded the 2022 VET in Schools Student of the Year Award for a Year 12 Business Services student.
- External VET courses are offered through The Whitehouse Institute of Design, TAFE NSW, Academy of Interactive Entertainment and NSW Health to provide an even greater range of courses. VET courses are subsidised by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta with a minimal cost to families.

## Accelerated Course Options

- Years 10 and 11 students may have the opportunity to undertake an accelerated pattern of study. This allows for the demands of the HSC to be spread over two years.
- A significant number of Year 11 students are accelerated to do Studies of Religion 1 allowing those students to have more time in Year 12 to focus on other subjects.
- A growing number of Year 11 students are accelerated in Mathematics giving them the opportunity to sit a HSC Mathematics course in Year 11.

## Experienced Teaching Staff

- Catherine McAuley Westmead has a highly experienced teaching staff. A large number of teachers are experienced HSC markers, HSC judges, exam writers and HSC exam moderators.
- Catherine McAuley teachers are passionate educators who have expert content knowledge in their subject areas.

## A Range of Teaching Methods

- As an all girls school teaching is tailored to girls' learning needs and preferences.
- A range of teaching strategies and styles are used by Catherine McAuley teachers in delivering content across the curriculum.
  - Face to face
  - Online
  - Blended (a combination of the above)
  - Off campus (TAFE or another school)

## Careers Education and Guidance

- An extensive careers education program at Catherine McAuley creates opportunities for students to explore future careers by accessing a range of resources and by engaging with the wider community.
- The Leader of Pathways and Partnerships is available to students 3 days a week with students able to make an appointment to discuss career and study options.
- Further opportunities to consider post school pathways through regular guest speakers ('Career Mondays' talks), ex-student panels, career incursions and excursions and career expos.

## Community Leadership and Involvement

- Catherine McAuley students have many opportunities to be involved in community leadership through the school's extensive community networks.
- Opportunities are provided to encourage dialogue and involvement in issues affecting women with the goal to bring about change. Students can be active participants in workshops, conferences, seminars, etc.
- Students are able to develop their 21st Century workplace skills through volunteering and community partnerships such as the Ronald McDonald House student volunteering program, Vinnies Van, The Smith Family's 'Student to Student Reading Program', peer mentoring and many more.

**" A student's connection to school is a priority at Catherine McAuley Westmead and the school aims to build collaborative partnerships between teachers and students",  
Mary Refalo, Principal**