



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who can enrol at St Bede's?**

St Bede's will initially open with co-educational Year 7 students at the start of 2018. These students will progress through the year levels until St Bede's will be a comprehensive Year 7-12 Co-educational Catholic College of approximately 1,100 students in 2023.

- **Will Religious Education and involvement in liturgies, prayers, retreats etc. be compulsory?**

Yes. St Bede's will be a distinctively proud Catholic school. Whereas students from all religious backgrounds will be welcomed and respected, a condition of enrolment will be the support of the Catholic life of the College which will include attendance and positive engagement in religious education classes and in the spiritual life of the College.

- **What will happen if the first building is not finished on time?**

Staff will commence on Monday 29 January 2018, with support staff available for any enquiries from Monday 22 January except for Friday 26 January which is Australia Day. Students will commence with an Induction Day on Friday 2 February with teaching classes to commence on Monday 5 February.

The College may for a short period operate within a 'Flexible Learning Village' which will consist of a number of modern air-conditioned portable classrooms. Having students closer together for Term 1 2018 will enable staff to quickly to get to know students, as well as allowing input into the refurbishing of the new building.

- **Will there be a social justice program?**

Yes. Social justice will be an important part of St Bede's. In addition to supporting local initiatives in both word and action, there will be a strong emphasis on building relationships with indigenous and overseas communities.

- **What will learning look like at St Bede's?**

Students will be provided with exciting and contemporary learning spaces that will cater for independent, enquiry and group-based learning. Teachers will use a variety of engaging strategies, including cross-curricular project-based learning, explicit teaching, and problem solving activities. A strong emphasis will be placed upon literacy and numeracy development, with external test results closely tracked to assist individualisation of the curriculum and the review of whole-school learning processes.



- **How important will technology will be at St Bede's?**

Very important. The College's Learning Framework will imbed the use of a single specified device by all students. The College will deal exclusively with one company to maximise the cost-effectiveness of computer purchases. Parents will need to purchase the specified device, with details to be provided to parents. Staff and students will be provided with a comprehensive training program to cater for users of all levels.

- **What are the arrangements for textbooks, stationary packs, excursions and other resources?**

A single resource fee will include the costs of electronic and hard-copy textbooks, backpacks, stationary packs and excursions other than camps/retreats. Details of the fee and its inclusions will be provided to parents in Term 4.

- **Will students be allowed to bring mobile phones to school?**

Yes. Students will be allowed to bring mobile phones to school but they will have responsibility for its safe-keeping. Unless directed otherwise by a teacher where the phone may be used for a learning activity, mobile phones will need to be turned off once they enter the school grounds and not turned on until the end of the day. Students will only be permitted to contact parents if required via the College Office.

- **What will be the uniform and grooming requirements?**

The presentation of students through neat grooming and the proud wearing of their College uniform will be indicative of the high standards of the College. In designing a fashionable, flexible, cost-effective uniform, all students will be expected to comply with the uniform and grooming policy.

- **Will there be an induction program?**

Yes. With St Bede's to initially open with only Year 7, there will be a unique opportunity for a smooth induction program to be implemented at the start of Term 1 next year. Many students in large Year 7 – 12 schools often struggle with the pace of secondary schools and the volume of older students being on the one site. Having no other students on site will mean a comprehensive induction program will be implemented which will ease students into the complexities and rigour of secondary school education.

- **Will students have lockers?**

Initially students will not have lockers as during Term 1 they will be located in the 'Flexible Learning Village'. Staff and students can have input into the decision on whether lockers are the best option for the secure storage of personal belongings.

- **What subjects will be on offer?**

Initially in Years 7 & 8, students will complete the required subjects set by the NSW Education Standards Authority which will include English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Technology and Applied Studies, Creative and Performing Arts, and Languages. In being a Catholic school, Religious Studies will also be compulsory. The completion of the four stage building project will provide state of the art specialist rooms in the offering of a diverse and comprehensive curriculum.





- **What will the co-curricular program look like?**

The College will place a strong emphasis on both sport and cultural pursuits in developing a comprehensive co-curricular program that will cater for a diversity of students interests and skills. All students will be involved in a Friday afternoon sports program. Options to be provided will be largely be determined by student preference and venue availability. Confirmed sports offering for next year is athletics, football, rugby league, tennis, cheerleading, cricket, swimming and basketball. It is anticipated that other sports will also be offered. A strong music and performance culture will be fostered which will include entering a team into the 2018 Maitland/Newcastle Diocesan 'Diosounds' performance evening. St Bede's will enter teams into a range of other non-sporting co-curricular competitions, including debating and public speaking.

- **Will there be learning support for students with special needs?**

A full-time Learning Support Coordinator has been appointed and will be commence duties from the start of Term 4 2017. In addition to working with identified students requiring assistance, the Learning Support Coordinator will be available for any enquiries. Gifted and talented students we will be provided with enrichment and extension opportunities and encouraged to enter external events such as 'Tournament of Minds'. St Bede's will be committed to a philosophy of providing opportunities to meet the needs of ALL students, including those with special gifts and talents.

- **Will students have overnight activities?**

Yes. In Year 7 for example there will be a three-day/two-night camp in Myuna Bay which all students will be required to attend. Provisions will be made for students who may feel anxious about being away from their family and for those with special dietary and medical needs.

- **Will St Bede's be open to all students?**

St Bede's will be an inclusive and welcoming community where equal opportunities for students will exist.

- **What if I have any other questions?**

Please contact the College and a staff member will get back to you with an answer to your question.

