



St Vincent's College
Potts Point



Strategic Plan 2021 - 2023

The Love of Christ Impels Us




Independent IN THOUGHT
Compassionate IN ATTITUDE
Confident TO ACT

St Vincent's College is a dynamic learning community committed to fostering creativity, discernment, leadership and the development of students to be **courageous women of action.**



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| The College Values | 4 |
| Message from the St Vincent's College Board | 5 |
| A Spirituality of Possibility <i>The Love of Christ impels us to Trust in Divine Providence</i> | 6 |
| Learning and Teaching <i>The Love of Christ impels us to be Contemplatives in Action</i> | 7 |
| Forward Thinking and Innovation <i>The Love of Christ impels us to Go to the Margins</i> | 8 |
| Achievement and Excellence <i>The Love of Christ impels us to be Extensively Useful</i> | 9 |
| Social Action and Justice <i>The Love of Christ impels us to Exercise a Preferential Option for the Poor</i> | 10 |



The College Values

- ★ Generosity of Spirit
 - ★ Hope
 - ★ Justice
 - ★ Respect
- ★ Service of the Poor



Message on Behalf of The College Board

On behalf of the St Vincent's College Board, I am delighted to share with our community the College Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2023.

This Strategic Plan is the response of the College Board, College Staff and Leadership Teams to the framework produced by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, to give expression to the essential nature and culture of a Mary Aikenhead College. This framework is known as "By this everyone will know", and is accessible [here](#)*. This strategy is mission-based and it is with confidence that in sharing our Strategic Plan for the next three years we can be sure that St Vincent's College will continue the great and prophetic work started by the Sisters of Charity in 1858. Whilst now the College is under the Stewardship of the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, it is still the love of Christ that impels us (the Congregational motto of the Sisters of Charity: *Caritas Christi urget nos*).

This Strategic Plan builds on all that was achieved in the most recent plan (2015-2020) and prepares the foundation for future development. A continuum of mission-focussed strategic initiatives has meant St Vincent's College has always been future-orientated while embracing its rich history and responding to the signs of the times. One plan does not need to finish, to allow another to begin. In presenting this new plan we acknowledge the positive achievements of 2015-2020 and we commit to continue our endeavours to:

- More deeply understand and exercise leadership in the universal church
- Give contemporary expression to our identity as a Mary Aikenhead College
- Focus on and articulate the College's commitment to academic rigour and growth for every student
- Broaden our pursuit and practice of social justice
- Be stewards of creation.

These achievements were possible because of the hard work and commitment of so many – the College Staff, the Students of the College and the broader community of Board members, parents, ex-students, friends and associates. Each member of our community has a particular responsibility for the stewardship, implementation and lived expression of the mission. Similarly, each has a responsibility to turn the hopes and aspirations captured in this Strategic Plan into realities.

Progress against priority areas will be monitored and reported to our community, and at all times we are open to their feedback as we strive to achieve our vision for the College and its students. Each year goals aligned to achieving this plan will be produced to allow us to concurrently maintain strategic direction, and yet be able to quickly pivot to meet the challenges and opportunities of our uncertain times.

May the love of Christ impel and sustain us as we together, as the St Vincent's College community, honour the sacred privilege we have of educating the young women in our care. I commend this Strategic Plan to you.



Mr John Carroll

Interim College Chair, February 2021

* <https://www.btewk.com.au>

A Spirituality of Possibility

The Love of Christ Impels us to Trust in Divine Providence

By this strategic intent our community will know the fullness of the Grace of God. Scientia cum Religione requires us to:

- ✠ recognise that God is at the centre of all our endeavours and aspirations
- ✠ attend to the formation of the Spirit
- ✠ nurture a deep personal relationship with God
- ✠ always focus on who we are, and who we might become through the Grace of God
- ✠ accept the responsibilities of being an active, educated member of the Church, as the people of God
- ✠ see our membership of Mary Aikenhead Ministries as a means of discovering the possibility of collaborating with God in building the Kingdom on Earth



★
Commit to contemporary Catholic formation for the St Vincent's community.

★
Explore ways within the St Vincent's community to hear and live the Gospel message.

★
Design retreat and camp experiences to ensure time is provided that renews the Spirit, mind and body.

Learning and Teaching

The Love of Christ Impels us to be Contemplatives in Action

By this strategic intent our community will know that the purpose of a St Vincent's College education is to lead out into the world. Scientia cum Religione requires us to:

✦ inform, transform and empower

✦ welcome diversity

✦ aspire to always seek the magis (the most)

✦ constantly adapt and adopt contemporary pedagogies

✦ positively respond to challenge

✦ practise agile learning and critical thinking

✦ accept responsibility for nurturing a culture of learning



★
Develop and refine the qualities and capabilities that lead to the vision of the Learning Framework – to inform, to transform to empower.

★
Refurbish existing spaces, for optimal use, and design new spaces to create agile, contemporary learning spaces.

★
Promote and enable opportunity for shared professional collaboration and conversation.

★
Recognise the leadership potential of every staff member, and empower them to “lead out into the world”.





★
Re-imagine the use of time to make optimal use of the skills and gifts of our people.

Forward Thinking and Innovation


The Love of Christ Impels us to Go to the Margins


By this strategic intent our community will know that we are prepared to be innovative and take risks.


Scientia cum Religione requires us to:


-  demonstrate self-awareness, and awareness of others
-  learn from the ancient wisdom and contemporary practice of First Nations people
-  advocate actively for the rights and responsibilities of all
-  understand places and spaces as shapers of our learning environment





 Develop sustainable practices across all areas of operations of the College.


 Engage external opinion, collaborate with allied practitioners and listen to student voice.


 Further develop an inclusive culture that affirms the dignity of all members of the College community.


 Develop partnerships within the “city precinct” to extend and enrich educational opportunities for students and staff.


 Refurbish and design spaces to be inclusive and respectful of individual needs, and that celebrate environmental sustainability.

Achievement and Excellence

The Love of Christ Impels us to be Extensively Useful

By this strategic intent our community will know the critical role education plays in preparing to respond to the signs of the times. Scientia cum Religione requires us to:

- ✦ pursue excellence for the common good
- ✦ respond with pragmatism
- ✦ understand a St Vincent's College education should accentuate advantage not entitlement
- ✦ embrace deep, disciplined learning
- ✦ nurture growth mindsets and habits that encourage all to do their best and be their best



★
Increase efficiency through continually improving work practices, developing further role competencies and accountabilities, and well-resourced ICT facilities.

★
Nurture an understanding and practice of *cura personalis* (care for the whole person) in the context of the College Mission.

★
Strengthen professional learning culture through scholarship, action research and specialist external engagement.

★
Utilise more fully the physical, pastoral and academic capacity of being a boarding school.

★
Articulate high expectations of, and our shared responsibility for, the culture of learning.

Social Action and Justice

The Love of Christ Impels us to Exercise a Preferential Option for the Poor

By this strategic intent our community will know that the preferential option for the poor leads to freedom.

Scientia cum Religione, requires us to:

- ✠ acknowledge the prevalence and diversity of poverty
- ✠ commit to seeking ways of acknowledging and addressing the cause of poverty within ourselves
- ✠ empathise with those who experience poverty and motivated to alleviate the causes of that poverty
- ✠ listen to the voices of those in poverty, and through authentic dialogue and relationship, empower all to contribute to a hopeful world view



★
Strengthen our understanding of, and support for those living with social and emotional illness.

★
Further embed social justice perspectives in all academic, pastoral and formation programs.

★
Use bursaries and scholarships to increase diversity and to deliver equity, particularly for students from regional, rural and remote communities.



St Vincent's College
Potts Point

Our Strategic Plan 2021-2023

Scientia cum Religione



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