

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Published May 2026

Year in Review – 2025

This annual report for 2025 provides a comprehensive overview of MacKillop Catholic College for parents, students and wider community. Hard copies of this report are available upon request at the College Office.

Introduction

MacKillop Catholic College is located in Mornington, Tasmania. It is bounded by Currajong Street and Goondi Street. It is a Catholic co-educational college governed by Catholic Education Commission Tasmania catering for students from Year 7 to Year 12. Although discussions about the possibility of establishing a Catholic secondary college on the eastern shore of Hobart had taken place as early as 1962, it was not until the planned restructuring of Catholic secondary education in the Hobart region commenced in the early 1990s that the opportunity arose to establish MacKillop Catholic College. MacKillop Catholic College opened in the refurbished site on 9 February 1994. The College opened its doors to 59 students in 1994. By 1997 student numbers had risen to 340, in 1998 there were over 400 students. By 2006 there were 560 students. By December 2025 we had 892 students.

Our College Advisory Board members in 2025 were: Anne Foale – Chairperson; Father Mark Freeman – Parish Priest; Rebecca Burgess – Secretary; Jeff Tongs – Financial Advisor; Jason Szczerbanik - Parent Representative; David Conley – Parent Representative; Jamie Lawrence – Parent Representative; Desmond Ayentimi – Parent Representative; Daniel Verdouw – Parent Representative; Debbie Schofield-Gavin – Parent Representative; Brendan Gill – College Principal; Craig French – College Business Manager (Guest); Tania Burgess – Executive Assistant to the Principal (Minute Secretary).

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE – ENROLMENT TOTALS – AS AT: 1/12/2025

2025 YEARS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12

	MALE	FEMALE	OTHER	TOTAL
Year 7	104	95		199
Year 8	100	93		193
Year 9	126	76		202
Year 10	108	65	1	174
Year 11	45	31		76
Year 12	20	28		48
	503	388	1	892

Average attendance rate (%) School attendance rates disaggregated by year group are shown in the table below.

Attendance rates by year group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
	87.69%	88.47%	86.11%	83.48%	81.28%	81.09%

Unauthorised Absences at MacKillop Catholic College

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Director of Pastoral Care and Heads of House along with permitted Administration staff are authorised to follow up unauthorised absences at MacKillop Catholic College. Where the school has not been notified of a student absence by 9:30am daily, parents/caregivers will be notified by SMS requesting they follow up with the school. Where an absence remains unexplained, the student will be marked as an unauthorised absence. The process for following up unauthorised absences with parents/caregivers/independent students is outlined in the [CET Attendance Policy](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)

- Year 7 9 students in total
- Year 8 10 students in total
- Year 9 10 students in total
- Year 10 4 students in total
- Year 11 6 students in total
- Year 12 3 student in total



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

In 2025 our young people continued to show what it meant to be part of a community built on faith, hope and love. I am deeply grateful to our staff and families for their dedication and partnership, and to our students for the energy and joy they bring to College life.

2025 had been a significant year in the life of MacKillop Catholic College. On a practical level, our enrolment increased from approximately 800 to 900 students, bringing both blessings and challenges. Much of this growth had been in the senior school, which has continued to expand each year. Project 23, which extended the College to Years 11 and 12, has been an outstanding success. It is a privilege to now support students all the way into meaningful pathways for the future.

In 2025, pathways in our senior school included: Aeronautical Engineering, Architecture, Automotive, Optometry, Dentistry, Prosthetics, Veterinary Science, Marine and Antarctic Science, Journalism, Engineering, Teaching and Sports Management. Others pursued skilled trades such as Carpentry, Stone Masonry and Painting. This diversity highlights the many ways our young people are preparing to contribute meaningfully to their chosen fields and communities.

I would especially like to congratulate our Year 7 students on a wonderful first year of high school. They settled in beautifully and brought new enthusiasm and warmth to our community.

A sincere thank you to the College Advisory Board for their generous support and commitment, and to Fr Mark and Fr Kasun for their ongoing spiritual leadership. I would also like to thank the College Leadership Team for their dedication, wisdom and hard work throughout the year. Their contribution to the life of the College has been invaluable. The new leadership structure introduced in 2025 has already borne much fruit and strengthened our ability to serve the community well.

My thanks to all students, staff and families for their continued commitment to our shared mission. Every achievement and event that took place in 2025 reflected not just individual talent, but the collective spirit that makes MacKillop such a special place to learn and grow, guided

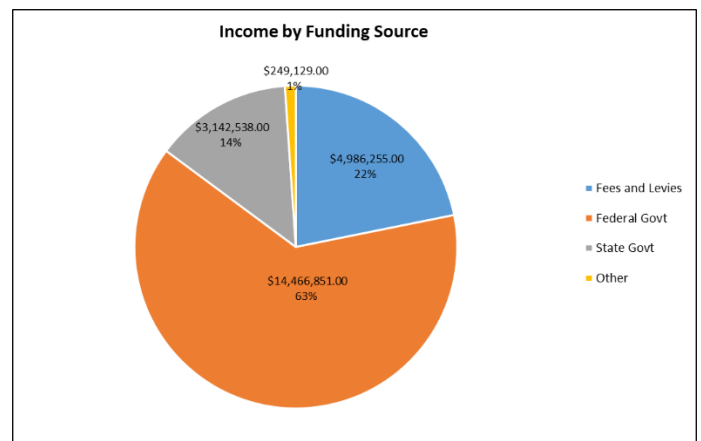
always by our core values of Excellence, Compassion and Service.

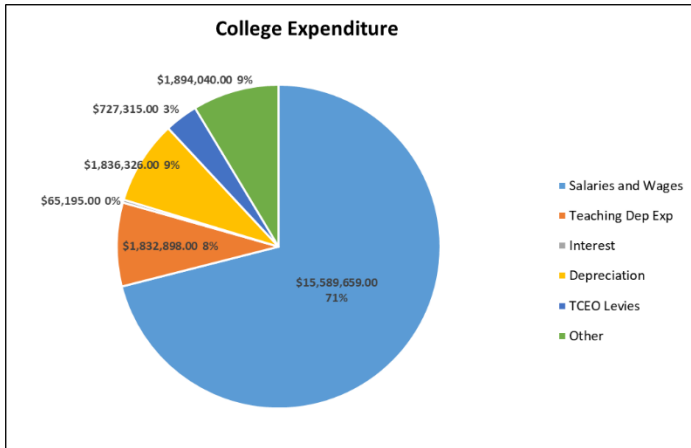
I feel truly blessed to serve as Principal of this wonderful community. In 2025, my first full year at MacKillop, I saw so much growth, joy and hope, and I look forward to the bright future we are building together.

Brendan Gill
Principal



FINANCE





For further Financial Information for <MacKillop Catholic College> please refer to the school's data on [My School](#)

STAFFING

Workforce Overview

During the 2024–2025 financial year, the College maintained a stable workforce to support teaching, wellbeing, and operational functions of the College.

As at the conclusion of the reporting period, the workforce comprised:

- **186 employees** across teaching, support services, and leadership roles.
- A majority of staff employed on an **ongoing/permanent basis**, supporting continuity and organisational stability.

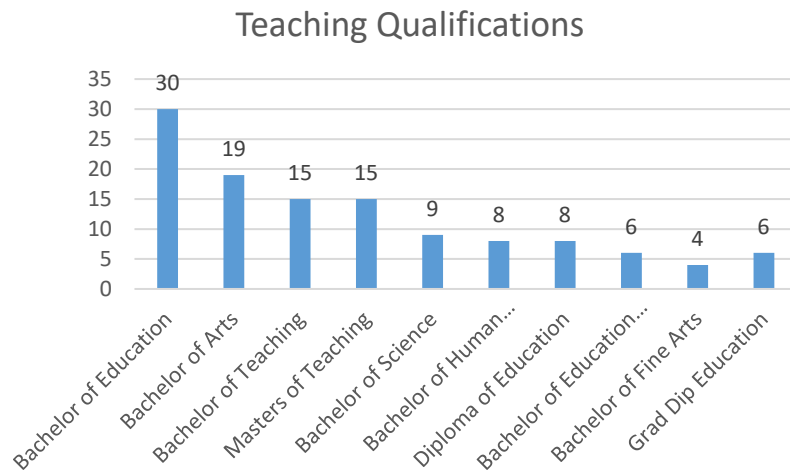
Category	As at 30 June 2024	As at 30 June 2025
Teaching staff (full-time + part-time)	80	92
Full-time teachers	59	68
Part-time teachers	21	22
Relief		15
Teaching FTE (contracted)	78.73	84.18
Support Staff		41

Between 2024 and 2025, the College experienced growth in its teaching workforce due to the increased number of

students, particularly in Year 11 and 12 students. The number of contracted teachers increased from 80 in 2024 to 92 at 30 June 2025, with full-time teaching roles accounting for most of the increase. The teaching workforce was predominantly ongoing, supporting continuity of learning and curriculum delivery.

MacKillop Catholic College maintains a highly qualified teaching workforce. All teaching staff meet Tasmanian Registration Board (TRB) requirements. 10% of staff also hold diplomas, including VET qualifications and supporting our growing VET programs.

A breakdown of teachers and qualifications are tabled below:



Facility Overview

The College's facilities include:

- Library
- 37 general learning areas
- 2 Food Technology Learning rooms
- Training Bar/Barista room
- 2 Art Learning rooms
- Kiln/pottery room
- Language room
- 2 Material, Design and Technology rooms
- Drama room
- Music room with practice facilities
- Digital media/computing room x 2 (1 shared space with GLA)
- 3 Science Laboratories and 2 Preparation areas
- Dance Studio

- Learning Support area (Hub)
- Counsellor's Office and Pastoral Support Space
- Gymnasium
- Sports ground
- Outdoor netball and basketball courts
- Hot shots tennis courts
- Cricket nets
- Chapel
- Canteen
- Reception area and Administrative offices
- Meeting rooms
- ICT office and workroom
- staff offices
- careers office
- staff room
- toilets and changing rooms.
- Year 11/12 space (Ex Uniform shop)
- Allied health room (converted from office space)
- 45 Currajong St, Finance and Facilities Office space
- 47 Currajong St, use yet to be decided.

LEARNING and TEACHING

At MacKillop Catholic College we are committed to quality teaching and professional practice that challenges each student to realise their full potential and achieve personal success in their learning. The curriculum is broad and includes vocational and academic learning pathways.

In addition to our formal classroom learning, there is a large range of co-curricular activities and competitions that students participate. All these opportunities enhance and extend the learning that occurs within our formal classes. This year we have had several students acknowledged for their outstanding effort and achievement, including:

- Finn Temby received the Australian Mathematics Competition Prize, as well as the Australian Mathematics Trust Medal.
- George Fraser was awarded the State champion medal for the Australian History Competition.
- Elliott Stee was awarded the Tasmanian Young Historian of the year at the National History Challenge Ceremony.

- Anna Volkmann was selected for the CERN Getaway program, she was selected as 1 of 50 students from a pool of 2500 students across the world and will travel to Switzerland.
- 23 of our Year 12 Graduates received early offers from the University of Tasmania for 2026 via the School Recommendation Program, some students have deferred and are taking a gap year before starting university.
- The College Dux in 2025 was Elliott Stee with a TE Score of 113.6 and an ATAR of 99.1. His ATAR of 99.1 put him in the top 100 in Tasmania.
- 2 students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above. 10 students achieved an ATAR of 80 or above and 17 students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above.
- 100% of the Graduating Year 12 students achieved their Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE).
- 1 VET students, William Dawes were awarded an Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award.
- In 2025 20 Year 10/11/12 students gained full time apprenticeships (Construction 13, Childcare 5, Auto 1 and Jockey 1)

Curriculum

With an increasing number of students staying to study Year 11 and 12 at MacKillop Catholic College, the number of subjects offered in Year 11 and 12 grew. 2025 saw growth in our connection with UTAS through the introduction of the University Connections Program (UCP) subjects, including Sport and Recreation Management, and Object Design, and students studying through the University High Achiever Program. In addition to new TASC courses, such as Australia in Asia and the Pacific, Ancient History, and Project Implementation; and new VET courses with Certificate II in Tourism and Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies.

Our Year 7-10 curriculum continues to ensure our students establish the foundations for academic success into the future. Year 10 has a strong focus on preparing our students for Years 11 and 12, with all students participating in work experience and transition weeks, to enable all students to make informed decisions about their pathway for Year 11 and 12. A Study Skill course was introduced into Year 10 to

develop students study skills in preparation for Years 11 and 12.

Senior Secondary Educational Outcomes

Vocational Education: 40% of Year 12 students participated in a VET program. One VET student was awarded an Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education and Training (VET) Award for 2025.

Tasmanian Certificate of Education: 100% of Year 12 students achieved their Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) or TCEA

ATAR: 59% of Year 12 students received an ATAR, an increase from 2024. The College Dux in 2025 achieved a TE Score of 113.6 and an ATAR of 99.1, placing them in the top 100 in Tasmania. 4% students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, 22% students achieved an ATAR of 80 or above and 37% students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above.

Year 12 Student Destinations

Destination	Number of students
University	17
Employment	4
Defence	1
Gap Year	5
Unknown	7
Apprenticeship	5
Tafe	7
Total	46

NAPLAN

The College continues to analyse our NAPLAN results to identify areas of strength and areas the College could potentially focus on. When compared to Tasmanian results our Year 7 students achieved higher percentage than Tasmanian schools in all 5 areas, however they were lower than Australian Results in all 5 areas. When compared to Similar Schools our Year 7 students achieved higher for Numeracy, Reading and Writing, and lower in Spelling and Grammar/Punctuation.

When compared to Tasmanian Results our Year 9 students achieved higher percentage than Tasmanian schools in Numeracy, Writing, Spelling and Grammar/Punctuation, however they were lower in Reading. When compared to Australian Results our Year 9 students achieved higher percentage in Writing, however they were lower in Numeracy, Reaching, Spelling and

Grammar/Punctuation. When compared to Similar Schools our Year 9 students achieved higher in Numeracy, Writing and Grammar/Punctuation, and lower in Reading and Spelling.

Reading comprehension has been identified as a focus area for the College moving forward.

Year 7 Summary 2025 Results

% Strong+	Numeracy	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/Punctuation
MacKillop	68.1	67.4	61.8	65.3	53.7
Tasmania	57.9	60.8	55.2	62.8	52.9
Australia	68.6	69.0	63.8	72.4	62.4
Similar Schools	60.7	63.2	58.3	65.8	56.8

Year 9 Summary 2025 Results

% Strong+	Numeracy	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar/Punctuation
MacKillop	63.5	55.0	62.0	67.5	54.0
Tasmania	56.3	57.9	53.6	62.4	46.9
Australia	65.3	65.1	61.3	71.9	56.4
Similar Schools	61.9	64.0	61.4	68.2	52.7

Professional Learning Community (PLC)

As a learning community MacKillop Catholic College aims to foster learning for everyone, including our teachers. This year several teachers have completed inquiries and the accompanying documentation to progress from provisional to full teacher registration. In Term 3 all teachers participated in Catholic Education Tasmania's System Sprints which all teachers focused on the sequencing of learning.

The College hosted the secondary Insight Professional Learning Workshops for teaching participating in the Instructional Leader Teaching Practice (ILTP) program. 21 MacKillop teachers completed the training, and many others were able to observe the demonstrations of high impact teaching practices based on Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction by hosting these workshops.

Alanna Stretton
 Deputy Principal: Teaching & Learning

MINISTRY, FAITH and MISSION

2025 was another life-giving year in the faith life of MacKillop Catholic College. Before his death, Pope Francis declared this a 'Jubilee Year' and encouraged us to be Pilgrims of Hope as we journeyed together.

St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) was inspired by the saving power of Jesus Christ to live a life of service, putting others before herself at every turn and crossroad in her life. This work, critical to the Catholic Identity of our community, continued with the support of the following people: our Student Mission Captain, Marli Sowter, for her work in leading our Outreach and Fundraising and Awareness raising efforts; Year 10 student Logan Elliott for his work behind the scenes with our Vinnies and Mission Student Committee. Marli and Logan, you were fantastic young leaders in our College community.

We also thank Year 9 students, Juliet Monks and Madeline Iles, who week after week served their peers by providing the Vinnies Breakfast to students on a Thursday morning. Thank you to Mrs Catherine Sandric and Ms Andrea Witt for their support of the breakfast program in 2025.

Thank you to all student members of the Vinnies and Mission Committee and to all families and students who provided donations to our various appeals throughout the year. In 2025, we supported the work of Caritas Australia, Vinnies, Catholic Mission, and Mary MacKillop Today.

Thank you to Mr Nic Courto and the MacKillop Catholic College Choir for their support of liturgies and Masses. Having live music and singing brings a great energy to our celebrations of faith. Thank you for giving your time to rehearse for these important events.

Thank you to our former Parish Priest Fr Mark Freeman (now Bishop Mark Freeman) and our College Chaplain and Assistant Priest, Fr Kasun Dananjaya for their support throughout the year. Fr Kasun was a welcome, gentle and peaceful presence in our community.

Throughout 2025, the Ministry Team facilitated 17 days of student retreats including two overnight Senior School Retreats. Thank you to all the staff who gave their time to provide this opportunity to our students. Thank you to all our students who participated in these days with great energy and enthusiasm.

Thank you to those students who embarked on the great journey of the Timor Immersion in 2025. Your efforts in preparing for the experience, including all the fundraising were a great credit to you. Thank you to Mr Phil Stanley, Mrs Katie Gardner and Mr Chris Littlejohn for their time and effort in supporting our students to have this life-changing experience.

In 2025, Miss Catherine Sardinha, joined our community as Youth Minister. Miss Sardinha is a kind and generous witness to her faith, and she has made an enormous contribution to the evangelising mission of our College. I thank her for support and dedication in 2025.

Lachlan Marsh
Director of Identity and Ministry

WELLBEING

2025 was a really positive year for our College. What stood out most was the way students embraced opportunities – not just with enthusiasm, but with a genuine willingness to support one another and get involved.

One of the highlights was our first Senior School Ski Trip to New Zealand. For many students, it meant stepping well outside their comfort zone. It was great to personally see them challenge themselves, show resilience, and build strong connections with their peers along the way.

As always, our Timor Immersion Trip was a significant experience. Students approached it with maturity and openness, and it was clear how much they gained from being immersed in a different culture. The way they engaged with the community reflected the values we're trying to foster – empathy, gratitude and a sense of responsibility beyond themselves.

Back at the College, *School of Rock* was a real highlight of the year. The energy around the production was fantastic, and the commitment from students on stage and behind the scenes was outstanding. It was a great example of students backing themselves and working together to produce something they could be proud of.

Across our co-curricular programs, it was pleasing to see strong involvement and commitment. Whether in sport, creative arts, academic competitions or service activities, students represented the College with pride. Several teams progressed through to grand finals this year, with a number achieving premiership success. This was a strong reflection of both their commitment and the support they receive

from the wider College community. Our participation in interschool sport carnivals was another positive. Students approached carnivals with enthusiasm and good spirit, and it was great to see them cheering and supporting each other across events. The SATIS Swimming Carnival was a standout, with some exceptional performances and a number of records broken.

I would also like to acknowledge our Year 12 students – our second graduating group. They set a strong example for younger students, particularly in the way they led with quiet confidence, inclusivity and respect. Their contribution to the culture of the College has been significant.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, students and families. The strong sense of belonging across our College is something we value deeply, and it doesn't happen by chance – it's built through the way people care for and support one another every day. It is this shared commitment that continues to shape who we are as a community.

Andrew Pritchard
Deputy Principal: Wellbeing

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT

2025 was a big year with much to celebrate for the Learning Enhancement Team at MacKillop Catholic College.

We farewelled team member, Alison Stevens, from our team at the end of Term 2. Alison was an important part of our team, where she was instrumental formulating and building our Integrated Program. We welcomed, Danielle Ellis. Danielle joined our team from sunny California, and brought an exciting array of skills and ideas with her.

We have seen the introduction of our Integrated Program (IP), which had been skilfully and carefully developed by Learning Enhancement teachers, Judy Mills, Alison Stevens, and Danielle Ellis. The Integrated Program is an opportunity for particular students to work in a different way. The students in the Integrated Program work with specialist teachers and teacher assistants to meet their individual learning goals. The Integrated Program focuses on developing students' literacy and numeracy skills. The program also provides scope for us to work more closely with allied health professionals and therapy teams in a holistic manner to ensure we are meeting students at their level.

As we continue to grow in the senior learning areas, MacKillop has developed strong partnerships with a range of NDIS providers working to support students transitioning out of high school. These partnerships have seen a number of students gain work skills, such as researching prospective employers, interviewing, and resume writing, as well as experiences through employers such as Bunnings and McDonalds. Special thanks must go to Sarah Gurney, our Career and Pathway Planning Adviser, who was a key facilitator in this process.

Learning Enhancement is also fortunate to work in supporting our English Additional Language students, and we thank Tricia Munro for her exemplary work in this field, as well as in supporting students with learning plans. Furthermore, we have been lucky enough to have Cameron Quinn and Lily Bellgrove work with our learning extension students. I thank them for their exceptional support in facilitating opportunities for the students of MacKillop.

2025 saw the departure of mainstays of the Learning Enhancement student cohort in Daniel Eaton and Thomas Gunson. Both students are highly valued members of our community, and it is with great anticipation that we watch to see their growth beyond MacKillop.

The Learning Enhancement Team, as always, are indebted to our Teacher Aides and support staff, for their tireless efforts and exceptional support to all of our students.

Izaac Feery
Director of Learning Enhancement

CAREERS and PATHWAYS

As always, we kicked off the year with our Creating Futures Program which saw the Year 10s go out on work experience and complete their transition weeks. We had an even more exciting range of places students were placed at, from CSIRO to Helicopter Resources, MONA and more, it was a packed two weeks for these students.

Our transition weeks were filled with presentations, quizzes, activities and more, all to prepare our Year 10s as they move into Year 11/12 and beyond. Some highlights from these weeks included the presentation and activities from the Dress for Success team and our visit to the University of Tasmania and TasTAFE campuses.

The information and advice students were given during these weeks helped them make their subjects choices for Year 11 in late Term 2. It is great to see our senior classes getting bigger and bigger, and even adding new courses of interest like VET Allied Health and Housing and Design 3.

Our relationship with the University of Tasmania and TasTAFE continued to grow stronger during the year with several excursions to their different sites and guest speakers presenting to students. Our lunchtime visits from the UTAS team continued to be popular with our Year 10, 11 and 12 students, focusing on entry to university, scholarships and the Schools Recommendation Program. We also extended our visits to the local TasTAFE campuses, visiting the Clarence Campus on numerous occasions as well as a special trip to the Bender Drive Campus to see the welding, CAD, fitting and marine technology spaces.

Our Year 11 and 12 students continued to add to the diverse list of career and pathway choices with many of our school leavers setting off to begin exciting careers in areas like Prosthetics, Medicine, Teaching, Construction, Policing and more. Several of our Year 12s received early offers to UTAS through the SRP Program while some students applied to mainland universities and received early offers. While it was sad to see these students go, I am looking forward to seeing where life takes them.

As always, we had a number of interesting, engaging and fun excursions and incursions for Careers in 2025, namely the Unserious Careers Presentation, radio interviews, the Bunnings DIY Teen Trade Program and more. It was great being able to get out of the classroom and have a firsthand look at some of the exciting careers around us. Students were able to do this through experiences like using the TasTAFE welding simulation machines, travelling by boat to see the Tassal salmon leases as part of the Working on Water Program, curling each other's hair using the latest hair technology as part of the Hair and Beauty course, and more!

With even more Year 11 and 12 students enrolled at MacKillop for 2026, there are a number of pathways we will help to plan and prepare students for. We look forward to working with all our students on their pathway dreams.

Sarah Gurney
Careers and Pathways Planning Advisor

LEARNING EXTENSION

In 2025 we continued our approach of identifying high academic ability at MacKillop Catholic College, using multiple tools and avenues to identify high ability in a range of areas. A diversified approach to identification allows us to identify students with high ability in particular areas, as well as those with high ability in multiple areas. One of our major focusses in 2025 was to utilise teacher nomination as an identification tool as teachers see ability and potential in a way that formal testing may not capture.

A priority for 2025 was to enrich and diversify the extracurricular offerings available to further extend student learning. Through liaising with Learning Leaders and passionate staff members, many opportunities were provided for high ability students to shine in subject specific area competitions. These included ACER, ICAS, Australian Mathematics Competition, History and Geography competitions, and BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge. Other academic extracurricular programs offered in 2025 included Chess, Da-Vinci Decathlon, Debating, Ethics Olympiad, Philosothon, and Rostrum. Year 7 students were heavily involved in these competitions, with the aim of creating further engagement with academic extracurricular opportunities throughout their time at the College. Participants in these competitions achieved a high level of success, with students earning several ICAS medals, and a berth into the International Ethics Olympiad Middle School Finals.

The Learning Extension Team looks forward to supporting MacKillop Catholic College students to develop their diverse skills and continue to explore areas of interest into 2026 and beyond.

Cameron Quinn
Learning Extension Co-ordinator

