



*Est. 1874*

**TOORAK COLLEGE**  
Mount Eliza

# TOORAK History



**1874**

Toorak College was established in the suburb of Toorak as a boys school.

**1897**

The first female Principal, Miss Margaret Tripp, converted Toorak College into a girls' school.

**1898**

Miss Ellen Pye became Principal with only 18 girls enrolled. Miss Pye chose the Toorak College Crest with three daisies looking toward the sun to symbolise 'purity and modesty with their faces ever looking heavenward' and introduced the School motto, 'in labore quies' which means 'in work is the true rest of life'.

**1928**

Under the leadership of co-Principals Misses Isabel and Robina Hamilton, Toorak College officially opened its doors on the new land of Mount Eliza. The first assembly was held at the newly-built school on Old Mornington Road, Mount Eliza.

**1957**

Principal Miss Dorothy Wardle's ambition to establish a junior school was fulfilled and the School's evolution as both a day school and boarding school began as the population of the Mornington Peninsula increased. Wardle House, our Junior School, is named in her honour.

**1972**

We welcomed our beautiful Chapel and the new Boarding House, named Joan Ansett Hall after Lady Ansett, who dedicated more than 40 years to Toorak College.

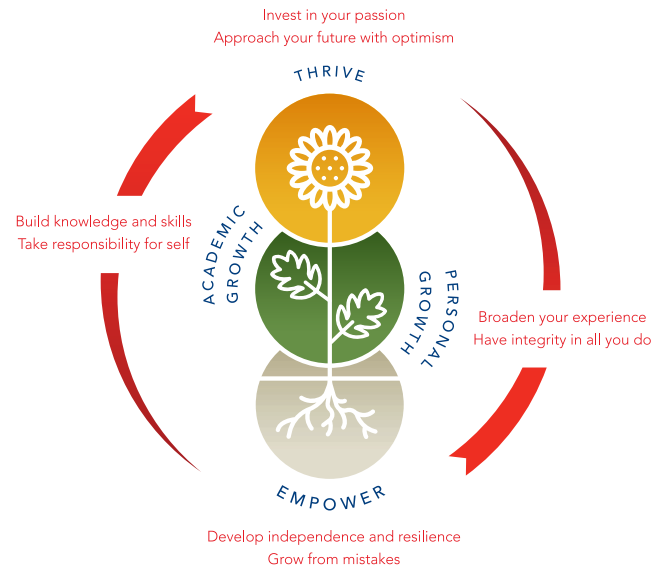
**1994**

Our Early Learning Centre was established, boasting interactive indoor and outdoor learning spaces for our youngest learners.

**Toorak today**

Toorak College offers a world class education with state-of-the-art facilities including the Jean Robinson Oval athletics track and the Swift Science & Technology Centre, established to promote career opportunities in STEM.

# Vision, Mission and Values



*The ethos of our mission is represented by our school emblem, the daisy, which reminds our students to hold their head to the sun and be proud and confident of the person they are becoming.*

## OUR VISION

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To develop aspiring young people with confidence and character.

## OUR MISSION

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To empower our students through academic and personal growth so they thrive in their future.

## PRIORITIES

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- Emphasis on the Individual
- Curriculum Expertise and Innovation
- Culture of Connectedness
- Opportunities for Now and Beyond
- Responsible and Sustainable Governance.

# Principal's MESSAGE

Toorak College is in an exciting chapter of its journey as it nears 150 years of enriching students' lives through education. We are proud of how our School has blossomed over time, and like the daisies on our emblem, we will continue to hold our heads to the sun and grow with lifelong learning.

We place our students at the forefront of our decision making to ensure that we are attuned to their academic and personal needs. Our commitment to the students' learning endeavours and co-curricular achievements is unwavering as we prepare them for their future.

As the top performing school on the Mornington Peninsula, it is with great pleasure that we share our current Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. Our vision, mission and values have been created to grow our students both academically and personally so they can thrive in the future that awaits them. Our plan focuses strongly on strengthening our academic programs, creating career pathways and seamless transitions, building state-of-the-art facilities and delivering a progressive educational experience for our future leaders.

Dedicated to the development of each individual, we place importance on understanding our students as people and as learners. Through individualised academic plans and a broad range of non-academic programs, we ensure that our students develop the passions, skills and knowledge, which will allow them to thrive in their future.

Over the next five years, Toorak College will continue to improve tracking and reporting processes, prepare students for successful transitions, promote the health and wellbeing of our students and develop partnership with industry beyond school. To achieve these priorities, we will continue to focus on the individual pursuit, inspiring our students to be confident and self-reflective while encouraging them to champion each others' successes.

This is the place to dream big, take risks and discover passions. We encourage our students to make mistakes and learn from them to develop life skills of grit and resilience. Toorak College students are empowered to brave the world with the courage to change it.



**Mrs Kristy Kendall**  
**Principal**





# Toorak AT A GLANCE

Toorak College is an independent school from Early Learning to Year 12, promoting the all-girl advantage from Year 5. Our dynamic educational model from Early Learning to Year 12, *Project Shine*, is inspired by explicit teaching of core skills and an inquiry foundation of self-discovery, igniting a passion for lifelong learning.

## Early Learning

At Toorak College, we understand that children are inquisitive and curious in nature; constantly seeking ways to make meaning of their world. We appreciate that the early years of schooling are the foundations on which children develop habits, participate without reservation and prosper in a breadth of experiences that serve them well for the rest of their lives. It is a unique stage where young minds learn and see things for the first time. The learning journey for many of our families begins in the early years. Toorak College's Early Learning Centre fosters an individualised learning experience tailored to each child's cognitive, emotional and social development.

## Junior School

Our Junior School is a nurturing and safe environment where each student is encouraged to excel through structured, student-centred programs that encourage each student to be the best they can be. We strongly believe that our ultimate advantage is the individual care and attention we give our students. Small classes that maximise each student's intellectual, emotional and social development in a supportive, enriching environment is what sets us apart. Students engage in experiences where they are encouraged to be curious and ask questions as well as explore and interact with their environment physically and intellectually.

## Senior School

Our Senior School specialises in girls' education. The beginning of our Senior School journey is about shining the light on real-world applications of learning through integrating students' knowledge of different areas together and designing solutions to challenges. This illuminates their understanding of the impact they will have on the world around them. We believe that a holistic approach to education is the best preparation for later life, giving our girls the skills of independence to manage their lives and studies at university, the communication tools necessary to play an active role in society and the resilience to make their way in our increasingly competitive world.

## Boarding

The boarding program at Toorak College has flourished since it began in 1928. Our boarding students reside on our campus either full time, weekly, or for a short stay in the care of our dedicated staff. Our boarding program focuses strongly on the wellbeing of the individual, where students can enjoy the wonders of the Mornington Peninsula and develop lifelong friendships.

## Life Beyond Toorak

Our students graduate ready for the world beyond school with confidence, diverse skills and a head start. Alongside a VCE offering that has an impressive global reputation due to its rigour, breadth and focus on thinking skills, our students can benefit from an understanding and focus on career and industry skills and competencies. Our students graduate not just with proficiency in their chosen subjects, but with a broader and meaningful understanding of the careers and opportunities that await them.

*Join us as we empower our students to continually grow and thrive.*



# PROJECT Shine



“What you want to inspire in others must first shine inside yourself.”

At Toorak College, our mission is to empower our students through academic and personal growth so they can thrive in their future. To do this we must have exceptional personal connections within our community. We start each day with a tutorial where the emphasis is on wellbeing and truly seeing every student in the school, connecting with them and setting them up for the day ahead. Each student's day is unique and we value that. All co-curricular pursuits are integrated within our whole school program. Our offerings in Sport, Creative and Performing Arts, Camps and Experiences are focused on two key principles; opportunity for participation through to elite pathways and a broad range of opportunities for all individuals where choice increases with age.

As a school our expertise lies in our approach and understanding of learning, our development of curriculum and our creation of opportunity. *Project Shine* is designed to take our students on a journey that allows them to truly capitalise on their potential, expand their world view and find their place within it.

*Project Shine* is targeted and sculptured around three priorities:

- Social, moral, emotional and cognitive development of young people
- The development of thinking, learning habits and strategies over time
- Necessary future skills and opportunities.

It is comprised of four distinct approaches, each building on the previous;

- *Project Enlighten* (Kindergarten-Pre-Prep),
- *Project Ignite* (Prep-Year 6),
- *Project Illuminate* (Year 7-Year 9) and
- *Project Radiate* (Year 10-Year 12).

Students gain courage, skill and determination throughout their years at Toorak College, which prepares them to shine.





A parent is a child's first teacher. Yet, when it comes to formalised education, the school and teacher become critical in nurturing a child's curiosity, creativity, confidence and communication skills. *Project Enlighten* focuses on this significant period of growth for a young learner by expanding their experiences through a breadth of learning opportunities that will form the foundation of understanding. Centred around play-based learning, our early learning experiences enable our students to thrive through their interactions with the world around them. The curriculum is directed by the student's discoveries and questions and is the beginning of their unique journey.



Our Junior School involves exposure to many different curriculum areas and offerings, ensuring that a passion ignites in every one of our unique students and stays alight. Building on the foundations of *Project Enlighten*, *Project Ignite* is an inquiry-based learning program that is centred around key concepts and questions for discovery. *Project Ignite* is based on the belief that all children are unique and shine in varying areas at school and that being exposed to diverse learning experiences from a young age helps to assist in finding their interests and passions. This approach ensures that students learn to build confidence in themselves and the mastery they are developing.



In Year 7-9, our Senior students begin *Project Illuminate*. After exposure to a broad offering of subjects and opportunities through *Project Ignite*, our students now start to bring together their learnings in diverse areas to experience authentic real-world learning. They are taught design thinking, technological skill development and critical analysis skills to design the solutions to real world problems. Through this exposure they begin to drive their ambitions towards something that is meaningful to them, searching for those things that truly light them up. This is achieved through Growth Mentoring, Agile Learning and mapping skill development.



Our Senior Years program revolves around students' interests and passions and provides opportunities for students to experience life beyond School. Our Senior Years program, *Project Radiate*, is designed to allow our students to do just that, let their light be seen and project them into the future that awaits them. Our students graduate ready for the world beyond School with confidence, diverse skills and a head start. Alongside a VCE offering that has an impressive global reputation due to its rigour, breadth and focus on thinking skills, our students benefit from an understanding and focus on career and industry skills and competencies. This is achieved by students accessing the Morrisby Report, LinkedIn Learning and our Student Futures program.





# Empower

## Academic Growth

## Personal Growth

## Thrive

Toorak College provides an outstanding educational program based on contemporary curriculum, academic rigour and quality teaching. Our education staff guide, challenge and empower our students to achieve their personal and academic best at any age.

At Toorak College, we take pride in empowering our students to dream big and discover their passions. A Toorak student can learn without limitations, be encouraged to stumble, risk mistakes and feel supported knowing that our staff are encouraging them every step of their journey as they learn to be brave in all of their decision making. A Toorak student will take risks and step outside of their comfort zone to give new opportunities a try, aware of the world of possibilities that await. In alignment with our vision, we desire our students to be their authentic self and be proud of who they are and will become.

As part of our mission to empower our students, our state-of-the-art facilities enable us to provide an exceptional educational experience. Toorak College's heritage is contrasted with facilities that are designed around best practice in education today. We are proud to unveil The Swift Science & Technology Centre, offering complete flexibility for students to work individually, in small groups, class groups and beyond. World class technology is fitted throughout the building, allowing for learning across all ages to be captured, recorded and broadcast so that students can engage in STEM anywhere and anytime.

In addition to our academic learning facilities, we also provide exceptional facilities and guiding support in Music, Dance, Sport and more, so our students feel inspired and nurtured to truly thrive in their future.





# Empower

# Academic Growth

# Personal Growth

# Thrive

At Toorak College, we recognise that a dynamic and engaging teaching approach sits at the heart of opportunity and success in every student's learning journey. We strive to challenge and nurture every individual, developing independence, curiosity and self-belief.

With small class sizes to facilitate academic growth and exceptional results, the majority of our students leave Toorak to go on to pursue their top preferences at university, primarily in Australia but also internationally, and they take with them a passion for lifelong learning.

When a student joins Toorak, we encourage them to develop originality and creativity in their thinking. We recognise that every child is different and every year presents new challenges and learning opportunities. It is a journey that will continue throughout their life.

We strive to develop happy, self-confident and resilient young people who belong to a school environment that is warm, nurturing and dedicated to developing people as individuals and fostering their passions.

In addition, it is our privilege to encourage and instill a strong sense of academic enthusiasm whereby students have a thirst for knowledge and always seek more experience and opportunity throughout their learning journey. At Toorak, we expect every student to engage with the learning process itself and to think deeply, critically and spontaneously about what they are doing.

We believe that education that is developmental in nature is the best preparation for later life and we want every student to move on to the next stage of their development with a well-rounded view of life, equipped with the knowledge, skills and experience to be able to play an active role in the world.

Our graduates are aspirational and empowering to others around them, radiating qualities of confidence and skill. With our encouragement and confidence in their abilities, our students will leave the School knowing that they can achieve anything.





# Empower Academic Growth Personal Growth Thrive

Personal growth is a value that is critical for the emotional, mental and social development of our students. We understand and appreciate the importance of a balanced learning experience that interweaves passions, personal endeavours, co-curricular activities and leadership opportunities.

Working collaboratively helps to foster strong friendships, enhance social awareness and develop resilience. A leadership role at Toorak is taken with spirit and tenacity, demonstrating exceptional confidence and decision making skills. Leadership is not an innate quality; it is one that is learned and developed with experience. With opportunities in public speaking, team management and engaging with the local community, a leadership opportunity at Toorak will lay the foundations for a strong and thriving future.

Caring for the physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing of our students is paramount. We equip students with practical strategies and skills to maintain positive mental and physical health and provide an inclusive environment for every student. Our curriculum offers students a deep understanding of themes surrounding health and wellbeing, ensuring our students are equipped with a range of strategies which are taught by qualified teachers in this specialised subject area. Students are paired with buddies and act as mentors to one another, helping to ease transitions and to enable friendships to flourish across different year levels.

A particular favourite among students, School House events contribute to an increased feeling of identity and belonging and provide an abundance of activity, participation and leadership opportunities. House events are a revered part of school life and provide lasting memories for students long after their time at Toorak. The 'spirit' of Toorak shines through, as students show their loyalty to their House by dressing up in a range of costumes and competing. The friendships made on these days strengthen the bonds between students of all year levels and these connections remain long after graduation.

Toorak students are encouraged to embrace all activities as an opportunity to expand their experiences, further develop existing skills and find new passions. Involvement in all aspects of school life increases each student's sense of belonging, expands friendship groups, provides opportunities for leadership and leads to higher levels of motivation and engagement. Our co-curricular programs offer exceptional opportunities for both beginner and elite levels in sport, music, dance, drama, art, public speaking and more.

Through these experiences, our students are able to learn about making a difference and what can be achieved through hard work and determination.





# Empower Academic Growth Personal Growth

## Thrive

From the early years to their final year, we encourage our students to take every opportunity and set themselves challenges. Vital life skills of resilience and self-confidence are developed through academic, co-curricular and leadership endeavours, all of which our students are actively involved in across the School. We believe if our students invest in their passion with hard work and commitment, and approach their future with optimism, they will thrive.

Toorak College delivers a world-class and rigorous learning experience for our students in both academic and co-curricular programs. Our teachers are passionate about developing within our students a diverse range of skills and knowledge to prepare them for the future. They continuously strive for improvement to their educational practice and content knowledge with the aim to inspire curiosity, critical thinking and creativity; essential skills for our future.

Throughout the senior academic program, we teach our students vital life skills, incorporating agile learning and skill development, all of which are tracked by growth mentoring. As they progress to their final year, the focus is on future-proofing our students by equipping them with the confidence and character to thrive in a world that is ever-changing. We are proud to have a Student Futures program and The Empower Network that enable our students to gain professional networking experience both online and face-to-face with our Collegians and have regular consultations with our Student Futures Specialist.

Students are encouraged to self-reflect, research and critically analyse the landscapes of industries that they are passionate about in order to make effective career decisions. Student Futures planning at Toorak College is a highly personalised process; each student presents a different and individual journey. Our Student Futures Specialist engages in private consultations for students to ensure they feel completely supported to develop their unique future plan, guided by individual talents and passions.

We regularly invite our Collegians back to the School to be the inspiration for our current students. With many of our Collegians working in their dream careers, it brings us joy to see them share their lifelong journey of learning.







NEXT STEPS

# Request a Student Experience brochure


If our School sounds like the perfect fit for your child, we encourage you to read through our Student Experience brochures in Early Learning, Junior and Senior Schools to further explore our School.





## Visit Us

To find out more about joining Toorak College, contact our Enrolments Team to arrange a tour or join us for one of our Discover Toorak events or our Try Us For a Day program.

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*Est. 1874*

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