



• **OVERSEAS**
• **STUDENTS**
• **HER SYDNEY STORY STARTS HERE.**



Acknowledgement
of Country

HAND SANITISER

WELCOME

- St Catherine's School acknowledges
- the Gadigal and Bidjigal people, the
- traditional owners of the lands on
- which the school sits, and pay our
- respects to Elders past and present.
- We extend this respect to the
- continuation of the cultural, spiritual
- and educational practices of Aboriginal
- and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

St Catherine's School Sydney is Australia's oldest Anglican school for girls, founded in 1856. We are a high-achieving day and boarding school catering to students from Kindergarten to Year 12. We have been educating young women for over 167 years – developing character and challenging intellect.

At St Catherine's, we welcome girls of all backgrounds and respect the different strengths of each, acknowledging that diversity enriches our community. We cater for students from Kindergarten to Year 12 with boarding students entering from Year 7.

St Catherine's School is located in the exclusive eastern suburbs of Sydney. Waverley is a safe residential area – a short distance from the famous Bondi Beach and Bondi Junction shopping centre. Our students are encouraged to experience everything Sydney has to offer, which includes an outdoor lifestyle.

Close by are the beautiful Queens Park and Centennial Parks, where boarders love to walk and exercise. The CBD and Sydney domestic and international airports are all a short 20-minute drive away.

Today's young women are being educated for a world where global perspective and technological competence will be expected, and where success depends on creativity, confidence, discipline and networking.

We want our girls to have a first-rate education, so we offer a broad, challenging, and academically rigorous curriculum. But we also want them to be women of character and discipline with the moral and emotional strength to deal with life's challenges. This is what we can offer your daughter.

We look forward to welcoming you to our St Cath's community.



MRS JUDITH POOLE
HEADMISTRESS OF
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

Mrs Judith Poole is the 13th headmistress of St Catherine's. She joined the school in 2023 to act as Interim Head for two years.

Mrs Poole has a distinguished career with over 35 years of educational experience on three continents. Her specialty area is girls' education and she aims to promote rich educational experiences that empower young women to develop their passions.

She is committed to embracing diversity and building a community where members flourish as they grow in character. Mrs Poole emphasises the importance of servant leadership to build strong relationships.



MRS KAREN MERRICK
DEPUTY HEADMISTRESS
HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Mrs Karen Merrick is a dedicated educator with over 30 years of experience in education.

At St Catherine's, she plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic and administrative landscape of the St Catherine's community. With a passion for student success and holistic development, Karen actively fosters a positive learning environment where students feel empowered to find their own greatness.

Karen collaborates closely with teachers, staff, students and parents to implement innovative educational strategies to cater to diverse learning needs. She is committed to upholding high academic standards.



MS REBECCA HERBERT
DIRECTOR OF
SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

Ms Rebecca Herbert has always demonstrated a passion for the development of the whole person in a school setting. Rebecca has been at the school for 18 years and loves the diversity each day brings. She relishes being able to spend time with both day girls and boarding students and enjoys working collaboratively with others to ensure that students find a place to belong in order to thrive.

Rebecca has always had a passion for schools. Rebecca is respected for her down-to-earth, practical, flexible, compassionate, approachable and warm personality by both day and boarding students.



**MS CHELSEA SLADE
DIRECTOR OF BOARDING
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS
COORDINATOR**

Ms Chelsea Slade oversees the boarding house and is responsible for all boarders, their welfare and development. She is also our Indigenous Student Coordinator and serves to provide support to our Indigenous students during their time at St Catherine's.

Chelsea sees communication as the key to education. She strives to develop our boarding and Indigenous student communities so that these girls leave St Catherine's as confident and optimistic young adults with character and grit. She firmly believes that relationships, trust and belonging are essential for students to enjoy academic and personal success.



**MS KATE COOPER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF BOARDING**

Ms Kate Cooper assists Chelsea in the day-to-day running of the boarding house. She is a qualified primary school teacher and has been working in boarding schools for five years. Kate has been part of the St Catherine's boarding team since 2019.

She is passionate and loves the diversity of daily life in the boarding house. She lives on-site in the boarding house and is the person the boarders tend to rely on when they need something overnight.

Kate grew up in Mudgee and boarded from Year 9. This is where her passion for all things boarding started.

OUR ACADEMIC FOCUS

St Catherine's School is proud to offer one of the broadest curriculum choices of all Sydney girls' schools. We believe offering a broad curriculum allows our students to challenge themselves.



St Catherine's teaching is intentionally tailored to girls – this environment encourages and stimulates thought-provoking discussions. Research has proven that girls in single sex schools achieve higher academic outcomes, and have higher self-belief, self-esteem and confidence.

St Catherine's offers a comprehensive range of subjects from Years 7–10. From Year 8, your daughter will choose two electives and will continue with these in Year 9. From Year 10 your daughter will add one more elective. St Catherine's offers the Higher School Certificate (HSC), with up to 40 courses on offer in Years 11-12. St Catherine's is an academically non-selective school, and given this, our students' results are consistently outstanding.

Our students are supported in their academic journey by our Heads of Year. The Heads of Year are responsible for the holistic development of each girl. They know all students, their strengths and areas for development, arranging for additional academic and emotional support if needed. They also work closely with boarding staff to ensure continuity of care for each girl.

All senior school students have access to the research centre (library) from 7.30am until the start of school at 8.20am, and at recess and lunch. Our teacher-run prep centre runs from 3.30pm – 5.30pm and Years 11 and 12 students may remain in the prep centre until 9.00pm. The prep centre is a wonderful resource where teaching staff provide homework support and mentorship.

2024 HSC SUBJECTS

- English Advanced
- English EAL/D
- English Standard
- English Extension 1
- English Extension 2
- Mathematics Advanced
- Mathematics Standard 2
- Mathematics Extension 1
- Mathematics Extension 2
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Science Extension
- Ancient History
- Modern History
- History Extension
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- Legal Studies
- PDHPE
- Drama
- Chinese
- French
- Japanese
- Latin
- Spanish
- Music 1
- Music 2
- Music Extension
- Design and Technology
- Textiles and Design
- Food Technology
- Visual Arts
- Studies of Religion I
- Studies of Religion II

Scan the QR code below to access our complete Years 7 to 12 curriculum:



2023 ACADEMIC RESULTS

The achievements of the Class of 2023 extend far beyond the academic realm, showcasing a profound love for learning and an ability to push boundaries to attain exceptional achievements.



The Class of 2023 also worked together to ensure the collective success of the entire year group. This collaborative effort resulted in a remarkable 91 students out of 114 achieved marks exceeding 90 in at least one subject, with an impressive 49.6% of students securing an ATAR above 90, surpassing the NSW state average of 71.05. These achievements are a testament to the entire cohort's diligence and commitment.

Our nine All Rounders achieved a mark over 90 in at least 10 units of study. Rather than simply playing to their strengths, these students dedicated themselves across a wide range of subjects to achieve extraordinary results. Our nine Top Achievers also deserve congratulations. Achieving recognition as a top student among a statewide cohort of 76,839

individuals is a remarkable accomplishment, and each should take great pride in their success. We must also highlight the 18 students who received state-wide nominations for Drama, Design and Technology and Visual Arts. These nominations demonstrate the extremely high calibre of work produced by our students in their unique major projects. It is wonderful to see everything our girls achieve.

In sports, students from the Class of 2023 excelled in various competitions, including the Henley Royal Regatta, Australian Rowing Championships, NSW All Schools Basketball Tri-Series, NSW CIS Swimming Championships, NSW CIS Golf Championship, Head of the River and Independent Schools Representative AFL.



2023 TOP ATAR

ATAR: 99.9

Isla King



ATAR ABOVE

99.00

7.1% of students



EARLY ENTRY

UNI OFFERS

50% of students



**ATAR OF 90
AND ABOVE**

49.6% of students



**CREATIVE ACCEPTANCES
& NOMINATIONS**

18 students



**STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED
ATAR ABOVE 80**

77% of students



**SMH STATE
RANKING**

21st in New South Wales



PROXIME ACCESSIT AND DUX

ATAR: 99.75

Elenor Craven



ALL ROUNDERS

90+ IN AT LEAST 10 UNITS

9 students



St Catherine's School
Rowing

SPORT AND BTC

Our sport and Beyond the Curriculum (BTC) programs are designed to supplement school studies and foster positive physical and mental wellbeing to offer each girl a well-rounded student experience. We offer premium facilities and professional coaching for all students. Sport at St Catherine's caters to every student's sporting interests and goals, offering countless sports and the opportunity to compete at any level.

While fun is at the forefront of St Catherine's sport, we also provide resources for our students striving for sporting success through our Elite Athlete Program. We have helped many of our students use their school sport experiences as a major pathway towards state, national and international representation. There is a team for everyone at St Cath's.

DRAMA, MUSIC AND DANCE

Performing arts sits at the heart of the St Catherine's School experience, with our creative program providing our students with endless creative avenues to express themselves. St Catherine's is proud to have two designated performing arts buildings, with our 500-seat theatre, rehearsal rooms, practice studios, band room, computer lab, recording studio, fully interactive teaching areas, dance studio and drama theatre all available for our students to use.

We actively encourage our students to dream big and support them in turning their boldest ideas into reality through expert mentoring and access to world-class resources. Many of our students opt to study creative subjects for their Higher School Certificate, achieving remarkable results.

GLOBALLY ENRICHED GIRLS

At St Catherine's, your daughter will have the opportunity to take up immersive language exchanges, service trips and cultural tours. These tours run throughout the year.

Through our global enrichment program, we give students the opportunity to gain an understanding of international issues and to discover diverse cultures. Studying language and culture at school and then boosting this with an exchange or course-specific tour prepares your daughter for a global future.

Scan the QR code to experience our wonderful Senior School programs for yourself.





BOARDING BY THE SEA

The boarding house is your home away from home overlooking the ocean. The newly renovated boarding house has comfortable modern living areas with single rooms with ample desk space, storage, clever shelving and lighting. Each student has privacy for study and rest. Delicious, varied and nutritionally balanced meals are prepared by our chef. Boarders have access to Netflix and Smart TVs, and there is Wi-Fi in all areas of the boarding house.

Boarders can also utilise the school's facilities including the swimming pool, sports centre, music practice rooms and gymnasium. All students, day girls and boarders, can use the library from 7.30am until the start of school at 8.20am, and at recess and lunch. All boarders come to the prep centre after dinner

at 7.00pm, with Years 7–9 staying until 8.30pm and Years 10–12 until 9.00pm. The prep centre is a fantastic resource where the girls have access to teaching staff for after school hours assistance and older current students who can provide support and mentorship.

In the boarding house, close communication between the class teachers and boarding house staff ensures that the girls' study program meets the expectations of the girls, their parents and our teaching staff. We have strong tracking processes in place, and we know when things are going well or if there are areas requiring improvement.

Beyond the classroom, our students are encouraged to experience everything Sydney has to offer, with boarding staff organising weekly activities to explore our magnificent city.

We are just five minutes from the magnificent Bronte Beach and 10 minutes from the world-renowned Bondi Beach. We are also just a two minute walk from the beautiful Queens Park and Centennial Parklands, where boarders have access to exercise facilities. The Sydney CBD and Sydney domestic and international airports are also all just 20 minutes away.

Our local shopping village also provides access to a range of facilities such as chemists, bakeries, cafes, hairdressers, gift shops and a post office. Bondi Junction, a major transport, shopping and entertainment hub is only a 10-minute walk from the school.

WHY BE A BOARDER?

Our boarders build strong, lifelong friendships with both Australian and overseas students.

Your daughter will learn to live away from home and become independent, resourceful, confident and well-educated. We encourage our boarders to completely immerse themselves into life at St Catherine's. Students flourish both socially and emotionally when they engage in the broad cocurricular activities available to them as boarders.

When you join the boarding community, you will do so with mixed emotions. Remember you are not alone, and it is likely that many others are experiencing similar feelings to you. Five permanent boarding staff live on-site to ensure each boarding student is supported and nurtured during her time with us.

Give it time: Moving schools and deciding to become a boarder is a huge change. Try to take one day at a time. Life will start to get easier for you once you get familiar with the daily routines and when you start to form new friendships.

Stay in touch with your old friends: Stay in touch with family and friends and if they are in the vicinity of the boarding house, invite them to visit you in your new surroundings.

Take the initiative:

We encourage our boarders to take initiative and invite a person, or two, from their year group to go with them to explore the local shopping village or enjoy one of our many weekend activities together.

Make your private space special: Bring some of your favourite things from home to decorate your room. Posters, photos, your doona, ornaments and even a bedside rug can make your space feel like your own!

Get involved: The school offers many cocurricular activities such as drama, sport, music, debating and dance. All boarders in Years 7-10 must be involved in at least one cocurricular activity each term. We prefer students to be involved in at least two activities at the school, including one physical activity.

Seek assistance when you need it: There are many staff here to help, both in the boarding house and day school. The best way to get help is to ask.





OUR BOARDERS' ROUTINE

Our boarders thrive on structure, with adequate time given for students to study, rest and play. Although every day at St Cath's is different, this outline gives students an idea of what to expect.



Days

6.45am – 7.45am

Breakfast

Until 8.15am

Students prepare for school, tidy rooms and complete duties

8.15am

Students leave boarding house

8.20am

School starts

8.20am – 10.30am

Lesson 1 and Lesson 2

10.30am – 11am

Recess (morning tea)

11am – 11.20am

Academic Care (3 times per week) or school assembly or chapel

11.20am – 1.30pm

Lesson 3 and Lesson 4

1.30pm – 2.15pm

Lunch

2.15pm – 3.20pm

Lesson 5

3.20pm – 5.30pm

After school classes, sport, cocurriculars.

Boarders return to the boarding house

Evenings

6pm

Dinner

7pm – 8.30pm

Yrs 7–9 prep time

9.15pm

Years 7–9 devices collected for the night

9.45pm

Year 10 devices collected for the night

10.30pm

Year 11 devices collected for the night, students continue studying offline until 11pm

Weekends

9am – 10am

Breakfast

10am – 1pm

Sport, day or weekend leave

1pm

Lunch

1.30pm – 5.30pm

Years 7–9 Sunday activity (each fortnight)

6pm

Dinner

7pm

Quiet time in lieu of prep time





OVERSEAS FAMILIES

LEE YIU (CHRISTINA) YIP **THAI BOARDER** **HSC 2022**

I began my boarding life at St Catherine's in 2020, just as the pandemic started. I spent the next two years unable to see my parents or return home to Hong Kong, feeling extremely lost and uncertain. Fortunately, I had such a supportive family in the boarding house who constantly provided me with comfort. Thanks to the many activities organised by the boarding house, I got to know the other boarders easily and made friends quickly. I also enjoyed daily prep time in the research centre, where I was able to study one-on-one with my teachers.

The boarding house provided a warm-hearted environment where I had the opportunity to grow and learn to be independent. I am extremely grateful to be a part of this huge family.

KEI CI CASEY YU **HONG KONG BOARDER** **HSC 2019**

I began boarding at St Catherine's in Year 8, in 2015. As an only child, it was great to live and make friends with 65 other students from different cultural backgrounds. I was really homesick when I first came to boarding, but I was able to adapt to the community very quickly with the help of the staff and the students. I cherish the memories I have of spending time laughing and playing with the other boarders.

The boarding house was my second home for five years and I really miss spending time with my friends there, Boarding was like a long-time camp for me which was an unforgettable experience. It provided me with the opportunity to grow up and learn how to be independent.

LIM SONG AND SOYOUNG LIM **VIETNAM** **PARENTS**

Sending two daughters to Australia from Vietnam was an anxiety-filled experience for all of us as a family. St Catherine's provided the safest environment for Leena and Juna to fully experience cultural diversity and understand what it means to be responsible members of the community. Now they are proud to call themselves St Catherine's girls!

Thank you so much for keeping an eye on them!



ENROLLING AT ST CATH'S

To enrol at St Catherine's from overseas, we recommend you appoint an education agent. Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, and may require further prerequisites.



In order to gain entry to St Catherine's School all overseas students are required to sit an English, Mathematics and General Ability test provided by the Australian Education Assessment Services (AEAS). St Catherine's does not accept IELTS.

The AEAS test will determine if an English Language Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) is required. ELICOS courses are studied in Sydney. St Catherine's has no affiliation with International House (IH Sydney), Mega Education, Times Academy or Pathways Armidale but accepts the integrity of the ELICOS programs they offer. If ELICOS is required, your daughter's commencement at St Catherine's will be subject to successful completion of ELICOS.

The minimum entry level for students in

Years 5-6 is a score level of 51+ and an intermediate proficiency level. Students in Years 7-9 must have a minimum score level of 61+ and an upper intermediate proficiency level. Students in Year 10 must have a minimum score level of 71+ and a pre-advanced proficiency.

It is important to note that meeting the minimum testing requirements does not guarantee admission to the school. We aim to ensure that St Catherine's is the best place for your daughter to succeed.

Please see the following page for a complete outline of our enrolment process, including our interviews, fees and required documentation.

OUR ENROLMENT PROCESS

Step 1: Submit an online enrolment application and pay the non-refundable application fee (A\$500) and upload a copy of your daughter's birth certificate, passport, AEAD test result and two most recent school reports (translated and validated by the school or education agent).

Step 2: Two years before her commencement year, your daughter will have an interview with a member of the senior leadership team (via Zoom or at the school). One parent is also required to attend the interview.

Step 3: If a place is available, a letter of offer will be emailed, with accompanying enrolment documentation. The letter of offer will also indicate the due date of acceptance and

whether it is subject to successful completion of ELICOS.

Step 4: The acceptance of enrolment is required by the due date, with payment of the non-refundable, non-transferable enrolment fee (A\$4,000.00). On receipt of the acceptance and enrolment fee, the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and a Certificate of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) will be issued to support your daughter's student visa application.

Step 5: Prior to your daughter's commencement, the following arrangements are required (additional fees apply):

- Nominate an English-speaking guardian in Sydney (relative, friend or International

Student Alliance (ISA) Student Advocate).

- Provide your daughter's student visa and overseas student health cover (OSHC).
- Liaise with the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) if needed.
- Payment of one term's tuition fee, boarding fee (if applicable) and the refundable holding deposit (A\$10,000.00) are payable 30 days prior to your daughter's commencement.

Step 6 Your daughter will be invited to an orientation day before her commencement with us.



- **Our Story**
- There is so much to the story of St Catherine's School.
- Scan the QR code to read and experience our wonderful School.



St Catherine's School Sydney

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