




PROSPECTUS



Donvale Christian College

See the Donvale difference!



act justly

love kindness and

walk humbly with God

Welcome to Donvale



Donvale Christian College was established by a group of Christians passionate about providing an education where faith permeates every aspect of the philosophy, policy and practice of the school.

Our aim today is to give practical form to the Biblical principle, that parents have the prime responsibility for the education of their children. We support that responsibility by teaching each child, through their primary and secondary years at school, in a way that brings out the best in them.

Even in today's increasingly secular culture Donvale has a bright future, where young women and men are given every opportunity to explore their interests, pursue their passions and develop their talents in a nurturing Christian environment.

We exist so that the young women and men who graduate from Donvale will profess a well-reasoned, mature Christian faith, with a passion to use their God-given abilities to make a difference. They will hold values that reflect a strong sense of their responsibilities. They will be confident and strong to stand against injustice, and take their place as leaders with integrity in any situation.

In other words, they will act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Argall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tim Argall
Executive Principal



Our Mission

We are a Christian School for Christian families and we exist to partner with Christian parents to educate and equip their children for life.

Our Commitment

We provide an accessible, high-quality, Biblically-based education delivered by Christian teachers who role-model our values in a nurturing learning environment where gifts, faith and purpose are cultivated.

Our Motto

'Act justly, love kindness,
walk humbly with God'
Micah 6:8



Our Vision is our Focus

We recognise that every aspect of the school is to come under the Lordship of Christ. Our aim is that this extraordinary, breath-taking truth is woven into everything we do. It is this conviction that defines and guides us.

And so we:

- teach with innovation, rigour, a contemporary approach and in pursuit of excellence
- create an environment where top ATAR results are not the only measure of success
- seek a Christian community characterised by genuine encouragement and love for each other
- believe in the importance of cultivating students' gifts and sense of purpose
- use technology today in a way which responds to the needs of tomorrow
- take seriously our stewardship of relationships, resources and reputation

Whether our students are looking through a telescope or a microscope, whether they study texts or traditions, whether it's geography or geology, they are learning and thinking in Jesus' footsteps.



CHRIST-LIKE

Love Jesus and desire to be like Him
Committed to loving others

INSIGHTFUL

Thinking, reflective responses
Influences attitudes and behaviours
Humility and quiet confidence

RESPECTFUL

Open minded
Respectful of other opinions
Recognises no one has all the answers

RELATIONAL

Friendly and engaging
Adaptive in any group

INNOVATIVE

Adventurous
Contemporary

AUTHENTIC

God honouring
Actions speak louder than words

PERSEVERING

Life-long character and resilience

Community and Character

True to our foundations, Donvale Christian College has remained strongly Christian in its identity: faithful to Scripture and true to the Gospel. Over the years we have grown from a reformed foundation to embrace Christians from diverse theological perspectives who demonstrate genuine unity as they live and learn alongside each other.

Parents, teachers and students in this unique community of believers all work side-by-side in authentic, honest communication to form resilient, character-filled young people of faith who are united in the centrality of Christ and the truth of the scriptures.

Primary Years

From the moment a new student begins their journey from Prep to Year 6, we educate the whole child, developing their social, emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual gifts. It's a dynamic partnership between students, committed Christian staff and trained parent helpers in each classroom.

The journey starts with an extensive orientation program for new Prep families which offers story times, music and movement sessions, and classroom orientation sessions. This forms the springboard for the first years of schooling, which introduce structured learning experiences to build essential skills in literacy and numeracy, while fostering creativity and a sense of wonder.

The focus on literacy and numeracy skills continues throughout, alongside learning through thematic units which explore aspects of God's amazing world. Small group teaching allows us to differentiate the curriculum so that each student is able to grow and learn in their own way.

As students become more aware of their God-given gifts and abilities, they develop skills in independent learning. Subjects such as physical education, music, art, science, and LOTE allow them to explore their own unique interests.

Students learn what it means to care for each other by building positive relationships in the classroom and throughout the whole school. At weekly assemblies we acknowledge achievements both great and small, showcase the many different gifts of our students and share in encouragement from God's Word.









Secondary School

The journey from Year 7 to Year 12 is built around the twin concepts of growing our students as individuals and providing a high quality educational experience, where each year level has its own dedicated space.

The Year 7 building is designed specifically to help students make the transition from primary to secondary. In their first two years of secondary school, students develop the creative learning skills and sense of community which they will need as they progress through the College.

Each class has a core teacher and a staged progression into the curriculum, giving time for orientation, peer mentoring and community building. As digital natives, students engage with their subjects in online learning spaces, guided as they explore the innovative possibilities of modern technology. We work closely with parents to ensure we gain the best educational benefit from the devices we introduce.

The Junior Secondary academic curriculum provides a rich experience of LOTE, artistic rotations, technology, food studies, dance, and multimedia.

Year 9 is such an important part of every student's growth at Donvale that we make it special – see the next page for what happens in the Year 9 Centre!

Senior Secondary brings a change of gear as students begin to engage with our VCE curriculum. We also partner with other organisations to provide access to vocational courses on and off campus. Senior student leaders are entrusted with running assemblies, leading worship, and organising social justice activities.

Woven throughout the journey through secondary is an extensive outdoor education program of camps and activities. There are also several overseas opportunities including Mission Awareness trips to Cambodia and Vanuatu.

Students leave Donvale as lifelong learners, imbued with strong values of compassion, altruism, and action-oriented faith. They embark upon adult life with all the benefits of a first-class education completed at a Christ-centred school.

A Year of Growth

Year 9 is widely recognised as a transitional year, when young people begin to move from an introspective view of the world to an outward community engagement.

Based in our stand-alone Year 9 Centre, students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally. Using a holistic curriculum and a hands-on learning approach, students learn to respond to 'rich questions' that require thoughtful engagement. With the Biblical narrative as a foundation, students explore the marvels of creation, the impact of the fall, God's restorative work and our role in his plans for the future.

This is enhanced through experiences that take the students away from a traditional classroom setting. Whether that is hiking the Bogong High Plains, rock-climbing in the Cathedral Ranges or exploring the city centre, students are learning how to face and overcome a challenge.

And there will be challenges aplenty when they move into the last three years of the journey through College – but now they're equipped to cope.









Creative and Performing Arts

Donvale Christian College is committed to providing opportunities for students to worship God through the creative and performing arts.

Curriculum subjects such as Studio Art, Visual Communication, and Fashion allow a student to explore their creative side within a specific medium, while subjects like Music and Drama focus on the student and their own performance capabilities.

During our annual Creative Arts Week at the end of term two, students celebrate the creative side of life by taking part in a range of artistic disciplines, group challenges, contests, and workshops. Throughout the week, students produce and perform their own self-written plays; directing their own scripts, making costumes, sets, and props, as well as dancing, acting, and performing their own music. Students across all year levels have the unique opportunity to work together and celebrate creativity, community and imagination.

Our annual school productions aim to bring out the very best in the students. Performing in a professional theatre, students participate as actors, singers, dancers, in the orchestra, or in the backstage crew - so there's always somewhere to get involved. The production is a chance to showcase the talents of our students and see them in a whole new light. Whether it's a light-hearted musical comedy or a serious play, the show is a highlight of the school calendar and a favourite with families.

The high quality of our productions has been recognised over several years, receiving multiple awards in the prestigious Youth Lyrebird Awards, including Best Actor and Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Choreography, and Judges Award. Our students are also recipients of multiple Batrouney Awards for Theatrical Excellence.

Instrumental and Vocal Arts

Donvale students have access to a comprehensive instrumental and vocal music program that offers private tuition and an extensive range of ensembles and bands. We encourage all students from a young age to explore multiple instruments, helping them to discover the one that they connect with, and develop their mastery of it through personal tuition and specialised performance groups.

Our students also have the opportunity to perform in a huge variety of festivals, concerts, eisteddfods, and community events. This includes our yearly journey to participate alongside hundreds of other schools in the Generations in Jazz Festival in Mount Gambier, South Australia.

Here students engage with renowned musicians such as James Morrison, Kate Cebrano, Wycliffe Gordon, and Idea of North. The event also plays host to various workshops and concerts and has become a wonderful three-day jam session for several thousand artists at varying stages of their musical journey.

As part of their musical development, we encourage students to view their artistic talents through a biblical lens, teaching them that the ultimate goal of all creativity is not self-acclamation, but to worship God and for the enjoyment of all.

In light of this, students also serve the school community by leading us in musical worship at assemblies, at our Thanksgiving Night, and at any other major event. Not only do students develop musically through these events, the responsibility also builds into each student's spiritual and personal development.









Active through Sport

Sport is an integral part of the curriculum at Donvale Christian College. Many lifelong lessons can be taught through the rigour of physical activity both at a competitive and recreational level. All students from Year 7 to 11 actively participate in the sporting program and Year 12 students are also strongly encouraged to be involved. From the more traditional sports such as football and netball, to newer sports such as ultimate frisbee and touch rugby, students are bound to find an activity to enjoy.

Donvale is a member of the Eastern Independent Schools Melbourne sporting association, which provides a program of weekly sport at all secondary levels. Over the years Donvale has done incredibly well, winning several premierships. Swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals are also a valued feature of the program, with students representing Donvale with honour.

Students learn to participate in sport with humility, respect and integrity. We aim to celebrate the God-given gifts and talents of our students as well as those of our opponents. A positive attitude along with physical competence both go towards demonstrating a strong Christian character on and off the field.

A Unique Experience

Take a walk up the hill behind the Year 9 Centre, a path well-trodden by Donvale students for many years, and you will find yourself among fruit trees, herb gardens, scratching chickens and curious but friendly alpacas and goats. The College farm, a remnant from the days before the school was built, is now a key part of the Biblical education that students experience at Donvale, where they learn about the complexity, beauty and delight of God's creation.

Primary students may grow plants or harvest eggs; older students may get to train an alpaca or accompany them to the Melbourne Show, where prizes have been won. To be in touch with nature brings us back to who we are as humans, made in God's likeness, with responsibilities to each other and to the world around us.

On the one hand the farm supports classroom subjects such as environment and sustainability, and on the other it offers a priceless safety valve when fresh air is needed. Additionally, it has become a place where students may engage in more vocational learning programs.





Your Family's Journey Starts Here...

Thank you for considering Donvale Christian College for your child's education

Places at Donvale are highly sought after, so prospective families are advised to lodge an application for enrolment as early as possible.

Our primary entry points are Prep and Year 7, though we welcome applications at all levels throughout the year.

We also invite you to come and visit the College. Our Open Days and family tours provide a wonderful opportunity to see the school in action and to chat with key staff and students.

The enrolment process:

Step 1> Enquiry

Find out more about Donvale Christian College by visiting our website, attending an Open Day, or contacting our enrolments team.

Step 2> Application

Send Applications to our enrolments team as early as possible. Enrolment Application Forms can be found in the back pocket of this prospectus or on the College website.

As part of your application, you must provide a letter from your church describing your committed participation.

Step 3> Acceptance

Offers of enrolment are made once an interview process has been successfully completed. There may be waiting lists for some levels.

For further information, please contact our enrolments staff at enrolments@donvale.vic.edu.au or on **03 9844 2471**





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