

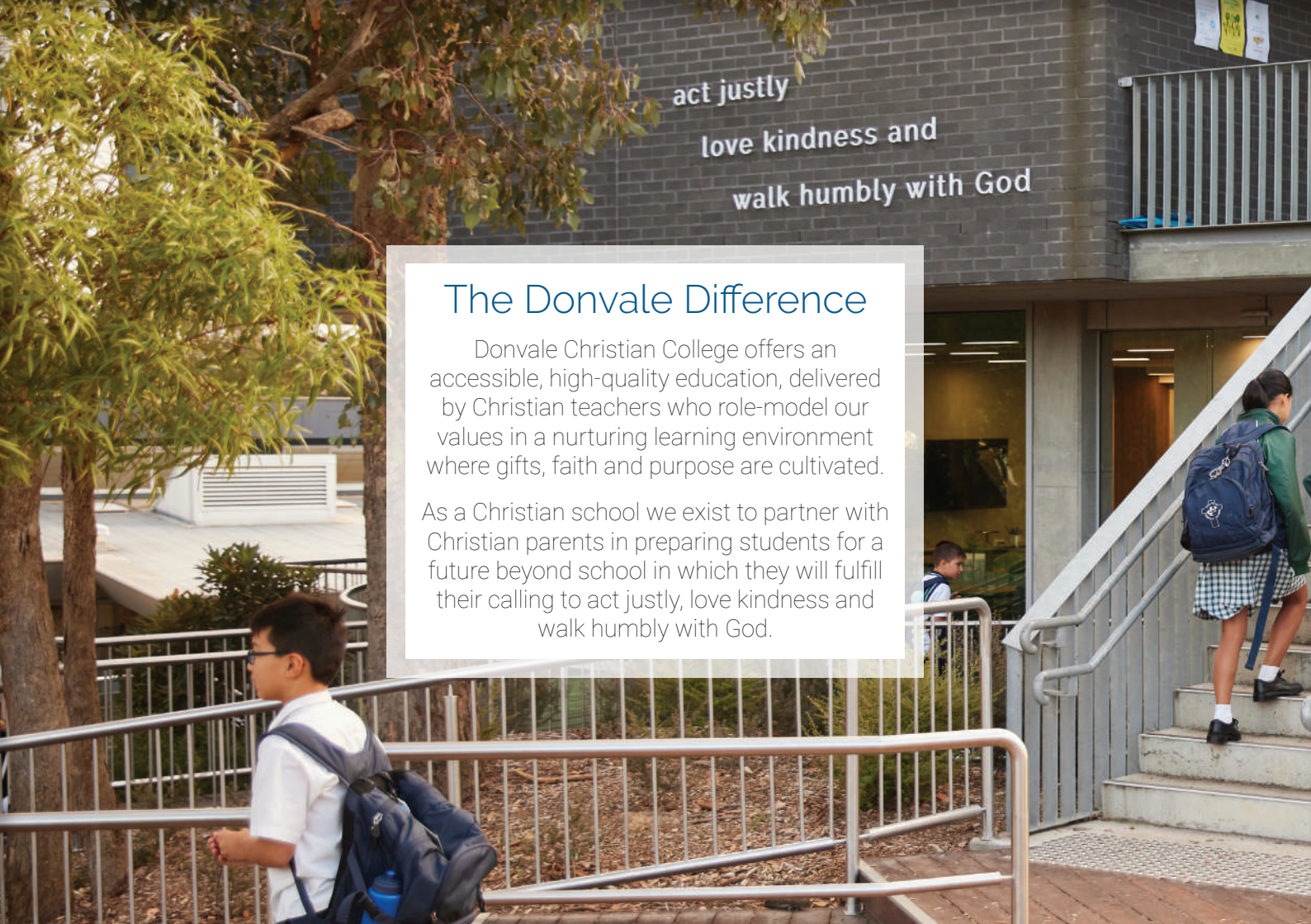


PROSPECTUS



Donvale Christian College

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

The background image shows the exterior of Donvale Christian College. The building is constructed of dark grey bricks. On the upper part of the wall, the school's motto is inscribed in white, lowercase letters: "act justly", "love kindness and", and "walk humbly with God". To the left, a large tree with green and yellowing leaves partially obscures the building. In the foreground, a young boy with glasses and a blue backpack is walking down a set of stairs with a metal railing. To the right, another student is seen from behind, walking up a similar set of stairs. The scene is captured in a warm, golden-hour light.

act justly

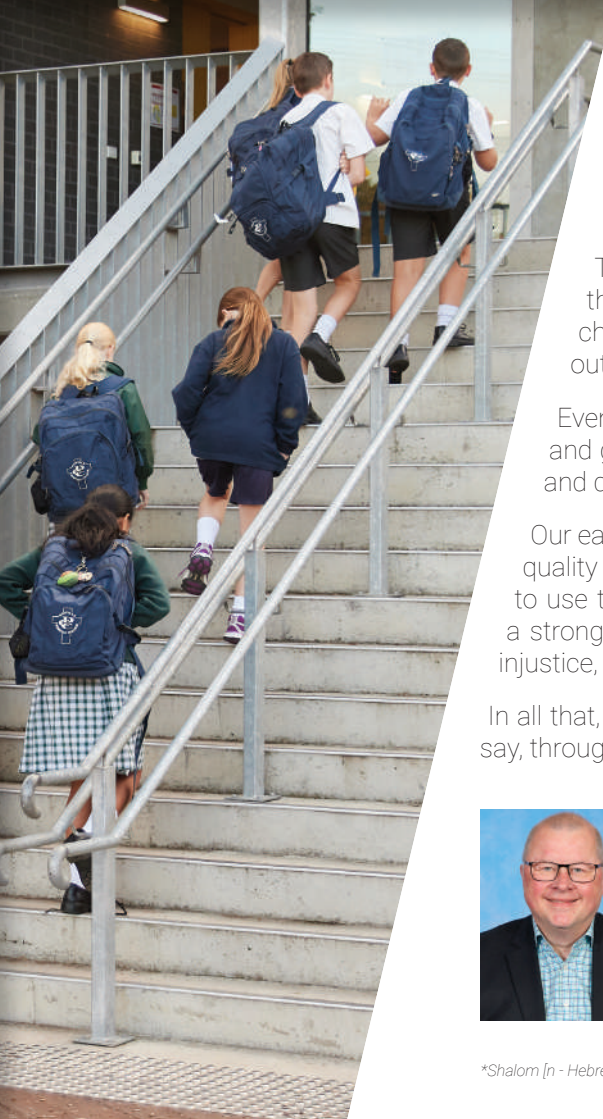
love kindness and

walk humbly with God

The Donvale Difference

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

As a Christian school we exist to partner with Christian parents in preparing students for a future beyond school in which they will fulfill their calling to act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with God.



More Than Just a School

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.

They believed then, as we do today, 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 boys and girls are given every opportunity to explore their interests, pursue their passions and develop their talents in a nurturing Christian environment.

Our earnest desire is for young women and men to graduate from Donvale with a high-quality education, able to profess a well-reasoned, maturing Christian faith, and eager 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, strong to stand against injustice, ready to take their place as leaders with integrity in any situation.

In all that, we'd love to partner with you, seeking *shalom** in everything we think, or do, or say, throughout the school that is Donvale Christian College.



Tim Argall
Executive Principal

*Shalom [n - Hebrew] Peace; order; completeness in mind, body and estate.

Community Values

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!"

(Abraham Kuyper, Dutch Reformed theologian, statesman, journalist and educator)

Forged out of this Reformed foundation, from the very beginning there has been a deep desire for Donvale Christian College to remain faithful to Scripture, true to the Gospel. Since then, the school has grown to embrace Christians from diverse theological perspectives.

We have around 1600 students from over 900 families in our community, who attend churches from 60 different denominations across more than 230 locations. Our staff, who are all active in church, represent a similar diversity of denominations.

In this extraordinary mix, we strive for a Christian community characterised by genuine encouragement and love for each other, taking time to listen and learn from one another, as we prayerfully navigate the complex world in which we live.

And so we:

- teach with innovation, rigour, a contemporary approach and in pursuit of excellence
- do not measure each student's success simply on the basis of their ATAR score
- 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.



The Way We Teach

Students begin each school year at very different stages in their learning and development. Teachers aim to establish where individuals are in their learning, to meet students' differing learning needs and to ensure that each student is appropriately challenged.

Every student is capable of learning if they are supported in an environment where they are motivated and engaged, prepared to make an effort, and provided with well-designed learning opportunities. Thus, every student can expect to make excellent progress in their learning, regardless of their starting point.

Students also learn in different ways and at a different pace from one another, so we seek to incorporate a combination of strategies to help engage and develop every student. These include differentiation and 'in class' enrichment activities along with a range of learning enrichment opportunities outside the classroom.

Whether in class or not, students at every level use technology today in a way which responds to the needs of tomorrow. By no means is technology regarded as a subject to appear only in the timetable – you might indeed find coding or digital design feature there – but rather, the use of technology is an integral part of learning throughout the school, whatever the subject.







The Primary Years

It's all about being in a good environment [...] and it helps when you've got good people around you. (Donvale Year 6 student, 2022)

From the moment a new student begins their journey in the Primary school, we educate the whole child, developing their social, emotional, academic, physical, and spiritual gifts.

Classrooms are abuzz as students engage in both hands-on learning and structured experiences, building solid foundations for future learning. We encourage each child's sense of wonder at new discoveries and foster inquisitive minds, whatever the subject.

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.

Specialist subjects such as Physical Education, Music, Visual Art, Science, and Languages provide 'experts' in the subject to tap into the students' curiosity and wonder of God as they learn in different contexts. Technology is carefully woven into all learning experiences, encouraging innovation and creativity.

Donvale Primary is a community where staff and parents alike share a desire to see students grow in confidence and independence as we prepare them for Secondary school and a lifetime of learning.

With a proactive approach to wellbeing, the students learn what it means to build positive relationships and resilience, whilst developing their gifts and abilities to meaningfully impact the classroom, school and the world around them.

The Secondary Years

"The whole range of programs that Donvale offers, ... gives so many pathways to get to the career choice that you want" (Donvale Year 11 student, 2022)

The journey from Year 7 to Year 12 rests on the twin ideas of growing our students as individuals and the concept that learning is a process of discovery, where each year level has its own dedicated space.

In addition to the core essentials, the academic curriculum provides a rich experience of languages, artistic rotations, technology, food studies, dance, and multimedia.

Building on foundations laid in Primary, students engage with their subjects in online learning spaces, guided as they explore the innovative possibilities of modern technology.

The Year 7 building is designed specifically to help students make the transition from Primary to Secondary, while the Year 8 centre and program further develop a sense of community.

Year 9 students experience a unique program on a separate Year 9 campus.

Year 10 brings a change of gear as students begin to engage with the VCE curriculum. We also partner with other organisations to provide access to vocational courses on and off campus.

Woven through the Secondary years is an extensive outdoor education program, reflecting our belief that learning isn't only developed in the classroom, nor is it confined to purely academic experiences.



A group of students with large blue backpacks are hiking up a grassy hillside. The students are wearing hats and outdoor gear. The hillside is covered in green grass and some rocky patches. The sky is clear and blue.

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.

Just 10 minutes away from Tindals Road, our Year 9 campus in Warrandyte South is a complete facility built around a beautifully renovated original Primary school, in a natural landscape very like the one we enjoy at Tindals Road.

Here students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and emotionally. Using a holistic curriculum and a hands-on learning approach, students learn to respond to problems through thoughtful engagement, whatever the academic subject.

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. This is enhanced through experiences that take the students away from a traditional classroom setting.

Whether that is hiking the Bogong High Plains, spending a week on focused community service activities 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.

Visual and Performing Arts

Donvale Christian College is committed to enabling all students to express their God-given creativity. Curriculum subjects such as Studio Art, Visual Communication, and Fashion allow students to be creative within a specific medium, while subjects like Music and Drama focus on performance capabilities.

Primary students present a full-scale production (think junior versions of *Seussical* or *The Lion King*) every second year and get immersed in a Creative Arts Festival during the alternate year.

Both these much-loved and eagerly anticipated events are like appetisers for the creative opportunities afforded to Secondary students.

During Creative Arts Week, Secondary students across all year levels work together to produce and perform their own self-written plays; direct their own scripts, make costumes, sets and props; write music, dance and sing.

The annual Secondary production – we present a musical or a play in alternate years – aims 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. It's 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, whether for individual performances or for collective achievement in areas such as choreography, lighting or set design.









Music

Music at Donvale Christian College is far more than concerts or special assemblies, let alone a subject studied by an elite few. It's part of the very lifeblood of our community of Christian families.

- Each week around 650 students make music in one form or another – that's 40% of the student population;
- We employ more than 20 specialist music staff who can teach any instrument or voice;
- There are over 25 ensembles, both instrumental and vocal, ranging from beginner to premier advanced.

Young students are encouraged to try many instruments, discover the one that they connect with, and then develop their mastery of it through personal tuition and specialised performance groups.

There's a huge variety of festivals, concerts, eisteddfods, and community events which provide performance opportunities for all these young musicians: Generations in Jazz, Flute Guild, Clarinet and Saxophone Society, Victorian Schools Music Festival, Royal South Street Eisteddfod and Melbourne Youth Music Festival, to name but a few.

Mid-year sees our instrumental ensembles performing Celebration of Sound in a 1000-seat theatre, while Celebration of Song brings together our choirs, vocal ensembles and worship bands in a more intimate setting.

Music is also offered as a curriculum elective to students in Years 8-12, covering skills in performance, aural training, theory, music business, recording, composition and arranging.

In all this rich activity, we encourage students to view their musical gifts through a biblical lens, where the ultimate goal of all creativity is not self-acclamation, but the worship of God and the enrichment of others.

Fit to Learn

Sport is an integral part of the curriculum at Donvale Christian College.

But it's more than that. It's mud-splashed legs and grimacing faces during cross-country competitions; soccer and tennis on grey chilly Melbourne days; sunshine and glistening medals at inter-school athletics competitions; sunscreen and shouted support at the annual House swimming gala; supervised weight-training and spin-room sessions; competitive basketball on one of our three full-size courts, or footy on the oval.

From the youngest students gallantly running for a simple reward on their first junior athletics day, to the Year 12 student kicking a goal to win a trophy, sport features in every Donvale student's life – and for good reason.

Many lifelong lessons are learnt through the rigour of physical activity both at a competitive and recreational level. Donvale Christian College is a member of the Eastern Independent Schools Melbourne sporting association, which provides a program of weekly sport at all Secondary levels; the Primary school is part of the Ringwood North District Association for Primary Interschool Sports.

Over the years the school has done incredibly well, winning numerous premierships; students have also represented many State teams with distinction.

Win or lose, 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.









Animals and Learning

Take a walk up the hill behind the Year 8 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 education that students experience at Donvale, where they learn about the complexity, beauty and delight of God's creation.

It's an invaluable place where stress melts away, the mind clears, and classroom tasks become, after all, just something you do.

Primary students may grow plants or harvest eggs; older students may get to develop their animal husbandry and classification skills, train an alpaca, study their genetics, and successfully show off their abilities at a local agricultural show. It's a moment to shine.

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.

As well as supporting classroom subjects such as environment and sustainability, the farm has become a place where students may engage in programs such as the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Animal Care Course and be prepared with a practical toolkit for university studies.

Next Steps

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

To begin the enrolment journey, visit the Enrolments pages on the College website.

First, spend some time reading our policies and principles documents.

Second, book a personalised tour, during which you will see the school in action, and explore what a Donvale Christian College education might mean for your family.

Third, complete the online application form. As part of your application, you must provide a church reference, written by your pastor, stating that you are a Christian family who regularly attends your church.

Offers of enrolment are made once an interview process has been successfully completed. Please be aware that there are waiting lists for most levels, some quite extensive.

For further information, please contact our enrolments team at enrolments@donvale.vic.edu.au.





Acknowledgement of Country

As a school community, we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as those appointed by God to be the traditional custodians of the land upon which our College now stands.

We pay our respect to Elders, past and present, of the Kulin nation, for the way they have stewarded the Lord's good creation. We extend that respect to all indigenous people past and present, and to future generations – who we pray will continue this task, trusting that our creator will continue reconciling all things to himself in Jesus Christ.



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