



St Catherine's School  
Sydney

# A guide for overseas students

*Your daughter's Sydney story starts here...*

## Contents

From the Headmistress	3
About St Catherine's School Sydney	4
Academic life	5
Academic benefits	6
Academic curriculum	7
Senior school HSC curriculum	8
Planning for the future	9
2020–2021 HSC results	9
The Boarding house	10
Why be a boarder?	11
Our Boarding staff	12
A Boarder's routine	13
Mentor time	14
Sport and cocurricular	15
Music	16
Global enrichment	17
Past student and parent testimonials	18
Entry requirements at St Catherine's School Sydney	19
Enrolment process St Catherine's School Sydney	20





**We are Australia's oldest independent Anglican girls' school, educating women for life. We believe this rich heritage, coupled with our vast boarding and educational offering is key to our success. Boarding at St Catherine's offers students a strong supportive home in a vibrant and diverse environment. Your daughter will learn to live away from home and become independent, resourceful and confident in an exceptional environment.**



Here's to the dancer, the lawyer, the poet,  
The doctor, the dentist, the ones who don't know yet.  
The chemist, the sculptor, the writer, the thinker,  
The engineer who just loves to tinker.  
The teacher, the minister, pilot and diver,  
The one who gives all the passion that drives her.

Here's to the women who write their own fate;  
Here at St Cath's  
find your own great.



St Catherine's School  
Sydney

## From the Headmistress



We are a high-achieving day and boarding school for girls in Sydney. We have been educating young women for over 166 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.

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 meeting you.

**Dr Julie Townsend**  
**Headmistress**



## About St Catherine's School Sydney

St Catherine's was established in 1856 – celebrating 166 years in 2022. St Catherine's is Australia's oldest independent Anglican School for girls.

We are a Kindergarten to Year 12 day and boarding school with 1050 students enrolled.

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 a short 20-minutes drive away.

St Catherine's has strong connections with three prestigious boys' schools; The Scots College, Cranbrook School and Waverley College.

As most of our overseas students become boarders this brochure includes a strong boarding focus.





# Academic life

The school academic year consists of four terms. Mid-year entry will be considered if a vacancy exists.  
Please note: Year 10 is the last entry year group.

Semester One		Semester Two	
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Late January > early April	Late April > late June	Mid July > late September	Mid October > early December
Easter holidays	Winter holidays	Spring holidays	Summer holidays



## Academic benefits

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.

Following your daughter's commencement, the Years 7–12 mentors are the student's and parent's first point of contact at the school. The year mentor is responsible for the holistic development of each girl. They know all students, their strengths and areas for development, well.

Year mentors also work closely with boarding staff to ensure continuity of care for each girl.

All senior school students, day girls and boarders can use the research centre (library) from 7.30am until the start of school at 8.20am, and at recess and lunch. The 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 students have access to teaching staff, who provide homework support and mentorship





## Academic curriculum

St Catherine's offers a comprehensive range of subjects from Years 7–10. From Year 7, students study: English, mathematics, science, history, PDHPE, French or Chinese, Latin, music, technology, visual arts and biblical studies. 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 one of the broadest academic curriculums, with 40 HSC courses offered at the school.

# Senior school HSC curriculum

English	English Advanced
	English EAL/D
	English Standard
	English Extension 1
	English Extension 2
Mathematics	Mathematics Advanced
	Mathematics Standard 2
	Mathematics Extension 1
	Mathematics Extension 2
Science	Biology
	Chemistry
	Physics
	Science Extension
History	Ancient History
	Modern History
	History Extension
Social Sciences	Business Studies
	Economics
	Geography
	Legal Studies
PDHPE (Personal Development, Health and Physical Education)	PDHPE
Drama	Drama
Languages	Chinese
	French
	Japanese
	Latin
	Spanish
Music	Music 1
	Music 2
	Music Extension
Technologies	Design and Technology
	Textiles and Design (from year 11 in 2023 and year 12 in 2024)
	Food Technology
The Arts	Visual Arts
Biblical Studies	Studies of Religion I
	Studies of Religion II

\*Please note course offerings are subject to change.





## Planning for the future

Choosing the right electives and career guidance is crucial when planning the future opportunities available to your daughter. Our tertiary advisor works closely with students to provide advice and support. Alumni speakers and other workplace professionals regularly visit the school and share their experiences and advice. Furthermore, universities conduct open days and online events which the girls are encouraged to attend.



## 2020–2021 HSC results

St Catherine's offers the Higher School Certificate (HSC). HSC examinations are completed in the final year of senior school. The marks determine the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), which enables students to enter a university in Australia or overseas. The HSC/ATAR is recognised internationally. The majority of St Catherine's students study at The University of Sydney, The University of NSW, The University of Technology Sydney or The Australian National University.

St Catherine's is an academically non-selective school, and given this, student's results are consistently outstanding.

St Catherine's	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>SMH Ranking in NSW</b>	28	17	29	23

St Catherine's students who achieved <b>90+</b>	46%	51%	41%	54%
St Catherine's students who achieved <b>80+</b>	74%	80%	72%	79%
St Catherine's <b>Median ATAR</b>	89	90	88.5	90.65

\*The maximum ATAR score is 99.95

\*\*More than 500 schools participate in the HSC in NSW

Of special note, in 2021, St Catherine's students came first in the state in both Advanced and Standard English. Also, St Catherine's students placed third place in Spanish Continuers, third place in Science Extension, fifth place in Science Extension and fifth place in Drama in NSW.



## The Boarding House

The boarding house is your daughter's home away from home.

The boarding house accommodates 67 students from Australia and overseas. Our boarding house has been recently restored and has modern living areas with predominately single rooms, ensuring privacy for study and rest. All girls are encouraged to add a personal touch to their rooms.

Delicious, varied and nutritionally balanced meals are prepared by our chef. Boarders have access to Netflix, Smart TVs, and there is WiFi in all areas of the boarding house. Boarders can utilise the school's facilities including the swimming pool, sports centre, tennis and basketball courts, music practice rooms and gymnasium.

## Academic benefits

The boarding house fosters a culture of hard work, academic rigour and an environment where effort is valued and encouraged. Our boarding students thrive on structure and routine.

Close communication between class teachers and boarding house staff ensure the girls' study program meets the expectations of girls, their parents and teaching staff. We have strong tracking processes in

place and we know when things are going well or if there are areas requiring support and improvement. Boarders attend the prep centre from Monday to Thursday evening.





## 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 students 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.

### GIVE IT TIME

We recognise that moving to a new school in another country is a significant challenge for our overseas students, and we assure the girls that life will get easier once they settle into the daily routines and start to form new friendships.

### 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 (preferably two) cocurricular activities each term, which will support their integration into life at St Catherine's.

### SEEK ASSISTANCE WHEN YOU NEED

Apart from your daughter's year mentor, there are five boarding staff in residence to support her should she need assistance – even if it's just because she is homesick!

## Our Boarding Staff

St Catherine's School has one boarding house, which cares for 67 students from Year 7–12. There is a good mix of girls from Sydney, rural Australia and overseas.

Five permanent boarding staff live on site and are available to assist the girls.

Our boarding team is led by our director of boarding and student engagement Ms Rebecca Herbert and assistant director of boarding Mrs Emily Kazogolo. The team works collaboratively to ensure each boarding student is well supported and nurtured during her time with us.



### MS REBECCA HERBERT

Rebecca oversees the boarding house and is responsible for all boarders, their welfare and development. Rebecca has been at the school for 15 years and is a practicing St Catherine's senior school teacher in addition to her director of boarding role. She loves the diversity each day brings and relishes being able to spend time with both day girls and boarding students.

Rebecca is respected for her down to earth, practical, flexible, compassionate, approachable and warm personality by both day and boarding students.



### MRS EMILY KAZOGOLO

Emily assists Rebecca in the day to day running of the boarding house. She has been at the school for four years and has been in the assistant director of boarding position for two years. Her passion is music, and she trained as a music teacher, before moving into her current role of assistant head of biblical studies and boarding.

She lives on site in the boarding house, and is the person the boarders raise in the middle of the night should they be unwell or need attention.

Emily is jovial, relatable, a joker, approachable and an extremely friendly and welcoming support staff member for the students.



# A Boarder's routine

## MID-WEEK ROUTINE

**6.45am – 7.45am**

Breakfast

**Until 8.15am**

Girls prepare for school, tidy rooms and complete duties

**8.15am**

Girls 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 (three 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, cocurricular activities. Boarders return to the boarding house

**6pm**

Dinner in the boarders' dining room

**7pm – 8.30pm**

Years 7–9 prep time

**7pm – 9pm**

Years 10–12 prep time  
Year 12 continue to work in their room

**9.30pm**

Years 7–11 mobile phones, laptops and technology collected. Returned to the girls at the start of the school day

## WEEKENDS

**9am – 10am**

Breakfast

**10am – 1pm**

Sport, cocurricular activities, 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



## Mentor time

Your daughter will join a mentor group when she starts at St Catherine's, which will become a significant part of her school life. Our academic care program, delivered through the mentor groups is a vital part of our approach to teaching and learning. Your daughter will feel she belongs, and develop stronger connections with her peers.

Your daughter will be part of a house-based mentor group as soon as she starts in the senior school.

In these small groups, she will be with girls her own age and a teacher. The groups meet twice a week and share their experiences and insights. Authentic relationships and rapport are formed in these groups.

House activities are one of the best ways for students to feel connected to their peers and the school. Students benefit from working collaboratively with each other across year groups. Our older students step up to lead their house and our younger students learn from their role models.

The academic care program also looks at financial literacy, goal setting, safe partying, consent, digital citizenship, mental health awareness, nutrition and healthy habits.

If you have a concern about your daughter, her year mentor would be the first person to contact at school. Or, you may want to pass on some feedback? Again the year mentor is the person to contact.





# Sport and cocurricular

With so many sports and cocurricular activities to choose from, St Catherine’s caters to every student’s specific interests and goals. Our programs are designed to supplement school studies and foster positive physical and mental wellbeing for a well-rounded student experience. St Catherine’s sport offers premium facilities and coaching to assist its athletes through their journey.

## COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Cadets
- Cardio fitness
- Chess club
- Coding and Robotics club
- Dance (ballet, hip hop, contemporary, jazz, tap)
- Duke of Edinburgh (international youth development program)
- Fencing
- Artistic and Rhythmic gymnastics
- Robotics
- Speech and Drama (Trinity College)
- STEM club (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
- Visual Art
- Yoga

## SPORT

- Artistic and Rhythmic gymnastics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cross country
- Football (Soccer)
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rowing
- Snowsports
- Swimming and diving
- Softball
- Soccer
- Table tennis
- Touch football
- Triathlon
- Volleyball
- Water polo



## Music

St Catherine's has a vibrant and innovative music program that fosters the musical development of each student. With a choice of up to 30 ensembles, school musicals, international tours, an extensive classroom program and lessons available for all major orchestral instruments – numerous opportunities exist for our music students to achieve their absolute best. Private music tuition takes place with dedicated rehearsal rooms, practice studios, band room, computer lab, recording studio and fully interactive teaching areas.

### PRIVATE LESSONS

Instrumental tuition is available on all major orchestral and contemporary instruments including:

- Bassoon
- Cello
- Clarinet
- Composition and songwriting
- Classical and Electric Guitar
- Double Bass and Electric Bass
- Flute
- French Horn
- Musicianship and Theory
- Oboe
- Percussion and Drum Kit
- Piano
- Saxophone
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin
- Voice





## Global enrichment

When your daughter attends St Catherine's she will have the opportunity to take up immersive language exchanges, service and cultural tours.

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.

### LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION IN:

- Japan
- New Caledonia
- Hong Kong
- Adelaide

### CULTURAL EXCHANGES TO:

- United Kingdom
- Argentina
- Switzerland

### LANGUAGE IMMERSION EXCHANGES TO:

- France
- Japan
- Spain

### INTERNATIONAL TOURS FOR:

- Service
- Music
- Sport

# Past student and parent testimonials

## **ATHICHA BEAU BOOBPHAKAM, THAI BOARDER, HSC 2012**

I joined boarding at St Catherine's in Year 7, 2007. Back then, my English was not fluent and I really struggled to understand some of the other girls, but that never stopped us from being friends. At the beginning, I wasn't really sure what the rest of my high school years at boarding would look like, but it turned out to be some of the best years of my life – from being able to walk just across the courtyard to attend morning soccer trainings to walking back 'home' after late night band practice with the other boarders. Most of all, it was the years of living with your best friends, some of whom are still my closest friends now. I would not want my senior school years to be any other way and I believe St Catherine's offers the most memorable, enriching experience that will prepare you for every aspect of life.

## **LIM SONG AND SOYOUNG LIM, VIETNAM PARENTS OF LEENA SONG HSC 2019 AND JUNA SONG HSC 2021**

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! PS: Thank you so much for keeping eye on them! You always have someone to reach out to in Vietnam.

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

I began boarding at St Catherine's in Year 8, 2015. It was the first time for me to leave my family for such a long period of time and I was welcomed by the staff and the students from this community. 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 where I spent times 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, including all the good and bad times. Boarding was like a long-time camp for me which was an unforgettable experience. It provided me the opportunity to grow up and learn how to be independent.

## **IMOGEN HICKS, CANBERRA BOARDER, HSC 2020**

I became a St Catherine's boarder in Year 10, 2018. I enjoyed it from the start as it was a relatively small boarding community with around 66 girls from all over Australia and overseas. That meant there was always someone to chat with, study with or exercise with, but it was also possible to still find quiet time. Living with girls from a variety of backgrounds broadened my understanding of others and helped develop my social and life skills.

The boarding house had just been renovated so the facilities were brand new and really impressive. The long, hot showers were the best! Yes, there were plenty of rules but it still felt like my home away from home and I always felt supported and cared for.

Living on site was a huge positive as it meant I could enjoy additional access to certain school facilities after hours and on weekends such as the research centre, the gym and the pool. It was so convenient to just walk out of the boarding house door and be at class, team trainings or tutoring in two minutes.

For me, it was a privilege to attend St Catherine's School. I was provided with incredible opportunities through academic mentorship and through the Elite Athlete program. When I reflect on my time at St Catherine's, I recall a fun time, and forging lifelong friendships that I will always cherish. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop values, skills and knowledge that will guide me for life.





# Entry requirements at St Catherine’s School Sydney

All students are required to sit an English, Mathematics and General Ability test provided by the Australian Education Advisory Services (AEAS) or International Diagnostic and Admissions Test (IDAT). St Catherine’s does not accept IELTS.

The AEAS test or IDAT 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. Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, and further entry pre-requisites may be required.

The minimum entry level is listed below.

Year level	Minimum score level	Proficiency required
Years 5 – 6	51+	Intermediate
Years 7 – 9	61+	Upper Intermediate
Year 10	71+	Pre-advanced

Please use as a guide, subject to change.



## Enrolment process St Catherine's School Sydney

### 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
- Two most recent school reports (translated and validated by the school or education agent). We recommend you appoint an education agent, refer to our website for approved agents.
- AEAS test or IDAT test result.

### STEP 2

Your daughter will have an interview with a member of the senior leadership team (via Zoom or at the school).

- One parent is required to also attend the interview
- Interviews are conducted two years prior to your daughter's intended commencement year, or as required.

### STEP 3

If a place exists, a letter of offer will be emailed, with accompanying enrolment documentation.

- The letter of offer will indicate the due date of acceptance.
- The letter of offer will indicate if the offer is provisional and 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. This will support your daughter's student visa application.

### STEP 5

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

- Nominate a guardian – this can be an English-speaking relative or friend in Sydney or appoint International Student Alliance (ISA) Student Advocate.
- Provide a copy of your daughter's student visa and overseas student health cover (OSHC).
- The boarding house is closed during school holiday term breaks. If your daughter does not have a friend/relative or will not travel home, the Director of Boarding will assist booking a homestay with the Australian Homestay Network (AHN).
- Payment of one term's tuition fee, boarding fee (if applicable) and the refundable holding deposit (A\$10,000.00) is payable 30 days prior to your daughter's commencement.
- Access is provided to the school's portal and information regarding uniform fitting, textbooks and commencement details will be advised.

### STEP 6

Orientation and commencement at St Catherine's School.

# Find your own great.



Please refer to the Terms and Conditions (non-resident) regarding additional fees payable but not limited to as outlined.

For further information please email our Head of Enrolments, Ms Mandy Treweek at [enrol@stcaths.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrol@stcaths.nsw.edu.au)


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 [www.linkedin.com/school/st-catherine's-school\\_2/](https://www.linkedin.com/school/st-catherine's-school_2/)

 StCSchoolWaverley

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# St Catherine's School

## Sydney

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