“Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better books can there be than the book of humanity?”

– CESAR CHAVEZ
The College is a unique mix of day and boarding students from Years 5 to 12 who receive a Catholic education in the Marist tradition. MCA prides itself on providing an holistic education that develops the spiritual, academic, cultural, sporting and personal growth of each boy.

Our Marist values of simplicity, presence, love of hard work, family spirit and being in the way of Mary guide the whole College community each and every day. A dedicated staff of Brothers and lay people work hard to ensure each boy has the opportunity to become the best person he can be.

The College motto “Viriliter Age” – Act Courageously, challenges our students to conduct themselves at all times as young men who aspire to excellence in everything they do.

On behalf of the MCA community I would like to extend a warm welcome to prospective members of our Marist family.

Peter McLoughlin
Headmaster
The Marist Brothers

The Marist Brothers is a religious institute founded in France in 1817 by a young French priest, Marcellin Champagnat. He believed his mission in life was to make Jesus known and loved and to do so by creating schools which not only taught secular subjects but religious education and the catechism.

Over the next 50 years the Brothers expanded across all continents and established a system of education world-wide. Today the Brothers’ schools exist in 78 countries.

The first Marist Brothers arrived in Australia in 1872 and established schools in Sydney. In 1929 the Brothers established their first Queensland school at Rosalie and their second at Ashgrove in 1940. Today, there are over 50 schools in the association of Marist Schools in Australia representing schools begun by the Marist Brothers, Marist Sisters and Marist Fathers.

Marist College Ashgrove

Marist College Ashgrove began in 1940 with 70 students and Brother Ignatius O’Connor as its first Headmaster. The College is built on the site formerly used by Father Walter Cain and his proposed missionary order. The only permanent building was the Tower Block, its’ graceful architecture has made it the icon of the entire College. Despite temporary evacuation and re-location during World War II, the College flourished and developed. With continuous development of the College since 1940, today we have grown to over 1600 students.

The reputation of the College has steadily grown and has been extended by its loyal supporters and Old Boys. It is respected throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the wider Pacific and Asia as a significant institution which embodies the very best in Marist educational values and teaching.

A Rich History

“OFFERING AN HOLISTIC EDUCATION, DRAWING ON THE CHRISTIAN VISION OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.”

– CF CH. 5, WITH A DISTINCTIVE MARIST STYLE
The Religious Education and Ministry Program nourishes the spiritual life and faith development of students. In the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat, MCA students are educated in faith and solidarity through:

- An engaging Religious Education curriculum that focuses on students’ religious literacy in light of the Catholic tradition
- An integrated program of retreat and reflection opportunities for students from Years 5 to 12
- Regular opportunities for prayer and liturgy, including Wednesday morning Mass, Boarders’ Sunday Mass, pastoral groups and class prayer, Assembly prayer and reflection
- Service and ministry groups such as St Vincent de Paul, Caritas and GreenAsh
- Extensive ministry and outreach opportunities through the MATES social justice program, including weekly barbecues with the homeless, visits with elderly and disabled people in the community, the annual Sony Holiday Camp for children with disabilities and immersion programs with our Marist neighbours in other cultures and countries.

Religious Education and Ministry are coordinated by the College Mission Team which comprises a full-time present Marist Father, Campus Ministry Team, Head of Mission and Head of Religious Education.

At MCA, Religious Education and Ministry are founded on the ministry of Jesus and the Marist way of living the Gospel. We aim to engage individuals and groups within the College community in expressions of a lived faith through offering a broad range of sacramental, prayer and reflection experiences, together with opportunities to minister to the “least favoured” in the wider community.
“Nothing is so potent as the silent influence of a good example.”

– JAMES KENT
In the Primary School boys are encouraged to explore their world and express their thoughts and dreams in an energetic, compassionate and supportive environment.

Students are challenged to extend the boundaries of their experience through a curriculum that emphasises the development of Religious Education, Literacy, Numeracy, Technology, Science, Humanities and Languages. Building upon these fundamentals, they will develop the communication and social skills that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their life.

Creative expression is also vital in the Primary School. Art, Drama and Music are all core aspects of the curriculum and areas in which students are encouraged to develop their imagination, creativity and skills.

Classroom teachers enhance the quality of a boy’s education and help to ensure he receives all the care and attention he needs.

Outside the classroom, a healthy lifestyle is encouraged through sports and outdoor activities that include ball sports, sporting competition and a range of excursions and outdoor education activities.

In the Primary School boys will laugh, play and develop in a dynamic and caring community that provides a holistic education and nurtures the young men that they will one day become.
Year 7 is a key transition point for boys into the energetic environment of the Secondary School as they begin their journey from childhood to young adulthood and establish the foundations for their future studies.

To help in this transition, students are taught by a select group of teachers, exposing their growing minds to the complexities of a more demanding curriculum, whilst providing all the care and support required in a new and challenging environment.

In the later years of secondary education, students will consolidate the skills they have learnt previously, whilst selecting from a wide range of subjects that lead to university and career opportunities.

During this time, emphasis is placed on developing boys initiative, self-discipline and organisational skills, as well as providing sound guidance and spiritual support in their social and moral development.

The teachers at the College understand how boys learn and work towards supporting each student to achieve success in an ordered, supportive and collaborative environment.

Arts, Music, Sports, Debating, Public Speaking and a Religious and Ministry Program is also very much part of the Secondary School experience.

In the Secondary School students thoughts and dreams will take shape as they prepare to become a confident, successful and valued member of society.
Pastoral care at MCA embraces more than the giving of well prepared, thought provoking and stimulating lessons. It means being concerned for the total well-being of students, and with the development of the whole person. The philosophies underpinning pastoral care, the active pursuit of programs and practices aimed at promoting and supporting well-being and school ethos, as well as the climate and atmosphere in which students and staff learn and work, are complementary.

Through explicit philosophies we hope to educate young men in the way of St Marcellin Champagnat so that they have the courage and confidence to develop traits similar to those modelled by Marcellin himself.

Pastoral care is a strong feature of the College.

The Brother Ignatius Centre, catering to the needs of boys in Years 5 and 6, is also an integral part of the College and its pastoral care structure.

It is a welcoming place where the younger students are cared for and initiated into the Marist community and its ethos. Due to their stage of development and learning needs, students in the primary school are cared for by the Year 5/6 Pastoral Leader and their classroom teachers in a horizontal pastoral care model.

Pastoral care for students in Years 7 – 12 is provided through a vertical eight House System. This vertical approach sees the students of the College being well known, encouraged and well-advised by their Head of House and pastoral group teachers. Each House has its own way of encouraging active contribution to the College as well as co-operation amongst the students. This builds in the boys a growing sense of belonging and ownership.
Sports

THE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM PLAYS AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE COLLEGE’S HOLISTIC APPROACH TO BOYS’ EDUCATION.

Through our sporting programs, students will learn the values of competition and achievement. Participation in sport builds unique skills, reinforces the importance of teamwork and provides the experience of striving to achieve a personal best.

MCA is an enthusiastic participant in the inter-school sporting activities organised by the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) and has an outstanding record of achievement in this highly-regarded competition.

A wide range of sports and teams provides an opportunity for every boy to compete in weekly competitions.

Facilities for sports include new state-of-the-art heated Olympic size swimming pool, seven sports fields, track and field precinct, six tennis courts, two outside basketball courts, outdoor multi-purpose area, gymnasium – including three basketball courts, weight-training complex and two indoor multi-purpose courts.

Sports at MCA include:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Rugby Union
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
Playing a musical instrument, singing in a choir or performing before an audience encourages students to explore their creative and artistic potential.

**Music**

At MCA, students enjoy a range of musical options to cater for musicians of all abilities. Opportunities for musical expression are almost unlimited. Students regularly perform as members of orchestras, jazz ensembles, bands and choirs in performances that take place throughout the entire school year.

The Molly and Len Draney Theatre boasts a performance area that readily accommodates the College’s Symphony Orchestra while providing seating for 300 patrons. This magnificent facility provides students unparalleled opportunities for their own musical development.

Art and Drama are integral components of the MCA curriculum.

With the help of expert teachers, enthusiasm for the artistic expression is fostered in students from their early years.

Through exposure to a wide range of artistic experiences, we aim to nurture student’s aesthetic and creative awareness.

**Art**

The Art curriculum combines modern techniques such as animation, graphic design, computer art and photography with traditional elements, such as ceramics, drawing, painting and sculpture.

Students are encouraged to see the visual world from new perspectives and to respond with self-expression and creative flair.

**Drama**

Students are encouraged to participate in drama productions, whether through acting, producing or back-stage work.

Through Drama, students are able to explore their own self-awareness and emotional development; an experience that is both challenging and inspiring. Students acquire skills in communication and improvisation which helps enhance their confidence and self-esteem.
Boarders are an integral part of the College community and boarding at MCA gives boys from country areas and overseas access to an education of outstanding quality.

For families living closer to MCA, weekly boarding provides all the benefits of a caring, supervised environment on the campus during the week, leaving weekends free to relax at home.

Located in a tranquil garden setting, the Boarding College is a welcoming and supportive community which emphasises the development of self-confidence, independence and a tolerance and understanding of others. Creating a ‘home away from home’ has been an important feature of Marist education since its inception by St Marcellin Champagnat in 1817. Marcellin’s charism continues to shine today in our modern and vibrant boarding community. We strive to ensure that boarding at MCA is a safe, rewarding and socially satisfying experience where boys from a diverse range of backgrounds learn to live, play, work and pray together.

Boarders can take full advantage of the breadth of MCA’s teaching and co-curricular programs and facilities. Structured study periods in the evenings allow boys to complete homework and study. Boys also benefit greatly from the advice, encouragement and expert assistance from resident teaching staff and assistants.

Accommodation for 230 boarders is divided amongst five residences. Meals are well-balanced, with menus developed in consultation with a qualified nutritionist.

Recreational areas provide ample opportunities for indoor activities and boarders are encouraged to use the College’s extensive leisure and sporting facilities, including sports grounds, swimming pool and tennis courts.

Our weekend boarders enjoy a busy lifestyle, both within the College grounds and, when appropriate, in nearby Brisbane city and coastal precincts.
Community

“NO ACT OF KINDNESS, HOWEVER SMALL, IS EVER WASTED.”
– AESOP

Parents and Friends

The College is fortunate in having a very active, supportive association which organises social functions, discusses issues of significance in the College community and supports the development of educational resources. The P&F Committee extends a warm invitation to everyone in the College community to be actively involved.

Old Boys

This Association is a community of past students who promote the charism and mission of St Marcellin Champagnat.

As a College community we take great joy and strength from our ongoing relationship with our Old Boys and their families. To be part of the Marist College Ashgrove family is an enduring gift.

College Foundation

The Foundation is an integral part of life at Marist College Ashgrove and a vital contributor to the College’s future. It provides a reliable revenue stream that helps the College keep pace with developments in education so students and teachers can enjoy the best possible facilities and learning outcomes without large increases in school fees.
Parents interested in applying for a place for their son at MCA are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest following their son’s birth.

For day students, our main entry years are Years 5 and 7. Entry into other year levels is dependent on places being available at the time of enquiry.

Boarding students are considered for all year levels from Year 7 to 12.

**College Tours**

We invite families to join our Headmaster, senior staff and students on a tour of the College campus during the scheduled tour held each term. Tours occur between 9.00am and 11.00am with upcoming tour dates outlined on the College website.

Families wishing to attend one of our tours are welcome to register on the MCA website or by contacting the College Registrar.

Overseas and remote families interested in a boarding position who are unable to participate in one of our scheduled tours are encouraged to contact the College Registrar to make alternate arrangements.

**Further Information**

Additional information or other enquiries should be directed to the College Registrar:

- **Phone** 07 3858 4507
- **Email** enrol@marash.qld.edu.au
- **Web** www.marash.qld.edu.au