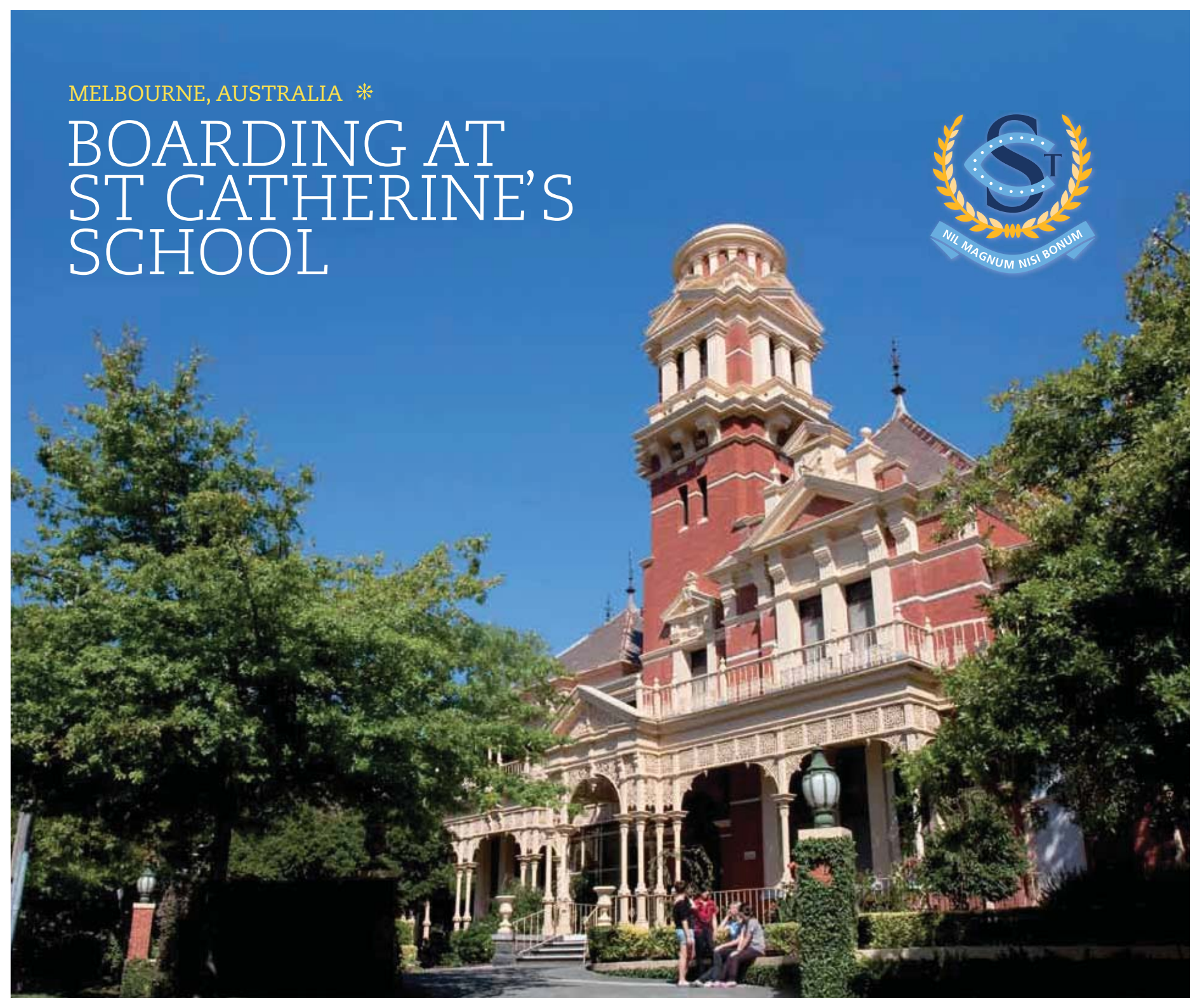


MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA ✨

BOARDING AT ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL





“It has made me much more independent – in a good way.”

Emily, St Catherine's Boarder



“We come from all corners of the world and Illawarra has brought us together and enabled us to grow and learn from one another.”

Tessa, St Catherine's Boarder



“I run it as I would run my own home... pastoral care is the role we take very seriously.”

Sue Collister,
Director of Boarding Services



Welcome to St Catherine's School

St Catherine's School has the unique mixture of a proud history combined with contemporary thinking. St Catherine's is a school for girls from Prep to Year 12, and is centrally located in Toorak, Melbourne, Australia. We welcome girls from the local, rural and international communities and have a school population of approximately 700 students. As a smaller school, our size has many advantages for students, particularly the way in which each girl can be known and valued, and our one campus advantage means our youngest to oldest students learn in one central community.

We also enjoy a reputation for outstanding academic results. Over the past five years 15% of our Year 12s have achieved a VCE ENTER of above 98 and more than 50% have achieved 90 or above, and our girls consistently shine in the co-curricular arena too; be it in sports like rowing or in debating and music competitions.

The School has strong values and implements this throughout the curriculum, co-curricular activities and boarding experience.

These values are:

Integrity and respect

Responsibility and trust;

Excellence and relevance

Cooperation, participation and perseverance

Hope and compassion

Boarding at St Catherine's

Life as a boarder at St Catherine's School gives girls the opportunity to achieve a balanced education. St Catherine's boarding provides your daughter with a safe and comfortable living environment. We talk of Illawarra as a home because this is the atmosphere that we strive to achieve; a place where students feel supported academically, socially and emotionally.

Illawarra and Sherren House

Today it combines the wonderful charm and design features of a 19th Century mansion with the technological needs of the modern generation. Illawarra House has a number of large rooms allowing for students to have individual space outside of their own bedrooms. There is a large Prep Room with individual study desks enabling students to study quietly. There is also the Dining Room where boarders not only have their meals but can use as an additional study space to the Prep Room. There is a kitchen available for students to have easy access so they can make a drink or have

a healthy snack at anytime. Full laundry amenities are provided and facilities such as the Library and sporting fields are also regularly accessed by boarders out of School hours. The two Lounge Rooms are equipped with a number of couches and TV facilities for students to watch movies, relax and socialise.

Each bedroom has great character with a fireplace of its own and beautiful period detailing, and includes a personal wardrobe with lockable drawer, pin board, chest of drawers and access to wireless internet services allowing for the 21st century student. Each girl is encouraged to create an individual atmosphere in her bedroom with posters, photographs, books, magazines and the like. In Years 7 to 10 our boarders are accommodated in the larger bedrooms (ranging from three to four girls, with one large room housing six girls) and by Year 11 most girls are in rooms of two or three students. For their final year of schooling all Year 12 girls have their own private bedroom, equipped with an individual study desk.

Caring Environment

Our boarding staff are especially chosen for their caring attitudes and warm personalities. This professional group of staff brings a range of experience and skills to the St Catherine's boarding experience. All the staff are involved in the daily pastoral care of the boarders and play a key role in supporting their academic progress. During the School week the boarding staff oversee Prep time and members of the academic staff visit to provide extra tuition in a range of subjects.

At Illawarra we refer to the boarding house as 'home' and many of the friendships formed are across year levels and different nationalities. Older students mentor our younger boarders and often provide assistance with both their academic studies and social needs. It is not unusual to encounter a group on the couches in the lobby of an afternoon ranging from Years 7 to 12. When the girls return to Illawarra after School - year levels are forgotten because they are all just part of the boarding family.

Student Wellbeing

Each boarder is an individual and one of the key tasks of the boarding staff is to seek to understand the particular needs of each boarder. The beginning of each school year brings its own challenges and whether you have arrived from a different country or moved from a nearby suburb, it is a new experience for everyone.

Orientation activities are arranged at the start of the School year to enable everyone to get to know each other and to familiarise the new boarders with the local environment.

Birthdays are a special time at Illawarra and each girl gets to choose her own special birthday cake which is made by the catering staff.

Each day the Director of Boarding Services liaises with key members of the Senior School staff to ensure that all boarders are supported academically, culturally and socially.

Healthcare

The physical and mental wellbeing of our boarders is paramount and a system has been established to ensure all boarders have access to the best medical practice available. A school nurse is available during school hours and she visits Illawarra as required during the day. The School is also affiliated with a local medical clinic which provides a doctor on call afterhours.

St Catherine's is located close to two excellent Private Hospitals (with emergency departments) and if an ambulance is called it will transport patients directly to the Royal Children's Hospital or Monash Medical Centre (Public Hospitals). The School also has a close relationship with ancillary services such as dentists and physiotherapists.

By ensuring the physical health of our students through an excellent diet, sufficient sleep and an encouragement to keep fit and active, our boarders have every opportunity to fulfill their academic potential.

Food for Thought

Student representatives meet regularly with the Catering Manager to ensure popular choices are made. The menu is always healthy and varied and dietary requirements are catered for.

Girls have access to a kitchenette and the fully stocked pantry which includes everything needed for hot drinks and also snacks such as fresh and dried fruit, biscuits, cheese and yoghurt.

Weekend Activities

On weekends many of the girls arrange social outings, whether it be shopping, meeting friends at a café or restaurant, visiting galleries, markets or beaches, seeing a film or visiting one of Melbourne's many attractions.

At the beginning of every year, a special weekend of activities is organised by both the Boarding Captains and staff, when all the girls stay in for the weekend. Known as the 'Closed Weekend', both new and returning boarders look forward to this event, which is a time for getting to know other boarders and just having fun!

Boarders are welcome to invite friends over and overnight visits can also be arranged. With permission, boarders can visit other students' homes, attend parties and go on outings with a friend's family.



Melbourne at a Glance

Melbourne is one of the world's most liveable cities. A sophisticated and vibrant city located on the south-east coast of mainland Australia. It has a population of over 3.9 million people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008, www.abs.gov.au) and a strong multicultural demographic. The multicultural nature of Melbourne is reflected in the variety of restaurants, foods and goods available throughout the city and array of annual festivals and events.

St Catherine's Location

St Catherine's School is located in the inner-suburb of Toorak only five kilometres from Melbourne City's Central Business District. Toorak is one of Melbourne's most established suburbs with many large houses and beautiful tree-lined streets. St Catherine's School is fortunate to be located in a quiet residential area within Toorak, close to the Yarra River, Public Transport (trains and trams) and of course the shops of Toorak, Armadale, Malvern and South Yarra.



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