

St Dominic's College



Established 1959

DOMINUS LUX MEA
the Lord is my light

ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE





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Established 1959

belonging
compassion
opportunity
discovery

Our mission is to create a caring environment that promotes inclusivity through the context of boys' education, where individual excellence is pursued within the Catholic tradition in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

St Dominic's mission statement

DOMINUS LUX MEA
the Lord is my light



College Chapel 2012

Introduction

St Dominic's College is a private Catholic Secondary School, which has a commitment to creating a caring environment where excellence in education is evident within the Catholic tradition and the Spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The College aims to provide an environment conducive to the total development of each boy. The College endeavours to contribute to the creation of a caring community, where each person is respected and encouraged to strive to achieve their personal best.

A Brief History

The history of St Dominic's began in 1959, on the site of the old Sisters of St Joseph's convent in High St, Penrith, under our founding Principal, Br Brian Jeffers of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. It was a humble beginning, and the following year with Br Michael Surawski as Principal, St Dominic's was moved to its present site in Parker St. The College grew rapidly, providing quality education to both primary and secondary students. Primary classes were discontinued in 1980 to cope with increasing secondary enrolments.

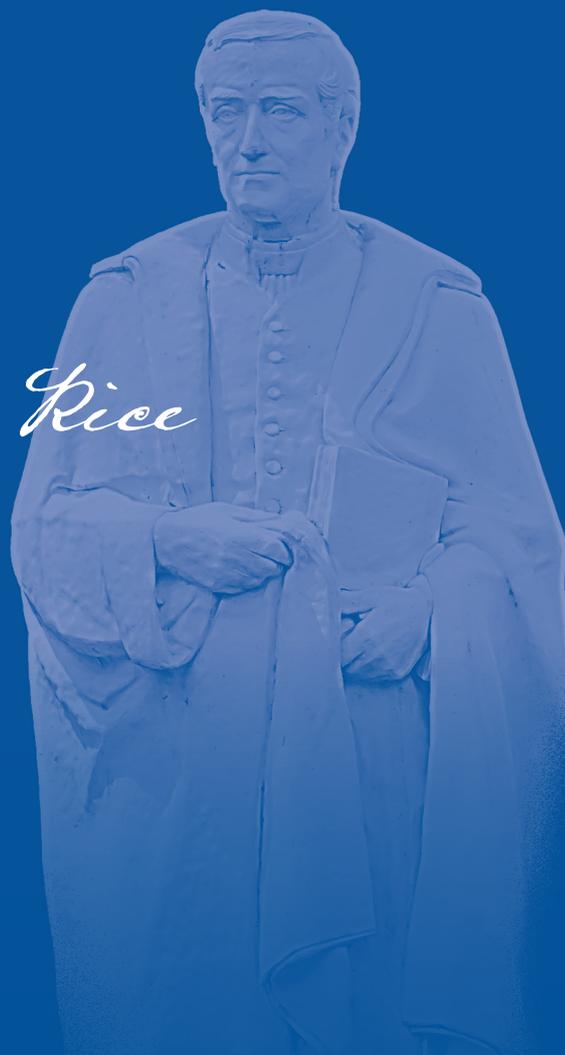
Co-education in Years 11 and 12 was also introduced from 1978 to 1985 to cater for the demand for Catholic Secondary Education until McCarthy Senior Catholic College opened. For some time after this, St Dominic's catered for Years 7 to 10, but again became a comprehensive 7 to 12 Catholic College for boys in 1999.



Established 1959

Blessed Edmund Rice

1594 – 1667



Our Forefather

The story and legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers, is integral to the life of the College.

A wealthy merchant in Waterford, Ireland, in the late 18th century, Edmund Rice was happily married and a father. Through suffering the personal tragedy of the death of his young wife, Edmund Rice was sustained by his faith. His compassion and thirst for justice moved him to dedicate his energy and wealth to educating the very poor and illiterate youth in Waterford. He inspired other men to follow him, and around him they formed his religious order of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers.

Edmund sought to raise up the poor through education so that they could take their rightful place in a society oppressed by institutionalised injustice and ignorance. His gospel spirituality and passion for justice shaped his vision for the liberating power of a holistic education.

His heroic effort to serve the poor of his country was recognised in his Beatification in Rome in 1996. His legacy spread through Ireland and England and eventually to all continents.

St Dominic's College is proud of Edmund Rice's influence on its history of over sixty years of service to the youth of the outer west of Sydney. St Dominic's education for Social Justice is a mark of its faithfulness to Blessed Edmund's spirituality.

EREA Touchstones



Liberating Education:

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope filled and free to build a better world for all.



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

Edmund Rice Education Australia

In 2007 the Christian Brothers schools throughout Australia amalgamated as a group under the banner of Edmund Rice Education Australia. St Dominic's is one of 50 such schools, operating under EREA's governance and thus ensuring that Edmund's values and vision for Catholic Education endure. These values are contained in the Charter for Edmund Rice Schools and are highlighted in the Charter's Four Touchstones.



Gospel Spirituality:

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.



Justice and Solidarity:

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.



Inclusive Community:

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.



College Life: House System

To capture the rich spirit and history of St Dominic's, it was important to the College for each House to have a meaningful historic name. The College Houses are an important part of College life, and are represented in house-based homerooms, uniforms and social justice initiatives.

The Annual Brother Jeff Regan House Cup is proudly presented as an accumulation of house points from all the sport, academic and co-curricular activities throughout the year. The four colours represent our four College Houses and the House banners.



SURAWSKI

Surawski House recognises Br Surawski, who was a founding Principal and leader of the College through its first building program. He is responsible for many of the traditions of the College, including the famous blue and white of the St Dominic's Uniform.



DHARUK

Dharuk House recognises the Aboriginal Nation of the Penrith area and the respect St Dominic's College has for the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is located. The College places great importance on the significance of Aboriginal culture in our students' education.



TENCH

Tench House recognises Watkin Tench, the famous historian of the First Fleet and discoverer of the Nepean basin. It was Tench who was responsible for bringing the European Culture to the place we call home.

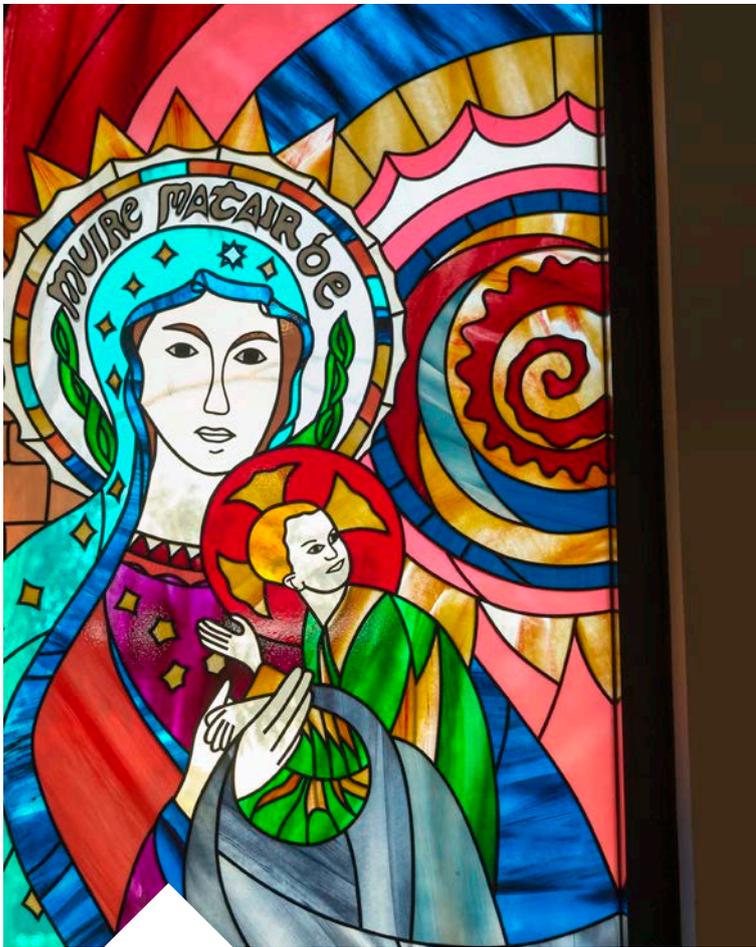


RICE

Rice House recognises Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers. His values of justice and equality underpin the foundations of every aspect of the College and the community that exists within its walls.

Being part of a House encourages St Dominic's students to share their successes and feel a sense of belonging with their peers. House pride develops student self-esteem and support networks between year groups.





Spirituality

Spirituality is a central part of the St Dominic’s College life. Our College lives and grows as a community of faith, by fostering a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

1. Areas of study with engaging and academic content.

For Years 7 to 10, the beliefs, values, history and traditions of the Catholic Church are systematically studied and examined in both their historical context and that of the modern world. For Years 11 and 12, the HSC courses in Studies of Religion are offered alongside a non HSC course in Catholic Studies.

2. Fostering one’s relationship with God through meaningful experiences.

Eucharist and Reconciliation are significant sacramental liturgies that are central to the spiritual life of St Dominics. They are also supported by other rituals, making use of symbols and prayers designed to help all perceive God at work in all of us and in our life experiences. Liturgy and Prayer are undertaken as a College, pastoral groups, chapel classes and small groups.

3. Knowledge and appreciation of one’s self and others through reflection.

College formation, Reflection Days and Retreats are experiences used by the College to help students reflect and grow as young Christian men, drawing on their experiences and knowledge gained throughout the year.

With these spiritual aspects being the central focus of the daily life at our College, it is an expectation that all students who seek enrolment at St Dominic’s College will engage in a positive and fully participatory manner to all three parts of the Religious Education Curriculum.



Through their participation in the Social Justice outreach program, our students are empowered to be advocates for those less fortunate and to become agents for positive change in the world.

compassion





Justice, Peace and Advocacy

We, as an Edmund Rice College, are called to action. The value of Social Justice rises out of the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice and requires from us a commitment to serve those in our community who are disadvantaged or marginalised.

The Social Justice program at St Dominic's educates our young men about the many injustices and causes of those injustices in our local and global communities. Through their participation in the Social Justice outreach program, our students are empowered to be advocates for those less fortunate and to become agents for positive change in the world.

In Years 7 to 9 the program is one of 'Service to Others'. The students are required to complete a specific number of hours of activities that are of service to others in their communities. Students are also required to complete a reflective component, which enables them to assess their service activities.

Students in Years 10 to 12 participate in the 'Call to Action' program, which is more in-depth and seeks to further challenge these young men. This program requires the students to complete a specific number of community and College service activities.

The Social Justice outreach program is a compulsory component of student's education at St Dominic's College. Each young man is required to participate in the Social Justice program in each year of their study at the College. Completion of the senior program, 'Call to Action' is a pre-requisite for a College reference.



belonging



Pastoral Care

St Dominic's College is a community that values the worth and dignity of each person, and places an emphasis on instilling respect for oneself. It is these values that underpin our pastoral care policies and strategies.

The College creates a safe and harmonious environment for the learning and character formation of each student. It works at developing each student's sense of worth and respect for the rights of others. All of our staff members are passionate about knowing and caring for the students.

Key staff are specifically assigned to support your son:

- The Director of Pastoral Care;
- The Pastoral Coordinator of each Year Cohort;
- House Coordinators;
- Homeroom teachers;
- College counsellors;
- Coaches and managers of many sporting and co-curricular activities.

The following are proven strategies for delivering pastoral care:

- Pastoral homerooms based on our College House system;
- Pastoral programs specific to each year, including camps and retreats;
- Recognising and rewarding students through various awards, eg. academic excellence, co-curricular achievement and participation in service to others;
- Administering the measures contained in the anti-bullying policy;
- Monitoring students through the College Level system;
- Conducting the activities of the College House system;
- Conducting after school study classes;
- Maintaining close liaison with the home;
- Fostering Student Leadership

All of these strategies teach students to relate appropriately to one another, form positive relationships, develop their various talents, express their personalities and grow in self discipline.



Academic Program

St Dominic's College encourages academic excellence and supports all students to perform to the best of their abilities in all academic areas.

We recognise the need for a broad curriculum to cater for individual student requirements. Students at St Dominic's study the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) prescribed curriculum.

Technology and Learning at the College

The 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) program has been incorporated into the St Dominic's College curriculum. The BYOD program requires students to bring a recommended device to the classroom for the purpose of learning.

Technology has become fundamental to the world in which these students live, and so it should be integral to their learning lives as well. Using technology in the classroom increases educational engagement and will make learning a part of students' lives.

St Dominic's teachers are constantly developing new and innovative ways to incorporate this technology into their lessons. Along with the classroom technology already available, the BYOD program encourages engagement and motivation for students in the classroom.

More information on the BYOD program is available at www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au

YEAR 7-8 CURRICULUM:

The Year 7 cohort is arranged into Embark classes that enable students to settle in to their new secondary school environment, and get the most out of their learning in this important first year. The number of staff teaching the students is minimised to support the transition of students from primary to high school, with at least one teacher assigned to three or more courses.

This has proven to be a successful way to assist the students in a smooth transition to the College, and allows our staff the greater capacity to get to know each student and tailor the curriculum to their needs. In Year 8, the students are introduced to the normal secondary school timetable.

Subjects studied by all students:

- Embark classes, incorporating English, HSIE and Religious Education
- PD/H/PE
- Visual Arts
- Mathematics
- Music
- Science
- Technology and Applied Sciences
- Japanese & Italian (Yr 8)



YEAR 9-10 CURRICULUM:

Year 9 and 10 students choose a subject combination that satisfies the requirements for the Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

Courses studied by all students:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- PD/H/PE
- Australian History & Geography

Students then choose two courses from a range of elective courses. In recent years, students have been able to choose from:

- Commerce
- Music
- Drama
- Japanese & Italian
- Industrial Technology – Timber
- Industrial Technology – Graphics
- Industrial Technology – Metals
- Photography
- Visual Arts
- Information Software Technology
- Physical Activity and Sport Studies
- Digital Media
- Food Technology / Hospitality
- iStem
- History
- Geography

YEAR 11-12 COURSES OFFERED:

English is the only compulsory Higher School Certificate subject. In addition students at St Dominic's study at least one unit of Religious Education. To be eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate, students must satisfactorily complete at least 12 units in their Preliminary study pattern and at least 10 units in their HSC study pattern.

Examples of courses offered:

- **Religion** – Studies of Religion (1 or 2 Unit), Catholic Studies (1 Unit)
- **English** – English Studies, English Standard, English Advanced or English Extension
- **Mathematics** – General Mathematics, Mathematics, or Extension Mathematics
- **Science** – Physics, Chemistry, Senior Science, Biology, Earth and Environmental Science
- **H.S.I.E** – Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics, Work Studies, Ancient and Modern History
- **PD/H/PE** – Personal Development Health and Physical Education, Sport Lifestyle and Recreation (1 Unit)
- **Languages** – Japanese & Italian
- **Technology** – Information Processes and Technology, Industrial Technology Graphics/ Metal/Timber, Software Design Development and Engineering Studies, Food Technology, Design and Technology
- **Creative and Performing Arts** – Music 1 Unit, Music 2 Unit, Drama, Visual Arts, Photography, Visual Design
- **Vocation Education (VET)** – Construction, Hospitality, Information Technology



discovery



Diverse Learning at St Dominic's

The St Dominic's College Diverse Learning Department uses a multifaceted approach to supporting the various needs of students from Years 7 to 12. The College strives to provide an inclusive environment for all students including those who face challenges with their learning - academically, socially and emotionally.

Students with diverse learning needs are identified using information from parents, primary schools and the results of diagnostic tests such as NAPLAN in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, PAT-Reading, PAT-Mathematics and the York Assessment of Reading and Comprehension. We have a committed Diverse Learning team who consistently support and encourage the boys to achieve academic success. Staff provide support within the classroom, in small group settings as well as providing one-to-one support when required.

Students who demonstrate exceptional skills in various learning domains are also provided with opportunities to further extend their capabilities through a range of enrichment opportunities.

The College Literacy Framework assists students in meeting the literacy and numeracy standards. To drive academic achievement specific programs targeting literacy and numeracy are conducted through Years 7 – 10. Programs include the Macqlit Reading Intervention Program and Extended Mathematical Understanding Intervention Program (EMU).

Special Provisions for examinations are accessible to students in situations where eligibility criteria is met. This process is formalised with NESAs for Years 11 and 12, when further documentation is essential.

When required, itinerant teachers from varying organisations are accessed to advise and assist students with specific disabilities such as hearing and vision loss. Reasonable adjustments in the learning environment ensure high quality learning for students with specific needs.

Student personal plans are formulated during Term 1 for identified students. These plans are developed in conjunction with members of the Diverse Learning staff, parents, the student and representative class teachers. Personal Plans are designed to guide students and teaching staff with strategies to help produce the best academic gains for the student, as well as promote their social and emotional wellbeing.



St Dominic's College is committed to working with and walking alongside the Indigenous people, advocating justice and promoting reconciliation.

opportunity



Indigenous Education

St Dominic's College recognises the importance of providing a learning environment that is conducive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students holistic development. The College is committed to the process of reconciliation and delivering equitable opportunities for each of our students. In the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice, the College is committed to delivering an inclusive community.

St Dominic's Colleges is dedicated to the continued growth, development and nurturing of Indigenous students by providing a full time identified Indigenous Education Officer at the College. The Indigenous Education Officer plays a vital role in providing support and mentoring students, as well as delivering and coordinating culturally appropriate information and events for both staff and students.

The College maintains a vital association and connection with the traditional custodians on the land in which St Dominic's stands; the Dharuk people. With the support of Elders in our local community, the College as a whole, celebrates significant Indigenous events such as National Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week. Furthermore, St Dominic's College has developed partnerships with community organisations such as

the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), Western Sydney University: Pathways to Dreaming, Muru Mittigar Cultural Centre and Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) as a means of delivering authentic learning experiences and pathways. St Dominic's vast partnerships with community organisations gives students the opportunity to develop their cultural identity through traditional art, music, games, storytelling and dance.

The commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student learning outcomes by the College can be reflected in recent educational data. St Dominic's College has continued to exceed state and national averages in NAPLAN results and rates of retention for senior education. The College places particular emphasis on educational outcomes for our Indigenous students as a means of displacing inequality for future generations.



Sport at St Dominic's

St Dominic's College has a long and proud tradition of sporting competitions. A full and comprehensive range of sporting programs and opportunities are offered to all of our students. Our involvement in the MCS (Metropolitan Catholic Schools), CCC (Combined Catholic Colleges) and knockout competitions is seen as an integral part of the boys' education.

MCS COMPETITIONS:

MCS competition provides an official pathway to State and National selection in numerous sports including:

- Swimming
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Football
- Rugby League
- Touch Football
- Rugby Union
- Australian Rules
- Chess
- Baseball
- Softball



STATE KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS:

- Cricket – Berg Shield and Downie Trophy
- Football – NSW CCC Cup
- Touch Football – All Schools Knockout
- Basketball – NSW CCC Championship and National Championship
- AFL – GWS Cup
- Rugby League – All Schools Knockout and NSW Schoolboys Trophy
- Triathlon – NSW All Schools Carnival

RECREATIONAL SPORTS:

Thursday sport is a compulsory part of the College's program and includes 'In College Competitions' as well as a wide variety of activities which caters for all interests and abilities. Students have the opportunity to participate in a different sport each term.

Examples include:

- Golf
- Adventure Golf
- Rock Climbing
- Tennis
- Cables - Water Park
- Fitness
- Indoor Cricket
- Swimming
- Roller Blading
- Squash
- Lawn Bowls
- Aqua Golf
- Ice Skating





Co-Curricular Activities

St Dominic's College offers a variety of co-curricular activities that students participate in. They complement content that students learn during regular classes, and support intellectual, emotional, social, moral, creative and physical development. Benefits of co-curricular activities include social skills, time management and developing self-esteem.

Students at St Dominic's have the opportunity to participate in the following co-curricular activities:

- Debating
- Chess
- Drama
- St Vincent de Paul
- House Activities
- Guitar Ensemble
- Sound Crew
- Academic Competitions
- Social Justice Activities
- College Choir
- Clean Up Australia Schools Day
- Music Ensemble
- Ski Trip
- Public Speaking
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Write a Book Day
- Musical

St Dominic's College Uniform

The St Dominic's College uniform is a symbol of pride in our College and its place in the community.

JUNIOR SUMMER UNIFORM (TERMS 1 & 4)

- Grey College trousers
- Grey College shorts (optional)
- Grey College shirt
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes

JUNIOR WINTER UNIFORM (Terms 2 & 3)

- College blazer
- Grey College trousers
- Grey College shirt
- Junior College tie
- College midnight blue knitted jumper
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes

PE / SPORTS UNIFORM

All students must purchase a College cap. The College has a 'no hat, no play' policy in open areas. The PE / Sports uniform includes:

- College Polo-shirt
- House shirt
- College sports shorts
- College socks
- College tracksuit
- College cap
- Lace-up sports shoes

SENIOR SUMMER UNIFORM (Terms 1 & 4)

- Grey College trousers
- Grey College shorts (optional)
- White College shirt
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes

SENIOR WINTER UNIFORM (Terms 2 & 3)

- College blazer
- Grey College trousers
- White College shirt
- Senior College tie
- College midnight blue knitted jumper
- Lace-up polishable black hard leather shoes

College Diary

The College Diary is an integral part of Pastoral Care and the greater College experience. Each student is presented with the official College Diary at the start of the year and this becomes the main channel of communications between staff and parents.

As well as acting as a communication tool, the diary is also used as an organisational tool with it being compulsory for all homestudy and assignments to be written in at the completion of each class. The Diary is checked each week by both parents and home room teachers to ensure that it is being used appropriately and that all communications are received.



Established 1959

Tuition Fees

The fees for the year are available on the College website: www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au

The College tuition fees are all inclusive with no added extras throughout the year. They include all excursions (excluding ferry and rail travel), sport, camps and Reflection Days. This enables families to spread the financial payments over the four terms of the school year.

The fees are divided and charged across four terms of the school year. Parents are encouraged to set up payment of tuition fees as a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment, to make your household budget easier. Payments can be made in a variety of ways at the Finance Office between 8.00am and 3.30pm on school days, or online via Credit Card or Bpay.

Financial Hardship: There is a fair and compassionate process for those parents, who, through genuine financial hardship, are unable to pay all or part of the College Fees. The Principal and the College Fee Committee consider such cases. Confidentiality is assured, and application forms are available from the Business Manager.

Any family experiencing difficulty are encouraged to contact us as early as possible to discuss the options available.

Enrolment Policy: The College endeavours to take on as many students as it can each year, ultimately however there is not always room for all who apply. As such the College holds the right to determine enrolment intake based on the College Enrolment Policy which is shown on the College website www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au Preference is given to local Catholic families.



St Dominic's College

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