

"I CAME THAT  
THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,  
AND HAVE IT  
TO THE FULL"  
JOHN 10:10



# Holy Cross College 2020 Annual Report

## PART ONE: School Performance Information

### 1. Contextual Information

Holy Cross College is a Christ-centred and student-focused Pre-kindergarten to Year 12 Co-educational Catholic school located in the Ellenbrook region of Perth. Built around the lives of the College Patron and House Patrons, the College has established rich traditions of faith practice, rituals, celebrations and pastoral care.

The College is renowned for its culture of innovation and rigour, achieving outstanding results across the four pillars of Learning, Inter-relationships, Faith and Enrichment. Our school is recognised as a leader in the integration of digital technology into the teaching and learning program and is one of only a few schools across Australia certified as an Apple Distinguished School for innovation and creativity in the use of digital technology. The intentional use of the free-flowing learning spaces, combined with contemporary furnishings and the latest pedagogy, motivate and engage students to grow their capabilities in the twenty-first century skills of critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, citizenship and character development.

In 2020, enrolments have grown to more than 1100 students from Pre-kindergarten to Year Twelve. Characteristics of the school and student body is presented in the table below:

School sector	Catholic
School type	Composite
Year range	Pre-kindergarten - Twelve
Total enrolments	1121 (Incl. Pre-kindergarten)
Girls	586
Boys	535
Indigenous students	11
Location	Metropolitan

The College's excellent reputation is validated by our capacity to continue to add value through NAPLAN results across the Junior and Middle Schools and through outstanding achievement in WACE examinations. Recent academic achievements include a General Exhibition in the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Awards for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), with the student coming twenty-sixth in the State. In addition, the student received a Certificate of Distinction for Physics and a Certificate of Commendation. Our median ATAR score has been competitive, in one year placing third in the State among Catholic schools and fourteenth across all schools. In 2019, the College achieved the highest median ATAR score in the Eastern and Hills Regions. Holy Cross College was also placed in

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the top ten schools in Western Australia for English and Religion and Life in 2015 and 2019, and again for Religion and Life in 2016, 2017 and 2018. In 2020, 100% of students completed four or more ATAR subjects or Certificate II Courses or higher. Additionally, with more targeted intervention almost all students achieved success in the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA), resulting in a very pleasing graduation rate of more than 96%.

2020 saw the completion of the Lima Sports Centre, which includes two international size courts, climbing wall, abseiling wall and fitness centre. Along with the existing change rooms, three sports ovals (soccer, AFL and hockey) and six external courts the College is well appointed with outstanding facilities. The state-of-the-art learning spaces are furnished to complement the contemporary pedagogies and integration of digital technologies. Extensive landscaping, including an amphitheatre, prayer garden, labyrinth, roof top garden and a number of adventure playgrounds add an exciting atmosphere during recess and lunchtimes. The New Norcia building houses the Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music) and has lifted the offerings in the creative arts across the College.

The College is designed to promote a truly Pre-kindergarten - Year Twelve experience with Junior School students capitalising on the availability of specialist facilities and Middle and Senior School programs integrated across the campus.

Apart from the core subjects of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Italian, and Physical and Health Education, students can choose from an array of elective subjects, including Dance and Drama; Computer Science and Graphic Design; Food Science; Jewellery Design; Woodwork, Metalwork and Plastics; Film and Animation; Print and Photography; Music and Visual Arts and many other pursuits.

In addition, the College offers programs in the Senior School that lead to opportunities at University, TAFE or work, including certificate level courses and the Onsite work placement program.

The College also offers numerous co-curricular programs including swimming, athletics and cross-country, inter-school sport through the CPSSA, ACC and NEAS, Homework Club, Art Club, various productions, choir, instrumental lessons and much more.

## 2. Teacher standards and qualifications

Holy Cross College employed 81 teaching staff in 2020, comprising full-time and part-time staff. The table shows the highest qualification achieved by teaching and non-teaching staff:

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Qualification	Number of Staff
Certificates	14
Diplomas	6
Bachelor Degrees	52
Graduate Certificate	5
Graduate Diplomas	18
Masters Degrees	21
Doctorate Degrees	1

### 3. Workforce composition

Note that the number of staff will continue to increase from year to year as the College grows to its full enrolment configuration. (Note: Figures represent head count)

Category	Male	Female
Primary Teaching	2	18
Secondary Teaching	16	38
Support Staff	13	28
Senior Leaders	5	2
Indigenous	1	0

### 4. Student attendance at school

Year Level	Attendance Rate (%)
Kindergarten	91
Pre-primary	93
1	93
2	92
3	93
4	94
5	93
6	93
7	91
8	94
9	92
10	92
11	93
12	90
Whole College	92

Non-attendance is recorded electronically via SEQTA and followed up by the class / HTG teacher, House Co-ordinator, Assistant Principals and Vice Principal. Subject/class teachers check non-attendance each period throughout the day and administrative support staff contact parents when notification of non-attendance has not been received.

## 5. NAPLAN information

Year 3

Field of Study	School Mean	State Mean	Australian Mean
Reading			
Writing			
Spelling			
Grammar & Punctuation			
Numeracy			

No NAPLAN Testing Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Year 5

Field of Study	School Mean	State Mean	Australian Mean
Reading			
Writing			
Spelling			
Grammar & Punctuation			
Numeracy			

No NAPLAN Testing Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Year 7

Field of Study	School Mean	State Mean	Australian Mean
Reading			
Writing			
Spelling			
Grammar & Punctuation			
Numeracy			

No NAPLAN Testing Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Year 9

Field of Study	School Mean	State Mean	Australian Mean
Reading			
Writing			
Spelling			
Grammar & Punctuation			
Numeracy			

No NAPLAN Testing Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

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Prior to the Coronavirus Pandemic Holy Cross College has consistently added significant value to students' achievement from Years Three, Five, Seven and Nine.

## 6. Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

The College provides many opportunities for parent, student and teacher voice through a range of communication mechanisms and surveys and welcomes feedback on all aspects of the College's operation. In the preparation of the new Strategic Compass 2019-2022, parents, students and teachers were invited to contribute to setting the goals and direction of the College for the next few years. The overwhelming sentiments are positive, with any issues and concerns dealt with swiftly and compassionately. The College has established an excellent reputation within the Ellenbrook community and beyond for its excellent pastoral care, outstanding facilities, incomparable use of digital technologies and the incorporation of twenty-first century teaching practices. Above all, feedback indicates a high level of satisfaction in regard to students' achievement in all endeavours; academic, sporting and cultural. The College's integration of digital technologies is highly acclaimed throughout Western Australia, as well as nationally and internationally, with the College being acknowledged by Apple Corporation as an Apple Distinguished School. Parent, student and teacher satisfaction is supported by strong demand for enrolments, excellent academic achievement, increasing parent participation and regular positive feedback through letters, emails and Facebook likes and comments

## 7. School Income

A summary of school income is presented on the Australian Government's My School website at [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au). Search for Holy Cross College, Ellenbrook, WA.

## 8. Senior Secondary outcomes

Characteristic	School	CEWA	State
Percentage of students achieving a WACE	96.40	95.80	91.50
Median ATAR	74.20	82.80	81.5
Triciles	57/27/16	27/38/35	
Percentage gaining first preference to university	56.5	70.3	
Percentage gaining second preference to university	87.0	92.4	
Certificates of Distinction	3		
Certificates of Merit	8		
<b>High Performing Students</b>			
• Sophie Simonetta	97.00		
• Yachna Smith	96.00		
• Georgia Smyth	95.75		
• Alexander Fanning	94.35		
• Swathi Prathees	92.80		
• Dylan Chui	91.35		

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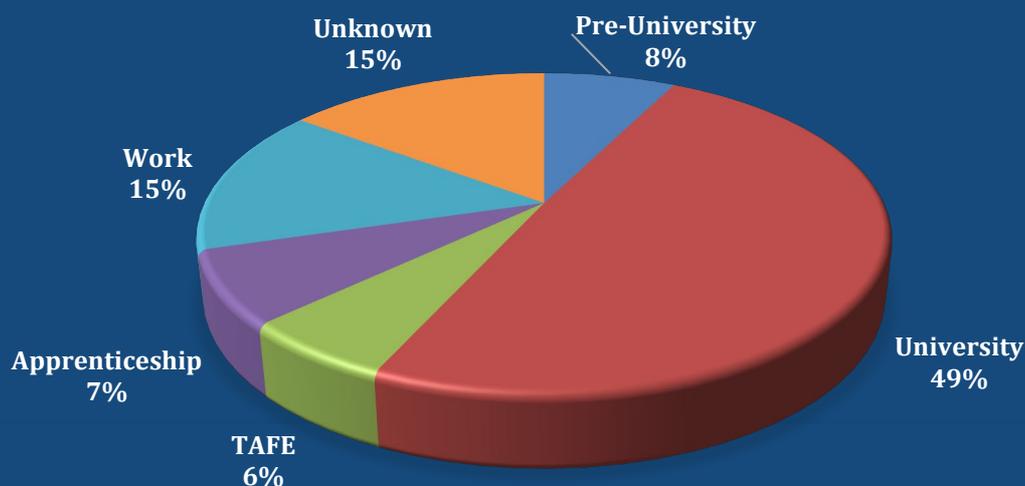
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100% of students studying a General course pathway earned either a Certificate II, III or IV, meaning they finished school with an additional vocational qualification.

## 9. Year Twelve Post-school destinations

### YEAR 12 POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS



## 10. School Improvement Plan

### Annual School Improvement Plan – Key Goals for 2020

#### Learning

- Student Voice - To foster student agency to encourage students to act with vitality and purpose in shaping their own learning.

#### Inter-relationships

- Connecting Communities - To realise the full potential of a culturally diverse College community.

#### Faith

- Telling the Story - To further develop the capacity of staff to articulate the Catholic world view.

#### Enrichment

- Promoting Excellence - To grow enrolments by leveraging the unique identity, character and achievements of the College in the wider community.

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## Annual School Improvement Plan 2020 – Success Indicators

### Learning

- Students demonstrate voice and choice in their learning.
- Students have input into the growth and development of the College.

### Inter-relationships

- Policies, practices and procedures support cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Communication is responsive to a linguistically diverse community.
- Increased engagement of all members of the College community is evident.
- Activities acknowledge and celebrate cultural diversity.

### Faith

- Staff demonstrate increased knowledge and understanding of the Catholic world view.
- Staff articulate the Catholic world view in the context of their work.

### Enrichment

- Marketing strategies highlight the unique identity, character and achievements of the College.
- Growth in enrolments is evident through increased waiting lists and numbers, especially in the Middle and Senior Schools.
- Digital communications promote the unique identity, character and achievements of the College.

## PART TWO: School Community Report

### 11. College Board Chair Report

On behalf of the College Board, I would like to thank you for your attendance at Holy Cross College's Annual General Meeting for 2020.

My name is Adam Bolton and I have had the privilege of serving on the College Board for the past 5 years, and filled the role of Board Chair for 4 years.

This evening I would like to introduce my fellow Board Members, our:

Treasurer

Friends of Holy Cross Representative

St Helena of the Holy Cross Parish Priest

Board Members

College Principal

Mr Chris Sorenson

Mrs Jo Davies

Father Bona

Ms Rebecca Bowen, Ms Lisa Reith and Mr Rodney Gardiner

Mr Peter Collins

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Also in attendance at the Board Meetings are our Vice Principal Mrs Kylie Day, Business Manager Mrs Jean Topliss and Senior Leadership Team member, Mr Ryan Shelton.

The general object of the School Board is to help the College fulfil its education responsibilities, manage finances and assist the Principal with College policies and practices. My role tonight, as Chairperson of the School Board, is to provide you with highlights of the past year. I present this report on behalf of the current Board members.

### **Challenges and Achievements:**

2020 has certainly been a year for the history books. The global Covid-19 Pandemic presented challenges for Holy Cross College which changed our normal way of doing things, challenged us to dig deep, adapt and find new ways. Through our whole College community approaching each challenge with passion, creativity and resilience, we have not only adapted to new norms, we have excelled.

My address usually thanks our leadership team, staff, students and parents toward the end of my report, however 2020 calls for a new format.

Holy Cross College has a reputation for excellence in learning with technology, and in a time of exceptional COVID-19 challenges, Holy Cross continued to build on this reputation. The 'new norm' in 2020 required significant innovation, and highlights include:

- Two Quality Catholic Education (QCE) Awards 2020, for our Virtual School Production "The Monologue Show" and for remote digital participation in the annual LifeLink Sleepout.
- Livestream events for parents and students to gather virtually to share assemblies, sports carnivals, Book Week, College celebrations such as the Mother's Day Liturgy and the virtual Arts Showcase
- Digital participation in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival
- Virtual engagement with our students such as the Junior School's 'Attitude of Gratitude' challenge
- Video Learning Conversations between staff, parents and students
- The launch of 'HCC Podcasts' to innovatively share our learning activities and journeys

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- Outstanding COVID-19 remote learning support for all our students. I'd particularly like to mention the experience of our youngest students. During lockdown, take home learning packs were distributed via kiss and drive, to provide resource packs for each child. These packs contained a variety of games, learning tools (such as counters and dice) and workbooks, which seamlessly supported Seesaw digital platform learning activities. It's important to note that not only did staff provide a rich learning experience during lockdown, they also managed to ensure our students felt connected to their school community through daily 'morning greetings', sharing videos of how other children were learning, sharing daily interesting facts with students, and enabling children to share their thoughts with their learning groups via Seesaw. These excellent initiatives protected children from feeling isolated and maintained their connection with peers and teachers.

These initiatives could only be achieved with strong and clear leadership. Our College Principal, Mr Peter Collins' plan for 2020 was to be a trailblazer, an innovator. Mr Collins could not have foreseen what being our principal in 2020 would look like, however the times certainly called for a trailblazer. Seeing Mr Collins approach each challenge with optimistic professionalism, volumes of experience, and a clear vision, has been reassuring and the key to our success this year. During 2020, Mr Collins used the life of Sister Irene McCormack as inspiration, when he told us that we can create our own future to dream, re-imagine, innovate, create, change and seek opportunities. Mr Collins' clear message was to be optimistic and change the world. Without a doubt, Holy Cross College rose to the challenge. On behalf of the College Board, I would like to express a thank you to Mr Collins for your genuine warmth and strong leadership during a challenging year, which served as a clear light to lead the way to achieving success.

I would like to thank the Friends of Holy Cross for enriching our culture in running both social and fundraising events. Thank you to Mrs Michelle Francis, President of the Friends of Holy Cross, and to all the committee members and other helpers, for a fantastic year, in which annual events such as Book Week went ahead.

A tremendous thank you is extended to our entire College community - our senior leadership team, our teachers, students, parents and support staff - for the grit and determination to continue to embrace a 'new norm' to fulfil our mission to have 'life to the full' through the four LIFE Pillars of Learning, Inter-relationships, Faith and Enrichment. We found new ways, adapted to change, showcased innovation and delivered excellent standards. What 2020 has clearly shown us, is that our school lives our vision, of being a Community of Transformation in the Spirit of the Risen Christ. We have embraced our vision through growth, strength and optimism, and we look forward to 2021.

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## Highlights of 2020:

A significant highlight of 2020 was the combined School Boards' dinner with St Helena's Catholic Primary School and Holy Cross College - the theme of which was connecting communities, fostering partnerships, and appreciating that we are one Catholic community, connected by our Parish, St Helena of the Holy Cross. Our Inter-relationships pillar focus for 2020 is to realise the full potential of our culturally diverse community. Our College captains for 2020, John Topliss and Sophie Simonetta spoke about ways Holy Cross College has fostered partnerships and worked on developing the full potential of our culturally diverse community. To this end, our staff spent a pupil free day in June devoted to the goal of connecting communities. For more information about our 'Cultural Connectedness' focus, please see Mr Collins' blog on our College website.

Capital works - We are in the process of finalising the build for Stage 6B of the Capital Development Plan for our College sports centre, which incorporates sports courts, a gymnasium and climbing facilities. It will also provide a space for the whole College to gather for future events such as the Annual Celebration Evening. With the finalisation of Stage 6B, the College has completed all stages of its current Capital Development Plan. The College Board will now begin the process of preparing a new Capital Development Plan.

This year Holy Cross College underwent a School Cyclic Review (SCR) whereby a panel of external educators report on the improvement journey of our College. I am pleased to advise that the SCR Panel report has provided HCC with excellent feedback about both our improvement strategies over the past 3 years, and our future focus.

Earlier in 2020, we congratulated Mrs Julie Hornby on her appointment to the Holy Cross College Principal role, commencing 1 January 2021. Mrs Hornby joins us from her current position as Principal of Mercy College, a position she has held for 7 years. We look forward to warmly welcoming Mrs Hornby to our school community in 2021.

## Final thank you:

Having already extended our thanks to Mr Collins and the College community, it is important to mention a significant thank you to a particular staff member. Mrs Kylie Day joined our College in 2014 as a foundation staff member of our Junior School. During her time at Holy Cross College, Mrs Day has worn many hats - as a teacher, as Assistant Principal - Junior School and as our College Vice Principal. Through her exceptional professionalism and hard work, Mrs Day has played a vital role in Holy Cross College's transition into an outstanding state of the art Pre-K-12 College. Mrs Day, on behalf of the College Board, we thank you for your incredible contribution, leadership and professionalism. We are very sorry to lose you, but wish you all the best in your new Pedagogical Leadership role at CEWA.

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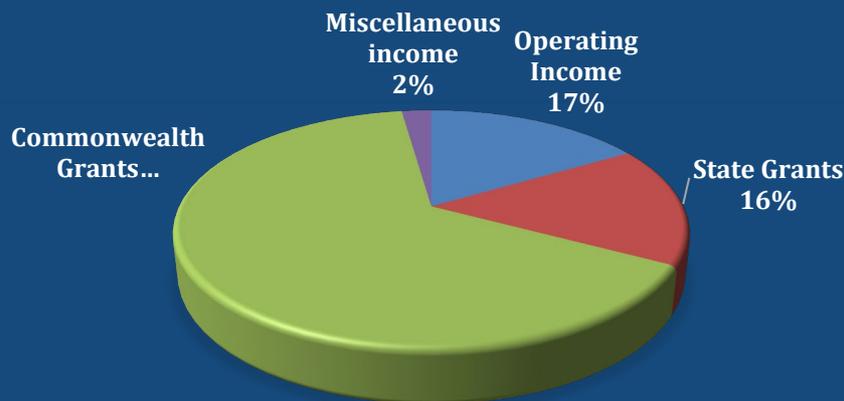


In conclusion, I extend a final thank you to the College Board members who give up their time to address important matters affecting the financial and operational aspects of Holy Cross College. Your efforts and warm support are greatly appreciated. The time has come for me to step down as Board Chair. It's been a very rewarding experience to be involved with the School Board over the past 5 years, during which time our College has significantly changed. I am particularly grateful to our school principals during that time, Ms Connor and Mr Collins, for their support and kindness. I wish our School Advisory Council all the best in 2021.

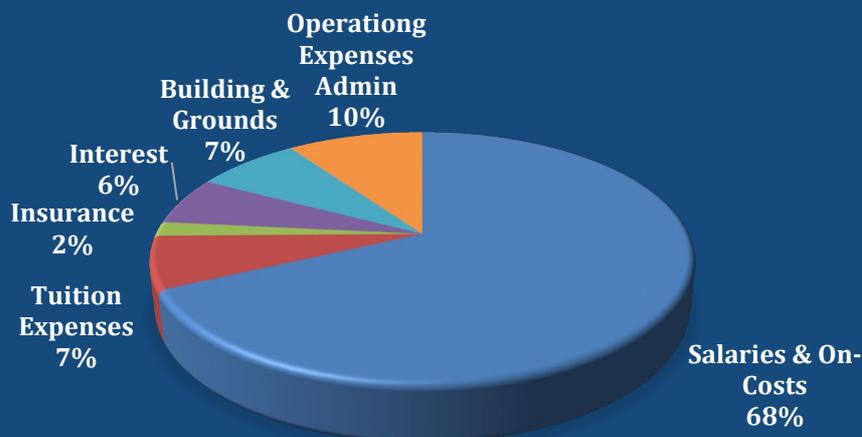
Thank you.

Mr Adam Bolton  
College Board Chair

## 12. Provisional School Budget 2021



### BUDEGETED OPERATING INCOME 2021



### BUDGETED EXPENSES 2021

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