

ST THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE



ANNUAL

REPORT

2021

Honor Excellentiae Debetur

CONTENTS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT	3
VALUE ADDED	5
- RELIGIOUS EVENTS	6
- COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS	7
- THE COLLEGE HOUSE SYSTEM	8
STUDENT RESULTS & DESTINATIONS	9
THE STUDENT BODY	10
SATISFACTION WITH THE SCHOOL	11
FINANCE REPORT	12
STAFF	13
CONTACT DETAILS	14



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Fr Andrew Cranshaw

How might I describe 2021? Well, if I could start by saying it was another stressful year of complex and ever changing Covid Pandemic Orders thrust upon schools across several long lockdowns. It was also a year of leading students and staff in and out of periods of remote learning like yoyos. But the hardest part was trying to keep abreast with the constant weekly covid alerts, ever changing Health directives, frequently updated guidelines from the DET and constantly evolving Government Health Orders to respond to in lightning speed timeframes. And that's just the tip of the iceberg when summarising 2021 from a principal's perspective.



I would like to thank the Executive team for their tremendous endurance and perseverance during this very difficult year. The mental strain took its toll on all of us and pushed us far beyond the call of duty. The year challenged our ability to adapt quickly and remain calm and alert to the constantly changing Covid landscape while we worked very hard to prepare our staff, students and parents to navigate through one lockdown after another and through several forms of hybrid learning as we finally emerged out of the lockdowns in Term 4.

I would like to acknowledge our loyal staff who gave all they could to provide our children and families with the very best learning and support they needed under such trying conditions. Unless the Lord had given us the strength, we would not have been able to keep going. Like the Psalmist wrote, "Unless the Lord had been my helper, my soul would have almost dwelt in hell" (Psalm 93:17).

I would like to thank God who comforted throughout the year. In His admirable and sweet way, Christ offered us comfort, found us ways forward, supported our students and families by His graces and brought the community closer together in an effort to keep the school afloat and ensure the children's Catholic formation and education did not suffer. "If I said, my foot is moved, thy mercy O Lord assisted me. According to the sorrows in my heart, Thy comforts have given joy to my soul" (Psalm 93:18).

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of my Educational Support Staff throughout 2021. Their adaptability to remote learning, working from home and managing Covid compliance during the constant stressful periods of the lockdown was second to none. In particular, I would like to thank our former Deputy Principal Mark Stanton who went to the ends of the earth to support our staff, students and families during the most fatiguing and stressful terms of the winter lockdowns.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our parents, many of whom had to face tremendous daily struggles in the cause of education. Many had access to very limited technology, poor internet, the burden of home-schooling on top of their workloads and home duties. We had large families in remote settings who didn't have enough devices for all their children to follow classes remotely, and when they did, the internet connection was so poor that it became near impossible to stay connected, but they persevered. We had other families whose children were suffering terribly from the isolating of the lockdowns, and whose learning was seriously affected, but they didn't give up.

The challenges of 2021 have left our staff and students most grateful for our school's efforts and more determined than ever to build a school where that forms in every youth the true and perfect Catholic. Let our labour be for God alone, lest our labour be in vain!

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labour in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman keeps awake in vain*

Psalm 126

VALUE ADDED

St Thomas Aquinas College believes that the academic program offered together with the comprehensive range of co-curricular activities provides our students with an opportunity to reach their potential after leaving the College and moving into adulthood. It is important to us that the learning environment we provide to all our students is balanced and holistic. The academic progress of VCE is monitored through the figures provided by VCAA using predicted outcomes as opposed to actual performance.

Working through a COVID year was challenging but the College was still able to add value in the following areas: ongoing sporting, drama, music, excursions to local and interstate destinations, religious events, health and wellbeing, leadership programs and other activities.

RELIGIOUS EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE



COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

Across the College year we had a raft of other activities going on as well. Some of the highlights from the year included:

VCE QUEENSLAND TRIP



VCE TASMANIA TRIP



ANZAC DAY



GRIP LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



Crucible Challenges



Gr 2 Shrine Excursion

French Awards



GR 6 Federation



Exploring
Other Classes
Projects



Footy
Fun



VALUE ADDED THROUGH THE COLLEGE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House system is designed and envisioned to encourage the spirit and sense of: Belonging & Family; Duty & Service to One Another; Hierarchy & Leadership; Responsibility & Hard Work; Team Work & Effort. Each House receives scored ratings at the end of each academic term. There are 5 categories for House ratings: Conduct; Academics; Leadership; Punctuality & Professional Appearance; Sportsmanship. The award is presented at the end of the year for the best House in all categories by general average in each school, and then the overall winning team.

2021 HOUSE RESULTS ARE:

Sub-SCHOOL	BOSCO	MANNIX	MACKILLOP	KOLBE
Girls	61019.35	54358.61	59279.5	55857.52
=>	1	4	2	3
Boys	50023.15	56861.99	50843.3	51721.01
=>	4	1	3	2
Primary	45491.93	44656.19	43890.78	43461.48
=>	1	2	3	4
Overall	156534.43	155876.79	154013.58	151040.01
=>	1	2	3	4



1. BOSCO



2. MANNIX



3. MACKILLOP



1. KOLBE

STUDENT RESULTS AND DESTINATIONS

VCE OUTCOMES 2021

No. of students in year 12	18
Percent attaining VCE	66.67%
ATAR of 90 or above	16.7%
ATAR of 80 or above	25%
ATAR of 70 or above	41.7%
ATAR or 60 or above	66.7%

Our Year 12 students all managed to complete their VCE. This year's dux was Brandon Youngman with an ATAR score of 92.75%. Putting this in context, Brandon is placed inside the top 8% out of the students who received scored assessment in the State. We'd like to take the time to not

POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS 2021

Completed Senior Secondary School	18
Students at University	38.9%
Students at TAFE/Vocational Study	11.1%
Students in Employment	50%



only congratulate the students but to also thank the parents for entrusting us with their children and supporting us through their journey. We would also like to thank all of the staff involved in this group's 13-year journey at the College.



THE STUDENT BODY

On Census Day, 2 August 2021 St Thomas Aquinas College had an enrolment of 265 students (P-12) of whom 145 were Primary and 120 were Secondary.

The average whole school student attendance rate as a percentage in 2021 was 95.58 %

STUDENT ATTENDANCES IN 2021

Level	Prep	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12
%	94.62	95.32	97.40	97.16	96.71	97.95	97.10	97.13	95.53	92.87	92.68	92.14	92.24

ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT

Students are marked present or absent in Homeroom every morning at 8.31 am. Students must also register their attendance if they arrive at school after this time. Parents / Guardians are requested to phone the school to advise of their child's absence each day they are not attending. If this phone call is not received by 9.00 am, the School Reception will phone parents directly to advise their child has not been recorded as attending school. Students must also submit written notification signed by a parent/guardian upon their return to school to be given to the College receptionist. Students' absences are recorded on each student's Semester report. Parents are contacted to discuss irregular or persistent absences. Formal procedures are actioned for unauthorized absences.

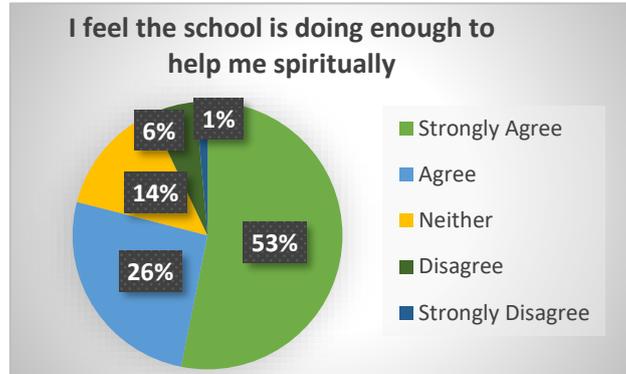


SATISFACTION WITH THE SCHOOL

In 2021, the Secondary students responded to an *Attitude to Schooling Survey*. The questions ranged across three domains of school effectiveness. Sample results taken from the survey are shown in the charts below.

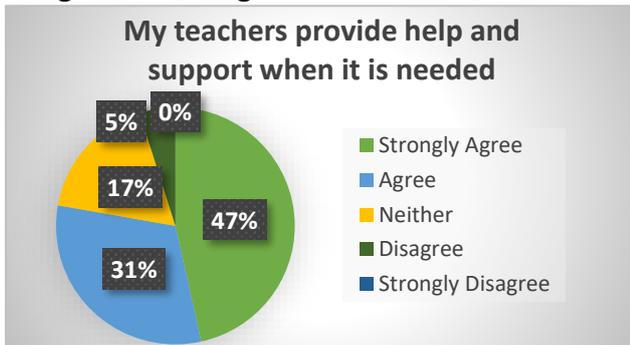
- Spiritual Formation
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Relationship and Wellbeing

Spiritual Formation

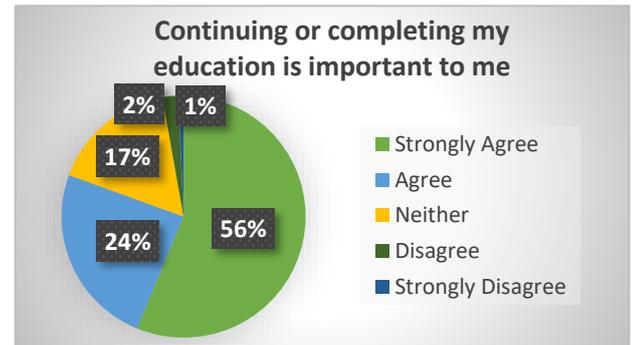


Nearly 80% agree or strongly agree

Teaching and Learning

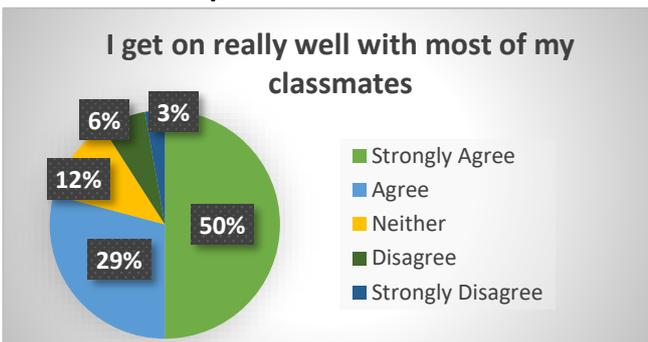


Nearly 80% agreed or strongly agreed

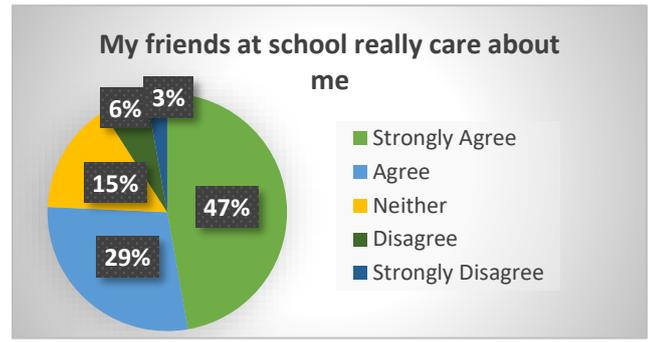


80% agreed or strongly agreed

Student Relationship



Nearly 80% agreed or strongly agreed

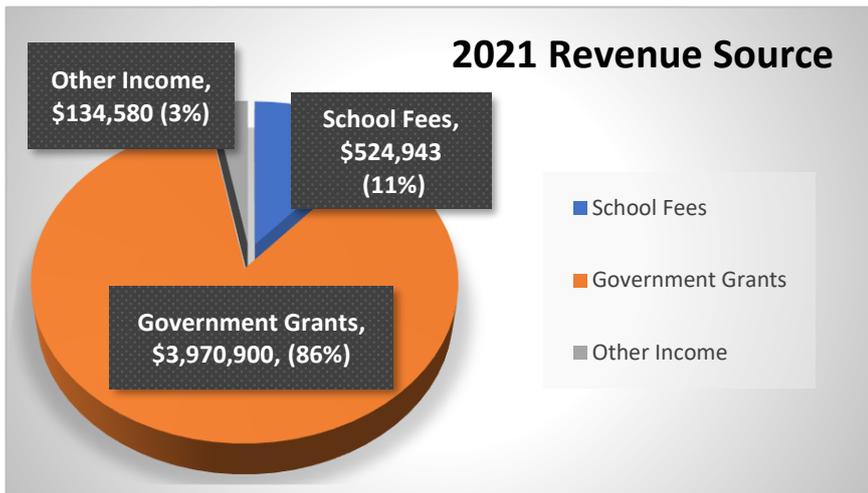


Over 75% disagreed or strongly disagreed

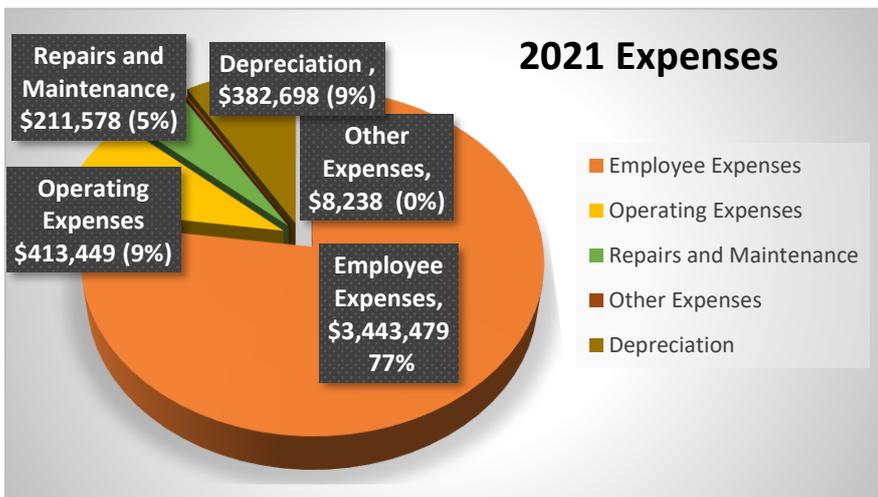
Notable outcomes in the 2021 STAC Secondary students' responses include:

- over 80% of all Secondary students either agreed or strongly agreed that the College is doing enough to help them spiritually.
- nearly 80% of all Secondary students either agreed or strongly agreed that they got on with their fellow students.
- 80% of all Secondary students either agreed or strongly agreed that continuing with their education was important to them.

FINANCE REPORT



Revenue Source 2021	
School Fees	\$524,943
Government Grants	\$3,970,900
Other Income	\$134,580
TOTAL REVENUE 2021	\$4,630,423



Expenses 2021	
Employee Expenses	\$3,443,479
Operating Expenses	\$413,449
Repairs and Maintenance	\$211,578
Other Expenses	\$8,238
Depreciation	\$382,698
TOTAL EXPENSES 2021	\$4,459,442

In another difficult year, the pandemic once again had a significant impact on the College's finances. Lockdowns and mandates contributed to the cancellation or minimisation of various College functions, activities and incursions. Relief teacher expenses were significant due to high rates of personal and pandemic leave taken by staff. Additional cleaning services and ongoing purchases of PPE supplies and signage continued to ensure ongoing compliance with government regulations. Unlike in 2020, government grants to assist with the additional costs of the pandemic were not forthcoming. Despite these challenges, the College was able to complete a number of projects:

- Introduction of the new College Salary Scale and resulting pay increases for most staff
- Landscaping the grounds surrounding the Community Centre, including levelling of topsoil, seeding of a new lawn and creating a new car parking area
- Refurbishment of the Community Centre kitchen furniture and electrical appliances
- Upgrade of aged fire service infrastructure and plumbing
- Works to improve drainage across the campus
- Development of trailer into a large, mobile advertisement for the College
- An upgrade of our ageing Public Address system

Other minor expenditure items included:

- New furniture for the Grade 6 classroom
- Installation of more digital projectors in the Primary subschool.
- Purchase of two 3D printers for our Technology and VCD students
- Installation of additional split system air-conditioning units for the Primary Art room and Aquinas Centre.

STAFF

2021 WORKFORCE (TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING)

The data below is a snapshot of the staff cohort at the time of the annual census.

No. of teaching staff	30
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No. of general staff	13
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Teacher Retention 2021

St Thomas Aquinas College retained 22 out of 31 teachers



TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATION

The following teachers were employed by St Thomas Aquinas College in 2021. All individuals were registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

Mr Seth Baker - *B.Ed/Arts(Sec)*
Ms Colette Ballard - *Dip.Teach, B.Ed(Prim), M.Ed*
Ms Alexis Bell - *B.Ed(Sec), B.Sport&OutdoorRec*
Mr Aaron Bell - *B.Sc(SpecHons), B.Ed(Inter/SnrHealth&PhyEd)*
Mr John Calnan - *B.IT, Dip.Ed*
Fr Andrew Cranshaw - *B.Arch, Dip.Ed(Sec)*
Mr Emlyn Davis - *B.A(Hons), M.A., PGCE(UK), DipEd(Sec)*
Mrs Natalie Devine - *B.Ed(Prim/Sec)*
Mrs Tanya de Castella *B.A. (Architecture), Dip.Ed(Sec)*
Fr Raphael du Chazaud - *GradDip.Ed(Prim)*
Mrs Sarah Faulkner - *B.Sc(Hons) Dip.Ed*
Mr John Glover - *B.Mus(Hons), GradCert.RelEd, M.Teach(Sec)*
Mr Mark Hanney - *Dip.Teach, Dip.Phil, Dip.Fin*
Mrs Jacinta Hurst - *Dip.Teach*
Mrs Zeina Iskander - *B.Mus, Dip.Ed*
Mr Ennal Kapoor - *B.Sc(Maths/Phys), PGCE(Fiji)*
Ms Deloraine Keegel - *B.Ed(PostGrad)*
Ms Leanne McKenzie - *B.Sc, Dip.Ed(Sec)*
Ms Louise McNamara - *B.Ed(Prim)*
Ms Alison Morris - *B.Ed, B.A(Maths)*
Ms Gillian Murray - *B.A, B.Ed(Prim)*
Ms Edel O'Hea - *B.Ed(Sec)*
Mrs Susanne Pastor - *Dip.Teach(Prim)*
Mr Lawrence Phillips - *B.Ed(Prim)*
Ms Jasmin Rosario - *B.A(EarlyChildEd)*
Mr Mark Stanton -
Ms Evelyn Sheeran *Masters.Teach(Sec), B.Criminology, B.Forensic Science (Chemistry), Grad Cert (Religious Ed).*
Fr Jordie Stephens - *B.Bus, B.Ed*
Mr Jason Velnoweth *B.A, B.Sc(Hons), Dip.Ed(Prim/Sec)*
Mr Jonathan Wong - *B.Ed(Sec)*

To form in each youth the true and perfect Catholic



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