St Aloysius’ College
A Jesuit School for Boys - Founded 1879
From the Principal

St Aloysius’ College is a Jesuit school for boys established in 1879. For over 135 years it has served the city of Sydney by educating boys in the Catholic humanistic tradition inspired by the example of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The College shares this mission with 700 other Jesuit schools throughout the world.

St Aloysius’ College is committed to an education for each student that proposes Christ as the model for human life; pursues excellence in teaching and learning; and promotes lifelong learning and spiritual growth.

Overlooking the beautiful Sydney Harbour and next to its Bridge, the College supports parents in the formation of their sons into young men. Consistent with the Ignatian tradition of education, the College’s religious, educational, pastoral and co-curricular programs are aimed at forming ‘men for others’ - young men who are compassionate, resilient, gentle, intellectually curious, dutiful, adventurous, heroic, loving and open to God.

The College’s motto Ad Majora Natus, ‘Born for Greater Things’, encapsulates the belief that each student is called to the truth, beauty and goodness found in the person of Jesus.

Mark Tannock
Principal
From the Rector

We are involved in education because we believe in young people and their potential. As part of a Jesuit tradition since 1547, we know that education has the power to transform lives for the better. We strive to be a welcoming community that recognises the learning foundations shaped at home are an important part of the Ignatian formation offered at St Aloysius’ College. Our community of students, staff and families combine to create an environment where learning is valued, and all are encouraged to contribute to society with whatever capacity they possess.

We seek to form young people who appreciate the gift of their faith and are committed to serving others. Upon graduation, it is hoped that students of St Aloysius’ College will be open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving and committed to justice. We want them to ask the deeper questions, to have the courage to step beyond comfort zones, to be sensitive to God in their lives and seek Christ in all things, to make choices for the dignity of others and to be loving in their relationships. We hope they will display a genuine concern for others, especially those in our world who are disadvantaged or live on the margins of society. We believe in the wisdom of that saying ‘the heart of education is education of the heart’.

Jesuit education aims at joining learning and virtue and developing a faith that does justice. It means the ideal of being young men and women . . . who know that life is only lived well when lived generously in the service of others. It means helping them to discover that what they most have to offer is who they are rather than what they have.

*Characteristics of Jesuit Education* (1986)
Ad Majora Natus – Born for Greater Things

Founded in 1879, St Aloysius’ College is a Jesuit school educating boys to become young men of competence, conscience and compassion. The College’s mission is to provide a Catholic education that:-

• Proposes Christ as the model of human life
• Pursues excellence in teaching and learning
• Promotes life-long learning and spiritual growth

The College co-operates with parents in the formation of their sons. It seeks to produce ‘men for others’ who are balanced and motivated, integrating spiritual maturity and academic excellence with a rounded social and physical development.

A Jesuit education stresses the formation of the whole person. While attention is given to the development of intellectual and other skills, emphasis is placed on the formation of character, socially-just attitudes, and a commitment to deeper religious values.

The College motto Ad Majora Natus (Born for Greater Things) is what Saint Aloysius is reported to have said in response to his father when he chose humble service over worldly power. Drawing us beyond self-interest, we are encouraged to put our talents and capacities generously at the service of others. It encourages us to engage in the reality around us with a compassionate heart, a discerning mind and a courageous outlook.
St Aloysius’ College offers a learning environment that encourages each student to be:

- Grateful for his own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with his gifts, becoming a man for others;
- Attentive to his experience and to his vocation; and discerning about the choices he makes and the effects of those choices;
- Compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by his just actions and forgiving words.
- Faith-filled in his beliefs and hopeful for the future;
- Eloquent and truthful in what he says of himself, of the relations between people, and of the world;
- Learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways he uses his learning for the common good;
- Curious about everything; and active in his engagement with the world, changing what he can for the better;
- Intentional in the way he lives and in his use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and prophetic in the example he sets for others.

It is hoped our graduates will be well-rounded, intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving, committed to doing justice in generous service to the people of God – a person who is competent and compassionate, a person whose conscience is sensitive to the demands of the Gospel. They will be people of peace and justice, committed to be agents of change in the world, who recognize how widespread is injustice, and how pervasive are the forces of oppression, selfishness and consumerism

Fr Peter-Hans Kolvenbach SJ 1986
“Cura Personalis” – Care of the Individual

*Cura personalis* is at the heart of Jesuit education. Genuine concern for the wellbeing of each individual inspires positive relationships between staff and students in all areas of College life. Within this context of care, students are encouraged to grow confidently to their full potential – intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.

In the Junior School, the Classroom Teacher is the primary mentor for our students. They take special care of each student and offer guidance when needed.

In the Senior School, a Pastoral Mentor holds the primary responsibility for the pastoral care of the student. The Pastoral Mentor becomes the significant adult in the life of each student, monitoring wellbeing and offering encouragement and guidance in responding to day-to-day needs.

Each student belongs to a Pastoral Group which is a community of 12 to 15 boys from the same Year Group belonging to the same House. They are supported by a Pastoral Mentor who helps them relate and learn from each other. The students get to know each other well as they progress through their time at the College. The Pastoral Mentor implements activities to foster the formation of character and the development of the whole person.

Heads of Year coordinate the Pastoral Mentors within their Year Group. Heads of Year work in partnership with Counsellors, Chaplains and others at the College to care for each student’s wellbeing.

Counsellors are available for students and families in the Junior and Senior School. The College also has Chaplains and a Youth Minister. There is a Careers Counsellor in the Senior School.
Students are offered a diversity of spiritual experiences including Sacramental and Liturgical Programs, retreats and reflection days. This encourages our students to give thanks to God for who they are, to consider the person they hope to become, and to contemplate how they can be an agent for positive change in the world.

Reflection is an essential component of the daily life of our students. Each class begins with a prayer. The Ignatian prayer of The Examen helps staff and students review the past day and plan ahead through the lens of faith.

Each year students participate in retreats or camps according to themes chosen for their age group. Students are encouraged to understand their emotions and desires more deeply and to appreciate what it means to love and serve others in a community. These experiences deepen each boy’s relationship with God.

Ignatian spirituality is a balance of dreams and practicalities. It is a socially engaged spirituality. One’s abilities and talents are not regarded as assets to be selfishly hoarded, rather as gifts to be given generously in the service of others. A popular prayer among the students is the Prayer for Generosity, attributed to Saint Ignatius:

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve – to give, and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labour, and not to ask reward, except that of knowing that I do your holy will.
Men for others
Learning to serve, serving to Learn

Jesuit schools are called on to reach out into the community, not only to the extended College community of parents, alumni and friends, but also to the poor and socially disadvantaged locally and abroad.

Students learn to evaluate critically the reality around them. They are encouraged to recognise and companion those who are oppressed and neglected and to become agents for change in the world.

The young men formed at St Aloysius’ College are encouraged to become men for others seeking a faith that does justice. A Christian calling is to live a life of loving service. To build more just human structures that enhance the quality of peoples’ lives is the aim of such a community.

In preparation for what the College hopes will be a lifetime commitment to the service of others, a range of immersion and service-learning programs are offered. Each experience allows students to learn more about themselves, the world and God’s people.
In the Senior School, immersions to the Philippines, Timor Leste and Kempsey are offered. The College’s relationship with these communities has been developed over a number of years. The reflection process which is part of the experience helps students to consider more deeply the way they will live in the world and the call of Jesus to love God and one another.

The College has been actively involved in the establishment of a Jesuit Indigenous school, Redfern Jarjum College. Assistance is also provided to recent graduates with service year opportunities in Micronesia, Thailand, and East Timor through the Cardoner Project. The College also contributes to a Jesuit school and teacher training college in Timor Leste.

In the Junior School, the Arrupe Outreach Program introduces students to experiences and communities that allow them to develop their social conscience.

A Jesuit education promotes depth and universality…of specific goals that make it not just a noble humanitarian work, but a service of the Gospel. If we dream of an educational system that teaches people to decide from inside, from the depths of their hearts, and to serve generously not just a tribe, but as broad a slice of humanity as it can, it is because these were the goals of Jesus, and the only reason Jesuit schools exist is to serve humanity according to the vision and the spirit of the Gospel.

Fr Adolfo Nicolas SJ (2009)
The Magis – Striving for Excellence

A motto of the Jesuits is *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* (for the greater glory of God). The ‘magis’ encourages all to be better individuals and to deepen their experience of God. Staff and students give witness to the ‘magis’ in their generosity, compassionate care of others, and diligence to both academic and co-curricula pursuits.

Commitment to excellence – in terms of intellectual competence, is at the core of teaching and learning at the College. The normal progression for most students is to university study and the emphasis of the academic program reflects this.

The Academic Curriculum has an emphasis on pursuing excellence in the Humanities, Sciences and Creative Arts. The curriculum does not include subjects from Technical or Vocational areas. In such an environment, to be comfortable with the style of learning, a student needs above average scholastic ability and a capacity to work with diligence.

The program of study at the College is designed to promote a life-long love of learning by promoting independent learning, investigative skills, and an appreciation of the significance of what is learnt.
The College regularly achieves strong overall results with a median ATAR in recent years consistently above 90, indicating that many students at all levels of ability are fulfilling their potential. Pleasing numbers of students are recorded in the Premiers All Rounders and the Top Achievers lists. The Creative Arts often have a number of students selected for ArtExpress (Visual Arts), On Stage (Drama) and Encore (Music).

St Aloysius’ College has integrated technology into all aspects of its curriculum. All students from Year 6 are issued with an iPad promoting independent learning and research. The College works with students, staff and families in using technology to develop educational potential and to integrate this technology effectively into their lives in an ethical, Christian manner.

“From among those who are now merely students, in some time will depart to play diverse roles... carry on the care of souls, to government of the land and administration of justice, and others to other callings... since the children of today become the adults of tomorrow, their good education in life and doctrine will be beneficial to many others, with the fruit expanding more widely every day.”

St Ignatius of Loyola 1551
Union of hearts and minds  
Developing the Whole Person

As Jesuit education is concerned with the development of the whole person, co-curricular activities (sport, music, drama, cadets) are seen as an integral part of the formation of students. All members of the teaching staff are involved in co-curricular activities and participation in cultural, sporting, spiritual and service programs is expected of all students.

St Aloysius’ College has developed sporting programs that accommodate each student’s interests and talents and that teach him to accept both success and failure graciously. Within this program an awareness of the need to co-operate with others, using the qualities of each individual to contribute to the well-being of the whole group, becomes more evident.

Students are encouraged to make an effort in their chosen activities and receive coaching assistance to develop their proficiency and to come closer to realising their potential. The importance of physical well-being is promoted in the sporting program, with the aim that health and fitness become a fundamental part of each boy’s lifestyle.

The College Cadet Unit was first formed in 1913. Today it has over 250 students from Year 7 to Year 12. It is the largest voluntary Army cadet unit in Australia. The challenges, resilience building and comradeship offered by the Unit help form the students in the Jesuit ideal of being ‘men for others’ and are designed to build resilience in young men.
The study of the arts as a means of developing the creative, imaginative and aesthetic sense is encouraged. The College has an outstanding reputation for the quality and range of dramatic productions. Opportunities are offered to students to study all aspects of dramatic production including acting, scriptwriting, set design, lighting design, sound design, costume design, direction, set construction and stage management.

The Music Department has an innovative and vibrant program. Music performance is a key component in the co-curricular program and music forms a special part of our College Community.

As a co-curricular activity, students are expected to commit to their selected ensemble, just as for any team activity. Large numbers of students learn instruments and undertake vocal studies.

Debating and Public Speaking at the College has a long tradition. From their earliest days, Jesuit schools stressed eloqucita perfecta, or ‘a good person speaking well’, being able to communicate according to the capacity of their audience. Every student participates, at least at class level, to acquire confidence in public speaking and every opportunity is given for those who wish to pursue their interest further.
Teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you
as you deserve –
to give, and not to count the cost,
to fight, and not to heed the wounds,
to toil, and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask reward,
except that of knowing
that I do your holy will.

Prayer for Generosity ~ attributed to St Ignatius of Loyola