



PENOLA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
EMU PLAINS

*Believe
Achieve
Succeed*



who we are

Penola Catholic College is a Year 7 to Year 12 co-educational school with a strong reputation for quality student learning that empowers students to be aspirational and successful in attaining their life goals. We are so proud of our students' achievements in the HSC, strong support of HSC Learning Coaches. Positive teacher and student relationships enable students to flourish in the senior school journey and achieve great HSC results. As Principal, I am extremely proud of the exceptional learning environment and highly professional staff who embrace contemporary learning that is relevant for students of today and tomorrow.



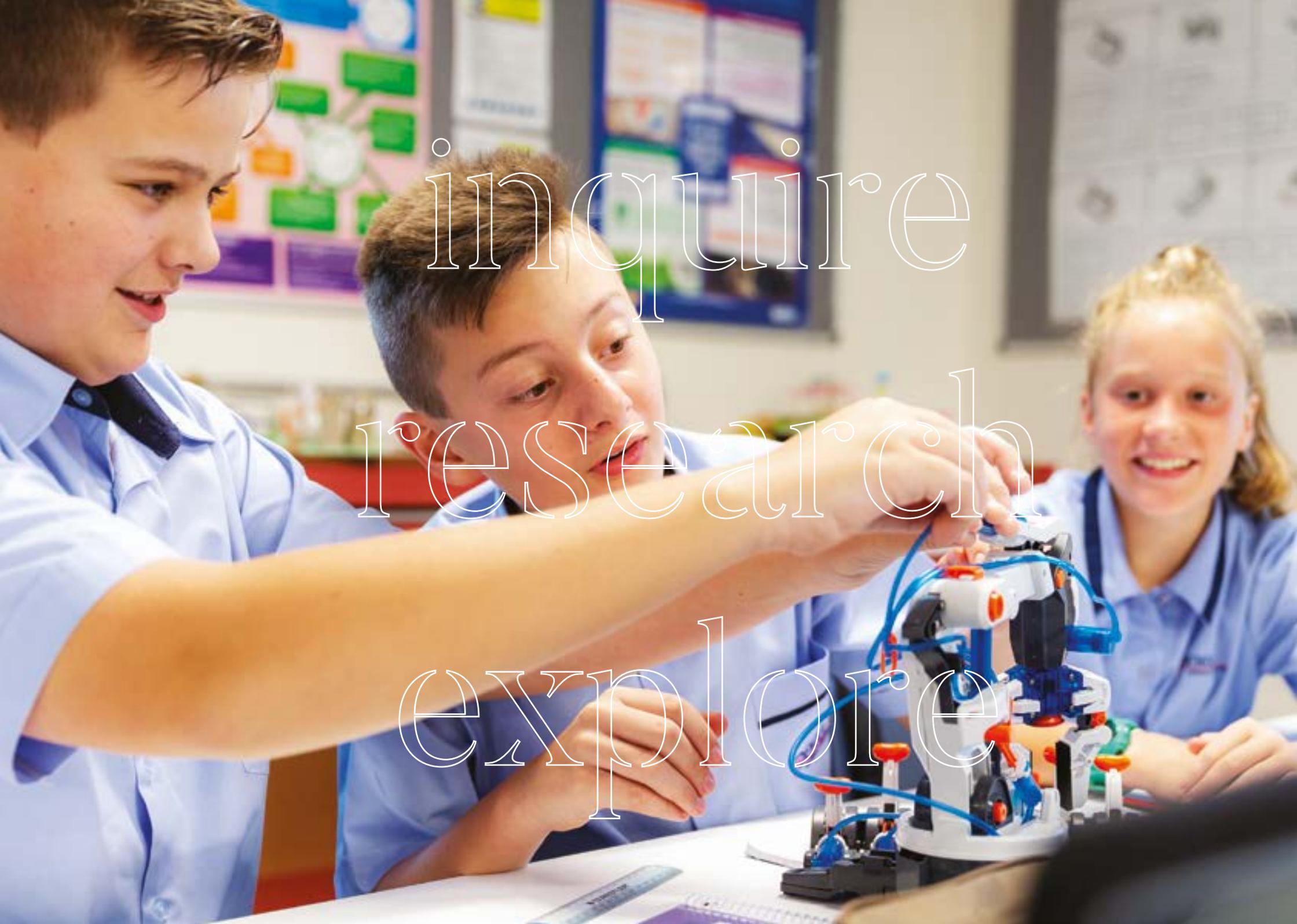


Our Catholic faith is an integral part of the culture of our College, following in the footsteps of St Mary MacKillop as we promote the values of courage, compassion, hope and integrity in every aspect of school life. Our community events all actively promote opportunities to instil these core values in the lives of our students in order to reach out to those in need in our community who are vulnerable and needy such as the aged and homeless. A student of Penola Catholic College is challenged to look beyond themselves and always be guided by these key Christian values that will form the basis of their decision-making throughout their life journey.

At Penola Catholic College, dedicated teachers focus on high quality learning that promotes personal success for each student in the charism of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint. Penola is a place where students are able to flourish holistically through their engagement in contemporary learning experiences that build their capabilities to work both collaboratively and independently. The College encourages each student to strive to achieve excellence and be aspirational in their life and career goals.

Our Learning Framework sets us apart from other schools promoting student engagement, empowerment in learning and enterprise skills that prepare our students for contemporary career pathways of the future requiring critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration. Learning at Penola encourages students to inquire, research, explore and communicate effectively with peers to be progressively developing essential skills to achieve their careers goals for a promising future.

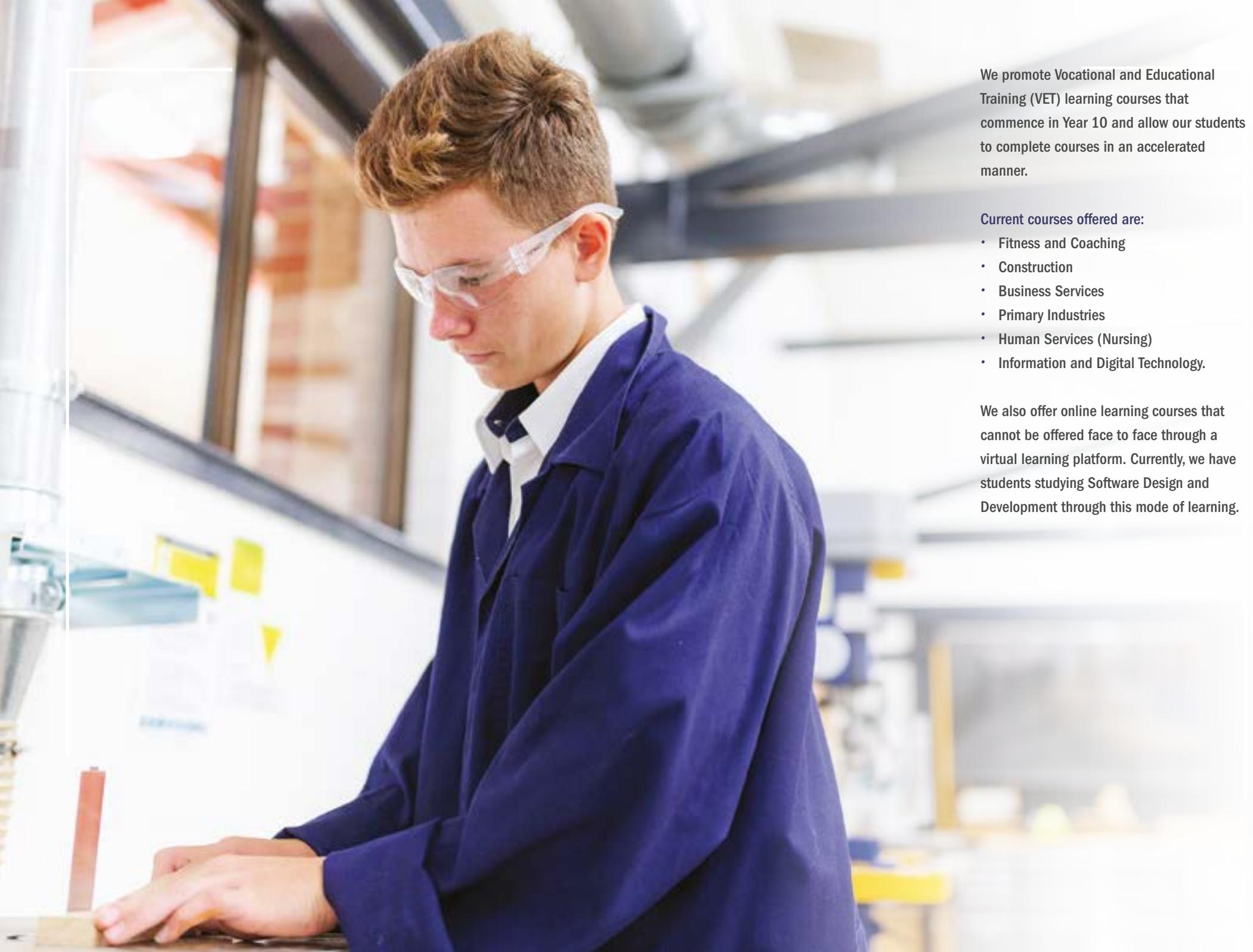
Learning at Penola offers comprehensive resources and modern learning facilities with dynamic teaching staff who model a love and passion of learning. Our diverse and engaging range of learning pathways ensure all students are challenged to reach their potential. We believe that learning extends well beyond the learning space to extra-curricular opportunities such as Representative Sport, Debating and Rowing that all ensure our students thrive in their learning and personal development to be able to excel in a variety of ways.



inquire

research

explore



We promote Vocational and Educational Training (VET) learning courses that commence in Year 10 and allow our students to complete courses in an accelerated manner.

Current courses offered are:

- Fitness and Coaching
- Construction
- Business Services
- Primary Industries
- Human Services (Nursing)
- Information and Digital Technology.

We also offer online learning courses that cannot be offered face to face through a virtual learning platform. Currently, we have students studying Software Design and Development through this mode of learning.





Innovative & challenging
learning



Our students are highly engaged through relevant and innovative teaching that enables them to make choices about their learning, take responsibility for managing their learning portfolio, and develop skills. Students are challenged to extend themselves and achieve beyond expectations through rigorous learning that allows students to be enriched regardless of their ability level.



Curiosity —

— Imagination

Every student's learning journey begins at home and we work with parents in a true partnership to ensure that your child is on track, excited about learning and experiencing success.

At Penola Catholic College curiosity, imagination and love of learning are treasured and promoted. Students have opportunities to learn in groups and independently, in state-of-the-art learning spaces equipped with the latest technology to ensure positive learning experiences for all year groups.

We are fortunate to be located on the Nepean River on a beautiful site with extensive land to accommodate an agricultural farm with animals agisted on site as part of our Primary Industries and Agriculture courses. Students have the opportunity to be a part of the prestigious 'Ag show team' learning about showing and judging animals such as cattle and sheep at Royal Agricultural shows where we have been awarded many trophies and ribbons.



Contemporary Learning opportunities



We continue to transform our learning spaces to reflect new ways of teaching that engage students and enable them to develop the skills that will equip them well for future careers.

The College features a number of specially designed areas to serve specific educational needs including:

- Creative and Performing Arts space
- Contemporary fitness and exercise gym
- Mary Mackillop Learning Centre
- P-TECH and ISTEM Design and Learning Centre
- Junior and Senior Inquiry Learning Centres
- Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) Learning Centre
- Agriculture and Primary Industries
- Hospitality and Food Technology Kitchens
- Extensive sporting ovals and courts.

We aim to enrich the lives of students by promoting a range of extra-curricular activities that cater to their individual skills and interests, leadership capabilities, faith and sense of social justice.

These include:

- CAPTIVATE creative and performing arts program
- Debating and public speaking
- Chess Club
- Vinnies Van outreach program
- Sporting opportunities to Diocesan, state and national representative levels
- Sports teams at Gala Days (touch football, rugby league, soccer, Netball, basketball, etc...)
- 'Ag Show' team events at local and state level
- Year group socials (tenpin bowling or movie nights)
- Reflection Days to build leadership and personal skills
- University links programs and learning opportunities such as at WSU iSTEM
- Business mentoring and immersion sessions with IBM, Telstra and PwC
- A variety of student leadership opportunities as Class Captains, Senior Prefects and participation the Student Leadership Team Year 7-2
- Catechist Program where Year 10 students assist in delivering religious education in local state primary schools.





Community & Business Partnerships

We are incredibly proud that Penola Catholic College is the only Catholic School in NSW that is a P-TECH partnership school. P-TECH refers to the 'Pathways to Technology' initiative which gives us a direct relationship with PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Telstra and IBM. These business organisations work with our staff and students to implement programs of learning and mentoring, both at the College and at their business sites based in Sydney. As a result of this valuable and unique experience, our students often become preferred candidates for future employment, many of them even find positions at these business and community partnerships. Our strong connection with universities and community organisations places Penola students at the forefront of all applicants as they have thrived in developing interpersonal and design thinking skills, giving them the edge in a highly competitive employment and tertiary study marketplace.

P-TECH is an exciting learning program that matches individual students with an industry mentor providing opportunities for students to connect learning to real life applications. Mentors work closely with teaching staff and help to guide students through practical projects and problem solving exercises aimed at extending their learning beyond the classroom and building their understanding of the world of work.

Our key collaborations with our business partners enable our students to develop valuable skills that often make them the preferred candidates for future employment, with many going on to find jobs with these organisations. These key industry partners work with our staff and students throughout the process to implement programs of learning and mentoring, both at school and in the workplace.



learning

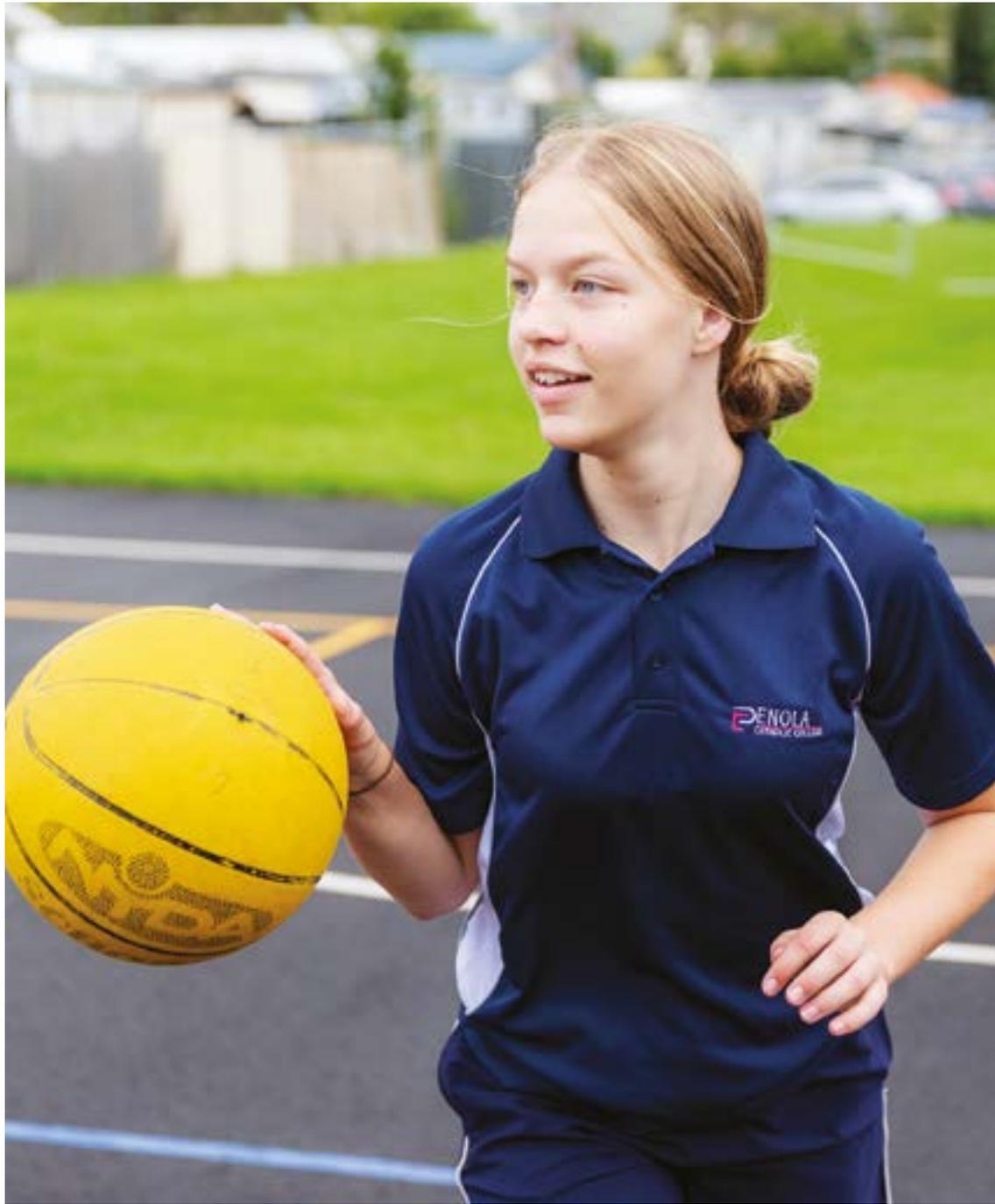
mentoring

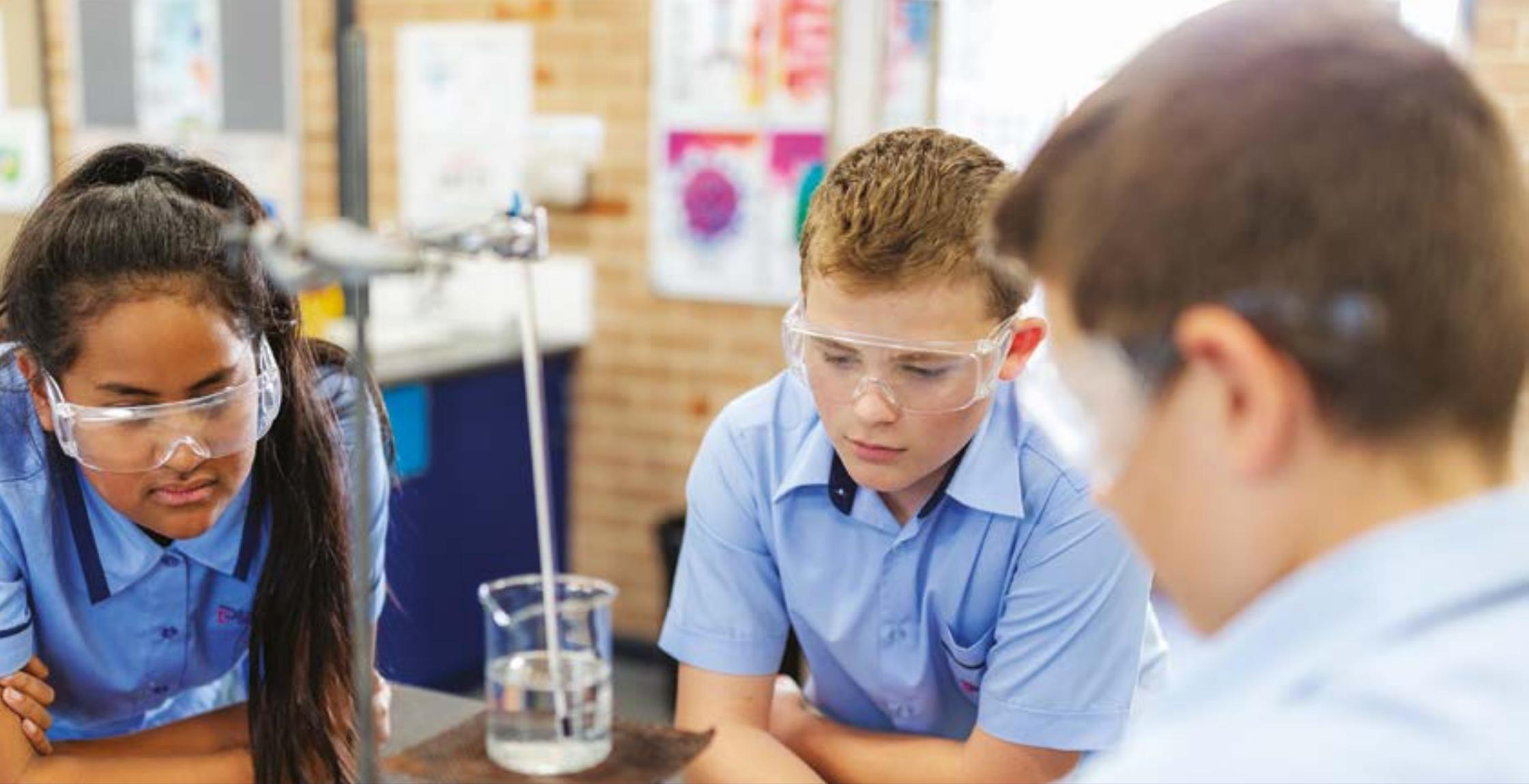
A photograph of a male teacher with a beard, wearing a light blue shirt and a red tie, sitting on a blue chair and playing a djembe drum. He is surrounded by several young boys in light blue school uniforms, also sitting on blue chairs and playing djembe drums. They are in a classroom setting with a whiteboard and a projector screen visible in the background. The scene is lit with warm, indoor lighting.

We believe the best learning happens when there is a strong partnership between school and home. Open communication and feedback are features of learning at Penola that are both encouraged and embraced by students, staff and parents alike. We acknowledge and welcome parents as the primary educators of their children and take every opportunity to communicate with them about each student's learning journey.

These partnerships enrich the atmosphere and culture of our College and we encourage parents and carers to become involved through parent forums, celebrations, liturgies and other College events throughout the year. We love having our families with us for school events such as Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations.

Positive HOME/SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS





Student WELLBEING

At Penola, student social and emotional wellbeing is an essential part of a students' ongoing learning journey. Our wellbeing programs focus on the needs of young men and women in a contemporary world to ensure they have opportunities to become resilient, growth mindset and highly capable learners who continuously build their own capabilities. We offer the BECOME Careers education program commencing in Year 7 to help students develop goals for a bright and successful future post school reinforcing our school mantra of: Believe, Achieve, Succeed.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

As the Penola community, we walk in the footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first Saint. Our students are engaged in a diverse range of learning experiences that encourage the formation of courage, compassion, integrity and hope as core values that form the students' moral compass for life and lead them to flourish as young adults.





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