



24 July 2024

Dear St Joseph's College families

Choices

The process of subject selection for Year 11 will commence this term. In the lead up to this, we will be holding an assembly with the Year 10 students, looking at their options and what will be best for them moving forward. This is a critical time in your child's education, in many ways VCE/VCE VM and VPC will have a profound impact on your child's future. We believe we are particularly well positioned to provide the best possible opportunities for your child to achieve their potential in Year 11 and 12.

Some key questions you might consider discussing with your child in the lead up to this important period.

- What are their aspirations and hopes for the next 5 years?
- Where would they like to be in 5 years' time?
- What is the best way to attain this plan?
- What do you think would help them achieve at Year 11 and 12?

Other critical questions to consider:

How do you ensure that your child has the best opportunity to get where they want to be in 5 years' time? What will St Joseph's College offer to help your child achieve their goals at Year 11 and 12, on their pathway to success?

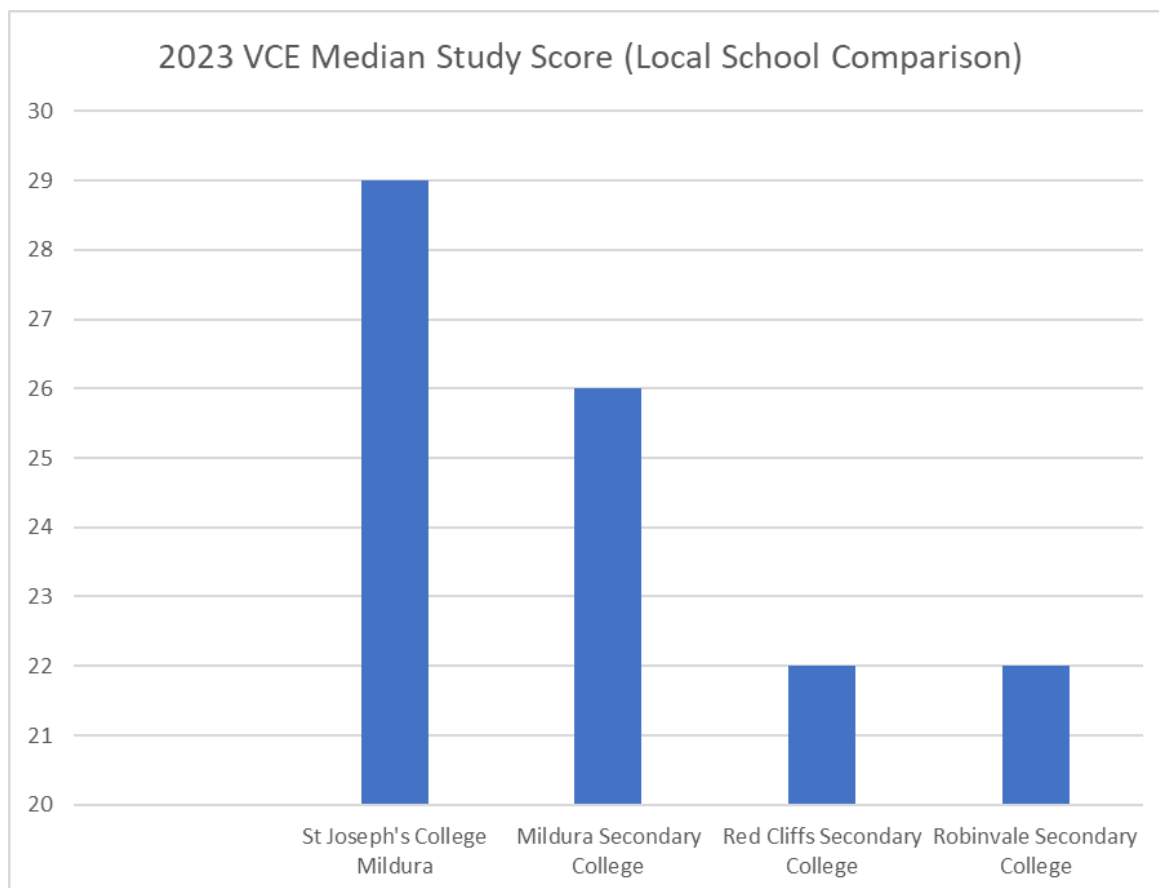
- Small Classes at Year 11 and 12
- Dedicated teachers
- Good academic results
- Great facilities and learning environment
- Excellent Wellbeing support
- Extended library open hours
- Academic Support Officer
- English and Maths tutoring
- Provided laptop
- Edrolo online academic support
- Leadership opportunities
- Pastoral care programs
- Teachers knowing their students (relationships built up over the full six years of secondary education)
- Debutante balls
- After school catering in study areas
- Year 11 Seminar Day
- Year 11 and 12 Common Rooms
- Photocopying allowance
- Year 11 Snow Camp
- Year 12 Retreat
- Novus VCE/VCE VM Head Start Program
- Study periods – early departure
- A dedicated and passionate VCE VM team with unique student offerings
- Large variety of subjects offered at VCE – did you know that we timetable more subjects than Scotch College, Melbourne offers at Year 12?

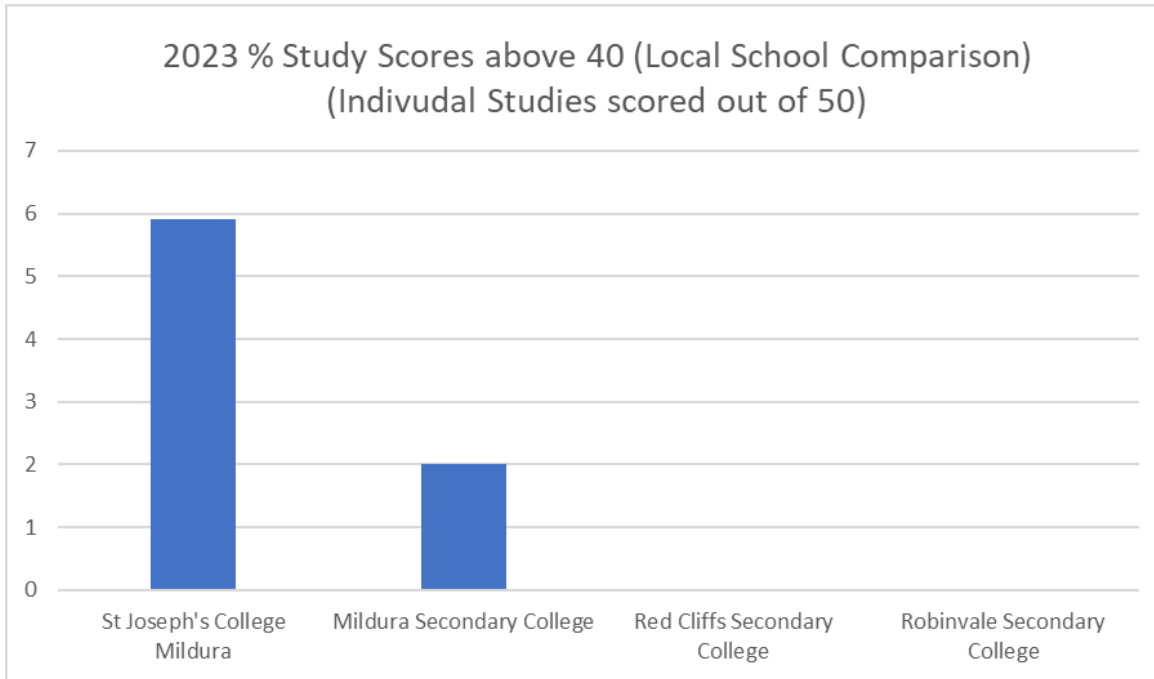
Academic Data

Below we have included some important data that highlights what St Joseph's College can do to provide the best possible opportunity for your child to achieve at their potential in Year 11 and 12.

Local Secondary Colleges Better Education Ranking based on 2023 VCE Results

Better Education Rank	School	Scores of 40+	Median VCE Score	Locality
229	St Joseph's College	5.9	29	Mildura
402	Mildura Senior College	2	26	Mildura
No rank (no scores of 40+)	Red Cliffs Secondary College		22	Red Cliffs
No rank (no scores of 40+)	Robinvale Secondary College		22	Robinvale





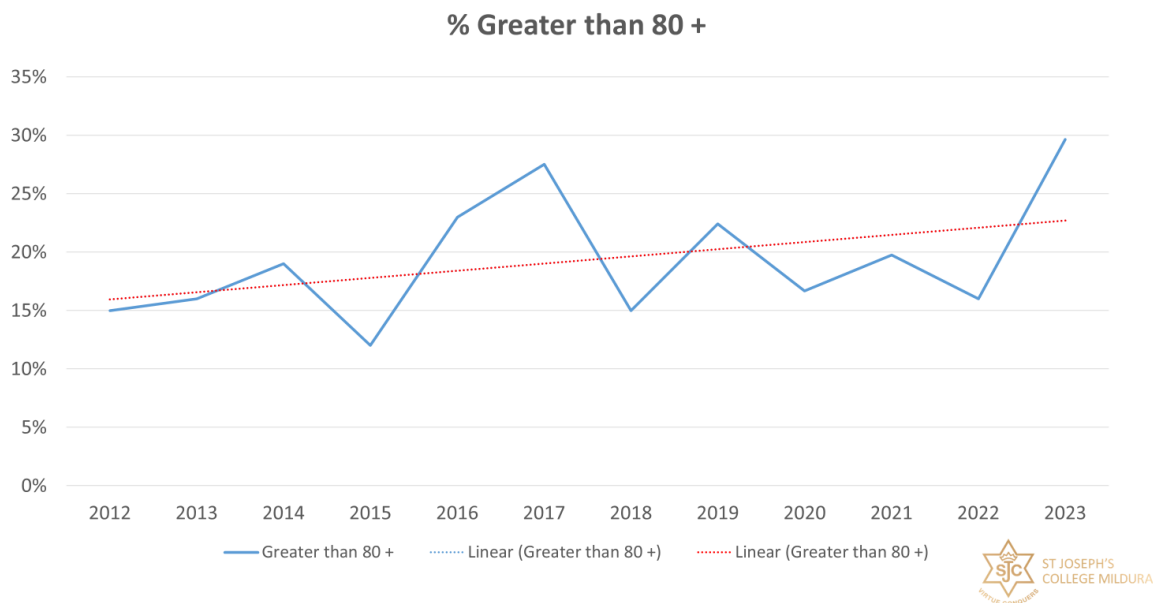
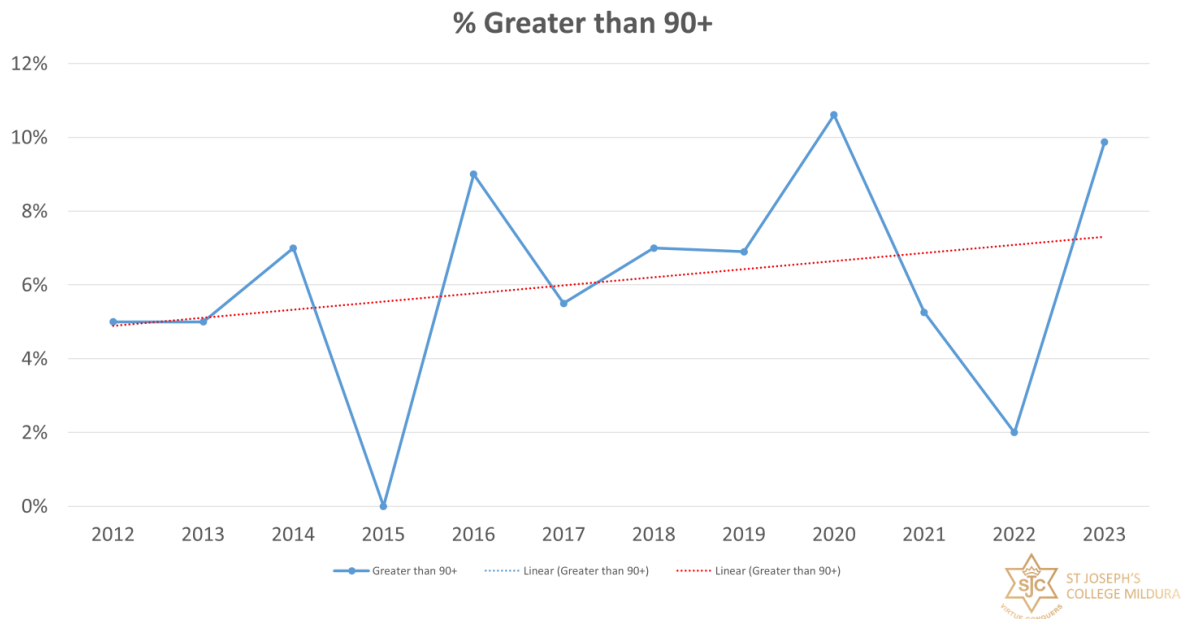
These results are not a one off, they are a pattern that has existed for a while as you can see when you look at the results over an extended period of time.

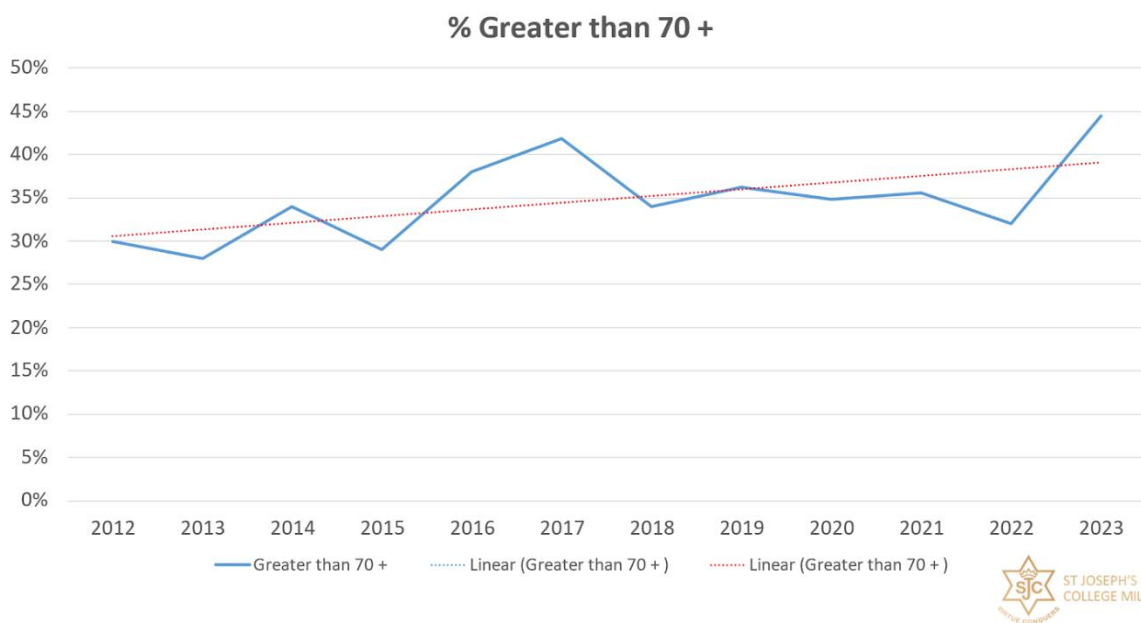
Other schools in the Ballarat Diocese -Average Better Education Rank results 2014 - 2023

(The lower the rank, the better the results)

School	Better Education Rank	Scores of 40+ 0%)	Median VCE Score
St Joseph's College, Mildura	247	4.81	29.0
St Patrick's College, Ballarat	246	4.87	29.0
Monivae College, Hamilton	280	3.66	29.0
Emmanuel College, Warrnambool	290	4.36	28
Trinity College, Colac	294	3.97	28
St Brdgid's College, Horsham	318	3.08	28
Damascus College, Ballarat	319	3.80	28.0
Mercy College, Camperdown	365	1.68	27.0
Mildura Senior College, Mildura	376	2.39	27.0

Our data continues to show growth as seen in the following graphs.





Small Class Sizes

An average class size at Year 12 in 2024 is 11 students per class and the average class size at Year 11 in 2024 is 13 students per class. Smaller class sizes lead to more one-on-one attention from the teacher. With smaller class sizes, teachers can get to know a student as an individual, working with them to enhance their strengths and improve their weaknesses, and students get to know each other better. Instead of your student just being another face in a huge crowd, they will be more likely to develop deep and lasting relationships with the other students around them. That also has academic benefits, if your student has a question about the homework, they will be more likely to know who to call for a quick chat.

Teachers can tailor instruction more individually. In a small class, the teacher is more likely to be able to tailor the instruction so that it stays on their level. With fewer students, the top student and the bottom student in the class usually aren't quite so far apart, and the teacher can work with each of them to ensure that they're getting the instruction that they need.

There is less disruption. In a large class, personality conflicts are more likely to occur, and to occur in extremes. Discipline begins to take up more of the class period than actual instruction. There is more time for instruction. In a smaller class, less time is required for administration duties so there is more time for a teacher to instruct and be well-prepared for lessons. They are quieter allowing the student to focus on their learning.

Increased Teaching Time

In 2024, the college moved to a timetable that provides increased teaching time for each subject at Year 11 and Year 12. Subjects increased from 215 minutes of teaching per week to 240 teaching minutes per week. This provides even further support to our students in their academic endeavours.

Impact of Moving Schools

What does the research say? In terms of academic development and learning the research clearly shows that moving schools generally has a negative impact on a student's learning.

John Hattie became known to a wider public with his two books *Visible Learning* and *Visible Learning for Teachers* and has been called 'possibly the world's most influential education academic'. *Visible Learning* is

a synthesis of more than 800 meta-studies covering more than 80 million students and the result of 15 years of research about what works best for learning in schools.

Of the 256 factors that John Hattie's research considered, 'Moving Schools' came in as having a negative effect - 0.34. That is, it has an effect of lowering achievement below average expected achievement. On average according to John Hattie's meta-analysis, students generally will effectively go backwards in their learning and achievement when moving schools.

When you think about this, it is not totally surprising. Valuable time and effort are required to become familiar, comfortable and to gain an understanding of the new learning environment – this is time that could be better spent undertaking academic pursuits. Teachers at the new school will not be as familiar with the student so may not have an understanding of what works for individual students and there is no transfer of information about a student's learning style, strengths and weaknesses to the teachers at the new school. If they stay at their current school this information is readily available.

In terms of academic development and learning, the John Hattie research clearly shows that moving schools generally has a negative impact on a student's learning, something to be kept in mind.

Academic Support

St Joseph's College invests heavily in academic support for students. The Haenan Library is open every afternoon as a place of study. The college also provides an Academic Support Officer, Dr Larry O'Connor, in the library every afternoon for students to access. Dr O'Connor is available to work with individuals or groups between 3.30pm and 6.00pm Monday to Thursday and between 3.30pm and 5.00pm on Fridays.

Laptops and their Maintenance

St Joseph's College provides all students with a high-quality laptop that's durable and provides long-term functionality. A full-time operational IT Help Desk ensures no matter what the circumstances, students are not left without a laptop, guaranteeing there is no downtime in their academic studies. In most schools, families are expected to provide their child with a laptop and chase up warranty and maintenance issues. At the college, we follow up the warranty and maintenance issues - this effectively means less hassle for parents/guardians.

Save the Date

The Senior Pathways Information Evening will be held on **Tuesday, July 30 at the Mercy Campus**. This is an important event to ensure students select subjects that are best suited to their goals and interests. There will also be a Year 11 Snow Camp Information Session held in conjunction with the subject selection evening. All teachers will be available, so this is a great opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with the teachers of specific subjects.

Careers Team

Our Careers team is dedicated to providing an array of options to our students that will best prepare them to achieve their chosen pathway be it, educational, vocational or further study.

Career education is a carefully planned program of events, activities and workshops to support students, highlighting the connection between the importance of school and their future; thus, enabling students to have a clearly defined pathway beyond Year 12.

The Careers team work closely with students, offering individualised support to assist students and their families to make informed decisions about subject selections and career pathways. Numerous opportunities exist including:

- NOVUS Camp - Year 11 Headstart.
- Careers Expo Camp.
- Guest Speakers from University, Industry and Vocation.
- Careers newsletter fortnightly publication to keep our college community well informed of opportunities and upcoming dates and events.
- VET Courses and School Based Apprenticeship (SBAT) opportunities.
- Structured Work Placement (SWPL) and Work Experience with industry employers.
- Future employment referral, advice and pathway options.

Our Careers team is overseen by Mr Mel Ficarra – Head of Senior Pathways. Mr Ficarra works closely with Ms Fiona Dimasi – Careers Practitioner, Ms Hayley Wilson – VET Coordinator and Miss Catherine Cavallo – VCE and VASS Assistant.

Community/Pastoral Care/Relationships

The college staff take great pride in forming positive relationships with our students. We understand that for students to flourish and achieve their best results, they need to feel safe and that they are valued and respected. The purpose of the Homeroom and vertical Pastoral Care system is to allow students to build positive relationships with students from different year levels, some that they look up to, and others that they role model for. The role of the Homeroom teacher is invaluable in a student's educational journey at the college, apart from being the parents first point of contact, they really get to know the students and how best to support them pastorally and academically.

The college focuses on positive relationships, which are built on genuine care and respect, allowing our students to thrive in a supportive faith community.

Wellbeing Support

The safety and wellbeing of students at St Joseph's College is our highest priority, where we strive to create an environment where students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness. The college employs four qualified wellbeing members, Mrs Jane Sparks, Mr Sam De Luca, Ms Aimee Webster and Miss Rebecca Dea, who are overseen by our Deputy Principal Students, Mr Heath McClair. The college also employs a full-time registered nurse, Mrs Louise Clohesy, to ensure we meet the wellbeing and safety needs of all students in our care.

Scholarships

St Joseph's College presents scholarships annually to Year 10 students who respect and display our Mercy Core Values: Hospitality, Compassion, Service, Community, Justice, Excellence and Spirituality. The college will offer up to nine internal scholarships of \$1,500 to Year 10 students transitioning into Year 11 at the college. These internal scholarships will recognise students who have shown excellence both in their academic and personal school life. Further information regarding the scholarships and bursaries on offer can be found on our [college website](#).

We also offer [Mercy Academic Internal Scholarships](#). St Joseph's College is committed to valuing effort, achievement and excellence in learning. The provision of academic scholarships is one way of making explicit this value placed on the pursuit of excellence. Principled, hard-working individuals with a love of learning provide an outstanding model for their peers and younger students. Scholarship provision also reflects confidence that the college provides the high standard of teaching and learning required to allow highly academic students to realise their full potential.

The Mercy Academic Scholarships are offered on the basis of academic merit to students continuing Years 11 and 12 at St Joseph's College in 2025 and 2026. These scholarships have a tenure of two years. The scholarships are for the remission of 50% of the school fee for each year of the scholarship.

We value our relationship with the students, we value them as individuals and as a group, and look forward to helping them achieve their goals.

Should you have any queries, please contact Mr Heath McClaer or Mr Emmet Brown at the college on 5018 8000 or email hmcclaer@sjcmda.vic.edu.au / ebrown@sjcmda.vic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



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Deputy Principal, Students



Mr Emmet Brown
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