

2024

Annual Report to the School Community



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College

111 Jasper Road, BENTLEIGH 3204

Principal: Anne O'Loughlin

Web: www.olsh.vic.edu.au

Registration: 1481, E Number: E1160

Principal's Attestation

I, Anne O'Loughlin, attest that Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College is compliant with:

- The minimum standards and other requirements for school registration and school boarding premises (if applicable) as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2023 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (Cth).
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in Ministerial Order 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises.

Attested on 16 May 2025

About this report

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the school community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

Governing Authority Report

The College is overseen by a fully incorporated Board of Directors, appointed by the Trustees of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The Directors meet monthly and conduct the business of the College through the following Board Committees:

- Finance, Audit and Risk Management
- Building and Facilities Development
- Policy and Governance

The Board continues to ensure the implementation of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Strategic Directions Statement 2023 - 2027.

Vision and Mission

Our mission

"May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved!" is our tradition. All who belong to the family of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart are called to live out this motto. It is to live the very life of Jesus... to be on earth the Heart of Christ!

We are heart people who are faith filled, reverence relationships, pursue excellence and touch the hearts of others.

Our vision

We seek to uphold and strengthen our commitment to building an outstanding Catholic girls' college characterised by unity of purpose, professionalism and the drive for excellence.

College Overview

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College (OLSH) is an independent Catholic secondary school for girls, administered by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The College is built on a tradition of inspiring excellence in girls' education and nurturing a deep connection to each other.

This connection has at its foundation a commitment to growth as human beings who recognise and live compassion, who strive to give of our best in all that we undertake and who are captured by the call to reach out to others from our hearts.

Principal's Report

Give thanks to God for God is good, God's faithful love lasts forever! Psalm 150

The chorus of a modern-day hymn¹ takes the words of this psalm and sings them in prayer to God:

All my life you been faithful,

All my life you have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able

I will sing of the Goodness of God.

Across this 150th anniversary year we give thanks to God for the OLSH Sister's story.

We give thanks for...

the beautiful township that is Issoudun France the founding place of the OLSH Sisters.

We give thanks for...

Fr Jules Chevalier Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest whose heart graced by the unconditional love of God was fired with the vision to spread God's love to all people everywhere – to the ends of the earth. It was Jules Chevalier who knew that his vision needed a religious congregation of women to join in the mission of love and so founded the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in 1874.

We give thanks for...

Mother Marie Louise Hartzler – the woman who forged the way forward for the little congregation. It was Marie Louise Hartzler who made the decision to take the risk (or alternatively to place her total trust in God) and send five of the total of seven OLSH Sisters on a voyage to Oceania – Papua New Guinea was the destination – Sydney, Australia was ultimately an unexpected stop along the way.

We give thanks for...

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – the most beautiful of titles given to Mary, by Jules Chevalier. The image of Mother and Son is like no other, ready for a lifetime of contemplation.

Nothing happens by chance it is the designs of God's heart that has brought about the unfolding of the great story that is the OLSH Sisters. For all of us belonging and connected to OLSH College Bentleigh our have been touched by the story of the Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

In fact, in one way or another we have been drawn into a story founded on love and built on love. No matter where we stand with our own faith journey or our belief in God this story comes from its ultimate source - the life of Jesus, the very love of the heart of our God. In our own way and in our own life we carry the OLSH story with us and we too join the Sisters in spreading God's love throughout the world. Together with the OLSH Sisters we, and all who follow into the future will, like the psalmist, sing of the Goodness of God.

With deepest gratitude to the OLSH Sisters who celebrated with us this year, to those who have gone before them, and to all those around the world, now and into the future, we want you to know how deeply you inspire us. As we think of you, pray with you, and pray for you, our hearts are moved to proclaim, *'With every breath that we are able, we sing of the goodness of God'*.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Everywhere Loved Forever.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart pray for us.

Ms Anne O'Loughlin
Principal

1. *Goodness of God, by Bethel Music and Jenn Johnson (2019)*

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goals & Intended Outcomes

In line with our Strategic Directions statement, we strive to be a faith-filled Catholic community seeking Christ. We are 'called to live the very life of Jesus' (OLSH Proclamation).

As members of the Chevalier Family in the tradition of the OLSH Sisters we will:

- deepen our understanding of the OLSH charism and mission
- live a spirituality of the heart
- live the Gospel, seeking justice for all
- commit in word and deed to caring for our earth and sustaining our planet.

Achievements

This year has been a wonderful year for Faith and Mission at the College as we have deepened our commitment to living our OLSH pillars in our classrooms, through our outreach, in our prayer and Eucharistic celebrations and in our generous fundraising for those in need.

Growing in our understanding of what it means to be 'heart people'

At the start of their final year at OLSH College, our Year 12s visited Hartzler Park in Bowral for their Retreat, which was a time for connection with God, connection with one another and connection with creation as they prayed, reflected, shared, laughed, danced, set goals and celebrated the start of their final year together. It was a time of deep connection with their God, their peers, friends and teachers, providing the space and opportunity to be aware of their deepest selves and the way they interact with the world.

'The standout of my Year 12 retreat was the chance to engage in deep discussions about life, purpose, and dreams. I found myself grouped with peers whom I rarely interact with, yet the conversations we shared were truly enriching, leading to the formation of meaningful friendships. Getting to know fellow members of the Class of 2024 was a remarkable experience, fostering a sense of connection among us. Without a doubt, the Year 12 retreat stands out as one of the most memorable highlights of my final year in high school.' – Olivia

Our Year 11 students had a two-day retreat at Lake Dewar Lodge, where they heard from humanitarian worker Moira Kelly AO and participated in team activities and a hike. They took time to reflect on their place in the world and their future and to connect with each other.

"We had our Year 11 retreat at Lake Dewar Lodge. It was an incredible experience where we learned more about ourselves and grew closer as a year level through a variety of activities. A highlight for me was listening to the inspiring work of humanitarian worker Moira Kelly and meeting one of her children, Angel. This gave us all a chance to think about how we can make a positive impact in our own lives. The retreat also provided valuable opportunities to reflect on what leadership means to each of us and consider our upcoming roles and responsibilities as seniors in the school. Overall, it was a very meaningful and memorable time for us all." - Ava

Our Year 10s had a Retreat Day with Chris Doyle from Karis Ministries.

"Chris really showed us how privileged we are and how to be the best version of ourselves! The stories he shared were eye opening and extremely inspiring to us all and it motivated us to spread love to all. It was a great retreat that brought the year level lots of joy as we had to work together and communicate even if we didn't know one another. We all enjoyed our experience, and it brought us together as a group." - Genevieve,

At their Retreat Day at Hartzer Park, our Issoudun students spent the day in 'creative' mode, getting to know one another, working in different groups to produce stunning outfits for the 2024 Hartzer fashion parade, praying, reflecting and journaling thoughts and feelings about faith and God. Students reflected on their growth and the challenges they've faced during their four weeks away from home at Hartzer Park and wrote special messages of 'affirmation' to one another, recognising the gifts and strengths of each student. This special day was a wonderful time of consolidation and connection for the students as they began to think about returning to Bentleigh and bringing with them the wisdom and experiences they've gathered during their time at Bowral.

"Our first activity was a beautiful journaling session, where we sat in our homerooms and wrote in each other's journals one thing we liked about them. It was a great way to bond as a homeroom after everything we had done together, and everyone found it heartwarming to read entries made about them from other people, because, as Ms Donohue reminded us, what people write is the truth. It was lovely to see the wonderful truths about yourself written on paper, and compliment others too, and was a great way to start the day! This retreat day really summed up the experience of Hartzer, which is something we will never forget." – Imogen

Our Year 7s experienced their first OLSH retreat, spending the day together getting to know each other and learning more about life at OLSH College and what it means to be OLSH! Through prayer and dancing and other activities, our Year 7s reflected on themselves and their faith. Our senior students helped with activities and there was great courage and enthusiasm shown by the Year 7s, putting up their hands to share stories and work in teams.

Strengthening and expanding initiatives and programs to enhance the unique Catholic identity of OLSH College

New staff were welcomed to the College and provided with a multi-session program of formation in the Catholic tradition, and the OLSH story and spirituality.

All our Religious Education teachers and their classes took a turn to prepare and lead Wednesday Morning Prayer for the College community both onsite and via the College Facebook page.

Our very special celebration for Jules Chevalier's 200th birthday was a day of joy, music and gratitude, with commemorative badges for all students and staff, French coloured balloons, ribbons, photos with Jules Chevalier and French party music soaring across the College grounds. We had a wonderful assembly and cake cutting and were blessed to hear wisdom shared by Sister Elaine who reminded us to replicate the values of Jules Chevalier – have dreams, pursue them and share them to change the world!

We celebrated a wonderful Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - starting with a spirit-filled mass led by Father Mark Hanns msc and supported by our band and choir providing beautiful singing and music. Prayers were read in a variety of languages representing the richness of cultures in our College community. Our Art Club completed the wall mural: *May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be Everywhere Loved!* which hung above our altar. American artist, Br. Mickey McGrath OSFS, was commissioned by the College to create this unique image to celebrate our 150 years. Remembering the OLSH Sisters and our OLSH story, a small group of staff and students sang the *Ametur* as the reflection after communion.

To celebrate Grandparents Day, one of our junior RE classes prepared a special Wednesday Morning Prayer and invited their grandparents onsite to share prayer with us followed by morning tea in the OLSH Centre. The prayer presented was a beautiful tribute to all our Grandparents – both those with us and those who have gone before us.

Our Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was a very special one celebrated with seventeen OLSH Sisters to mark 150th years since their foundation. We experienced joy-filled singing, we heard prayers of intercession read in a variety of languages from countries where the OLSH Sisters live and work and we saw and listened to Marie Louise Hartzler herself! A highlight was the presentation made to the OLSH Sisters after communion when each Sister received a sacred candle and a lavender bag made from the lavender grown in our College grounds.

To share our history and charism, Sister Liz took our Year 12s on a walk around the College pointing out key aspects that reflect our charism and our history, bringing a new perspective and deeper understanding for many students.

"The tour of the school with Sister Liz taught us about the many aspects of our school that have a beautiful, mysterious meaning. We are grateful to find ourselves in an environment and a community that prioritises the wellbeing and love of each individual. We noticed many things that we had never noticed before and found it interesting the attention to detail that was given in creating our school with such valuable and symbolic monuments." – Alexandra, Olivia, Chanelle, Lily, Emilia and Mia

Twenty Issoudun students, staff and OLSH Sisters made the journey OLSH Elmore to join the primary school community in their Mission Carnival, raising money for OLSH Overseas Aid. Through prayer, shared stalls, activities and a lot of fun, our two OLSH schools enjoyed a beautiful, shared spirit! A number of our OLSH Sisters began their own education at OLSH Elmore so it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our wider OLSH family in a beautiful part of Victoria.

"Our day began with prayer which our connection as a community, through singing, praying, and sharing of our own individual talents. Today's experience was one of kind and it helped us to connect with a younger generation. It was enjoyable to help the students of OLSH Elmore and see the happiness on their faces. We loved strengthening the love of the OLSH Sisters and missions and we hope to see all the lovely people we met soon!" - Ava

Embedding and animating our OLSH Proclamation in curriculum, pastoral care initiatives, and justice and peace activities

Our 2024 Lenten Appeal fundraising generated a record-breaking \$8,825 which was passed on to the OLSH Sisters for their overseas aid work and to Caritas Australia for Project Compassion. Many fundraising activities, led by our students, contributed to this figure including House-lead stalls, an Easter raffle, pancake stall and coin line competition.

At the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus mass we presented blankets and warm clothing to the local chapter of St Vincent de Paul representatives, to assist those in greatest need during the cold winter months.

Our fundraising continued with the OLSH Mission Carnival on the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart which raised \$26,000 for OLSH Overseas Aid and the work of the OLSH Sisters in the Philippines, Samoa, Tonga and Papua New Guinea.

A small, dedicated group of Year 11 and Year 12 students participated in OLSH's Winter Sleepout, to raise awareness of those experiencing homelessness. Two members of the St Kilda street community (whom we know from our Soup Van outreach) joined us for dinner and then spoke of their experiences being homelessness and the importance of being kind and compassionate to all. The students raised some money which was passed on to the van for their ongoing costs as they provide for those in need.

Our final fundraising activity for the year was our Advent appeal, raising \$2,700 which went directly to our local St Vincent De Paul conferences to provide much needed food, clothing and gifts to those in need this Christmas.

Our staff students continued with their outreach support of the St Kilda food van, baking muffins for the van each month and preparing and distributing meals at the van one evening each month.

Building Relationships as we proclaim and celebrate our Catholic ethos in the OLSH tradition

At our Opening Mass, the College community welcomed all new students and staff to OLSH. Our Year 7s were presented with their House badges and their Year 12 Big Sisters prayed a special prayer for them to begin their journey at OLSH. After communion, the 2024 Student Leaders were presented with their leadership badges and then commissioned for their year of service to the school community.

Our student leaders led the College in beautiful Ash Wednesday prayer service at the start of Lent and the school community came together at the end of the term for our Holy Week Mass where we took time to remember the last week of Jesus' life. Fr Martin Tanti led us in our Eucharistic celebration and a talented group of Year 7 students led us in a beautiful rendition of the Stations of the Cross which were intertwined with the reading of the Gospel.

Two students completed a Eucharistic Ministers training course with Fr. Martin Tanti and Ms. Donohue to help them prepare for this special ministry in serving the College community.

"In our training, we discussed with Father Martin, our understanding of this special ministry before learning how to distribute communion and offer a prayer for those not receiving communion. I am looking forward to deepening my connection with the school community by serving in a meaningful and spiritual capacity. I hope to contribute to the sense of unity and faith within our school and inspire others to do the same." - Angelina

Our final mass for the year was our Advent Mass, celebrated by Fr Martin Tanti, where we came together to sing and pray and light the first Advent candle. Our liturgical singers and band they led us through our eucharistic celebration with a great spirit of joy and anticipation as we awaited the birth of Jesus.

Developing an ethics of ecology to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care of our world

Early in the year members of our OLSH College Bentleigh *Laudato Si'* Steering Group gathered to reflect on our *Laudato Si'* (Praise be to You!) journey and next steps as we ensure that care of creation is at the heart of who we are and all we do. We looked back on our shared journey and together created a plan for our way forward.

At the end of the year, a second session was held, with an expanded group of staff and students joining the *Laudato Si'* group. The session was facilitated by Jacqui Remond and Megan Donohue and a brief overview on our *Laudato Si'* journey, a visit to the OLSH Sisters' garden (a wonderful example of integral ecology) and sharing dialogue about what *Laudato Si'* means for our curriculum, ecological footprint and College grounds. Dr Iain Jennings joined the group to speak about the energy audit he had conducted at the College and to speak about integral ecology initiatives. This was a deliberate step to widen the group, educating more students and staff in our College community about the Gospel imperative to care for our common home.

Our Fire Carriers continued to play an important role around the College, raising awareness for Reconciliation and delivering our Acknowledgement of Country at assemblies, masses and special events. We celebrated Reconciliation Awareness Week from Monday 3 June to Friday 7 June, and during the week prior, we participated in The Long Walk to the 'G under the OLSH FIRE Carriers banner. We enjoyed the opportunity to gather in Yarra Park, to engage with various displays and activities, listen to music and hear from Michael Long. We then joined in with a huge crowd of people on The Long Walk as we wound our way through Yarra Park and around the MCG.

We were privileged to have Traditional Custodian and proud Bunurong Palawa man Joshua at the College for a very special Welcome to Country. Joshua spoke of the gift that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity is in our modern world and led us in a memorable Welcome to Country.

Value Added

We marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the OLSH Sisters with several events, celebrating the history, mission and contribution the Sisters globally and their special contribution to provide education for young women at OLSH College Bentleigh for 86 years.

In September people from across the OLSH College community came together to share an evening of connection, celebration, story sharing and gratitude for the OLSH Sisters. Nearly 200 past and current students, parents, staff and Board members joined 14 OLSH Sisters and three past Principals of the College for this special evening.

Our students played a special role in the evening with College Captain Mia cutting the cake with Sr Jeanette, Performing Arts Captain Zoe singing a beautiful song, *For Good*, and Mia and Charlotte (Regnet Christus Leader) speaking about the impact of the Sisters on their time at OLSH College. Memories were shared by past staff, Board members, students and

parents, and we were treated to a beautiful rendition of the Ametur from our talented Music staff Kellie Mentlikowski and Erin Renwick-Shaw. Megan Donohue wrote a lovely three-part song titled '150' which was sung throughout the evening.

It was a wonderful celebration of the unwavering commitment of the OLSH Sisters to their mission - to bring to people everywhere the love of the Heart of Jesus - and a reminder that we all carry the OLSH spirit with us because of our connection with the OLSH Sisters story.

The celebrations continued with a special planting of an OLSH Sister jubilee rose in Hartzer Place, by our student leaders and visiting OLSH Sisters. We were blessed to have OLSH Sisters Annabella (Tonga), Vita (Samoa), Emma (the Philippines) and Freda (Papua New Guinea) with us for a number of days to visit classrooms, share their stories with students and join in our Feast Day activities.

During our week of celebrations, we welcomed students and staff from OLSH Kensington and OLSH Enfield as part of the OLSH Links program, deepening the connection between our colleges.

During our Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart mass, our College community presented a gift of song to the seventeen OLSH Sisters who were present on that day. The song was *Si Si Ni Moja*, which means 'We are one' in Swahili and it was chosen to reflect our shared connection with the OLSH Sisters as current and past students, staff and parents.

Other special 150th activities included:

- The development of a special logo featuring the OLSH Sisters medal – which was used on all communication and marketing throughout the year, and on a special scarf for the OLSH Sisters.
- Religious Education classes learning about the history of the OLSH Sisters and partaking in a number of activities.
- The production of a 150th anniversary badge – provided to all staff and students at the College.
- A competition to submit designs representing our OLSH pillars to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the OLSH Sisters.
- The planning of a 150th anniversary trip to Issoudun in France in 2025 to continue the celebration of this special anniversary.

We held a special staff spirituality day in July, combining with staff from Sacred Heart College, where we heard from Dr. Ernesto Valiente, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Boston College, Massachusetts, USA. Doctor Valiente led us all in two sessions focused on:

- God's revelation and Christian faith and

- Oscar Romero: a revolutionary saint for today's suffering world.

It was a wonderful opportunity to join with colleagues who are part of the Sacred Heart family. There was a great synergy between the two staff teams as we nourished our minds and hearts for our work with young people.

Four OLSH College staff participated in two programs facilitated by the OLSH Sisters - *Continuing the Journey* and the *Bathurst Island Staff Immersion*. Both opportunities provide staff with a deeper knowledge of the OLSH charism, spirituality and mission. In turn, staff are able to share their experiences with colleagues and students alike, ensuring our unique OLSH story continues to be told!

Learning and Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

In line with our Strategic Directions statement, we strive to be a learning community living wisdom excellence in all we do.

As members of the Chevalier Family in the tradition of the OLSH Sisters we will:

- know, understand and respond to the learning needs of each student
- prioritise teamwork and collaboration, and engage in reflective practice
- be consistent in our learning and teaching practices
- seek continuous improvement: grow confidence, have high expectations.

Achievements

We proudly reflect on 2024 as a year filled with remarkable achievements, meaningful experiences, and impactful learning moments for our students and staff.

In 2024 our students have once again demonstrated outstanding academic excellence, setting new benchmarks across all subjects. From excelling in STEM competitions to achieving exceptional results in Creative Arts, Mathematics and Humanities, their dedication and commitment to learning has been evident to the College staff. We celebrated these successes this year at various Awards Ceremonies, and it was wonderful to have so many parents be part of these moments.

Growth has been a defining theme for us this year—both academically and personally. Through the ever-improving rigour in all our Departments, our students have developed critical thinking, resilience, and a sense of purpose. It has been rewarding to witness their transformation into confident, capable young women ready to embrace the future.

Learning extended far beyond the classroom with an engaging program of excursions and incursions. Whether it was exploring the local area or the parklands at Yarra Bend, looking at the physics behind rollercoasters at Luna Park, or developing leadership skills at one of the many Health and PE excursions, learning was fun. Our local Federal Member for Goldstein, Ms Zoe Daniel MP spoke with our junior students about the rights and responsibilities of

being a Parliamentarian and inspired the students to take on leadership in their own journey.

Our Year 12 results were exceptional, with 17 per cent of students receiving an ATAR over 90 and 36 per cent receiving an ATAR of 80 or above. Fifty students achieved study scores of 40 or above. We were pleased to witness significant growth in performance and results from many students in this cohort.

Two of our students from the Class of 2023 (Mary M and Ava T) received Premier's VCE Award in 2024 - for Art Creative Practice and Art Making and Exhibiting (Mary) and for Community Services (Ava).

We recognised the achievements of our students at three ceremonies during the year – the VCE Ceremony of Excellence, Semester 1 Academic Excellence Awards and our Regnet Christus Awards, recognising achievement across all areas of College life.

Other department-specific highlights included:

- Year 11 Legal Studies students participated in mock trials - preparing cases for either the prosecution or the defence in hypothetical criminal scenarios and presenting their arguments following proper courtroom procedure in front of a jury composed of their classmates.
- Our Physics students attended the Girls in Physics breakfast to hear Associate Professor Kaye Morgan (Monash University) speak about x-ray imaging and her research into how x-rays can be used in new ways to advance our medical understanding and capabilities.
- Our Health and PE students had many opportunities for hands-on learning through incursions and excursions including to Urban Surf (Years 11 and 12) to learn about biomechanics and energy systems, circus skills workshops (Issoudun), self defence, mental fitness at the Danny Frawley Centre and wheelchair basketball (Year 10).
- Language students had many opportunities to bring language and culture to life and to practice their conversation skills, through role playing, participating in the OzClo and Italian Poetry competitions and participating in cultural excursions to Chinatown and Lygon Street.
- VET Dance students attended the Ausdance Industry Day at The Space Dance and Arts Centre earlier this month, participating in two stylistic workshops and a mock audition with range of professional artists.
- Four of our students had artworks displayed at the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Art Exhibition. Year 12 student Jahni received an Encouragement Award for her work in the Zart Art Sculpture and 3D Art Award category and Issoudun student Tahlia received a Highly Commended in the Portraiture Prize category.

- Our Geography students augmented their classroom learning with fieldwork excursions to our coastal areas (Year 10) to investigate environmental management strategies, to Booran Reserve to study the impact of land use change (VCE) and to our local Bentleigh neighbourhood (Year 7s) to explore liveability.
- Public speaking and debating opportunities included the Tournament of Minds where three OLSH College teams worked to solve a range of problems presented to them, with one team receiving entry to the state final. Four Year 7 students participated in the Marvellous Miraculous Minds program where they connected with likeminded students to work on creativity and produce sustainable ideas. OLSH was also represented at the Online Secondary Schools' Parliamentary Convention where the topic of AI incorporation into the classroom was discussed.
- In the Technologies area, our students won a silver medal in the SEGAP Teen Chef competition, preparing a main course and dessert to time with judges observing preparation and presentation. We had 21 Textiles pieces in the 2024 Melbourne Royal Art, Craft & Cookery Competition where students received a range of awards including 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Commended and Highly Commended. The Department presented a night of art and textiles at our annual Visual Arts and Technology Exhibition, with students presenting a runway fashion show of clothing and filling our exhibition spaces with visual arts pieces in a range of media.
- The Science and Maths Departments ran several activities for Science and Maths weeks and supported students participating in the Big Science competition and the National Maths competition. Two students participated in the University of Melbourne's Girl Power program, supporting students who are seeking a pathway in STEM through workshops and mentoring opportunities.
- Our Junior Choir was awarded Platinum, the highest award, at the Victorian School Music Festival. The choir performed to a panel of two adjudicators and schools from across Victoria and participated in a workshop with immediate feedback on stage from the Chief Adjudicator.

At the heart of our college is the strong, respectful, and supportive relationships between students and teachers. These connections foster a nurturing environment where every student is encouraged to reach their potential. As we continue to pursue excellence in all that we do, 2024 allowed us the opportunity to shine in our own learning journey.

Student Learning Outcomes

Our College NAPLAN results continue to show an excellent amount of growth in all year levels. This cohort has demonstrated impressive growth, especially in Literacy. In our Year 9 cohort, several students achieved results in the Exceeding Expectations category, with three students performing more than two years above the expected level. Our Year 7 cohort also performed well above the state average across all areas of NAPLAN.

While our Numeracy results were again well above the state average, they were slightly lower than our Literacy outcomes. To address this, our Mathematics teachers provided targeted in-class support and additional intervention through the Maths Hub. We also have a dedicated Learning Support Officer, trained in mathematics, who works with small groups and individual students to build their confidence and skills.

Our Learning Diversity Team at OLSH continues to explore innovative ways to support teachers, students, and families. Literacy support and intervention students are identified through Year 6 testing and ongoing assessments throughout the year. A committed team of teachers uses a variety of support strategies, including MacqLit, an explicit and systematic intervention program tailored to students' needs.

Professional learning throughout the year was strongly aligned with our Instructional Model, focusing on upskilling both teachers and parents in our pedagogical approach. Staff engaged in professional reading, resource development, and collaborative planning to enhance classroom practice. Our main areas of investment were in Pedagogy, Wellbeing, and Learning Diversity.

Our 2024 data reflects the positive outcomes of these efforts. We saw a notable increase in the percentage of students achieving ATAR scores above 70, indicating a strong and growing VCE culture. Our students and teachers remained focused and diligent throughout the year, with clear goals set early and consistent preparation for exams.

Further education:

- 70% received an offer to attend University
- 14% received an offer to attend TAFE

Destinations include:

- Australian Catholic University – 8%
- Deakin University – 21%
- Monash University – 20%
- RMIT University – 19%
- Swinburne University of Technology – 8%
- Victoria University – 6%
- The University of Melbourne – 6%

Areas of Study include Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies, Architecture and Building, Creative Arts, Education, Engineering and Related Technologies, Food, Hospitality and Personal Services, Health, Information Technology, Management and Commerce, Natural and Physical Sciences, Society and Culture.

NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards			
Domain	Year level	Mean Scale score	Proficient
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 7	569	79%
	Year 9	608	74%
Numeracy	Year 7	548	82%
	Year 9	585	79%
Reading	Year 7	569	85%
	Year 9	608	83%
Spelling	Year 7	547	76%
	Year 9	590	85%
Writing	Year 7	577	88%
	Year 9	627	88%

*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2024 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

Senior Secondary Outcomes	
VCE Median Score	32
VCE Completion Rate	98%
VCE VM Completion Rate	100%
VPC Completion Rate	I/D

*Data not reported for 2024 due to insufficient data i.e. less than 4 student enrolments for VCE/VCE VM/VPC or none of the students in a school received study scores.

Post-School Destinations as at 2024	
Tertiary Study	*
TAFE / VET	*
Apprenticeship / Traineeship	*
Deferred	*
Employment	*
Other - The category of Other includes both students Looking for Work and those classed as Other	*

Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

In line with our Strategic Directions statement, we strive to be a connected community strengthening relationships.

As members of the Chevalier Family in the tradition of the OLSH Sisters we will:

- provide opportunities for every student to flourish understand, build and foster connections between wellbeing and learning
- empower students to have agency, voice and leadership opportunities
- engage with parents and caregivers as partners in student learning and growth
- ensure OLSH contributes to, and is known in, the wider community.

Achievements

Nurture the Seed, Grow and Succeed was the theme of our student leaders for 2024. Our student leaders have led in words and in actions our OLSH spirit and their theme. Through practical means we were nurtured spiritually, emotionally and physically allowing us to experience growth and deepen our wellbeing.

- Camps at each year level, from Bowral, to Bacchus Marsh, to Mount Eliza
- Tool Box focusing on our Thinking Traps and how to re-set our thinking when we get stuck
- Leading the Mission Carnival to raise over \$26,000 for OLSH Overseas Aid
- Performing Arts Spectacular building connections and fostering great House Spirit
- A focus on building relationships during Learning Mentor time
- Big Sisters assisting with Year 7 transition, Teddy Bear's Picnic and morning teas
- Inauguration of our Red Heart Crew, volunteer alumnae assisting with Year 7 Orientation, Camps and at Hartzel
- Celebrating International Women's Day, looking out for each other on R U Ok? Day and taking our hats off for our teachers on World Teachers Day
- Commemorating each Learning Mentor by planting an Australian Native to create a habitat garden
- Pastoral Care lessons, designed and focused on social and emotional learning, building emotional intelligence, self awareness, social awareness and relationships.
- Hosting students from OLSH Kensington and OLSH Enfield, strengthening bonds and sharing our OLSH spirit
- Hosting the MACS Wellbeing network meeting

- Positive Affirmation postcards recognising students in “the every day”, for living out the OLSH spirit
- Focusing on outreach and community service in the Hartzler Residential experience.

Value Added

The Student Wellbeing team worked together to continuously improve our support for students and staff and identified new opportunities and ways of working. Three ways in which this was implemented in 2024 were:

- A focus on High Impact Wellbeing Strategies which support the wellbeing and mental health of all students. A particular focus was on continuing to build strong relationships during learning mentor time.
- Providing students with opportunities, both formal and informal, to represent the College and take on leadership roles, which enhance their skills and confidence. This has included speaking at parent events and engaging in many local community activities.
- Recognising and celebrating students, not just for academic achievements. Positive affirmation postcards, uniform recognition, and acknowledgement of learning growth highlight everyday successes. These efforts continue to foster a culture of encouragement, pride, and personal development

Student Satisfaction

Qualitative and quantitative data is used to measure student satisfaction through surveys and by gathering reflections after key activities.

Issoudun XII Hartzler Residential Experience

We had 130 students in three groups, each spend 24 days living at Hartzler Park in 2024. More than 98 per cent of 2024 students rated their time at Hartzler Park as worthwhile.

Students rate their achievement of attributes such as independence, teamwork and relationships with others. In the 2024 cohort, 80 per cent gave the highest rating (Very well achieved) for creating connections with others and 75 per cent gave this rating to developing independence.

“A very fun experience full of adventure and learning, took me out of my comfort zone by trying new activities, overall building my friendships and connections closer together.”

“Hartzler was amazing, a once in a lifetime experience. It was full of learning and eye-opening opportunities. I learnt a lot and experienced many things that gave me the opportunity to

learn about myself and those around me. I discovered more of myself that I didn't know about, and I learnt more about those around me who I care about."

"My Hartzler experience was the most commendable program I have ever done. This program instilled values of independence, resilience, confidence and courage in me. I navigated across various activities which helped me discover more about myself."

Student feedback about OLSH College

- *"One of the most exciting things about coming to OLSH was the many electives, I had not tried in primary school, like textiles, drama, dance and food technology. I think Year 7 was a great first year of high school."*
- *"I learnt that I have found new leadership skills in myself on Year 8 Camp, and I learnt that I don't need to always follow others."*
- *"Year 11 highlight for me was the retreat, as we focused on developing our leadership skills and encouraging us to step out of our comfort zones. Retreat pushed us to challenge ourselves, work as a team and build deeper connections with each other."*
- *"Overall Year 8 was a fantastic year filled with many amazing memories. One of my highlights was the Junior production of Matilda Jr which was presented with St Bedes. It was truly an incredible experience filled with many memories and friendships."*
- *"Feast Day and Carnival celebrating 150 years of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was one of my highlights. It was a special occasion, where Sisters from other OLSH communities around the world came to visit."*

Student Attendance

The roll is taken every period by the subject teacher and during learning mentor time. Parents receive a text for any unexplained absence. Unexplained absences are followed up during the day immediately by the Wellbeing Team and parents are notified.

Learning Mentors contact parents when students are absent for more than two days. Students are followed up by the Head of House and supports are put in place if required.

Years 9 - 12 Student Retention Rate	
Years 9 to 12 Student Retention Rate	91.41

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level	
Y07	90.6
Y08	86.8
Y09	88.9
Y10	83.8
Overall average attendance	87.5

Leadership

Goals & Intended Outcomes

OLSH College Bentleigh seeks to strengthen and uphold its commitment to building an outstanding Catholic girls' college, characterised by professionalism and enthusiasm for girls' education in the OLSH tradition.

Our goals are articulated in our Strategic Directions Statement 2023 - 2027.

A Faith Filled Catholic Community Seeking Christ:

- living a spirituality of the heart
- committing in word and deed to caring for our earth and sustaining our planet.

A Learning Community Living Wisdom Excellence in all we do:

- being consistent in our learning and teaching practices
- seeking continuous improvement: grow confidence, have high expectations.

A Connected Community Strengthening Relationships:

- empowering students to have agency, voice and leadership opportunities
- providing opportunities for every student to flourish.

Achievements

The major renovation project conducted during 2023/4, enabled the College to renew furniture and fittings for these spaces:

- Food Technology theory room
- Music rooms and backstage classrooms
- PAC classrooms
- PE studio

Painting works and recarpeting occurred in some areas of the college as part of the continuous upgrade of facilities.

A new Board member was appointed to the OLSH College Board – Ms Megan Kahler (1 January 2024) and Ms Pauline Compton resigned from the board (6 May 2024).

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning	
List Professional Learning undertaken in 2024	
<p>Staff were provided with opportunities to apply for acting roles in leadership positions to cover planned absences and changes of roles. All staff were active in professional learning, attending weekly Wednesday professional learning sessions as well as externally run programs and seminars.</p> <p>Our staff participated in a range of external professional learning sessions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCAA New Study Designs • VCAA Examiner's reports • Victorian Curriculum 2.0 • How to enhance your Drama teaching through Theatre Sports • Empowering Commerce Educators: Building Your VCE Toolkit • 27th Annual Psychology Teacher's Conference • PHYSCON 2025 • VCAA Assessor Training • Secondary Mathematics Leaders Network • Secondary Mathematics Leaders Network • Youth Mental Health First Aid Course • MACS English Improvement Network moderation of Section B of the exam • Food Studies Upskills including VET Certificate Use Hygienic Practices for Food Safety • First aid conference • VET Fashion Workshop- Pattern making from an existing garment • Bayside Careers Group Network Meeting • Deep Dive Webinar: VCE Study Designs (2025) for Physical Education <p>We held internal professional learning sessions for teaching staff every Wednesday and topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Instructional Model (15 sessions) • Canvas and Synergetic • Microsoft suite • Using our VCE Data • Performance and Development Conversations • Trauma Informed Teaching 	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2024	66

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning	
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$358.00

Teacher Satisfaction

Staff participated in the 2024 MACS School Improvement survey and provided the following feedback relating to teacher satisfaction.

- 68% of staff reported a positive experience with accessing professional learning
- More than three quarters of staff (76%) rated the collegiality of staff at 4 and above (out of 5)
- 90% of staff rated the respect shown by staff to students at a 4 or above
- 59% of staff rated the positivity of the working environment at a 4 or above
- 71% of staff were comfortable approaching the leadership team for support, 88% felt the leaders were respectful towards them and 78% of staff were confident that the leaders worked in the best interests of the College.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	2
Masters	18
Graduate	26
Graduate Certificate	6
Bachelor Degree	62
Advanced Diploma	12
No Qualifications Listed	8

Staff Composition	
Principal Class (Headcount)	4
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	72
Teaching Staff (FTE)	65.43
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	48
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	35.76
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	0

Community Engagement

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Our goal is to provide a contemporary, inspiring environment where our students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities and our broader community, including parents and past students, feel welcome and enthusiastic about attending events.

Through academic and co-curricular activities, we provide opportunities for students to try new things, build real-world skills and develop their talents.

Through connection with our local and global community, we encourage students to pursue excellence in all that they do and to develop an awareness for the needs and challenges of others.

Achievements

The 150th anniversary of the foundation of the OLSH Sisters underpinned much of our activity and connection with the community in 2024. We also continued to find ways to connect with and celebrate our past, current and future OLSH College community members.

Celebrating our history

We celebrated the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the OLSH Sisters in many ways across the year commencing with the development of a special logo featuring the OLSH Sisters medal – which was used on all communication and marketing throughout the year, and on a special scarf for the OLSH Sisters.

We referenced the 150th anniversary throughout the year in communications, themes for our special days and a fortnight of special events which included:

- An evening event of celebration, story sharing and gratitude for the OLSH Sisters. Nearly 200 past and current students, parents, staff and Board members joined 14 OLSH Sisters and three past Principals of the College for this special evening.
- A special planting of an OLSH Sister jubilee rose in Hartzel Place, by our student leaders and visiting OLSH Sisters.
- A special mass on the Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, where the College community presented a gift of song to the seventeen OLSH Sisters who were present on that day.
- A visit on Feast Day from students and staff from OLSH Kensington and OLSH Enfield as part of the OLSH Links program, deepening the connection between our colleges.

We held six reunions during the year, welcoming back more than 150 past students to the College to share hospitality together, reconnect with each other and tour the College grounds.

We recognised second generation OLSH students who joined the College in 2024, at our annual Generations Assembly held on International Women's Day. This special assembly recognises our past students who have chosen to send their daughters to OLSH College and acknowledges the contribution of many OLSH alumnae through their careers and community work.

Our two editions of *Flame* magazine provided our OLSH alumnae community with news of special events at the College, including the 150th celebrations, and profiled the achievements of alumnae.

Celebrating achievement

We celebrated the achievements and contributions of students in the classroom, in co-curricular activities and in pursuing their interests outside the College. This recognition included our major award ceremonies, the presentation of certificates at assemblies, items in our newsletter and stories in our Yearbook.

Our Regnet Christus Day recognised and celebrated the achievements of students across all year levels who have achieved excellence, displayed consistent application to their work, lived our OLSH pillars and provided service to our community. The achievements and service of those we recognised, reflect the pillars of the OLSH spirit and creates another chapter of our OLSH story.

We also held a Semester 1 Academic Awards Ceremony, recognising the achievements and application of students in the first half of the year, and a VCE Excellence Awards ceremony to recognise the success of our 2023 VCE students.

We proudly reported to our College community the achievements of several students who participated in sporting teams at state and national competitions during the year.

Connecting with our community

We welcomed 104 Year 7 students and 34 students at other levels to the OLSH College community during the year. These students and their families were welcomed with a transition program, including a Big Sister or buddy to support them, as well as the support of the wellbeing team and Heads of House.

Twelve newsletters were sent to parents over the course of the year, providing news about activities at the College including classroom and co-curricular activities, student leader activities, sporting and performing arts initiatives and community events.

Students were provided with a digital yearbook, recording the highlights in narrative and photographic form for 2024. Students provided contributions to the yearbook in the form of photos of portfolio work, reflections on activities and messages from leaders. This was the first year we have provided a digital only version of the yearbook, in line with our commitment to our sustainability goals and *Laudato Si'*.

Year 12 students received a Graduation book, providing an overview of their six years at the College and including messages from staff and students wishing them well for their life beyond OLSH College.

Content was posted to our social media channels including Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. We have more than 3,098 Facebook followers and 1,615 Instagram followers and there were approximately 346 posts to Facebook and 283 posts to Instagram for the year, generating a reach of 46,081 and 6,800 respectively.

Parents were welcomed for several events during the year including a Year 7 Welcome Evening, Mother's Day and Father's Day breakfasts, masses and award ceremonies. Parents also attended instrumental music concerts, dance show, our sports awards evening and year level information evenings.

We held four Open Mornings, four College Tours and more than 40 private College Tours, providing more than 1,000 people considering OLSH College for their daughter's education with the opportunity to find out more about OLSH through this onsite experience. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 were invited to spend a day onsite at our *Discover Day*, providing these students with a taste of the subjects offered at OLSH and a chance to become familiar with the College grounds.

Our student leaders represented the College at various events including the local ANZAC and Remembrance Day services, the CGSAV Sports Breakfast and International Women's Day at Queens Hall.

Our FIRE Carriers continued to raise awareness for reconciliation with 11 new FIRE Carriers being commissioned, fundraising activities for Open the Doors foundation and participation in the Long Walk to the 'G.

Providing opportunities for growth

Our production of *Mamma Mia!*, presented in partnership with De La Salle College, was a show to remember, with all five shows being performed to a full house. The production was

the result of a commitment to many months of hard work and rehearsals made by cast, crew and staff at both colleges. They delivered unforgettable performances, capturing the heart and humour of the musical and showcasing the depth of talent in acting, dancing and singing at both colleges.

We also presented our senior production, *The London Operation*, in partnership with De La Salle College and our junior production, *Matilda Jr*, with St Bede's East Bentleigh. Both productions saw students pour their energy, creativity and dedication into bringing the stories to life.

As well as our major productions, students participated in lunchtime concerts, semester dance and music concerts and external competitions. Our assemblies and masses were lifted with wonderful music from our band and choir and performances by students from all year levels. The continuing growth of our performing arts program and its ability to bring students together onstage and behind the scenes to deliver wonderful experiences for audiences has been a highlight this year.

Our sporting calendar was a full one in 2024, with competition, trials and activities happening nearly every week. The level of participation in team events and our sporting carnivals was fantastic to see and we are proud of the results achieved by so many teams in our inter-school competitions.

The skill development and camaraderie in the teams reflected our OLSH spirit and we loved having many of our students take on the role of coach, mentoring younger students and putting their skills into practice.

Debaters from Years 9 to 11 represented our school in the Debaters' Association of Victoria (DAV) competition, hosted at Brighton Grammar. Each team dedicated countless hours to prepare for five debates held during the first semester, and their hard work did not go unnoticed. We proudly recognised the victories they secured and the individual achievements of those awarded 'Best Speaker'. Our Years 7 and 8 students also made their mark by participating in the DAV's Junior Debating Program in Term Four, held at McKinnon Secondary College.

Students also participated in many learning enrichment activities described in the Learning and Teaching section of this report and were presented with opportunities to participate in lunchtime clubs, such as Book Club, Art Club and Philosophy Club.

The Environment Club has been a driving force in raising awareness about critical environmental issues within our school community. Focused on promoting sustainable practices, the club worked to enhance understanding of students and staff about the harmful effects of single-use plastics on the environment and the importance of reducing their use. The Environment Team attended a workshop on *Laudato Si'*, deepening their understanding of its call to care for our common home.

Developing the Leadership capability of our students continued to be a focus for the College, with more than 45 students holding official student leadership positions and many others taking on informal roles such as Student Ambassadors guiding tours on Open Days and supporting key events. The Student Leadership team takes an active role in leading fundraising and House activities, as well as presenting at assembly, driving student-led activities and role-modelling to younger students.

Parent Satisfaction

Feedback is regularly provided by parents about academic and wellbeing follow up, classroom and co-curricular programs, communications and events. A sample of these comments is included below.

"OLSH is the only school that has ever rung home to ask about my daughter."

"The accommodations made to the curriculum to suit our daughter's learning profile and empathy extended to her have made a significant difference in her sense of self and her feelings towards school. It's heartwarming to witness her growing confidence and enthusiasm for learning, and we believe this positive change is a direct result of the supportive environment you all have created."

"Our daughter has always felt completely safe, supported, and cared for at OLSH, and she has been encouraged by staff to be proud of her Jewish heritage. It is a beautiful school."

"Our daughter spoke so genuinely and warmly about the incredible impact you've had on her — not just as a teacher, but as a mentor and role model. It was delightful to see how much she values the time she spent in your class and the confidence and inspiration you instilled in her. Your kindness, clarity, and enthusiasm clearly have left a lasting impression. Thank you for being such a positive force in her life."

Data collected in the 2024 MACS School Improvement Survey reported that:

- 73% of parents would recommend the College to prospective families
- 64% of parents rated the approachability of staff positively and 78% of parents rated the approachability of the leadership team positively (rating 4 and above).
- 74% of parents felt comfortable reaching out to the College for support.

Financial Performance

The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.olsh.vic.edu.au