



# Saint Stephen's College

CRICOS Provider Number 01938G

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



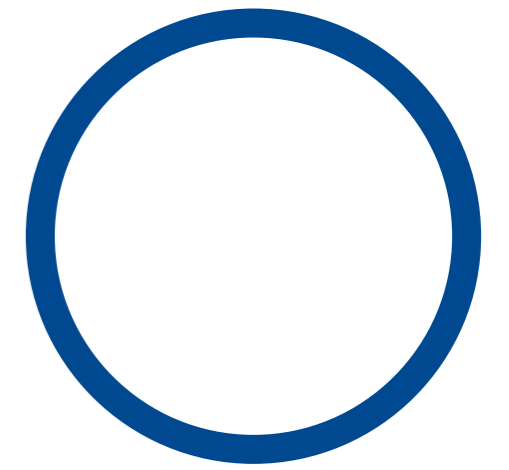
07 5573 8600



31 Reserve Road, Upper  
Coomera,



[saintstephenscollege.net.au](http://saintstephenscollege.net.au)



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## Foreward

This report is compiled to comply with the state and federal government requirements. The Annual Report is available on the College website each year along with other relevant publications.



# Our College

Set on an outstanding campus on the northern Gold Coast, Saint Stephen's College is a Prep to Year 12, co-educational Christian school, known for leading in future focused education. We strive to develop, self directed, determined, courageous young people who will make a positive difference to their communities now and in the future.

Our NAPLAN and ATAR results consistently exceed state and national averages.

Our aim is to help identify and celebrate students' own special talents, immerse them in their learning and create self-directed students. Our innovative approach to learning, blending technology and 'traditional' teaching, has been acknowledged around Australia.



The College community values maturity and integrity as the hallmarks of character-based leadership.



Our College has modern air-conditioned facilities, an Intensive English Centre, a state-of-the-art Science-in-Action Centre, a Centre of Music Excellence, a bespoke Arts and Applied Technology Precinct, a modern Foreign Language Centre, a project based and Enterprise Learning Centre and outstanding sports facilities.

The College Early Learning Centre is an integral part of the school, nurturing early learning experiences through qualified, caring and committed staff.

## A snapshot of Saint Stephen's College

- Optima Sports Excellence Programs.
- Two languages on offer – Spanish and Japanese.
- Performing Arts Excellence Program.
- Year 9 to 12 Experience Programs which offers a range of learning options to cater for the diverse needs and aspirations of our students. These pathways could include traditional academic pathways, university subjects, vocational education, and workplace training.
- Centre of Music Excellence.
- Indoor sports stadium incorporating two indoor courts, a well-equipped gymnasium and multiple change rooms.
- Large sporting fields to accommodate soccer, cricket, AFL, and rugby union with an undercover basketball/hockey arena, two courts, incorporating a grandstand and kiosk.
- A state-of-the-art iCentre which is a learning and research space that provides all resourcing and technology needs to all our students.
- Art rooms that convert into art galleries.
- New lecture theatres which can accommodate up to 130 people.
- An award-winning foreign language centre which boasts two smaller lecture theatres, custom designed learning spaces fitted out with the latest technology and a unique Japanese Garden.

## Spiritual Life

As a Christian school, Saint Stephen's College nurtures the spiritual life of our students and wider community. Our resident College Chaplain, Father Andrew Kinmont, supports students in their faith journey by helping them to understand the principles to life in the 21st century. Sunday worship is available to members of the community from 9am each Sunday.



## Wellbeing

There is a strong connection between wellbeing and academic outcomes that's why here at Saint Stephen's College we have a wellbeing framework for both our staff and students. Students from Prep through to Year 12 are involved in experiential learning engagements that enable them to identify attributes of successful learners. Saint Stephen's College promotes wellbeing by furthering opportunities beyond the classroom. The Sports Centre is furnished with all the appropriate gym equipment and has a qualified strength and conditioning coach onsite to help staff and students. Students are exposed to spiritual programs like meditation and yoga sessions throughout the term. With a full time, qualified Nurse on College grounds this complements our counselling and chaplain care programs on offer.

## Academic

Saint Stephen's College is committed to providing authentic, student-centred learning programs tailored to meet the needs of individual students, and the pathway of their choice. Diversity of backgrounds, abilities and aspirations are embraced and nurtured as we deliver learning that appropriately supports, extends, and challenges each student. Our broad range of subject offerings and diverse senior studies programs caters for a range of academic and vocational oriented pathways. All students in Years 6 to 12 are taught the key learning areas of the Australian Curriculum. Further, Technology is embedded into everything we do.

## Extracurricular Programs

Saint Stephen's College provides a diverse range of cultural and sporting extracurricular activities beyond the classroom that are designed to build confidence and engagement, plus develop cohesive social skills. Students are encouraged to participate in these activities as they are challenging but also rewarding for the individual's personal growth. Some of the programs include:

- Outdoor Education The Kokoda Challenge
- Duke of Edinburgh International Awards
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Chess
- Music
- Sport member of APS which includes a broad range of team and individual sports
- Performing Arts (Speech and Drama, Instrumental and Vocal, Vocal Ensembles, Strings, Bands, Brass and Woodwind Ensembles, and Percussion)





## Sports Programs

Sport is an important part of the complete educational experience for all Saint Stephen's College students. Through sport, the College encourages all students to strive to achieve their personal best. Saint Stephen's College is committed to providing students with a range of sporting opportunities and a rich history of sporting achievements on an individual and team level.

Athlete wellbeing is paramount in the College that is why Saint Stephen's have invested in highly regarded and specialised coaches to work alongside our young athletes to provide them with tailored training programs and high-level feedback which shapes the athlete's development.

## Inter-School and Representative Sport

Saint Stephen's College is a member of the Associated Private Schools (APS), which is a cluster of eight independent schools. The APS Inter-School Sports competition gives students from Year 4 onwards the opportunity to compete in their choice of sport against the other

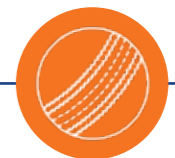
schools in the cluster. The APS is a friendly, yet competitive, Association that maintains the highest standards in sportsmanship, participation, and performance. It also serves as part of the pathway/selection process for students who represent Saint Stephen's College at District, Regional, State and National levels.

## Optima Sporting Program

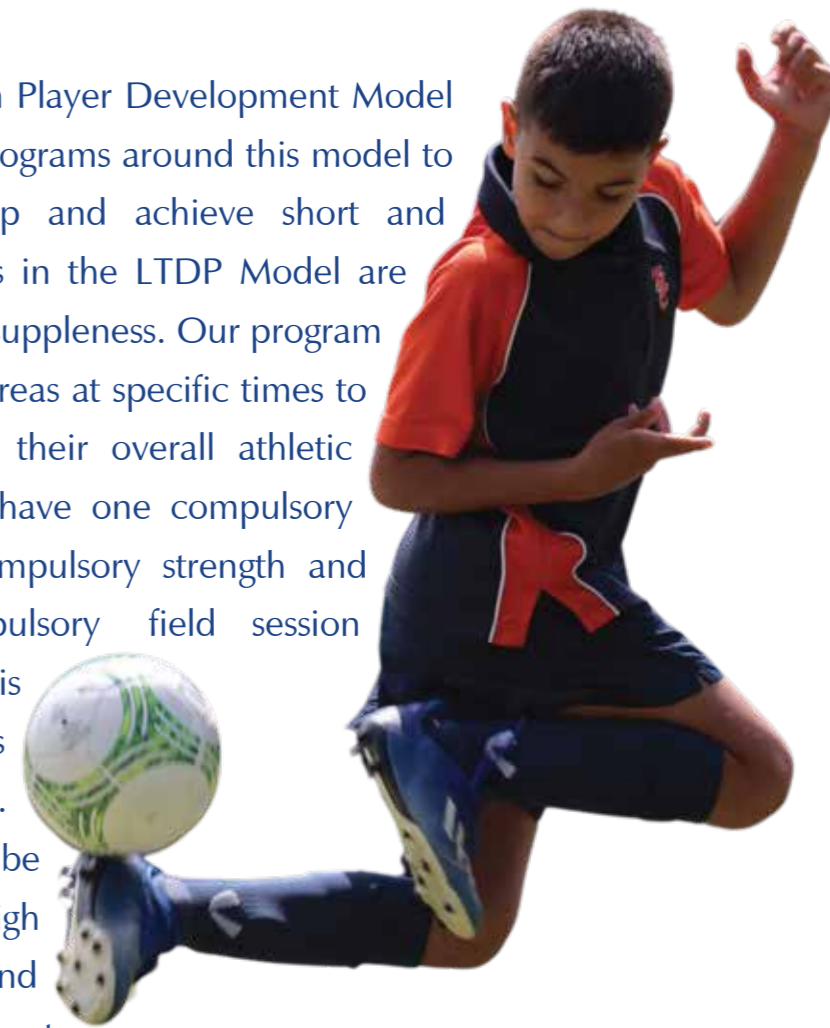
Saint Stephen's College has four Optima Sports Programs: Basketball, Cricket, Soccer and Netball.



These programs have been selected to meet the needs of our students.



At the College, we use a Long-Term Player Development Model (LTDP) and structure our sporting programs around this model to help our student athletes develop and achieve short and long-term goals. The areas of focus in the LTDP Model are speed, strength, stamina, skills, and suppleness. Our program is designed to target these specific areas at specific times to ensure that students can develop their overall athletic ability. Students in each program have one compulsory speed and agility session, one compulsory strength and conditioning session and one compulsory field session in their chosen sport. Each session is tailored for students needs and abilities by our expert staff. Students in the programs will also be exposed to nutrition in sport, high performance training, recovery and injury prevention and management through various experiences.



## Performing Arts Program

Theatre programs at Saint Stephen's College offer students a blended approach co-curricular activities like academic drama, musicals, speech and drama, large scale musicals, technical theatre, and music. The College is well regarded for its comprehensive Strings Program that range from our Suzuki Foundation (Years 1 and 2) through to our Chamber of Music Excellence Program in senior years. The Performing Arts Program has won numerous state and national awards for their efforts across ensembles and choirs, instruments, academic music, music, drama, theatre, and productions.



## Community Engagement

Saint Stephen's College values the important partnerships we have between our students -past, present, and future. These partnerships are the core foundation of our community.

We encourage parent involvement through a range of opportunities within the College including our Parents & Friends Association and Parent Support Groups which actively support and encourage our students to reach their potential.

Playing an active role in our community is a great way to forge lifelong friendships. Together, we make a difference in the lives of our community and those we support.

## 2023 Snapshot

Saint Stephen's College has a forward focus on continuous improvement in our facilities. In 2023, the newly renovated Central Quad made its debut, having undergone a spectacular transformation at the close of 2022. The grand opening was marked by a delightful Twilight event that brought the entire community together in the first term. A few teaching spaces were quietly redesigned in the Connections areas to welcome an additional Year 7 class for 2024.

The focal point of recent developments is the initiation of the Junior College Hub. This hub boasts tinkering spaces, music rooms, collaborative areas, Junior Administration offices, and a Uniform Shop. The revitalization of the canteen area presents an exciting prospect, closely connected to the central courtyard, fostering unity among the entire school community from Prep to Year 12 within this space.

The 2023 College student leadership team brought a heartfelt and strong student voice to the College this year. They have set a quality standard for communication and leadership that will give confidence and positivity to those now taking us into a new look 2024 based on the theme of Diversity. The students in our Junior College who fulfil leadership roles also stepped up to make their programs exciting and a real influence for kindness, care and consideration across the whole College.

2023 was a very successful sporting year at the College both on and off the field. This year saw the consolidation of our four Optima Sporting Programs: Basketball, Cricket, Netball and Soccer. Success in these programs is building particularly within our Junior College. These students are showing that the future is bright. The College won 10 APS sports premierships a significant increase from four in 2022, and a real highlight was the winning of the Senior School Athletics Percentage trophy for APS and numerous external trophies. Saint Stephen's College successfully expanded the range of extracurricular sessions, offering additional activities tailored for Prep to Year 3 students. The College community has shown remarkable support for these sessions, leading to an impressive turnout of over 50 students in both the Prep to Year 3 Runners Club and Gymnastics. Additionally, the Runners Club sessions for Years 4 to 12 have attracted over 250 students throughout the year. The Dare 2 Dance College Dance program continues to thrive, with programs operating at full capacity and notable victories at Eisteddfod, along with valuable opportunities in national dance aerobics.

## Janelle Anderson



The College has had a very successful year both academically and through our vast extracurricular and Optima extension programs. We are blessed with outstanding staff and students with a real desire to be successful, but who also show great concern and compassion for each other.

2023 has been a different and interesting year for Saint Stephen's College. With the transition from the Principal - Kim Cohen who left the College during early Term One and the fine efforts of the Board and Leadership team to steer the College through the final weeks of the term. The College embarked on a time of reflection and cultural review to ensure best practice and quality transition in the search for a new Principal for 2024.

We began 2023 with our Scholars' Assembly, during which we welcomed back our recently graduated Old Scholars and recognised their outstanding academic achievements. As well as acknowledging Year 12 students who had come first in individual subjects, the College Dux of 2022 (Kaveendra Dissabandara) was announced. Kaveendra addressed the Senior College and shared with us his insight into pursuing academic success. Finally, thank you to the 2023 Academic Captains: Lily Grimes and Brandon Lawton for your leadership and commitment to promoting academic excellence throughout the year.

Principal

Principal  
Report

## Ken Petty



In 2023, Saint Stephen's College thrived through collective efforts, with teachers, parents, students, support staff, board members, and College leaders contributing to our success. Our steadfast commitment to educational excellence, Christian values, and a supportive culture prevailed, emphasising individualised character development and instilling hope among students.

The dedication of our staff remains integral to our triumphs, embodying the essence of the Saint Stephen's philosophy. Special recognition is extended to Mr Peter Hollett, a dedicated Board director for two decades, for his crucial role in fortifying the College's financial foundation. Amidst transformative changes, gratitude is extended to Ms. Kim Cohen for her contributions, and commendation is given to Ms. Janelle Anderson for her inspirational interim leadership. The Board's commendable efforts in recruiting a new Principal and managing significant projects showcase their commitment to governance. We express heartfelt thanks to Board members, including Karen St George, Peter Hollett, Rebecca Lennon, and Laurie Vogler, for their leadership in key governance committees, reflecting our dedication to sound governance practices that underpin the College's continued success.

Board Chair

Chair  
Report

# International Education

In 2023, Saint Stephen's College commenced the academic year with an enrolment of 66 international students, concluding the year with a total of 91. These students originated from diverse countries, including the People's Republic of China, Fiji, Hong Kong (SAR of China), Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam.

Due to the absence of border restrictions, the demand for international student admissions exceeded the available positions within the College. Consequently, an International Student Waiting Pool was established for the first time in its history. Throughout the majority of the year, both the Junior and Senior College experienced full enrolment in the reinstated Intensive English programs.

The resumption of short-stay programs and study tours facilitated the hosting of over 200 students throughout the year. In collaboration with Tourism and Events Queensland and Banora International Group, Saint Stephen's College played a key role in hosting a group of principals from Japanese schools. The purpose of their visit was to explore educational opportunities in Queensland. Recognised as a leading institution in international education, the College was chosen to showcase its offerings to the visiting principals. This visit not only has the potential to foster school-to-school cultural exchanges but is also instrumental in strengthening the relationship between Saint Stephen's College and Tourism and Events Queensland.

## Gap Program

Having successfully reached its two-year milestone, the Gap Program has expanded beyond its initial scope to encompass non-teaching aspects of the College's operations. Positive feedback from College Staff underscores unanimous support for the program's continuation (100%), with 87% of surveyed staff expressing a desire for its further expansion. Preliminary investigations into this expansion have been initiated for the years 2024 and beyond.

# Our Staff

The College is an equal opportunity employer, renowned for the highly skilled staff it attracts.

Staff numbers	
Teaching Staff	98
FTE Teaching Staff	92.4
Non-Teaching Staff	81
FTE non-teaching staff	58.7

Staff Qualifications	
Qualification	Teachers / Non Teachers
Doctorate	1.1%
Masters	26.8%
Bachelor's Degree	86.0%
Diploma	37.4%
Certificate	43.0%





## Professional Development Expenditure

In 2023, we continued to advance our professional development initiatives. All teaching staff once again fulfilled their professional development hours in compliance with the QCT, Child Protection, and other key courses ensuring our practices remain at the forefront of educational innovation and compliant with legislation. In addition, the College provided training to 14 staff members, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to serve as equity contact officers. Their role is to champion and uphold our commitment to a safe and inclusive environment."

### Professional Development Expenditure



Total funds utilised on professional development across the College was \$100,264.71 with an average of \$455.75 per staff member.

## Staff Awards

Our College's commitment to providing exceptional educational experiences was acknowledged with our selection as finalists in the Australian Educator Awards for Best Secondary Teacher: Mitchell Mills, Best Head of Department: Iain Taylor, and Best Use of Technology: eLearning Department. Mitchell was also recognised as a member of the Top 45 Educators in Australia this year.

## College Awards

Over June and July 2023, *The Educator* invited schools across Australia to participate in the publication's 5-Star Innovative Schools awards. Now in its ninth year, this report recognises the schools at the forefront of change and innovation. Entries were open to all educational professionals who believe their school is pioneering a new direction in education. From teaching approaches to learning spaces and curriculum design, the report looks at schools reshaping the future of education. By the end of the judging process, the entries were narrowed down to 35 of the country's most forward-thinking schools, which make up The Educator's 5-Star Innovative Schools 2023 list. Saint Stephen's College retained its position as a 5-Star Innovative Schools 2023.

## Our Community

### Volunteers

- Classroom Support
- Fundraising
- Parents & Friends Events
- Old Scholars
- Financial benefactors
- Homestay families
- Sport Coaches
- Special Events i.e ANZAC
- Class Representative Programs

### Parents & Friends Association

- Meetings held monthly onsite in the College boardroom
- Annual calendar of events and activities

### Marketing & Communications

- Fortnightly Acta Ludi newsletter
- College website
- College App
- Emails
- Annual Quotannis (year book)
- Social Media (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn)

# Our Students

## Student Enrolment Numbers

	Primary	Secondary	Total
2023	619	664	1283

## Student Attendance

- Total number of students 1,283
- Average attendance rate 90.7%

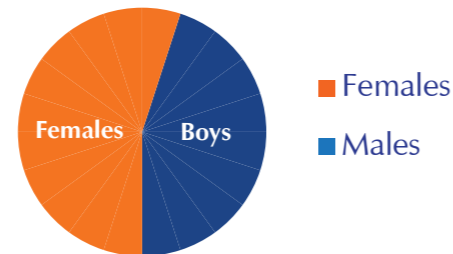
## Year Level Attendance Rate

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
90.1%	89.0%	91.2%	91.2%	92.1%	92.5%	91.5%
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	
90.1%	88.3%	91.6%	90.5%	N/A	N/A	

- Rolls are marked electronically each day for Prep to Year 6 students and each lesson for students Years 7 to 12.

## Gender Breakdown

- 53% Females (Prep – Year 12)
- 47% Males (Prep - Year 12)



## Indigenous Enrolment Numbers

	Primary	Secondary	Total
2023	11	5	16

Source from Australian Federal Census, 2023

## Indigenous Attendance Rate

Indigenous Students	
2023	88.7%



## NAPLAN Comparative Report

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy results for year's 3, 5, 7 and 9 are available via the My Schools website [www.myschools.edu.au](http://www.myschools.edu.au). The Saint Stephen's College results are available under the 'NAPLAN' tab in our school's profile page. Note, the NAPLAN results for 2023 cannot be compared to previous year's due to the new four 'Band Result Summary'.

### Year 3 2023

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
<b>Saint Stephen's College Mean</b>	446	449	438	453	440
<b>QLD Average</b>	393	405	392	398	397
<b>National Average</b>	404	416	403	410	407
<b>% above QLD Average</b>	+13.0%	+10.0%	+11.7%	+13.8%	+10.8%
<b>% above National Average</b>	+7.0%	+8.0%	+8.6%	+10.4%	+8.0%

### Year 5 2023

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
<b>Saint Stephen's College Mean</b>	530	489	517	514	507
<b>QLD Average</b>	489	467	479	491	478
<b>National Average</b>	495	482	488	496	487
<b>% above QLD Average</b>	+8.3%	+4.7%	+7.9%	+4.6%	+6.0%
<b>% above National Average</b>	+7.0%	+1.4%	+5.9%	+3.6%	+4.1%

### Year 7 2023

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
<b>Saint Stephen's College Mean</b>	568	542	559	572	561
<b>QLD Average</b>	529	521	533	532	531
<b>National Average</b>	536	533	539	538	538
<b>% above QLD Average</b>	+7.3%	+4.0%	+4.8%	+7.5%	+5.6%
<b>% above National Average</b>	+5.9%	+1.6%	+3.7%	+6.3%	+4.2%

### Year 9 2023

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
<b>Saint Stephen's College Mean</b>	592	582	576	571	589
<b>QLD Average</b>	557	557	563	552	559
<b>National Average</b>	564	566	567	556	567
<b>% above QLD Average</b>	+6.2%	+4.4%	+2.3%	+3.6%	+5.3%
<b>% above National Average</b>	+4.9%	+2.8%	+1.5%	+2.6%	+3.8%

## 2023 Student Outcomes for Year 12 Cohort

	Number of SSC Eligible Students	% of Eligible SSC Students
ATAR >99	1	1.56%
ATAR >90	17	37.50%
ATAR >80	43	67.18%
ATAR >60	58	98.62%

Median ATAR	87.10
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### University Preferences

	2021	2022	2023
Students received 1st preference	63%	67.5%	77.98%
Students received 2nd preference	18%	13.5%	13.2%

### Vocational Training & Qualifications

2023 saw a group of students take on a diverse range of School-Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships in Engineering (Boiler-making), Business Administration, Hospitality, Early Childhood Education and Care, and Live Production (Sound and Lighting).

Number of students awarded a VET qualification:	
Certificate I	1
Certificate II	21
Certificate III	51
Certificate IV	10
Diploma	44

## 2023 Special Student Awards

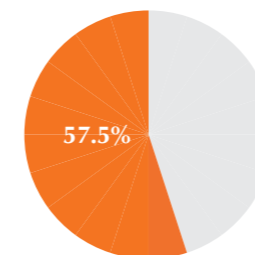
The Humphrey Firkins Award for Excellence in Science 2023	Nico Corvera
The Goda Firkins Academic Medal for Excellence 2023	Nico Corvera
2023 Saint Stephen's College Dux	Nico Corvera
Proximae Accessit	Ryan Wang
Third Place	Julia Eklof
Fourth Place	Lily Grimes
Fifth Place	Travis Shute

## Post-school Destination Information

These results are based on the findings of the Queensland Government Next Steps survey, which targeted all students who completed Year 12 and gained a Senior Statement in 2022.

In 2023, 98.6% of Year 12 completers were engaged in education, training or employment in the year after they completed school.

### Response Rate



- 120 - number of Year 12 students in 2022
- 69 - number of responses received from students
- 57.5% - percentage response

### Summary of main destinations of students (based on 2022 school year)

Students selected to attend university	68.1%
Students selected to pursue VET qualifications	13%
Full-time employment	5.8%
Part-time employment	11.6%
NILFET	1.4%



# Saint Stephen's College

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## Contact Us

31 Reserve Road, Upper Coomera QLD 4206

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