



MARY MACKILLOP
COLLEGE

Extension & Enrichment Programs



Empowering the Women of Tomorrow

At Mary MacKillop College, we are committed to the holistic education of your daughter, ensuring she is challenged, inspired, and empowered to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Our Extensions and Enrichment Programs are designed for students who exhibit outstanding aptitude and talent across a variety of learning areas. We believe that when creativity and curiosity merge, students gain the confidence to explore their passions, transform ideas into reality, and develop the skills they need to excel in their future.

These programs broaden the curriculum for high-achieving, gifted, and talented students, offering opportunities to deepen knowledge, enhance application, and develop advanced thinking skills and attitudes at a higher level of complexity. Selection for these programs is based on a combination of academic results, attendance, teacher feedback, and diagnostic testing, ensuring we identify and nurture each student's unique strengths.

At MMC, we honour the individuality of every learner and are dedicated to providing an environment where your daughter can flourish. Through our Extensions and Enrichment Programs, she will be encouraged to take risks, embrace challenges, and become a confident, capable young woman - ready to make her mark on the world.

There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.

~ Michelle Obama

Da Vinci Decathlon

The Da Vinci Decathlon is an exciting academic competition that challenges and inspires our students to collaborate, think creatively, and excel across a range of disciplines. Since its inception in 2002, the Decathlon has celebrated academic achievement and teamwork, inviting students to compete in areas such as engineering, science, mathematics, art, and English.

We are proud to offer this opportunity to students in Years 8–10 who demonstrate outstanding academic results, curiosity, and a passion for learning. Selection is based on a combination of academic performance, attendance, teacher feedback, and diagnostic assessments including SRS, NAPLAN, PAT-R, and PAT-M. Those chosen will represent their year level and College, as well as participate in rigorous, collaborative team training in preparation for the competition.

The Da Vinci Decathlon is more than a competition—it is a celebration of intellectual challenge, creativity, and the joy of learning. Through this program, our students are empowered to extend themselves, work as a team, and develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



Debating

Debating is open to students of all ages and encourages confidence, critical thinking, and effective communication. Each year, students are invited to try out for our teams, with selection based on attendance, teamwork, and emerging voices. Debating goes beyond public speaking – it teaches students to listen, collaborate, and respectfully challenge ideas. Team sizes are limited to ensure each participant receives meaningful guidance and experience. Through debating, our MacKillop Women grow as articulate thinkers and leaders. We are proud to offer this enriching opportunity and watch our students flourish as confident communicators.



Lion's Youth of the Year

Mary MacKillop College proudly supports the prestigious Lions Youth of the Year competition, a national initiative that fosters leadership, citizenship, and personal excellence. Open to senior students, the program offers a powerful platform to refine communication and critical thinking skills. Participants are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, engage with their communities, and lead with purpose. The competition celebrates young people committed to making a positive impact both within and beyond the College. Our MacKillop Women embrace this opportunity with courage and grace. They grow as role models and ambassadors who embody the spirit of service and leadership that defines our College.



Metropolitan North School Sport

Metropolitan North Sport is the regional sporting body that governs and coordinates interschool sport competitions across the Brisbane northern metropolitan region. We are proudly affiliated with Metropolitan North Sport, providing our students with opportunities to compete regionally across a wide range of sports. This affiliation ensures our students have access to structured competition and clear pathways. Students can progress competitively on several paths – selection to Metropolitan North representative teams to represent the region at higher levels, Combined Metropolitan competition against other metropolitan regions, State Championships which can lead to Queensland School Sport representation, and for elite athletes National Championships representing Queensland.





Senior Extension Subjects

Extension English

Extension English in Year 10 at Mary MacKillop College is an invitation-only subject for students with a strong passion and proven aptitude for English. It is designed for those with excellent attendance and outstanding results in Years 7 to 9.

The program focuses on deep literary analysis, encouraging both independent thinking and collaborative inquiry. Students develop advanced analytical skills through critical discussion and teamwork. Extension English prepares students for senior Literature while nurturing a love of reading and articulate expression. By engaging with complex texts and like-minded peers, students grow as confident communicators and thoughtful contributors.

Extension Maths

Extension Maths in Year 10 at Mary MacKillop College is an invitation-only subject for students with a strong passion and aptitude for mathematics. It is ideal for those aiming to pursue Specialist Mathematics, Physics, or Mathematical Methods in senior years.

The program offers advanced tasks and investigations that go beyond the standard curriculum. Students are encouraged to think critically, solve complex problems, and collaborate with like-minded peers. Selection is based on excellent attendance and outstanding results in Years 7 to 9. Extension Maths empowers students to deepen their mathematical thinking and prepare for future success in STEM fields.

STEM Opportunities

STEM education is vital in today's world, offering an interdisciplinary approach that integrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to solve real-world problems. At Mary MacKillop College, we believe that STEM empowers young women to develop high level skills, creativity, and curiosity – preparing them to thrive in a rapidly changing future.

STEM MAD



STEM MAD (Make a Difference) is a Brisbane Catholic Education competition, where teams design innovative solutions to real-world challenges. The STEM MAD Showcase celebrates student learning and highlights projects that reflect Catholic values, encouraging students to act for justice and the common good, in line with the papal call of *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*.

Science & Engineering Challenge



The Science and Engineering Challenge is a national program delivered in partnership with the University of Queensland and the University of Newcastle. This dynamic experience immerses our Year 9 and 10 students in hands-on STEM activities, sparking curiosity, building real-world problem-solving skills, and inspiring future pathways in science and technology.

UQ Science Ambassadors



The University of Queensland Science Ambassadors program recognises Year 11 students as young science leaders across Queensland. Through leadership, creativity, and communication, our ambassadors inspire curiosity and foster a vibrant culture of scientific inquiry, culminating in a reflective report and the opportunity for academic recognition.

Australian Maths Competiton

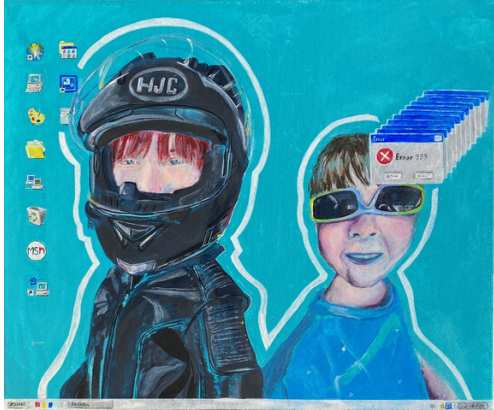


The Australian Maths Competition is open to all students and features 30 thought-provoking problems designed by leading Australian educators. The competition encourages students to stretch their thinking, build problem-solving skills, and enjoy the challenge of complex tasks. It celebrates mathematical excellence and curiosity, giving every student a chance to grow in confidence.



Arts Opportunities

Creativity is one of the most sought-after skills in today's world, with the World Economic Forum consistently ranking it among the top skills needed for the future workforce. At Mary MacKillop College, we believe that nurturing creativity through the Arts is essential for preparing our students to thrive, innovate, and make a meaningful impact in a rapidly changing world.



Brisbane Portrait Prize

The Brisbane Portrait Prize showcases the best in contemporary portraiture, encourages excellence and creates opportunities for Brisbane artists. Involvement in this competition provides MMC artists with invaluable experience in creative thinking, cultural expression, and presenting their work on a significant public platform.



IEU Excellence Awards

The Independent Education Union (IEU) Excellence in Art Design Awards recognise the artistic talents of students across Queensland and the Northern Territory offering prizes for excellence and providing a platform for young artists to shine on a broader stage.

The IEU Literary Competition is the oldest writing competition in Queensland. Encompassing poetry, short story and non-fiction prose, the competition promotes creativity, individuality and expression.



Creative Generation

The Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art recognise and promote excellence in senior visual art education throughout Queensland state and non-state schools. Each year, shortlisted pieces are showcased in regional exhibitions and at Brisbane's Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA).

Year 10 students can also apply for the prestigious Artist in Residence program, connecting emerging artists with professional mentors to explore new techniques, refine their practice, and deepen their understanding of visual arts.



TRULY
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WOMEN

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