

# Wellbeing



## Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care at Blackfriars is structured in a manner which means that each student has a unique relationship with one teacher. The Middle and Senior Schools are structured as a vertical House system with the student remaining with the Home Group Teacher as he moves through the Secondary School. This enables the Home Group Teacher to not only monitor his progress across the years but also to give the boy a sense of security and continuity. Students meet in a vertically structured group at the beginning of each day. These groups contain approximately 20 boys of various ages from Year 7 to Year 12. A House is made up of five Home Groups and each House is named after a great Dominican.

There are also 2 extended Pastoral Care sessions each week where the boys are involved in a range of learning experiences with a pastoral care focus. These include, but are not limited to, House Assembly, Mass, Intra-House competitions, Careers and Study Skills, Cybersafety, Resilience and other personal development programs. A significant program within pastoral care is our buddy program where our middle and senior boys are paired up with boys from the primary school to complete a range of engaging activities.

## Student Leadership

Developing the leadership qualities within all of our boys is a significant focus within our house structure and also within the co-curricular program where boys are able to show their leadership skills in a range of environments.

Further to this, there are formal leadership opportunities within the school. Our Year 12 prefect group lead the school throughout the year at official functions and contribute to all activities within the school. These boys are a great example to younger boys in the way they interact with students, staff and the wider community. In each of our middle school key classes a student is elected to represent his peers and is involved in a range of activities throughout the year. In Years 10, 11 and 12 our leaders are nominated through each house and have a particular responsibility to coordinate house based events such as the annual swimming and athletics carnivals as well as other intra-house activities.

## Support Services

The Student Wellbeing Team includes a number of significant staff who support the wellbeing and development of the boys. Led by the Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing and Administration, the team works collaboratively to ensure that each boy is able to reach his potential academically, spiritually, physically and socially and emotionally. Other key members of the wellbeing team are the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, the 8 Heads of House, the school Psychologist, the 2 school Counsellors and the school Chaplain. There is also an International Liaison Officer who supports the specialised needs of our international students. This includes coordination of homestay arrangements, monitoring academic programs and acting as a mentor and first point of contact for our international boys.



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## House information

Houses:

- Vertically structured House system
- Each House has a Patron, named after a great Dominican of the past
- Brothers are kept together in the same house
- Each house has a House Captain and Leader, whom coordinates House activities - religious, sporting, cultural, academic and social

### AQUINAS HOUSE

St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) was a pupil of the school's patron, St Albert the Great. Aquinas is generally regarded as the greatest philosopher and theologian of the Middle Ages. He was an important advocate of the study of Aristotle, recently re-discovered, against conservatives who wished a pagan author excluded from the universities. He insisted on respect for truth, whoever spoke it.

### BURKE HOUSE

Fr Tom Burke (1830 -1883) was an Irish Dominican preacher, admired for his wit, joyful spirit, intelligence and goodness. He became a legendary communicator of the Catholic faith.

### DENIFLE HOUSE

Fr Henry Denifle (1844-1905) was an historian of international repute with a gift for languages. His works include a five-volume history of the medieval universities.

### DE VITTORIA HOUSE

Fr Francis de Vittoria (died 1546) was a professor at Salamanca University at the time of the discovery of the Americas. A great defender of the native peoples, he wrote at length on justice, and is regarded as "the Father of International Law."

### HORTEN HOUSE

Fr Titus Horten (1882-1936) was a teacher of foreign languages in the Dominican school of Vechta, Germany, when arrested by the Nazis for the "crime" of sending money to missionaries in China. He was known as a man who had time for everyone. He died in prison.

### JARRETT HOUSE

Fr Bede Jarrett (1881-1934) was a celebrated author and preacher. He wrote against social injustice, founded a mission in South Africa and was responsible for the return of the Dominicans to Oxford University.

### LACORDAIRE HOUSE

Fr Henri Lacordaire (1802-1861) boldly initiated the return of the Dominicans to France, from where they had been excluded by anti-clerical laws. His reform saw a huge increase in the Order's influence and its numbers. He was awarded the French Légion d'Honneur.

### LAGRANGE HOUSE

Fr Marie Joseph Lagrange (1833-1938) founded the Ecolé Biblique, an outstanding institute for scripture study in Jerusalem. Despite considerable opposition (including an order from the Pope not to teach for some years), he emerged a hero of the revival of biblical studies in the Catholic Church. He too was awarded the Légion d'Honneur.