Integrity.
Success.
Blackfriars.
We invite you to join a community that works together to implement a vision. A community that provides excellence in boys education and develops graduates that have a belief in themselves, confidence and a sense of integrity and humility. We acknowledge that for each student excellence will be different. We recognise and accept the differences in our boys’ abilities and gifts and respect the unique character of each student. We personalise learning to ensure growth and success regardless of your son’s level of ability.

No two boys are alike. Yet inherent in each boy is an innate sense of adventure and exploration, with a curiosity that will take him on marvellous journeys that can simultaneously awaken the imagination in the weariest adult. Enter the gates of our school and experience an inclusive and progressive educational environment that can provide your son with every opportunity to find his way in the world.
As the only school founded by the Dominican Friars in Australia, Blackfriars remains faithful to the search for Truth (Veritas) as lived and taught over the last 800 years by the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and exemplified by Saint Dominic, our Founder, and Saint Albert the Great, our Patron.

Our Founder and Our Patron

As the only school founded by the Dominican Friars in Australia, Blackfriars remains faithful to the search for Truth (Veritas) as lived and taught over the last 800 years by the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and exemplified by Saint Dominic, our Founder, and Saint Albert the Great, our Patron.

Born in the late 12th century, Saint Dominic was sent at an early age to study for the priesthood. Whilst studying in Palencia, Spain, he witnessed a famine that desolated Spain. The young Dominic sold his valuable books and other assets to assist the poor. St Dominic commitment to study continued throughout his life. This pursuit of knowledge, not for its own sake but to better understand God's creation and to use in the works of the Order has continued through the centuries. Today, Dominicans can be found throughout the world.

An early member of the Dominicans was Saint Albert the Great. Saint Albert was born in Lauingen (current day Germany). He was educated in Padua, where he received instruction in Aristotle's philosophy. He became a lecturer, scientist, philosopher and Bishop. After his death he was recognised as a Doctor of the Church. The Doctor Universalis - The Universal Doctor, in recognition of his extraordinary genius and extensive knowledge, for he studied every branch of learning known at his time. His quest for knowledge saw him study everything he could find as it was through learning about creation, that he was able to know more about the creator, God, and then hand on that information to all he taught.

The lifelong commitment of Saint Dominic and Saint Albert to discovering and applying Truth to hand on to others remains at the core of the Blackfriars teaching pedagogy and its community.
Specialists in Boys’ Education

Education: A life of opportunity with the confidence to seize it.

Situated on 4.5 hectares of land on the fringe of Adelaide’s business district and adjacent to an expanse of parks and ovals, Blackfriars Priory School provides modern facilities with world-class tuition for all boys, from Reception to Year 12. Here, in the Dominican tradition of education that engages spirit, mind and body in the pursuit of knowledge, students are offered resources and opportunities to explore and question; develop confidence in their abilities; and identify and excel in their natural strengths.
Situated on 4.5 hectares of land on the fringe of Adelaide’s business district and adjacent to an expanse of parks and ovals, Blackfriars Priory School provides modern facilities with world-class tuition for all boys, from Reception to Year 12. Here, in the Dominican tradition of education that engages spirit, mind and body in the pursuit of knowledge, students are offered resources and opportunities to explore and question; develop confidence in their abilities; and identify and excel in their natural strengths.

Our teachers combine years of experience with contemporary teaching methodologies, current research and technologies to make learning fun. Our students explore and excel in their natural strengths, build confidence to apply themselves to more challenging subject areas, and lay the foundations for life-long learning and achievement.

A thriving teaching and learning environment is built on meaningful, purposeful relationships with each student. Our teachers observe and assess the areas in which each student shows interest or excellence, to develop individual learning plans. Each plan incorporates kinaesthetic (or hands-on) and visual learning experiences appropriate to the different learning needs of each student while concurrently developing confidence in achieving personally-determined goals. These skills enable a well-rounded education, enduring friendships, happy memories and the confidence to participate fully in life. They are the skills of a Blackfriars student.

It’s a place where you can feel safe: safe to ask, safe to learn and safe to be you.
At Blackfriars Early Learning Centre (ELC) we build on your child’s individual strengths, skills, abilities and interests in a safe and caring environment. All children are supported to develop persistence, resilience, curiosity and a love of learning. We build happy, confident and capable life-long learners.

Blackfriars ELC encompasses the Reggio Emilia approach to young children’s learning, whereby children are encouraged to explore, investigate and discover through play. Teachers are co-learners, guides and partners in the child’s learning. Parents are a vital component to the Reggio Emilia philosophy and as such, are viewed as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. This approach to teaching young children puts the natural development of
children as well as the close relationships that they share with their environment at the centre of its philosophy. The Early Years Learning Framework is also used as a curriculum tool in the programming, implementing, evaluating and reporting process. Both approaches focus on the development of relationships: teacher to child, teacher to parent, and child to child as of the utmost importance in the day to day education and care of our children.

Blackfriars ELC offers an integrated play-based curriculum for all children aged 3-5 years. Being a part of the Blackfriars school community offers us the unique opportunity to access specialist staff and facilities in the areas of Music, Art, Drama, PE, ICT, Languages and the Sciences.

Our co-educational integrated programs are tailored to the individual needs of our youngest learners. An inquiry based approach, including learning through play; investigation and exploration, allows 3 and 4 year old children to have the ability to pursue their individual interests and our staff to cater to their specific needs.
Primary School
Reception to Year 6
The Blackfriars Primary School provides a nurturing, student-centred learning environment for the critical years of a child’s educational, social, emotional and physical development.

The school offers a diverse, challenging and creative curriculum which develops the students’ capabilities to live and participate in a digital and global society. Primary School students are offered specialised subjects including Art, Music, Science and Physical Education with additional teacher support available in areas including Literacy, Numeracy, Learning Enrichment and English as an Additional Language. Access to a large oval, a gymnasium and the science laboratories ensure the boys are provided with the space and opportunities for hands on learning.

The Primary School buildings provide indoor and outdoor learning areas for active boys who need space to move, think and do. Framing a safe and sun-sheltered play area, the classrooms have an abundance of natural light, contemporary teaching equipment and secure access to the latest information and communication technologies. Class sizes ensure our teachers can focus on individual student needs and employ strategies and educational models that motivate each boy to succeed.
Middle School
Years 7, 8 and 9

At Blackfriars your son will stand confidently with his peers as he learns about the importance of Prayer, Study, Community, and Service in all aspects of school life.
The Blackfriars Middle School is a centre of teaching and learning that caters to the diverse needs of boys in this transitional period of life. Our contemporary, integrated curriculum for Years 7 to 9 is based on the Australian Curriculum. Within this framework, our teachers identify the needs of each student and create individual programs that encourage development, particularly in literacy and numeracy. A degree of self-direction is supported during the Middle Years to motivate students in striving for success through personal inquiry and discovery. The school’s Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) policy provides an opportunity for all Middle School students to personally select a device which best suits their learning style.

The search for identity and meaning is important during the Middle Years of a boy’s schooling. The Pastoral Care Program, Religious Education, Co-curricular and Camp Programs, among other extra-curricular opportunities, provide each boy with the knowledge and skills he needs to confidently and successfully participate as a man of integrity in a rapidly changing world.
Senior School
Years 10, 11 and 12.

The Senior School is where a boy is presented with his most challenging, yet memorable and rewarding years of schooling. It is the time when lifelong friendships are forged and pathways towards employment or tertiary study are laid.

Our Senior School students are young leaders, taking control of their future direction and striving to achieve their individual goals. Teachers work alongside these young adults, helping refine the skills each student needs to successfully engage in an ever-changing world as he pursues his chosen endeavours.
The Senior School provides an education that is well-rounded academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Senior School students, depending on their strengths and interests have the choice of pursuing either the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or Vocational Education and Training (VET) program. Pastoral and education support structures encourage the achievement of personal bests. They encourage the development of individual talents and abilities, simultaneously providing students with the direction and confidence to take their achievements to new heights, while contributing to the world in which they live.

Through words we map our journey. Through deeds we reach our destination.
Blackfriars Priory School recognises the wide-ranging career aspirations and learning abilities of its students, providing a wealth of opportunities to match. VET programs are available to students in Years 8 to 12. Tuition in areas from automotive to hospitality, photography to plumbing is provided through the modern facilities at Blackfriars, offered at the Grand Junction Trade Training Centre, or delivered by Registered Training Organisations.

VET students can apply to incorporate nationally accredited Apprenticeship or Traineeship training in numerous areas into their school program without affecting their ability to complete the SACE. Students are also encouraged to undertake a paid work placement through their studies at school, which will help to expand their career options. At Blackfriars, participation across all fields of endeavour is encouraged for students, with the emphasis on enjoyment and building camaraderie through the quest for personal success.
The Senior School provides an education that is well-rounded academically, socially, emotionally and physically. Senior School students, depending on their strengths and interests have the choice of pursuing either the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or Vocational Education and Training (VET) program.

Pastoral and education support structures encourage the achievement of personal bests. They encourage the development of individual talents and abilities, simultaneously providing students with the direction and confidence to take their achievements to new heights, while contributing to the world in which they live.

Through words we map our journey. Through deeds we reach our destination.

Blackfriars staff are employed on the basis of their achievements, qualifications and philosophy for education, and in particular for their ability to convert a curriculum into an engaging and inspiring experience for boys and young men. Teachers are encouraged to act as facilitators who inspire in their students curiosity, inquiry and application, and a lifelong interest in independent learning.

Accountability, reflection and evaluation guide the continuing professional development of our teachers, which is constantly maintained through regular programs coordinated by the School, the Catholic Church and professional agencies.
A Curriculum for School and Life

The Blackfriars curriculum across all school years is based on the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Framework and our Dominican Catholic ethos and values, which promote respect and concern for the individual while simultaneously encouraging compassion and care for all. Both our academic curriculum and extensive co-curricular program are designed to deliver relevant, world-class learning experiences that develop all aspects of a boy’s intellect: attention, conception, judgement, reasoning, reflection, and self-awareness.

When he leaves Blackfriars, he will have a sense of community; understand the servant nature of leadership; and be able to accept responsibility for his own actions in Christ’s example.
Extension and Enrichment

Blackfriars offers extension and learning enrichment opportunities to support boys at every level of ability. At the beginning of each year, students participate in diagnostic testing to identify their abilities and strengths. Continual assessment by teachers during the year is reported to parents through written reports, interviews and informal conversations.

Extension Learning
Students with particular academic strengths are encouraged to challenge and accelerate their academic progress. Extension learning is offered in Science, Maths, Numeracy and Literacy. Boys who excel in other areas such as Music, Sport or Art, have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities that motivate and encourage further achievement in their areas of strength. When he leaves Blackfriars, he will have a sense of community; understand the servant nature of leadership; and be able to accept responsibility for his own actions in Christ’s example.

Learning Enrichment
Blackfriars provides extra support from Reception to Year 12 for boys who are identified through professional reports as experiencing difficulty with their learning. A team that includes a qualified Learning Enrichment teacher, works with individuals or small groups of students to help boys to achieve their potential at their own pace, in a caring, supported environment.

Knowledge is not ours alone; it is to be shared.
Wellbeing at Blackfriars contributes to each student's experience of: achievement of meaningful goals, positive relationships, enjoyment, personal and spiritual growth and development, health, and safety. The school values a safe learning environment that provides each student with an environment that allows them to achieve their optimum in all of their pursuits.

Teachers, in cooperation with parents, develop relationships with students that are built on trust through Home Groups, Houses, regular lessons and the co-curricular program. Through conversation and listening in classrooms, and in less formal learning environments, teachers develop a clear understanding of each student's needs and background. Staff use restorative practices to resolve issues students face, to support them in understanding the impact actions have on others and to help them understand the importance of taking responsibility for their actions. The Pastoral Care Program is then adapted to support each student in realising his full potential, achieving self-understanding and self-confidence, and aspiring to develop within the context of Christian values and the Four Dominican Pillars of Blackfriars.
Upon arrival at Blackfriars, each of our students is allocated to one of eight Houses. The House System has a long history and tradition and boys are aligned to houses with siblings and fathers where there is a prior connection. In Houses students are encouraged to meet and interact with those from other year groups, and become involved in inter-House activities that encourage friendly competition and cooperation. In the Secondary School Home Group teachers work closely with students to provide academic and personal support and provide advice about subjects and careers. The Head of House staff member for each House plays a vital role in the overall wellbeing of each member of their House and is a key communication point between students, families and the school.

In some circumstances, students may be referred to the School Psychologist or Counsellor, who support students to achieve academic success, psychological health and social and emotional wellbeing. The services available are diverse, but may include counselling, assessment, consultation, referral processes, evaluation, case management, psychoeducation and critical incident support. The School Psychologist and Counsellor always work to provide a confidential service to support students’ best interests. They work closely with the members of the Wellbeing team to achieve the best possible outcomes for students.
The teaching and learning culture at Blackfriars Priory School challenges students to achieve their personal best whether in an academic, artistic, athletic or vocational pursuit. Active minds and bodies are encouraged with co-curricular activities that include chess, debating, mock trial, writers' group, viticulture, concert and stage band, choir and drama productions. Students can also participate in geography or personal development camps on Kangaroo Island or in the Flinders Ranges, language trips to Japan and Italy, pilgrimages to Dominican missions in other countries and visits to sister schools.

As a member of the Independent Schools Sports Association, Blackfriars participates against other independent schools in organised competition at intra-school, inter-school and State levels in athletics, badminton, cricket, swimming, hockey, tennis, basketball, football, golf, soccer, squash, table tennis and volleyball. Blackfriars students have participated in the World Cycling Championships and are leaders in Water Polo competition. Additionally, there is a strong support network to be found amongst school staff, many of whom have a record of high sporting achievement. Parents and friends are always welcomed as coaches and as spectators.
In the centre of our Parkland playing fields, with facilities for football, cricket and soccer, stands the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, widely used by Blackfriars for competition and leisure activities. For students who enjoy academic competitions, Blackfriars is involved in the Tournament of Minds, a creative, problem-solving competition, as well as national competitions in English, Mathematics, Science and the Oliphant Science Awards for students in all year levels.

Blackfriars students participate in co-curricular activities that include sport, chess, music, public speaking, environmental group, film-making, debating and other clubs, student exchanges, camps, retreats, volunteering and leadership opportunities. Through these activities, boys learn the merits of being active members of the community. As a result, there are many Blackfriars old scholars working in roles as politicians, sportsmen, engineers, writers, musicians, scientists and much more.

By their deeds, they become men.
Blackfriars Priory School caters for the needs of the many through meeting the needs of the individual. Students of all ages from Early Learning to Year 12 are welcomed at Blackfriars. However, applications are encouraged at Early Learning, Reception, Years 8 and 10. For further information about the Blackfriars Priory School application process including scholarships, please visit the School’s website. You are also invited to attend the annual Open Day or contact our Registrar to book a tour with the Principal or request an Application form. We look forward to welcoming you to Blackfriars.

We invite you and your son to become part of the Blackfriars tradition.