



Loreto  
COLLEGE BALLARAT | EST. 1875

# Prospectus







Loreto College Ballarat has its foundation in the gospel of Jesus Christ and is proud to be part of and contribute to the larger Catholic community. Loreto College builds on a strong and proud tradition of the education of girls, one which strives to offer “a Catholic education which liberates, empowers and motivates students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity in loving and responsible service”.

*(Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement)*

# LORETO

*Educating and empowering young women for their future*



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



*"There is no subject  
of greater, perhaps  
of as great  
importance to a  
nation as that of its  
women's education."  
Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm*

Based on the charism of Mary Ward, Loreto College, Ballarat has established itself as a leading Catholic school for girls. Since the arrival the IBVM sisters, led by the visionary Mother Gonzaga Barry, Loreto has been a school of choice for young women to develop in self-confidence, creativity and courage. There is a joy in receiving a Loreto education that permeates the everyday life of the College, fostering a compassionate and generous spirit. Loreto College has a proud tradition of educating girls. We are renowned for having a 'Loreto' spirit, a sense of pride in our College amongst present and past students, staff and the community.

A Loreto education caters for development of the students intellectual, spiritual and personal growth. As we move towards a more automated and globalised world, our students will need to be

flexible and adaptable. Our education aims to empower our young people to be active citizens in the world; to be future ready and develop skills in collaboration, critical and creative thinking, communication and agency.

Mother Gonzaga Barry arrived in Ballarat in 1875 and established a school to meet the demands of growth in the area. Now, over one hundred and forty five years later, our region is experiencing increased growth in population and our College is looking to expand. It is an exciting prospect and will allow more students access to a Loreto education, that embraces the five pillars of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity.

**Ms Michelle Brodrick**  
**Principal**





LORETO  
TODAY



*"This set me thinking and wishing our dear Loreto children were a 'row of goodly pearls'. I would string my pearls on a triple cord, strong and sure."*

*Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm*

*'A vigorous belief in the capacity and responsibility of women to contribute significantly to society and the church underlies the emphasis in our tradition on the education of girls...*

*It builds on Mary Ward's conviction that "women in time to come will do much" and is inspired by her independence of spirit, her strength of mind, her tenacity and her courage in breaking new ground.'*

*Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement.*

Loreto College Ballarat is a contemporary school that builds on rich traditions of the past to provide girls with a quality, progressive and dynamic education which becomes a foundation for their future.

Loreto College is a welcoming, friendly community where each person is valued and where spirituality

and learning are nurtured. With the Catholic perspective that formed the spirit and virtues of Mary Ward, young women are educated to strive for personal excellence.

It is our goal for a Loreto College graduate to be a young woman who is confident and equipped to engage actively in all aspects of life in the 21st century. We hope that a Loreto Girl will be responsible, motivated and independent with an abiding sense of her own personal, spiritual and social well-being and social justice.

At Loreto College we strive for academic excellence, while never losing sight of the individual within – providing a modern education designed to support both achievements and challenges faced by girls who are learning in a global society.





HERITAGE



*"Stand in a place  
where God is to be  
seen."*

*Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm*

The Loreto school in Ballarat was the first Loreto school in Australia, established by Mother Gonzaga Barry ibvm and her community of Sisters in 1875 following an invitation from the Bishop of Ballarat to establish a Catholic school for girls.

Mother Gonzaga had come to Australia from Ireland imbued with the educational vision of Mary Ward ibvm, who more than 400 years ago was committed to education for women built on 'the qualities of freedom, justice and sincerity'.

Holding close her faith and these ideals, Mother Gonzaga established Loreto schools in Ballarat vowing to 'educate the whole child' so that every girl was given '... a chance of distinguishing herself ...'

It was Mother Gonzaga's view that offering girls a rounded education, including the sciences, 'would bring about reforms and improvements not yet dreamt of'.

Mother Gonzaga's educational endeavours came to include two schools for girls in Ballarat, at Mary's Mount and Dawson Street, as well as primary schools. From these beginnings, Mother Gonzaga's extraordinary vision and ability also saw Loreto schools established in Portland, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

The Loreto Sisters have also been responsible for teacher training and the foundation of St Mary's College at the University of Melbourne.



VALUES



*"Women should  
and can provide  
something more than  
ordinary..."  
Mary Ward ibvm*

The five pillars of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity underpin the vision of Loreto Education. We are a Catholic School with the expressed aim of living out the values of the Gospel. We are a Loreto school in the spirit of Mary Ward that believes strongly 'that women in time will come to do great things.'

#### Freedom

Through the love of God we are set free by the truth of God's loving care for each of us. We are free then to open ourselves to God, others and the world.

#### Justice

In and through justice we seek right relationships with God, each other and the world of creation, and from which we act to be '... doers of justice'.

#### Sincerity

Sincerity reminds us that our school is built on trust and friendship and so '... we should be such as we appear and appear as we are'.

#### Verity

For us this is a constant invitation and challenge to be '... seekers of truth ...' and '... to do what we have to do well'.

#### Felicity

*'Felicity is an attitude of mind, a disposition of the heart which manifests itself in cheerfulness, good humour, joy, happiness, hope, optimism, friendliness, courtesy, positive thinking, inner peace, self-acceptance and courage.'*

*Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement.*

In keeping with the Gospel and in the spirit of Mary Ward ibvm, Loreto College has an active JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) team. The JPIC Team offers leadership in informing our community of issues of social injustice and in developing a proactive response to make a practical difference.



# SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION



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*“Strive ever to widen  
and deepen your  
hearts and minds.”  
Mother Gonzaga Barry  
ibvm*

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Loreto College is a Catholic school and it is important for us as educators to join parents in guiding the spiritual and religious development of students – both as individuals and part of the community in which they live, learn and pray.

In Religious Education classes, Loreto College students explore the teachings of our faith through the Awakenings Religious Education Program, as well as participation in Liturgy, Prayer, Retreats, and Action for Justice and Peace.

Loreto College strives to be a place where the extraordinary reality of being ‘made in the image and likeness of God’ and being able to ‘find God in all things’ underpins and brings vitality to all that students undertake.

It is within this context that the Loreto school community attempts to nurture students so they may see God in all that they do and experience.

We do, however, recognise that in today’s open and pluralistic society, there may be frequent questions and challenges raised by our students which we seek to deal with seriously as we attempt to support our students’ search for a faith to which they can honestly assent and commit.

It is our faith in God and the spiritual traditions left to us by Mother Gonzaga Barry ibvm and her faith-filled companions which allow us to encourage students to explore the contemporary world as part of their individual spiritual journey.



# STUDENT WELLBEING



*Loreto College understands that its responsibilities to students relate not only to their educational and spiritual progress, but also their wellbeing as individuals.*

At Loreto College we strive to show respect for each other and treat one another with dignity so that each student has a confident sense of self-worth and a willingness to take initiative, accept responsibility and exercise leadership

#### **A sense of belonging**

A crucial element of pastoral care is using 'fun' to help students develop a sense of 'connectedness' and belonging.

#### **House System**

Research has highlighted how important connectedness is to adolescents and their feelings of self-worth. Loreto College uses the House Co-Curricular Program, Gonzaga Barry Day and other events to provide opportunities for students to have fun and feel nurtured as members of the Loreto Community. The House system also reinforces a sense of belonging through a range of activities, including House Choirs, sporting carnivals and casual days, and provides students with leadership opportunities.

#### **Mentor Groups**

Every student belongs to a Mentor Group, which in turn belongs to one of four Houses – Barry, Mornane, Mulhall or Ward. Each of the Houses is named after a Loreto Sister of significance.

Each Mentor Group comprises students from either Years 7 and 8 or Years 9 to 12, promoting connection, communication and understanding between all students. The Mentor Group arrangement is designed to allow students and their parents the continuity of a Mentor Teacher for more than one year (wherever possible) as a communication point for the discussion of students' overall progress with their families.

#### **Leadership**

The Loreto approach to leadership is based on two ideas: firstly, that leadership is for service to others, not personal power, and secondly, that leadership skills need to be fostered and systematically developed.

Leadership is developed through a range of formal and informal procedures. Formal leadership training occurs through the Student Committee structures, year level representation on the Student Representative Council, and through the Year 9 Active Learning Program and the Year 11 Leadership Program. In a less formal way leadership is encouraged by having students work in teams to organise activities, by having students address assemblies, by fostering Debating and Public Speaking skills and by the whole range of ways student self-worth and confidence are built.



# EDUCATING GIRLS



*"Be such as we  
appear and appear  
such as we are..."  
Mary Ward*

At Loreto College Ballarat, we are specialists in educating girls. We understand that before girls can feel free to fully engage with others they must first feel comfortable and confident in the environment that surrounds them.

This brings to the fore the need to provide Loreto girls with opportunities to develop a sense of connectedness and belonging - once a girl has a sense of who she is and feels valued for all she can be, she can confidently make her way in the world.

Loreto education today truly reflects the global society in which we live, with girls encouraged to form relationships with the Loreto community throughout Australia and worldwide. This broad community of Loreto schools teaches girls in the Loreto spirit, and we aim for our Loreto girls to feel very much a part of the global Loreto community.

#### **A Loreto Girl**

*Once a Loreto Girl... always a Loreto Girl!*

*In the rich tradition and spirit of Mary Ward, Loreto Girls are valued as individuals from the moment they walk through the door. It is so much more than an education..... being a Loreto Girl has always been a way of life.*

*A Loreto Girl is guided by her spirituality, is proud of her individual gifts and talents, has a strong sense of values, ethics and social justice and belongs to a strong and supportive world-wide community.*

*A Loreto Girl embraces her lifelong educational journey to become an educated and individual world-ready Loreto Woman.*

*A Loreto Girl will always have a special place in the world; and in the legacy of our founders.....will go on to..."do much!"*



# YEAR 7 TRANSITION



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*"Aim at something  
excellent, our life is  
largely influenced by  
what we aim at ..."*  
*Mother Gonzaga*  
*Barry ibvm*

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At Loreto College we recognise that for many, the transition into secondary education is like a leap into the unknown, and thus offer both students and their parents many opportunities to become familiar with the school well before each girl arrives for her first day of Year 7.

Each family which submits an enrolment application to Loreto College meets with either the Principal or a senior member of staff so each party can get a feel for the partnership ahead.

Parents of successful applicants are then invited to an orientation evening, usually held in Term 4, which is held prior to a separate orientation program for the students – our newest members of the Loreto school community.

To assist in a smooth transition, Loreto Orientation Days are split into two sessions. The first is set aside for girls who may be the only ones from their primary school embarking on the Loreto journey and for girls, who for whatever reason, may be facing a difficult transition into secondary school.

The second Orientation Day brings all future Year 7 girls together. This is a great day that gives the girls a taste of the exciting educational journey ahead. During this day the girls will meet their future classmates and are officially welcomed by school leaders with the Loreto 'War Cry'.

Once the students have excitedly begun Year 7, further transition activities are planned during the first semester, these include the Year 7 Camp, Class Dinners and a Parent Matters evening, where pertinent details of the Year 7 program and tips for supporting students through the introductory year of secondary education at Loreto are provided.

The staff at Loreto College recognise that transition to the next stage of education is a vitally important experience and they endeavour to make this time welcoming and informative for both students and their families.



ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE



*"A school where  
the whole child is  
educated according  
to the capabilities,  
talents, tastes and  
position in life which  
God has given her."  
Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm*

For many girls the pursuit of academic excellence involves striving toward the highest possible VCE score to achieve that dream university placement, and then for others - goals, dreams and interests lie elsewhere and their journey to excellence takes them on a different path.

Loreto College provides a holistic education in which each student is:

- valued as an individual.
- supported in her quest for personal excellence.
- encouraged to become a critical, reflective and responsible learner.
- encouraged to engage with the wider community in an ethical, just and compassionate manner.

Whatever each girl's chosen journey, Loreto College aims to support and to encourage girls by giving

them the opportunity to embrace all that Loreto College offers - a vibrant curriculum, academic extension co-curriculum, outstanding facilities, welcoming community, spiritual traditions and an extraordinary history in the education of girls.

#### Digital Learning

Loreto College is committed to digital learning as part of the 21st Century skills our students require. Each student is equipped with a digital device, which they use in the classroom and at home to develop their ICT (Information Communication Technology) skills and to access a range of online resources and tools to support their learning. Digital learning is supported and integrated into the curriculum.

We strongly believe that the education of our students is a partnership between the College and parents, who work together to support each student in the achievement of her goals.



TEACHING  
& LEARNING



*"... acquire a taste  
for life's simple  
pleasures, and do  
not be in a hurry  
to say good-bye to  
childhood days ..."  
Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm*

### Years 7-9 A Balanced Journey

The Loreto College curriculum is rich, broad and vigorous and Year 7 students are introduced to a community that values a love of learning and promotes learning for a lifetime.

We strive to ensure that each girl is supported and her talents recognised and encouraged, so that she is stimulated by her educational surrounds and becomes a confident, independent learner.

We aim to challenge students through learning both in, and beyond, the classroom. Incursions, excursions and study tours are experiences that support and complement classroom activities.

The curriculum is balanced across the learning areas of:

- Religious Education
- The Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- The Humanities
- Languages Other Than English (French & Japanese)

- Mathematics
- Science, and
- Technology.

### Year 9 Active Learning

In Year 9, girls show a growing interest in the future and, in particular, the pathways they intend to pursue. It is also at this time that they seek to establish links between what they are achieving at school and their aspirations for the future – outside of school.

In recognition of the need for adolescents to grow, explore and build resilience, the Year 9 Curriculum is complemented by the Active Learning Program, which aims to assist students in developing a greater sense of their own identity and self-worth.

The focus throughout the entire year is on offering our students a diversity of activities that aim to improve motivation and engagement, whilst at the same time enhancing their skills in decision making, problem solving, working within a team, responsibility and independence. Activities include a three-day Melbourne Adventure, Leadership Days, and an Outdoor Education Camp.



# TEACHING & LEARNING



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*"...our ideals often  
make realities..."*  
*Mother Gonzaga*  
*Barry ibvm*

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### Senior Years - Choice and Opportunity

From Year 10 students begin to tailor their studies to meet their interests, career aspirations and potential pathways beyond school.

Loreto College offers an extensive Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) program that allows students the opportunity to succeed at their studies while building self-confidence, optimism and self-esteem.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) programs and a range of Vocational Education Training (VET) studies are offered in conjunction with the Local Learning and Education Network.

Our goal for each Loreto student is that she learns to operate confidently and with integrity while opening her future to many pathways through a strong partnership between the student, home and the school.

### The Loreto/Family Partnership

Loreto learning is a partnership between home and school and Loreto College works with parents to develop their daughters' independent learning skills – academically, spiritually and socially.

Open communication channels are an essential part of this partnership. Families and the College need to consider each others' thoughts and concerns so that each girl is given the opportunity to excel in an environment where she feels confident, comfortable and supported.

Opportunities are presented throughout the school year for parents to gain both formal and informal feedback on their child's progress.

Appointments can also be made to talk to individual teachers.

### Teacher Development

Loreto College values the professionalism and wellbeing of staff and is committed to retaining and attracting high quality staff who embrace continual professional learning and growth.

Teachers are supported and encouraged to extend their professional learning by keeping up-to-date with contemporary theory, research and practice and taking opportunities to extend their career pathways.



CO-CURRICULUM



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*A diverse,  
challenging and  
exciting co-  
curricular program  
complements the  
comprehensive  
Loreto curriculum.*

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The co-curricular program is offered to students to enrich their lives and educational experiences and includes activities relating to:

**Music** – in addition to the school music program, students can choose private music tuition with teachers currently visiting the school to teach piano, oboe, clarinet, flute, saxophone, bassoon, violin, viola, percussion, brass, guitar, voice and speech art. Subjects available for private tuition may vary slightly from year to year according to interest. A range of musical ensembles practise and perform at Loreto.

**Performance** – the performance and arts program are vehicles for the students' artistic expression and allow them to showcase their diverse talents. A highlight is the Loreto and St Patrick's College musical production. Students take on roles both on and off-stage and present a show of exceptional quality. The Loreto Arts Festival is also an annual highlight and includes the House Choir competition and a week of auditions, culminating with the evening Arts Festival Concert.

**Sports** – Loreto students are encouraged to participate in sporting teams that compete in local competitions and carnivals. Loreto College

has cricket, hockey, netball, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, badminton, softball, tennis, soccer, touch football, cross-country, lawn bowls, croquet and football teams. Students also compete in swimming, athletics, cross-country and rowing carnivals.

**Academia** – debating, curriculum related competitions, forums and academic challenge days are offered as part of the academic extension co-curricular program, which promotes and recognises academic excellence.

**Service to the Community** – the College has an active Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) team which helps the community in practical and spiritual ways. Students are also encouraged to look for ways that they can offer practical assistance to those in need whether it be via fundraising, volunteering or spiritual support.

**Camps & Study Tours** – Loreto Schools across Australia have strong connections providing a range of exchange and learning opportunities. A Loreto Pilgrimage to Ireland and England and a "Space camp" tour to America have been introduced and are offered on alternate years, along with study tours to Japan & France.



FACILITIES  
WITH PURPOSE



*"...become  
collectors of many  
memory pictures ..."*  
Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm

Our historic exterior belies the range of outstanding, modern facilities provided at Loreto College with our stone walls encompassing amenities that set the platform for academic excellence.

It is this excellent infrastructure that allows us to deliver our comprehensive curricular and co-curricular programs in a range of subject areas. Included are:

- The Mary's Mount Centre – including the Loreto Abbey Theatre, music and multimedia rooms
- The Mulhall Centre – contemporary learning space
- Science Laboratories
- Art Rooms
- Food Technology Centre

- Fabric Technology Rooms
- Library
- Theatrette
- Gymnasium
- Café
- Wireless Internet Connectivity across the campus
- Archives Centre

Within the more historical areas of our school, our heritage combines with the modern-day to provide girls with a sense of belonging to a rich Loreto tradition.

Our exquisite grounds and gardens also offer girls the opportunity to participate in sporting endeavours as well as providing beautiful quiet places for relaxation, reflection and conversation.



FACILITIES  
WITH PURPOSE



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*"...as happiness is  
like a torch and the  
more torches lit from  
it, the more light we  
have and brightness  
and no loss to the  
first lit."*

*Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm*

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#### [The Mary's Mount Centre](#)

In March 2015, The Mary's Mount Centre was opened to the Loreto College community. This purpose-built performing arts facility allows students to be taught in professional surroundings, using modern methods and ever developing technologies. Students learning at all levels of the performing arts, dance, singing, public speaking, debating, drama, music, stage craft and theatre design, recording, sound and lighting, have the opportunity to use this state-of-the-art facility.

The Mary's Mount Centre incorporates the 500 seat Loreto Abbey Theatre, music, drama and dance classrooms and studios, and a multi-media laboratory. It is a venue for College events and gatherings, and provides a wonderful setting to support the learning outcomes for every student.

Whether or not involved in the performing arts, students, parents and past pupils alike, will enjoy the space and opportunities provided by The Mary's

Mount Centre in the form of information sessions, guest speakers, events and gatherings. It is partly through the generosity of our Loreto community, that this development was made possible.

#### [The Mulhall Centre](#)

The Mulhall Centre is a fine example of the creative conversion of a retired building into a contemporary learning space.

The Mulhall Centre is an airy, light filled creative learning space, based on modern teaching pedagogy, with extraordinary flexibility of work spaces to enable students and teachers to move in and out of classes and into break out spaces with ease. The mobile state-of-the-art furniture and sound proof operable walls open up to house an entire Year level unit. The glass walls are intricately surfaced with waves of College House colours and inspiring quotes for young women, from the founder of Loreto College, Mother Gonzaga Barry ibvm.



LORETO  
COMMUNITY



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*"No surer way of  
being happy, than in  
trying earnestly to  
make others so..."*  
Mother Gonzaga  
Barry ibvm

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Being part of the Loreto family will not end when your daughter's school days are over. Loreto College is sure to leave your daughter a legacy of friendship, family and community that will serve her well as she journeys through life beyond school.

*"Being at Loreto College is being part of a loving community. When you walk through the gates you feel safety, you feel welcome and you instantly know you belong to something special." Lauren (Class of 2010)*

*"Our Loreto education is something really special. We are given so many opportunities, privileges and the knowledge to make good choices in our lives. Throughout my education I have valued the social justice aspect of school which has not only enriched my life, but helped the lives of others." Brittany (Class of 2012)*

*"A Loreto College education is a gift of immeasurable value; a holistic education that*

*recognises the individuality of each student. It instils in them the virtues we hold dear today: felicity, verity, sincerity, justice and freedom."*  
Trudi (Class of 1972)

Throughout each year the College hosts a series of special events, including: International Womens' Day Breakfast; Mothers' Day Mass; Fathers' Day Mass; the Annual Fathers' and Daughters' Dinner; Easter Picnic, Alumni Reunions, the annual Past Pupils' Luncheon, open mornings and school tours.

Importantly, the College also fosters a culture of philanthropy through our Annual Giving Appeal and Bequest program. Contributions are greatly appreciated, supporting our scholarship and building funds. Our community's generosity continues to assist and enrich the College by helping us to build and provide opportunities for the next generation.



Loreto College Ballarat website:  
[www.loreto.vic.edu.au](http://www.loreto.vic.edu.au)

The Loreto College Ballarat website is the platform for a range of information for all prospective, current and past students and families. The website includes further information on:

- Loreto College – Feature video, facility tours, heritage, governance and leadership
- Loreto Education – enrolment, academic and co-curricular programs, year level information
- Loreto Community – current student and parent information, past pupils, and volunteers
- Events & Media – all Loreto publications, events and media
- Loreto Contacts – a range of direct contact information

### **Book a Personal Tour**

We welcome you to experience Loreto College for yourself! The best way to determine if Loreto College is the school for you or your family is to take the time to visit for a personal tour. Tours are best taken during school hours, whilst the College grounds and facilities are alive and buzzing with Loreto Girls. Tours are conducted every month and are approximately one hour in duration.

A personal tour of the College must be booked from the Home Page or Events section of the website, or by contacting the College.









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**[loreto.vic.edu.au](http://loreto.vic.edu.au)**