



GENAZZANO  
FCJ COLLEGE

# Senior School Handbook 2022

Ready to take  
on tomorrow.



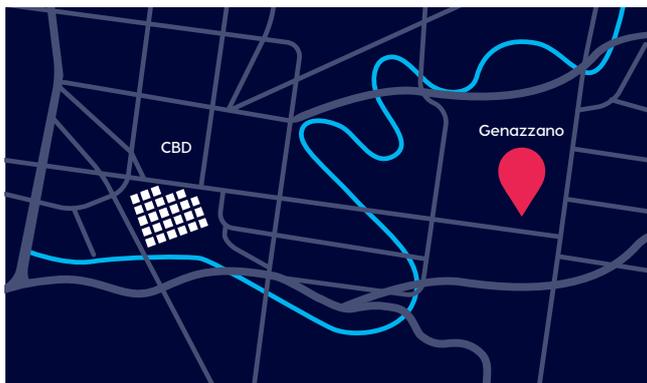
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The Genazzano FCJ College campus is situated on Cotham Road, Kew, just west of its junction with Burke Road, and is easily accessed from many suburbs. A private bus service operating for Genazzano students is now available for the northern and eastern suburbs.

The College is located within magnificent grounds surrounded by lush green trees and flourishing garden beds. This beautiful environment provides many spaces for students to explore and discover.

You can contact the College on **+61 3 8862 1000**.

We invite you to come and experience the Genazzano FCJ College difference. Book now for a Personal Tour or attend one of our Open Mornings. Visit [genazzano.vic.edu.au/book-tour](http://genazzano.vic.edu.au/book-tour)



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# Welcome to Genazzano.

Welcome to the Genazzano FCJ College Senior School. I hope this will be the beginning of a wonderful secondary school journey for your daughter.



At Genazzano we strive to ensure the curriculum is challenging, interesting and diverse. The Curriculum Program offers many exciting learning opportunities together with variety and choice. Our aim is to capture each student's imagination, passion and interest, so they can achieve their goals and aspirations.

As a Genazzano senior student your daughter will be able to immerse herself in the co-curricular life of the College. There are over 130 co-curricular opportunities for her to extend herself and be challenged, all whilst enjoying the positive relationships that are formed through common interests and passions. Girls can play a musical instrument in different music ensembles, represent the College in a sporting team, join debating competitions, apply for leadership roles, join art clubs, take an acting role in the annual production, enter competitions, and much more.

There will also be an opportunity to positively engage in the faith life of the College through Social Justice programs, Eucharistic celebrations, prayer services, companionship programs, meditation and reflection days.

We get to know our girls early on in their time at Gen, so their learning journey is personalised, challenging and inspiring. We encourage each girl to strive for her personal best in the endeavour to reach her potential and make the most of her God given gifts.

**Caroline Hendy**  
– Dean of Senior School

## Our vision

# Overarching philosophy.

Genazzano FCJ College is a Catholic learning community whose mission is to challenge young women to live and act with discernment through an excellent academic program.

**“In an all-girls environment, girls develop the confidence to take risks necessary for genuine achievement.”**

The fundamental assumption underpinning the College’s learning and teaching program is that all students have the ability to learn and to progress as autonomous learners, supported by a wide range of learning and teaching styles within a caring environment. Genazzano FCJ College aims to inspire a passion for life, a love of learning and a willingness to lead and serve others. Our educational program seeks to encourage the development of the whole person with a sense of self-worth, who pursues excellence and respects the intrinsic dignity of each individual.

In an all-girls environment, girls develop the confidence to take risks necessary for genuine achievement. Research tells us that students in all-girls’ schools achieve significantly stronger results than any other group in Australia. Genazzano specialises in girls’ education and provides an environment to inspire and nurture their learning.

Through its collective endeavours, the College aims to nurture the growth of girls to young women who can think critically and who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to play a constructive and creative role in society. In preparing our students for a largely unknown and complex world we ensure a holistic approach to the education of our students which nurtures confident, creative and resilient young women who can take on any challenge. We have a strong belief that our curriculum and welfare are intrinsically interconnected and as such our learning programs target the holistic and individual learning needs of our students.

We are committed to ensuring that our girls are known as individual learners and we use this approach to ensure that they are challenged appropriately in their learning. We also recognise that each of our students is a complex individual with unique talents and qualities. In response to this we provide a number of programs which enable students to explore their individual passions and extend their talents and interests. Students are supported in all their endeavours by highly qualified, dedicated and experienced teachers.

All students are able to choose a variety of subjects from the vast array on offer. They are also encouraged to participate in a number of enrichment activities designed to further extend and challenge them in their learning. We offer acceleration and enrichment activities across the College, as well as acceleration pathways.

We adopt an evidenced based approach to ensuring that our students are known as learners and each student is challenged at an appropriate level. Research informs us that students who find their work too challenging or not challenging enough are likely to disengage with the learning process.

Ensuring that we are able to accurately determine where students are in their learning journey enables us to design individualised learning programs to meet their needs.

## Faith & mission

# Our source of inspiration.

The particular emphasis on faith and mission at Genazzano flows from a strong sense of Catholic identity and the FCJ Charism (spiritual gift). Faith education at Genazzano is informed by three core values: a passion for life, a love of learning, and the courage and confidence to lead and serve others.

The inspirational foundress of the Sisters FCJ, the Venerable Marie Madeleine d'Houet, was a woman for our time. Her great faith gifted her with the courage and confidence that was the basis of her life's work, and the work of all the Sisters - past, present and future - who continue to respond as women to the call of those in need.

In the spirit of Marie Madeleine, the College seeks to create a caring atmosphere where all can find a place and feel at home. Ever mindful of our Ignatian intellectual and spiritual heritage, Genazzano encourages students to view the world with kindness and curiosity.

With a real and meaningful commitment to sharing the importance of social justice, Genazzano prepares students for the world beyond the College gates where they can be valuable members of the community; both local and global.

Companionship is central to the FCJ philosophy of education, being expressed through faithfulness, gentleness and respect. In the Ignatian tradition, the College encourages students to look to find God in all things - teaching an active attentiveness together with a prompt responsiveness to God, who is constantly active in our lives.

Genazzano seeks to be a nurturer of life and a joyful messenger of hope and love, preparing our students for a life of leadership in the wider community.



**“Our graduates will be seen as women of contemplation, competence, compassion and commitment.”**

# Curriculum framework.

Our curriculum structure is designed around an age and stage appropriate response to learning.

We are guided by the Victorian Curriculum Foundation – Year 10 which provides an excellent framework for monitoring student growth in learning. We use established achievement standards outlined in the Victorian Curriculum to identify where each student sits on the learning continuum so that we can nurture their growth in learning in a structured and individualised manner. Our pedagogical approach to learning and teaching reflects sound educational research and integrates the three areas of psychological, educational and neuroscientific research.

In Years 7 and 8 all students undertake a broad, rigorous and engaging curriculum. In these significant foundational years, we provide students with a learning environment that enables them to transition to the secondary context and experiment, discover, create, grow and thrive.

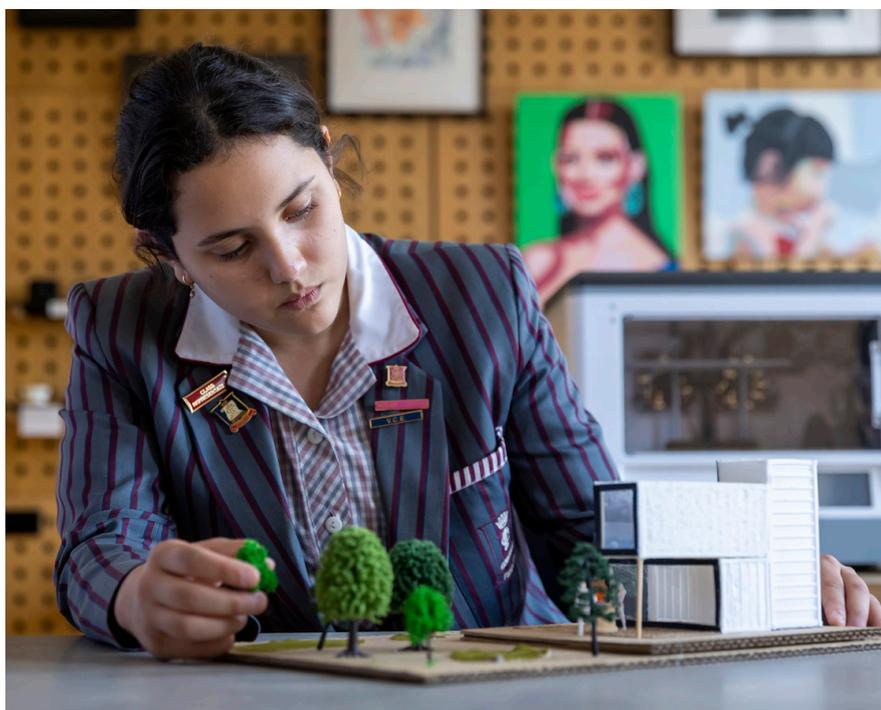
Our students are afforded opportunities to develop their academic skills within a robust curriculum, while developing their friendships and experiencing personal growth and challenge.

Our Year 7 and 8 students complete a number of core subjects which provide them with breadth and scope. At this stage in their learning journey, we focus on developing higher order-thinking skills, enabling students to be critical and creative thinkers, and problem solvers who are able to work both collaboratively and independently. All Year 7 and 8 students complete two language studies from a choice of four: French, Italian, Latin, Mandarin.

At Year 9 students undertake the Making Connections Program which is a program especially designed to meet the learning needs of Year 9 girls. (refer to page 13)

At Year 10, students are able to complete a number of both core and elective studies including both VET and a select number of Unit 1 and 2 VCE studies. All Year 10 students complete at least one VCE study as part of their religious education program. In both Year 9 and Year 10 students undertake a comprehensive career education program designed to equip them with the best information possible to make an informed decision about future learning pathways. Each student has individual time with the Careers Advisor whereby tertiary studies are explored and prerequisite subject advice provided.

At VCE level, students are able to select from a broad range of subjects including Vocational Education and Training courses. Our VCE program ensures that all students are able to access prerequisite studies for all tertiary courses available. We have an extensive list of VCE Unit 1 to 4 subjects on offer.





# Genazzano Institute of Learning & Brain Sciences.

Advancement in learning and teaching for improved student outcomes is at the heart of progressive education.

The Genazzano Institute of Learning & Brain Sciences is an educational initiative to promote knowledge and practice in the evolving fields of learning and brain sciences for students, educators and the wider community.

## The Science of Learning

The Genazzano Institute enables our teaching staff to complete a comprehensive professional learning program aimed at developing collective knowledge and skills in the Science of Learning. The program was developed by neuroscientist and educator, Dr Jared Cooney Horvath, an international expert in the translation of brain research into practical and effective strategies to improve teaching and learning in the classroom.





## “Genazzano FCJ College values learning as enduring, liberating and transformative.”

### Active Learners

Genazzano Institute supports our students to extend knowledge, think deeply and understand more about their own brain function and health.

Students are challenged to reflect on their own learning experiences and improvement. Students are taught skills to allow them to self-regulate and be more effective in learning.

The Genazzano Institute supports the development of knowledge and competencies as well as cognitive and practical skills essential for the future, such as collaboration, communication, social skills, creativity, innovation, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Students are provided opportunities to participate in activities that foster these skills. Partnerships and collaboration with leading industry and educational bodies supports this work.

### Examples of learning opportunities include:

- masterclasses facilitated by scientists;
- research and innovation projects;
- seminars on the brain, performance and optimal learning;
- competitions related to pursuit of knowledge and neuroscience.

Genazzano FCJ College values learning as enduring, liberating and transformative. Learning and Brain Sciences are rapidly advancing fields with critical implications for our students' learning and futures.

► To discover more about this advancement in learning and teaching, visit [geninstitute.vic.edu.au](http://geninstitute.vic.edu.au)

GenSTAR

# Wellbeing Program.

GenSTAR is a whole school wellbeing program that enables students to develop resilience, think for peak performance, and develop skills for a safe, healthy and positive approach to life.

The Program is underpinned by the principles and research from performance psychology and positive education, and is carefully sequenced to ensure that it is appropriate for students' age and stage of development.

GenSTAR is part of the Senior School students' program once a fortnight and focuses on developing their social and emotional wellbeing. The program is facilitated by classroom teachers with the support of the Performance Psychology Team at the College.

The program aims to cover a broad range of content that assists students to develop an awareness of their own wellbeing and how they can nurture it. Topics covered may include developing a healthy self-esteem, caring for my body, managing friendships, cyber-safety, managing my emotions and respecting myself and others.

**S** Strategy

**T** Thinking

**A** Action

**R** Reflection





**“GenSTAR assists students to develop an awareness of their own wellbeing and how they can nurture it.”**



# The Year 9 experience.

Making Connections – Journeying Beyond the Gates for Learning challenges students to understand that learning is not an isolated experience related to one specific topic or subject.

Rather, Making Connections – Journeying Beyond the Gates for Learning is a program designed to assist students to understand more about the nature of learning and how learning, by its very nature, interconnects across a number of broad areas.

The Program encourages students, wherever possible, to take control of their own learning, make choices when possible and accept responsibility for the decisions they make. We strongly believe that if students are in a position where they make decisions for their own learning they will take greater ownership for their learning and be responsible for the development of their skills and knowledge.





### Goals:

By the end of the Program we are confident our students will have made significant progress toward being:

- Independent and self-regulated learners
- Resilient in their approach to overcoming social, academic and emotional obstacles
- Adaptable and flexible in their approach to learning
- Creative and imaginative thinkers who are able to problem solve and work collegially and independently with equal proficiency
- Informed and strong advocates of social justice issues, especially those surrounding our Indigenous community
- Informed leaders and advocates for social, political and economic change.

Genazzano FCJ College values learning as enduring, liberating and transformative. Learning and Brain Sciences are rapidly advancing fields with critical implications for our students' learning and futures.



### Additionally, the Year 9 Program includes:

- Country, Family, Community and Spirituality – Indigenous themes embedded into the Program
- Future Skills 2020 - Future proofing our students
- Central Australia Immersion Experience
- Leadership Program
- Companionship Program – Making a contribution to the local community
- Girls Invent - Enhancing entrepreneurship
- Kayaking - Students are taught basic skills related to kayaking from our Rowing Sheds on the Yarra River in Hawthorn
- Personal Projects – students select and research an area of study of interest and challenge
- Careers Program
- Immersion Days - Connecting to learning through immersion experiences
- Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Medallion Award

# Co-curricular experience.

Genazzano FCJ College is renowned for providing an outstanding array of co-curricular opportunities. Such activities are an integral part of the educational experience and cater for students' diverse abilities and offer them the chance to form life-long interests outside their academic studies.

At Genazzano we encourage, challenge and inspire all students to reach their full potential. We have found that when students are offered opportunities to explore new horizons, remarkable outcomes are possible.

The academic program at Genazzano is complemented by the extensive range of co-curricular activities, reflecting the College's commitment to educating students as a whole person.

The mix of individual and team activities promotes self-confidence, teamwork and leadership skills that transfer readily to the classroom and academic success. Involvement in all aspects of school life increases each student's sense of belonging, expands friendship groups, provides opportunities for leadership development and leads to higher levels of motivation and engagement.

We are very proud to announce that for the second year running, Genazzano's Co-Curricular Program has been named as a finalist in the Australian Education Awards for 2019 in the category of Best Co-Curricular Program.



**“Our Co-curricular Program adds richness to the senior experience and encourages the social development of our students. With encouragement to develop their talents and skills, our students develop both as an individual and as a team player.”**



Our College has a comprehensive co-curriculum that encourages involvement, leadership, community spirit, physical engagement, artistic endeavour, teamwork and social justice. Every student at Genazzano has the opportunity to explore a range of activities as part of the program.

Some of these activities include:

- Altar Servers
- Art Curation Club
- Book Club – Junior and Senior
- Chess Club
- Chinese Club
- Choirs
- Coaching/Umpiring
- Cooking
- Drama Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award – Gold, Silver and Bronze
- Fire Carriers
- Friday Night School
- Gen Tech
- Gen Productions
- Genazzano/St Kevin’s Production
- Genazzano/Xavier Musical
- GSV Sport:
  - AFL Senior Football
  - Athletics
  - Badminton
  - Basketball
  - Cricket
  - Cross Country
  - Diving
  - Hockey
  - Indoor Cricket
  - Netball
  - Tennis
  - Soccer
  - Softball
  - Swimming
  - Volleyball
  - Water Polo
- Language Club
- Library Assistants
- Maths Club
- Meditation
- Mini Vinnies
- Music Bands and Ensembles
- Netball – Saturday
- Orchestras
- Painting and Drawing
- Public Speaking
- Rowing
- Self Defence
- Snow Sports
- Sports Conditioning
- St Vincent de Paul
- Street Latin Club
- Student Voice
- Sustainability Rep Council
- Walking Club
- Wardell Writers
- Yoga

## Co-curricular Awards System

The Co-curricular Program offers a unique ‘Awards System’ rewarding participation of students. Students who meet the required standard in their choice of co-curricular activity are awarded one colour point. Colour points are cumulative over the student’s years at the College and may contribute to the acquisition of a Red, Striped or Gold Laurel Band which are embroidered onto the blazer pocket. All students leave the College with an official transcript that documents all of their co-curricular participation throughout their schooling.

The table below shows the number of Colour Points required to obtain an award (based on the year level upon which the student entered the College):

Year of Entry	Red Band	Striped Band	Gold Laurel
Year 5	36	54	54
Year 6	32	48	64
Year 7	28	42	56
Year 8	24	36	48
Year 9	20	30	40
Year 10	15	23	31
Year 11	10	16	22
Year 12	5	8	11



# Trips, tours & exchanges.

Genazzano offers a variety of local and overseas tours and exchanges, to help encourage further learning and engagement with different cultures and communities. Each exchange or tour is an immensely rewarding experience for all who are able to participate and the College is committed to providing these diverse opportunities.

## The Kimberley Exchange Program

Four Year 10 Genazzano students and two staff members spend three weeks in the Kimberley and are involved in a student exchange program. Students will spend some of this time visiting St. Mary's College, meeting key leaders in the Broome community and learning about the story of the Yaruwu people. Students will also visit Bidadanga and experience life in a coastal community and have the opportunity to travel to other remote communities.



### International Tours

- Italian Exchange
- China Exchange
- Italian Study Tour
- New Zealand Netball Tour
- International Sporting Tour
- European Music Tour
- Creative Arts Tour
  - New York & Washington
- Science Tour - Washington D.C. and NASA, Orlando, USA.



### Timor Leste

Each year, selected Years 10 and 11 students are exposed to a way of life vastly different from their own, in a country less than one hour away by plane from Darwin. All students spend a fortnight experiencing the hopes as well as the social, political and spiritual challenges faced by our Timor Leste neighbours. Upon returning, the girls spend time reflecting both individually and with other Immersion students.

# Companionship Program.

Our Companionship Program in Years 6, 9, 10 and 11 invites our students to go beyond their comfort zone to spend time with members of the community who need support in one way or another.

Genazzano students attend placements where they can contribute to the lives of others in a spirit of community service. The girls are encouraged to seek an understanding of how they can companion others through sharing their individual talents and learning to appreciate the difficulties many people face in their daily lives.

Participation in the Companionship Program enables students to develop their confidence and to be challenged in a supportive environment as well as positively contributing to their communities. Students who have participated in the Program often speak about how it has fundamentally contributed to who they are as a person, giving them a strong sense of community and their capacity to make a difference.





**“Our FCJ heritage encourages and inspires our students to offer not only companionship to each other, but beyond to the wider community.”**



## Our community

# The heart of Genazzano.

Community is at the heart of Genazzano and continues to enrich the lives of families long after their daughter has graduated.



▲ Genazzano Fathers' Association

The level of engagement and support from families at Genazzano is unique and highly regarded by all. The Development Office at Genazzano helps to co-ordinate the parent volunteer groups and to communicate with you about College events.

At Genazzano we have two parent volunteer groups, the Genazzano Mothers' Association and the Genazzano Fathers' Association. Each group meets monthly and helps support the College, the students and the wider community through celebratory events, fundraising activities and outreach to new parents. There are numerous ways you as parents can become involved with these associations, from helping out at a Mother's Day stall, attending a Genazzano Fathers' Association event, donating a prize to the annual GMA Ball or simply coming along to a meeting and learning more.

The Committee of both the GMA and the GFA attend College events regularly and are always keen to introduce themselves and get to know you.

Additionally, as new parents you will automatically be added to these groups of the GMA and GFA in the parent portal and will receive notifications for upcoming opportunities and events.

We know you will find our community a unique point of difference and one that will create an unparalleled richness to you and your family's life. We look forward to welcoming you as a parent -to the Genazzano community.

Genazzano Mothers' Association ▶





## GenConnect

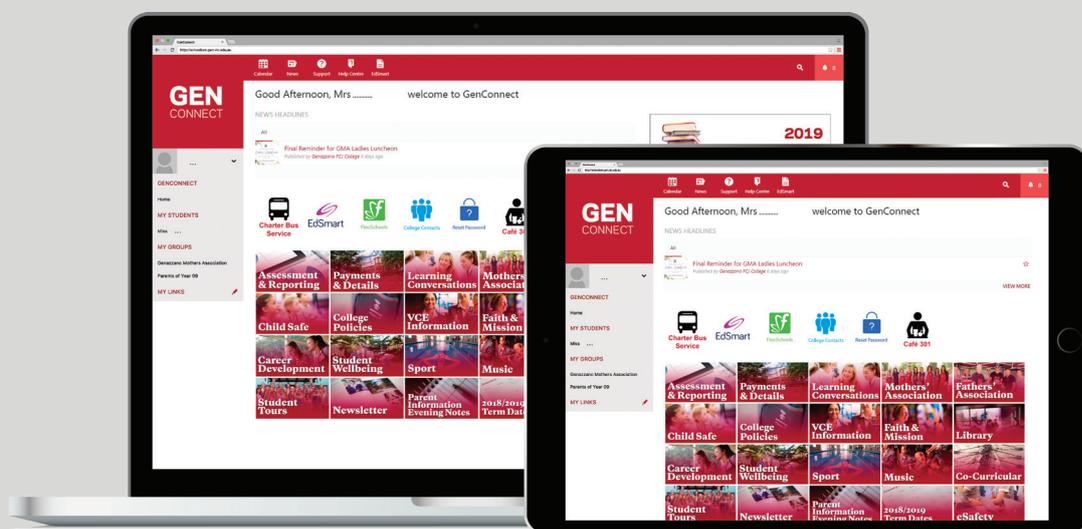
# Supporting excellence.

GenConnect has been developed as the central learning platform for the Genazzano FCJ College community. It provides an online environment that enables communication, learning opportunities and collaboration.

A major feature of the platform is its sophisticated notification system, enabling the delivery of crucial information such as student assessment, College news and events delivered via email and mobile push notifications. Parents can customise these notifications to their preferred options, from delivery types to the receiving of messages.

GenConnect provides the connection necessary for families in the daily organisation; this includes online payments, managing personal details, the College calendar, policies and electronic forms.

The platform also connects the community to many other groups within the College including the Mothers' and Fathers' Associations, co-curricular programs, sporting and music groups. Through this platform these groups will keep you informed via news and notifications.





**“GenConnect is the hub that transports the Genazzano community online, keeps students and parents informed and supports the high level of excellence in learning that the College has to offer.”**



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