

Xavier High School ALBURY

2010 Annual Report





1. Message from Key Groups in Our School Community

1.1 Message from the Principal

Xavier High School continues, as a provider of Catholic Secondary Education to the families and young people of the Albury Region, to grow and develop. We are very mindful of the long tradition that our school has in Catholic education in Albury and the surrounding district. At Xavier we are blessed with energetic, positive and dedicated staff, spacious grounds and modern facilities incorporating current technology to facilitate and enhance learning.

As members of a Christian community we are called to be people of hope. I see this hope personified in our students, each one in the 'morning of their lives' and uniquely precious. We, who work with the young are privileged people.

This report endeavours to summarise for readers both general information about Xavier and particular achievements during the 2010 year.

1.2 Message from the Parent Body

It is with much pleasure that I submit my report as Chairman of the Xavier High School Council. The year ending 2010 was again a very busy one for the school, with a number of further significant milestones being achieved.

We continue to develop the physical environment of the school. We have all but finished the construction of the new Administration Block. This has been a significant financial undertaking for the school, which with the assistance of Commonwealth and State Government funding has resulted in a state of the art, functional and long term resource which will add to what is already an impressive physical environment.

Our enrolments for 2011 in Year 7 were 135 students. It reflects the demand in the wider community for a school which places a strong emphasis on the development of the whole individual through their school years. It is a great compliment to the school's Executive and the teaching staff that so many parents are continuing to choose to send their children to Xavier.

Our students continue to excel in all areas of the curriculum, and as in past years it is testament to the skills and dedication of the staff at Xavier High School that our Year 10 and 12 results were so pleasing. Xavier continues to shine in all curriculum areas. The success of our students is again reflected in the strong enrolments across the entire school.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Council members for their input over the last twelve months. In particular, to those members who are leaving the Council, my thanks for your efforts over, not only the past twelve months, but the years in which your children have been at Xavier. I welcome the new members to the school Council and ask that you continue to support the school in the many ways that you do.

Our commitment is to continue to plan for, provide and improve the total environment that Xavier High School provides to its school community.

Chairman
Chair of School Board.

1.3 Message from the Student Body

(School Captains Report November 2010)

And so it goes, another year flashes before our eyes, and we stand before you to say our goodbyes. But before that there are so many people to thank and so many things to reflect upon in the six years we've spent at Xavier High School. It will not be the easiest task to walk down School Street and out into the real world and we know that we will miss every day that we spend with those friends that we've made.

We need to thank the SRC for all their work behind the scenes. Although numbers at meetings were sometimes short, the members did their jobs and worked as a strong team. A lot of students don't realise the hard work that each SRC member in their House put in. This year the SRC has worked tirelessly, organising events such as casual clothes days, Xavier Day and all of the activities involved, coordinating fundraising for excellent causes such as Caritas Australia, aid work in Thailand, the Pakistan flood appeal, the Melbourne Zoo and the people of Haiti. We wish next year's SRC the best of



luck, and we are sure that they will be successful in their endeavours to be the voice of the student body.

We would like to offer some advice - make the most of every opportunity, because you only get one chance at Year 12 and it will be the best year of school! It seems not that long ago when we marched into the Arts Centre as enthusiastic Year 7's ready for our first day of high school. We didn't know what to expect but we came with open minds ready to learn and embrace what was thrown at us. Looking at the Year 12 class of 2010 now, it is fair to say that those minds have been crammed full of knowledge and wisdom, as well as fond memories such as dominating the teachers in the Staff vs. Student soccer match. Yes, Xavier High School has become a second home for many of us and although the thought of leaving may be the great escape to some students, wherever we go, we'll always look back and tell people proudly we came from Xavier High School.

As we look towards the future, we see endless possibilities for this Year 12 class. The teaching staff of Xavier have been amazing in helping us as Year 12 students, by putting on after school classes, coming in on weekends and holidays, and in general pushing us as hard as they could to get us to this point in our life. To the teachers we thank you. To our families for being there night and day, letting us study in peace, waking us up and being the people with whom we could unwind and talk to anytime, thank you. Most importantly we thank our friends, who always stand by our side and support us. The future is what we make it, and for the Year 12 students of Xavier High School, it will be nothing short of exceptional. We expect big things from this group, and it has been a pleasure sharing your company for the last six years.

And so as we come to an end and spread our wings, we look back upon our lives thus far and see the journey that we have taken to get to this point. There have been many ups and downs, and twists and turns along the way, but that's the way life is: you just have to strap yourself in and enjoy the ride. Thank you and goodbye!



2. School Profile

2.1 Introduction

There has been a long history of Catholic education in Albury. The provision of Catholic secondary education for many years was through St Joseph's Ladies College for girls and Aquinas College for boys. It was decided in the early 1980s that the two schools would amalgamate to become a co-educational school for secondary students and in 1983 Xavier High School was formed.

2.2 Student Profile

The following information describes the student profile for 2010:

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Indigenous	Total
399	375	14	5	774

*Language background other than English

2.3 Enrolment Policy

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an [Enrolment Policy](#)[†] which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese.

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

[†]Copies of this policy and other policies in this report may be obtained from the Catholic Schools Office website <http://web.csoww.catholic.edu.au/AboutCSOWagga/Policydocuments/tabid/67/Default.aspx> or by contacting the Catholic Schools Office on 02 69370000.

2.4 Staff Profile

The NSW government requires that this report details the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

- have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines
- have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications
- do not have qualifications as described in (a) or (b) but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context. Such teachers must have been employed:
 - to 'teach' in NSW before 1 October 2004 (either on a permanent, casual or temporary basis), and
 - as a 'teacher' during the last five (5) years in a permanent, casual or temporary capacity.

a	b	c	Total
60	0	0	60

2.5 Teacher Attendance and Retention Rates

The average teacher attendance rate during 2010 was 98.5%. This figure does not include teachers on planned leave.

The teacher retention rate from 2009 to 2010 was 93%.

2.6 Teacher Satisfaction

Full Staff meetings are conducted three times each term. As part of the meeting there is the opportunity for any staff member to list general business. Backing onto these meetings are Staff Forums which once again are opportunities to raise and discuss any issue.



2.7 Student Attendance and Retention Rates

YEAR	Average student attendance rate (%)
Year 7	96.0%
Year 8	94.2%
Year 9	92.4%
Year 10	91.8%
Year 11	93.7%
Year 12	93.5%

The average student attendance rate for 2010 was 93.7%.

Of the students who completed Year 10 in 2008, 65% completed Year 12 in 2010.

Management of non-attendance: All absences were followed in line with expected requirements.

2.8 Student Satisfaction

The extended leadership structure in each of the eight Houses served to provide a density of leadership opportunities. This included the SRC – representing all Year levels and each House. The major project was the organisation of Xavier Day in Term Three. A day of celebration and involvement by all students and staff.

2.9 Senior Secondary Outcomes

The percentage of students in Year 12 attaining a Year 12 Certificate or equivalent VET qualification in 2010 was 100%.

The percentage of students in Year 12 undertaking vocational or trade training was 20%.

2.10 Student Destinations

The ninety seven HSC students have received fifty five offers across a broad range of courses including Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Medicine, Commerce, Teaching, Nursing, Chiropractic Science, Medical Science, Podiatry, Arts and Speech Pathology.



3. Catholic Life and Mission

3.1 Catholic Heritage

The life of the school is based on Gospel values where the worth of the individual is recognised regardless of ethnic background, academic ability or social opportunity. This diversity of characteristics is viewed as an opportunity for richness.

The formation of students in Catholic discipleship is pursued in light of the heritage of both the Christian Brothers and Sisters of Mercy. Central is our motto "The truth will set you free."

3.2 Religious Life of the School

The school year at Xavier commenced with all students and staff attending Mass celebrated by our Chaplain. During Term One, House Masses and meals were held in the evenings as an opportunity for families and staff to develop stronger ties. Liturgies were held to recognise Ash Wednesday and Easter. Mass was celebrated in Term Three to celebrate Xavier Day and recognise our Founders. Mass was also conducted for our Year 12 graduating class and their families in November and the general school population at the end of the year. Class Masses were held throughout the year. RE Teachers organised the theme with their classes and Mass was held within scheduled classes in the Mercy Chapel.

The particular seasons of the Church and its Holy Days were recognised in each of the Religious Education classes. The Mercy Chapel was used regularly by classes as part of the routine Religious Education curriculum.

3.3 Catholic Worldview

Xavier has continued to offer the Religious Education Program adopted by the Wagga Wagga Diocese – "Sharing Our Story". Additionally students undertaking the Preliminary HSC Course and HSC Course were able to choose either the Studies of Religion Course or the Sharing Our Story Course.

Students in Years 11 and 12 attended a three day Retreat as part of their experience at Xavier.

As a Catholic school, Xavier has the particular task of presenting quality education as an expression of the Catholic world view. We therefore seek to offer opportunities to apply that world view to all aspects of school life and life outside of school. A group of students accompanied by a staff member travelled to Bathurst Island for an immersion experience – assisting the local people and appreciating the differences in lifestyle. Another group of students travelled to Thailand to be involved in a similar type of immersion experience.

Through the House System students raised funds for overseas missions. Significant donations were made to each of Mercy Works, Christian Brothers and Caritas Australia.

3.4 Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga Catholic Schools Office has established a policy on the [Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education](#)[†] which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese.

Of the sixty teaching staff twenty four or 40% are involved in teaching religious education in the classroom and all teaching staff are formally involved in the vertical pastoral care structures which incorporates active ministry of students.



4. Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is an integrating concept. It does not happen only in a formal pastoral program, but it underlies much of what the school does and the way it does it. It embraces the relationships between families, students, staff, administrators, community agencies and church. We are all invited to belong and to contribute to the school community.

The focus of the Pastoral Care Policy, in this format, is directed at the students.

4.1 Diocesan Policies

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established [Pastoral Care Policy†](#) and [Safe Schools Policy†](#) which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese.

The implementation of these policies is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

4.2 School Implementation of Diocesan Policy

Over the course of the year the Staged Student Management System was implemented across all levels of the school. On-going monitoring and modifications were considered and adjustments to the procedures made.

4.3 Pastoral Care of Families

Both formal and informal support structures exist for families within the Xavier community. A School Counsellor is available to consult with students and parents in relation to any pastoral issue. House Co-ordinators, Assistant Principal and Principal all work closely with parents during the year to provide whatever support is required in relation to issues concerning their sons and daughters. External agencies from the community are engaged as needed.

4.4 Resolving Issues

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a [Complaints and Suggestions Policy†](#) which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

4.5 Occupational Health and Safety

Each school is required to implement and comply with the Diocesan School System Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS). This system reflects the current statutory requirements for OHS and complies with the Australian Standard for OHS Management Systems. The OHSMS adopted by the CSO for Wagga Wagga Systemic Schools has been designed to address general health, safety and welfare matters and also to take account of specific issues that apply to school communities. The management system supports the provision of a 'safe and supportive' environment for all students as well as taking into account the health, safety and welfare of staff, visitors and contractors to the school site.

Principals, in consultation with the relevant CSO personnel, are responsible for monitoring the school's compliance with OHS legislation and to implement the management system in keeping with the Catholic Schools Office's Annual OHS Plan. External OHS system audits are conducted across a sample of schools each year to validate the implementation of the management system.



5. Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Xavier High School staff continue to ensure a comprehensive curriculum is delivered in a vibrant and enthusiastic manner. We pride ourselves on the professional manner in which all aspects of school life are managed. Our results and student outcomes reflect this approach.

Staff consistently go above and beyond what is expected to ensure our students are given a broad range of opportunities both within and outside the classroom.

5.1 Quality Teaching and Learning

See comments in the Professional Learning Section (page 9 section 5.4).

5.2 Student Achievement

2010 was the third year of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Several points should be noted:

- Students who were exempted from any test were deemed not to have met the National Minimum Standard in that test area.
- In the 2010 cohort, there were 169 students in Year 7 and 109 students in Year 9.

Detail on school performance is provided in the following tables where band distributions and percentages of students achieving the national minimum standard are outlined separately for Year 7 and Year 9. In Year 7, the highest band that a student can achieve is Band 9. In Year 9, the highest band that a student can achieve is Band 10.

Xavier students performed in NAPLAN with the following results;

Comparison of student performance to National performance:

YEAR 7 – 169 students completed the tests

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>National</i>
Reading	560	549
Writing	544	533
Spelling	547	554
Grammar & Punctuation	542	539

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>National</i>
Number & algebra	545	552
Space & Geometry	550	551
Numeracy	548	551

YEAR 9 – 109 students completed the tests

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>National</i>
Reading	591	580
Writing	575	566
Spelling	585	588
Grammar & Punctuation	590	584

	<i>Xavier</i>	<i>National</i>
Number & Data	605	594
Measurement & Geometry	589	594
Numeracy	598	594

**School Certificate**

One hundred and thirty eight students completed the (NSW Board of Studies) external exams in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Computer Skills. Results are expressed in Bands from 1 to 6. Band 6 being the higher end result.

Students at Xavier achieved Bands 4, 5 or 6 in the following percentages:

English – 80.8%

Mathematics – 52.8%

Science – 72.8%

History – 51.9%

Geography – 58.8%

Computer Skills – 97% were either competent or highly competent.

Higher School Certificate

The HSC class of 2010 achieved some excellent results. Six students achieved an ATAR in the 90's. There were twenty four Band 6 results across twelve different courses and fifteen courses exceeded State wide means.

Our 2010 Dux achieved the outstanding score of 98.55

HSC students have received fifty five offers across a broad range of courses including Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Medicine, Commerce, Teaching, Nursing, Chiropractic Science, Medical Science, Podiatry, Arts and Speech Pathology.

5.3 Extracurricular Activities

There are a broad range of extracurricular activities students are involved in. These include subject related excursions, Year level Retreats and camps, extensive sporting activities and cultural events.

5.4 Professional Learning

In 2010 Xavier implemented the National Computer Scheme which offered to provide a ratio of 1:1 computers for Years 9 to 12. Xavier was entitled to purchase notebook computers for all Year 9 and 10 students. To ensure that these students would be able to make the most of this new resource staff were given intensive professional development in practical applications suitable for student learning. This became the primary focus during 2010. Staff development occurred at both the formal and informal level through the sharing of knowledge and skills.

Additionally there were many and varied activities individual staff accessed throughout the year.



6. Strategic Initiatives

6.1 2010 Priorities and Achievements

- Implementation of the 1 to 1 Computer Program for Years 9 & 10
- Multi-skilling of Support Staff
- Provision of laptops for all staff
- Construct new Administration / Office area
- Review of Arts KLA
- Unpack NAPLAN results and develop strategic responses to enhance student skills in line with information provided
- Increase the number of electronic white boards in classrooms
- Refinement of the Staged Student Management System
- Cyber bullying awareness and education
- Apply for capital grant to replace all portables
- Provision of wireless capacity for notebook computer roll-out

6.2 2011 Priorities and Challenges

- Implementation of smaller class sizes for practical classes
- Preparation for the National Curriculum
- Development of Professional Learning Plans for Executive members
- Development of new reporting format
- Appoint Literacy and Numeracy Coordinator
- Implement Quicksmart Numeracy remediation program
- Implement Neil Carrington's "Developing A Performance Culture" focusing on Prof John Wattie's research.
- Implementation of daily reading time for all students (DEAR)
- Expand the notebook provision to include all Years 9,10,11
- Move into new Administration / Office block
- Apply for capital grant to replace all portables
- Apply for Trade Training Centre Grant
- Install video conferencing facilities



7. Parent Participation

Parent involvement in the life of the school is encouraged at all levels. It is recognised that higher levels of parental involvement promotes student learning.

7.1 Introduction

Parents are involved in the governance of the school through the elected members of the Advisory School Council and the open membership of the Parents' & Friends' Association. Both groups meet on a regular basis.

The P&F work industriously to raise valuable funds for the school – recently contributing to funding new equipment for the Music department

The School Council has been closely involved in the continued development of the grounds and planning for future building projects. This included the construction of the new Administration block, funded through the annual Capital Grants and the school's contribution.

7.2 Parent Satisfaction

The continued strong demand for places at Xavier is an indicator that parent satisfaction is generally high. During the course of the year parents were surveyed in relation to report formats and as part of the review process of leadership positions. These opportunities enabled parent perceptions to be accessed.



8. Financial Report

