



2027 PROSPECTUS



Guided by faith, growing in wisdom



Our commitment

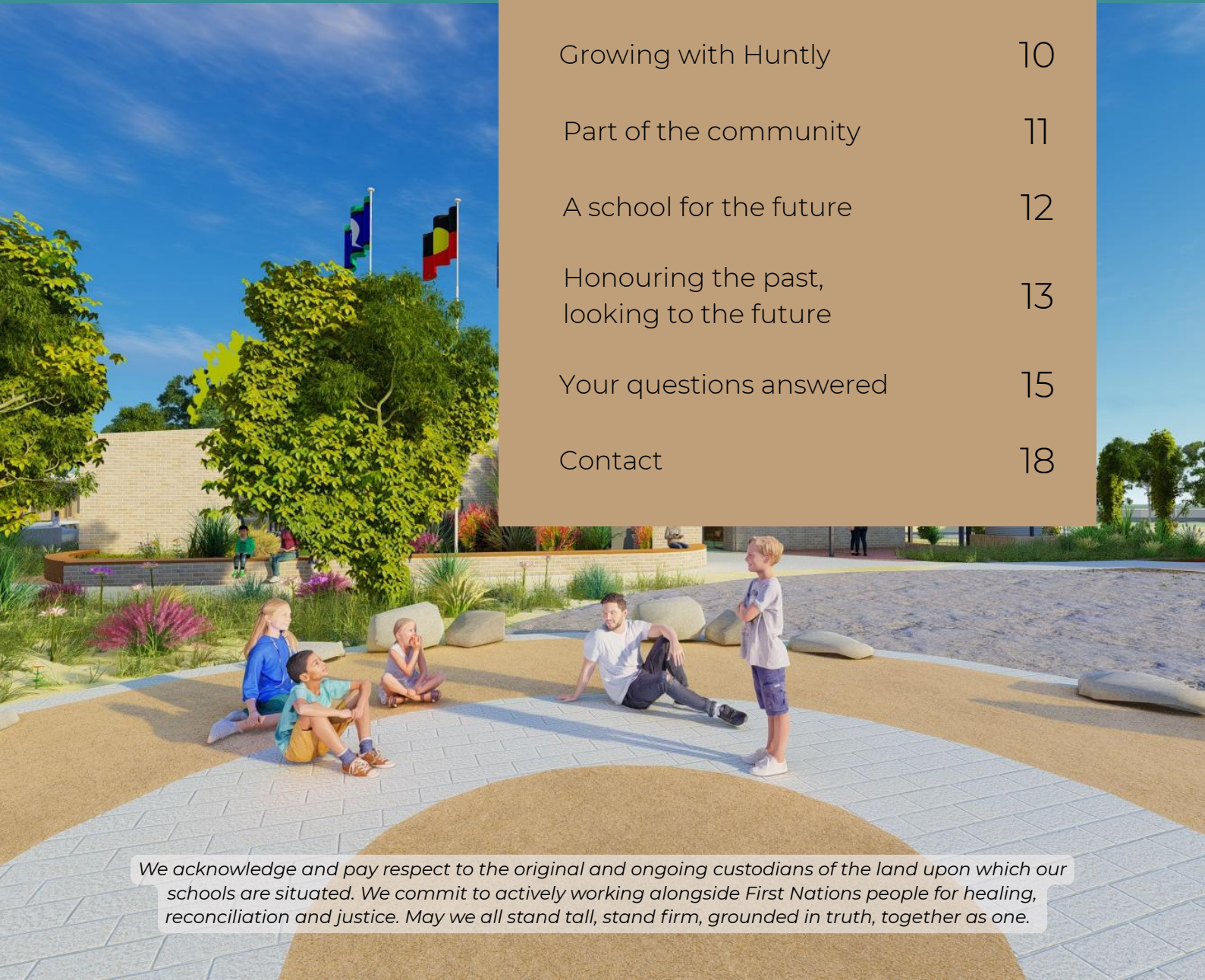
St Thomas Aquinas School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where every child feels respected, nurtured and empowered. The care, safety and wellbeing of students is our highest priority and a fundamental responsibility of Catholic education.

We uphold an unwavering commitment to child safety and fully comply with the Victorian Child Safety Standards and Ministerial Order 870, ensuring strong and consistent practices that safeguard all children in our care.

DISCOVER

St Thomas Aquinas

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We acknowledge and pay respect to the original and ongoing custodians of the land upon which our schools are situated. We commit to actively working alongside First Nations people for healing, reconciliation and justice. May we all stand tall, stand firm, grounded in truth, together as one.

A NEW SCHOOL FOR Huntly families



A new school community is beginning to take shape in Huntly.

Opening in 2027, St Thomas Aquinas School in Huntly will welcome its first Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 students, creating a new Catholic primary school built with and for local families.

As Huntly continues to grow, so too will a school community where children are known, supported and encouraged to flourish in learning, in confidence and in faith.

Families joining St Thomas Aquinas School in the Foundation years will have a unique opportunity to help shape the culture, traditions and story of the school from the very beginning.

More than simply enrolling in a school, families will become part of building a welcoming and connected community grounded in strong relationships and shared values.

Students will learn in calm and purposeful classrooms supported by high-quality teaching, strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, and a caring environment where every child is encouraged to grow.

Led by inaugural principal Paul Wilkinson, St Thomas Aquinas School will grow alongside the local community, creating a future focused on learning, belonging and opportunity.



PRINCIPAL'S Welcome

As inaugural principal, I am honoured to help establish a new Catholic primary school at the heart of the Huntly community — a place where children are known, families are welcomed and learning thrives.

With more than 30 years in Catholic education, including over two decades as a principal and 11 years leading Holy Rosary School in White Hills, I bring a deep commitment to high-quality learning, strong relationships and community connection.

From the very beginning, our goal is to create a school where every child feels supported to grow in learning, in confidence and in faith. Together with families, parish and the wider community, we will build a welcoming and connected school culture grounded in kindness, opportunity and high expectations for every learner.

Opening in 2027 with Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2, St Thomas Aquinas School will grow alongside the local community, creating a future focused on belonging, learning and hope.

I warmly invite you to learn more about St Thomas Aquinas School and the opportunities ahead for your family.

Paul Wilkinson
Principal
St Thomas Aquinas School, Huntly

A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD TO Grow



At St Thomas Aquinas School, classrooms will be calm, welcoming and purposeful places where students are encouraged to ask questions, take risks and experience success in their learning.

With strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, supportive teachers and a focus on student wellbeing, students will learn in an environment designed to help every child thrive from their very first years of school.

Strong learning foundations, clear teaching and positive classroom environments will help shape a school culture where every learner is encouraged to grow with confidence.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

- Children feel welcomed and supported.
- Learning routines are clear and consistent.
- Literacy and numeracy foundations are prioritised.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and explore ideas.
- Wellbeing and belonging matter every day.

TEACHING BACKED BY EVIDENCE

Magnify Sandhurst



At the heart of learning at St Thomas Aquinas School is *Magnify Sandhurst*, a system-wide approach to teaching and learning across Catholic Education Sandhurst.

Magnify Sandhurst supports schools to strengthen classroom practice through clear teaching, strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, calm and positive learning environments, and ongoing professional learning for teachers.

Supported by world-class partners and evidence-informed practice, *Magnify Sandhurst* is helping ensure students across our region benefit from the very best thinking in teaching and learning, close to home.

Recent Grade 1 data across Catholic Education Sandhurst schools shows:

- 17% more students can read regular words
- 14% more students can read tricky words
- 13% more students are spelling at the expected level

These early improvements reflect the strong focus on literacy and the shared commitment to helping every student succeed.

For families, that means confidence that their child is being supported by an approach designed to help every learner grow.

WHY FAMILIES CHOOSE

Catholic Education

Families choose a Catholic school because it offers more than strong academic outcomes, it nurtures the whole person.

Our schools provide safe, inclusive and supportive environments where every child can flourish.

Recent research by the Melbourne Institute, using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey shows students who attend Catholic schools are more likely to experience greater happiness, stronger community connection and long-term career success.

They are more likely to feel connected to their communities, contribute meaningfully to society, and pursue careers that reflect both personal fulfilment and social impact.

These outcomes stem from an education that places equal emphasis on academic excellence, spiritual formation and character development; ensuring students are not only well-prepared for life but also equipped to live it with purpose and joy.

At St Thomas Aquinas School, we are proud to be part of this story.

Catholic Education Sandhurst
empowers regional young people,
their families, our staff and
communities to have *'life to the full'*

(John 10:10)



A woman with long dark hair, seen from the back, is holding the hand of a young boy. The boy is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and a yellow backpack. They are standing in front of a large crowd of people, which is slightly out of focus. The entire image has a blue tint.

A place to belong

“Together, we’re building a place where children are known, families are welcomed and learning thrives.”

GROWING WITH Huntly



St Thomas Aquinas School has been thoughtfully planned to grow alongside the local community.

Opening in 2027 with Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2, the school will expand in stages to become a full Foundation to Year 6 Catholic primary school, creating a welcoming and connected learning community for generations of Huntly families.

Located on a spacious 5.66-hectare site, the future campus has been designed to support both learning and community connection. Planned future stages include contemporary learning environments, outdoor play spaces, landscaped grounds and facilities that will continue to evolve as the school grows.

Careful planning has also been given to creating calm arrivals and accessible spaces for families, ensuring the school feels welcoming and connected from the very beginning.

As Huntly continues to grow, so too will St Thomas Aquinas School — a school community built with and for local families.

PART OF THE Community

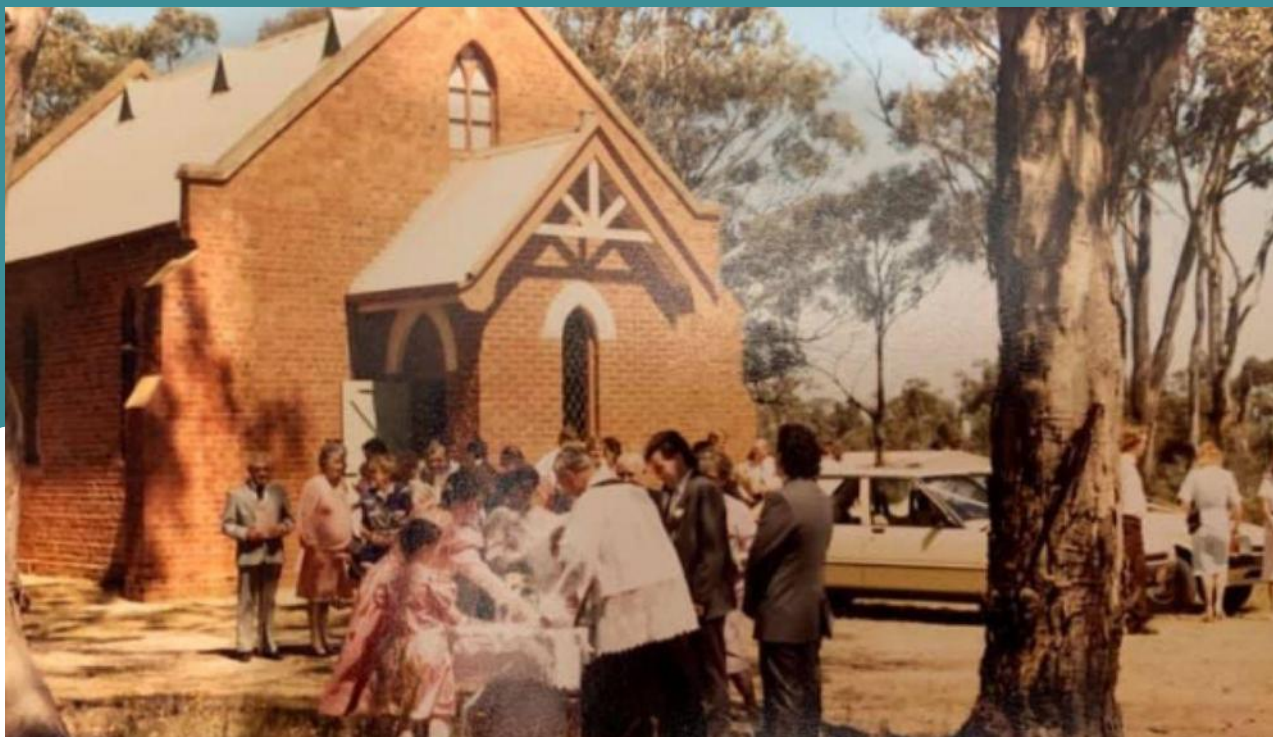
St Thomas Aquinas School is conveniently located at the corner of Pasley and Rennie streets in Huntly, offering easy access for local families.

Situated just off the Midland Highway, the school is close to shops, community facilities and recreational spaces, making it a well-connected and central location within the growing township.



HONOURING THE PAST

Looking to the future



The Catholic story in Huntly stretches back to 1875, when St Thomas Catholic Church was established to serve a small but faithful local community.

As Huntly continues to grow, St Thomas Aquinas School represents the next chapter in that story — a new Catholic primary school built with and for local families.

The school's name honours both the history of St Thomas Catholic Church and St Thomas Aquinas, scholar, teacher and saint. His belief in the partnership of faith and reason continues to inspire Catholic education today, encouraging students to seek truth, love learning and grow in wisdom.

While the school itself is new, families joining St Thomas Aquinas School will become part of a much larger Catholic education community.

As part of Catholic Education Sandhurst, the school belongs to a connected network of 52 Catholic schools across rural and regional Victoria, supporting students and families through shared expertise, evidence-based learning and strong community partnerships.

This connection ensures students at St Thomas Aquinas School are part of something bigger from their very first day — a wider Catholic education community committed to helping every child flourish in learning, confidence and faith.

A photograph of children sitting on stone steps, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The children are wearing school uniforms. One child on the right is holding a blue and white patterned water bottle. The text 'Designed to grow' is centered over the image in a large, orange, sans-serif font.

Designed to grow

*“From the very beginning, every space is
being designed to support learning,
connection and opportunity.”*

YOUR QUESTIONS

Answered

Here are some frequently asked questions about St Thomas Aquinas School, our Catholic schools and why we believe you will feel at home in one of our welcoming school settings.

WHO CAN ENROL?

We warmly welcome families from all backgrounds to join our community. Our schools provide a high-quality and affordable education for everyone, not just Catholics.

DO I NEED TO BE CATHOLIC? DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE CATHOLIC OR BAPTISED TO ATTEND?

No, you, your child or your family do not need to be Catholic or baptised, we welcome families of all faiths and backgrounds, however, priority will be given to baptised Catholics in the case where schools are at capacity based on an enrolment priority criteria approved by the Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited Board.

IF MY CHILD ISN'T CATHOLIC, WILL THEY FEEL LEFT OUT?

Not at all. All religious education which includes the classroom teaching of religion and the religious life of the school, is respectful of all learners and is based on the foundational belief in the dignity of every person.

MASS ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

It is the expectation that students will attend masses that occur during school times as part of the school celebrations, significant faith days and liturgical events. While we encourage participation in Parish Masses outside of school hours to foster a sense of community, it is not mandatory.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM A CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

You can expect calm, safe and predictable classrooms with a strong academic focus. Our *Magnify Sandhurst* program enhances learning and we have a variety of programs in each of our schools to support the emotional wellbeing of students. We offer broad support services and prioritise child safety with a zero-tolerance policy for bullying.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO MY NEAREST CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

We do not have zoning regulations for our primary schools, therefore, you are able to enrol your child at any of our Catholic primary schools. Some of our secondary colleges do have enrolment boundaries relating to local Parish boundaries and we encourage you to contact your local school to discuss. We encourage you to visit our schools during open days or tours to find the best fit.

CAN I AFFORD THE FEES?

Catholic schools remain an affordable option for most families and are surprisingly more affordable than some may realise. When you enrol your child in a Catholic school your fees are inclusive, with no hidden costs.

Our fees are structured to be affordable, with options for payment plans. Families with a Health Care Card are eligible for significant fee relief in our Catholic primary schools.

Catholic School fees include all external costs, including camps, excursions, swimming lessons, technology and more! The ability to pay school fees is not a pre-requisite for enrolment in our schools.

IS THERE AN APPLICATION FEE?

No, there is no fee to apply to attend St Thomas Aquinas School.

HOW DO YOU SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS?

We support students with additional needs through personalised learning plans, targeted support, and close collaboration with families.

Our teachers work with specialists as needed to ensure each child is supported to learn, grow, and feel included in our school community. We have access to allied health within the Catholic education system as well as via external providers.

HOW DO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CATER FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS?

Catholic schools welcome Indigenous students and a variety of specialist educational and pastoral care strategies are available to ensure that Indigenous students feel supported and culturally respected.

WHY CHOOSE CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

Catholic schools offer different pathways for students, from early education to senior education. We focus on nurturing, safe, and inclusive environments.

Our academic program, *Magnify Sandhurst* brings together world class partners in education to ensure that all students are able to maximise their learning potential.

With recent research showing that students who attended a Catholic school are more likely to be happier, contribute to community and be employed, there has never been a better time to be in Catholic education!



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ENROLLING IN A NEWLY BUILT SCHOOL?

Enrolling in a newly built school offers a truly special opportunity for both students and families to help shape a community from the very beginning. Students often benefit from smaller class sizes, strong individual attention, and close relationships with teachers who are highly committed to building a positive, supportive learning environment from the ground up.

WILL YOU BE OPEN IN TIME FOR THE START OF THE 2027 SCHOOL YEAR?

St Thomas Aquinas School will be ready to welcome students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 on the first day of Term 1 in 2027. We then will aim to enrol students for additional classes in the years following.

WILL THERE BE CAR PARKING AND DROP OFF ZONES?

More than 190 car parks will be available directly out the front of the school.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL HOURS?

8.30am: School opens
9.00am: Classes commence
11.00am: Recess
11.30am: Lunchtime
1.45pm: Recess
3.15pm: Dismissal

WILL BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE BE PROVIDED?

We are exploring opportunities with external providers to provide after school care for children and anticipate as numbers grow, also adding before school care.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES?

We value strong communication with families at St Thomas Aquinas School. Updates will be shared via regular newsletters, and teachers will keep in touch about student learning and wellbeing via our school digital platform. There will also be opportunities to connect in-person through meetings, events and interviews, helping build a close and supportive school community.

WHEN WILL THE NEW KINDERGARTEN OPEN?

The new kindergarten located next to St Thomas Aquinas School will be open for 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten from the beginning of 2027. To apply visit the [City of Greater Bendigo website](#).

HOW DO I ENROL AT ST THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL?

To apply to attend St Thomas Aquinas School, visit sthuntly.catholic.edu.au.

QUESTIONS?

We welcome your questions about St Thomas Aquinas School.

Get in touch via email info@sthuntly.catholic.edu.au or phone 03 5443 2377.

SUBMIT AN ENROLMENT



Stay connected

We'd love to welcome you to St Thomas Aquinas School in Huntly.

VISIT US

School tours available by appointment

ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Application forms available [online](#) or by giving us a call.

CONTACT

Address: Corner Pasley and Rennie Streets, Huntly VIC 3551

Phone: 03 5443 2377

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