



PROSPECTUS



Leading lives **forward** with results that take them **further**

To achieve a great result in education, it involves more than just numbers. Great results require holistic thinking. And it's for that reason, why we at Cedars Christian College, know the significance of investing in both academic excellence as well as in the development of personal character and leadership skills.

These foundational qualities are intentionally designed to help build resilience and lead students forward so they're equipped to go further in life. It's this thinking that prepares them for a strong future and the ability to impact the world around them.

To us at Cedars, that's the greatest result of all.





06 **Who we are**

08 **Meet the Principal**

10 **Prep**

14 **Junior School**

20 **Middle School**

26 **Senior College**

32 **Leadership & Wellbeing**

34 **Results that speak for themselves**

38 **Experience Cedars**



Who we are

Cedars Christian College is a vibrant and progressive learning community that is dedicated to leading your child forward throughout the most important years of their life.

Cedars is a Prep to Year 12 school located just 10 kilometres south of Wollongong in the heart of the beautiful Illawarra. Cedars' commitment to education begins by surrounding our students in a safe and trusted environment, where Christian values are evident in all we do. It's positive learning where potential isn't just recognised, it's

nurtured, and where leadership development doesn't apply to some, but empowers all. It's intentional thinking that results in leading students forward by equipping them to go further in life. And as they do, they'll be impacting the world around them.

Meet our Principal



Mr Steve Walton

BSc, Grad Dip Ed, MEd, MACE, JP

Few decisions in life are as important as selecting the right school for your children. This is because you are not simply choosing where they will be educated for the next 13 years, but you are joining a community that they will be a part of for their whole lives. It is important that this community shares the same values as you and that the expectations between home and school are consistent.

Growing up in the Illawarra, I have enjoyed being connected to supportive community groups. Whether it was in my local school, playing representative basketball, serving in my church or through my studies at the University of Wollongong, I have found that what makes a community great is when each individual plays an active role within it. At Cedars, we know that the key to our success as a school community does not rest with the whole group, but rather, with the individual.

That is why we believe it is our role to help identify each individual student's gifts, equip them to achieve, and inspire them to use their passions to live out, not only a successful life, but also a significant one.

It is an honour to lead a school community that not only places a high value on education, but also recognises that there is more to results than a final score at the end of Year 12.

We know that results look different for each individual. We believe our greatest results are our students themselves.

That is why our investment is not only focused on academics, but we also invest in developing character and leadership skills in our students to prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

It is for these reasons that Cedars' graduates are highly sought after by universities and employers.

One of the great pleasures of being Principal at Cedars is catching up with former students who tell me how much our College has influenced their lives

and that the lessons they learned at Cedars are the ones that have helped them to succeed. Those conversations and stories are the product of our intentional approach to help every child reach their full potential.

Cedars is an innovative learning community, responding to our ever changing world to meet the needs of our students whilst staying true to our strong Christian foundations. We value faith in Christ, life-long learning and growing community. The Cedars' community warmly welcomes students and families who share these values.

By choosing Cedars for your child, you are providing them with a wonderful opportunity to achieve results that will take them further in life. Thank you for taking the time to find out more about us. I look forward to welcoming you into our vibrant and Christ-centred community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Walton'.



Our Mission

Cedars Christian College – a Christian community:

- Inspiring learning
- Developing leaders
- Equipping for success

Our Vision

Cedars Christian College is dedicated to:

- Pursuing excellence in teaching and learning
- Building the kingdom of God by ministering to children and their families
- Being known as a College of leadership development through student and faculty achievements
- Inspiring each child to strive towards their full potential
- Providing a Christian framework where each student develops into a responsible member of the wider community

Our Values

Faith in Christ

We will uphold the Word of God. We will pray before we make decisions and we will act in accordance with biblical principles. We will seek to build the Kingdom of God by ministering to children and their families. We will challenge them with the message of the Gospel and encourage them to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ in every area of their lives. We will belong to the body of Christ and support the local church.

Lifelong Learning

We will be a learning and improving organisation, pursuing excellence in teaching and learning. We will cooperate to support the Christian Schools movement. We will guide and lead those around us. We will assist our children to grow and reach their full potential.

Growing Community

We will work together as a team. We will seek to develop trust and interdependence in our partnerships and we will submit ourselves to each other in a spirit of service. We will recognise the role of parents, the Church, and the State in the education of children. We will acknowledge and support the Christian family as the basic unit of our Christian Community and we will support them in their God given task of raising children.



Prep



Our Prep

Preparing for “Big School”

At Cedars we understand that the transition from home to a child's first day of school often isn't easy – not just for children, but for you as a parent too.

It's reassuring to know that Cedars' Prep has prepared for just that, having received “exceeding national standard” ratings by the government's National Quality Standard assessment for leadership and for the health and safety of our children.

We know that the first five years of a child's life are the most significant, which is why we place them in a Christ-focused learning environment that's secure and nurturing. Every program is specifically designed for the mental, physical and spiritual development of your child.

We intentionally foster that much-needed wonder and creativity through exciting and stimulating programs that are teacher-directed, child-initiated and spontaneous. These experiences are foundational to personal development and encouraging positive attitudes towards learning, so together, we can see little lives prepared for big school ahead.







Junior School





Chase, Year 3

Chemistry is in Chase's dreams.

"I love experimenting with lots of different chemicals, getting them to react. I like mixing stuff together and then trying to figure out why I get so many different cool reactions. I also spend my spare time reading books about Chemistry and imagine new ways I can do experiments."

With a dream to be a Chemical Scientist when he grows up, Chase understands it will take more than study and hard work.

"I always want to make the best choices I can in my life because I know that will help me get to where I want to be."

It's for that reason, we are helping him make those choices – right from the start. Because we know that for children like Chase it's in the little things we recognise that ultimately help them achieve their big dream someday.

Our Junior School

To us at Cedars, it's important that for every transition a child makes in their education, we continue to motivate and encourage the love of learning to achieve the best results.

Our Junior School, from Kindergarten to Year 4, is a vibrant and active part of the College. With a focus on building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, we provide a comprehensive curriculum that's empowered by the latest in computer technology. Addressing the six key learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, History, Creative Arts and

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education; our curriculum is informed by a Christian worldview, and is also enriched by specialist lessons for example: Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Gymnastics.

Additionally, Cedars' curriculum aims to cater to individual needs by offering extension programs for more complex and challenging curriculum experiences, as well as the opportunity to differentiate and personalise programs through the provision of specialist staff and learning support teachers.







Middle School





Emeshae, Year 5

Emeshae has the Olympics in her sights.

"My dream is to run the 800 metres at the Olympics one day. My love for running started when I ran my first school Cross Country - I was in Year 2. I loved it so much I just couldn't stop running. I think since then I've become a really good runner."

Winning Junior School Sportswoman of the Year as well as Age Champion are just a couple of Emeshae's sporting achievements at school so far.

As she continues to train hard at what she loves best, we at Cedars, together with Emeshae's parents, are encouraging her to pursue her passion.

"They tell me to never give up and keep on trying!"

Our Middle School

Cedars' Middle School program sets us apart from many other schools because we've thought a little differently.

For students in Years 5 to 8, our Middle School intentionally does what the name suggests; we nurture our students' "middle" transition from Junior School to Senior College.

We do it because we understand the challenges at this point in a student's education as they leave a primary school environment with predominantly one teacher, to a high school environment that has a complex timetable and a variety of teaching approaches and expectations.

Cedars' Middle School program, instead, manages this phase by introducing specialist teachers in Years 5 and 6 while students still spend a large percentage of their time with their Pastoral Care Teacher – what others call a Homeroom Teacher. This proportion of time gradually decreases through Year 7 and 8 as each child becomes more independent and is ready to be taught by a wider number of specialist teachers.

In Years 7 and 8, our students participate in an exciting learning journey through fortnightly 'Project Based Learning' (PBL) sessions. The purpose of PBL is to promote higher order thinking skills such as creating, analysing and problem solving through a range of hands-on and real life contextual projects.







Senior College







Aubrey, Year 11

Aubrey has a solution for his future.

"I'm pursuing a career in the field of Mechatronics or Biomedical Engineering, to design robots which can be used in complex processes or creating devices that will be used to support and enhance human life. Both of these involve problem solving which I think is one of my greatest strengths."

Aubrey has a heart and determination to use his skills to help others, and we are committed to seeing his success.

"My teachers really connect with me. They are easy to talk to and have helped me understand everything I am studying and preparing for my HSC including Extension 2 Maths, Chemistry and Physics. They have been great mentors."

Whether it's using engineering to design robots or to come up with solutions for the human body, Aubrey is committed to achieving a result that will benefit the world he lives in.

Our Senior College

At Cedars, we think ahead. That's why in Senior College we remain focused on ensuring that every one of our students is prepared for life beyond school.

Our holistic approach to learning invests in the educational, emotional, social and spiritual formation of our students as they face the increasing demands of the Higher School Certificate (HSC), tertiary study and work.

In addition to the core subjects and electives in the Record of School Achievement (RoSA) and HSC, we offer a diverse range of interest courses such as journalism, music, and sporting excellence that allow our students

to explore their creative, technical and sporting abilities. We also cater to a growing interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) through participation in local competitions and programs.

Leadership development is an important part of what we do. With a dedicated program that helps young people think about their influence within and outside the school, students are exposed to a range of missional, citizenship, entrepreneurial and academic activities designed to develop their leadership capabilities.

We also happen to think that making great memories is an important part of

school life. Whether it is participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Program, attending one of the biannual tours of Germany or Japan, learning to play in a band or sing in tune, or going on camp, it's all there. Our Pastoral Care Program is strongly focused on building social and emotional health and includes our fortnightly Chapel Services. As an accredited MindMatters school, we work hard to ensure that each of our students can learn in a supportive environment.

The best result for us is knowing that once students complete their education at Cedars, they'll leave knowing they're equipped with all that they need to move forward with confidence into an exciting future.





Leadership

When identifying the characteristics of a Cedars' student, we do not focus on what we want them to be when they graduate, but rather what we know they can be now.

We believe a Cedars' student is:

- Educated
- Pursuing Excellence
- Compassionate
- Resilient
- Faithful to God
- Disciplined
- Respectful

We give consistent messages to our students that these characteristics are not only desired, but required, and that they are foundational for a successful life.

Leadership development is well integrated throughout the formal and informal curriculum areas at Cedars. The focus has been on instilling in our students the understanding that leadership is not about position but about action. With Christ as the ultimate role model for leadership, students are encouraged to live a life with Christ at the centre and to seek to serve the needs of others before their own.

The involvement of our students in areas of leadership outside our immediate community has been a continued source of pride for the College. Many of our students have used their leadership skills to take on roles in their local church or youth group. Others have been selected to captain or coach sporting teams, lead music groups or mentor others in their area of passion. It has been exciting and rewarding to be part of their leadership journey and we look forward to seeing the impact that these students will have in the future.



Wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of our students is integral to achieving the results they are striving for and an essential consideration in the learning process. At Cedars, school life is more than just about academics. We begin by helping to develop the whole child in Prep and continue right through until Graduation Day. It is our hope that the lessons they learn, and the skills they develop as we support them to overcome challenges, will help take them further in life.

We believe that each child is made in the image of God and that all parts of their lives are important to Him and worthy of our care. This includes our students' intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing.

At Cedars, we have an outstanding Pastoral Care Program and deliver proactive programs through our curriculum and additional educational activities. We also have specialist staff employed to specifically nurture key areas of student wellbeing including a Psychologist, Nurse, Chaplain, Learning

Support Staff, Speech Pathologist, and dedicated Welfare Staff in each of our sub-schools.

Cedars is an accredited MindMatters school acknowledging the safe, supportive and proactive environment we provide for students and staff in relation to social, emotional and mental wellbeing. Our staff routinely undergo professional development and training to equip them with the skills they need to care for students at different stages of their lives.



**Results that speak
for themselves**





Connor Hutchinson

While a diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes in his first year of Senior College may have brought with it both shock and significant life changes, it did not dampen Connor Hutchinson's determination to shoot for a place at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Fast forward four years, and with a scratch under 100% for his Music 2 and Music Extension HSC Courses, Connor's acceptance into the 'Con' was further sweetened by being awarded a highly competitive scholarship. Connor credits his love of music and his faith in God for helping him to

overcome the challenges of his diagnosis.

"Music has always been important to me - I have been performing and arranging all through high school, and my ultimate goal is to become a composer of film and television scores." Connor's hard work saw him achieve 96/100 for Music 2 and 49/50 in Music Extension.

"I'll always look back on my years at Cedars fondly. I loved being Captain in my final year and I especially appreciate the friendships that will last a lifetime."

Sarah Walker

Sarah Walker was Cedars' College Captain in 2009. With a rich Christian faith that inspired others, she also worked hard in the classroom gaining an impressive set of Higher School Certificate results which led to her entry into the Bachelor of Physical and Health Education Program at the University of Wollongong.

A consummate all rounder, Sarah was also talented on the sporting field, representing the College at NSW CSSA Basketball Championships for two years in a row and was awarded the Pierre de Coubertin Award. Sarah now spends

her time between casual teaching across the Illawarra and working as a Youth Pastor at the Wollongong Salvation Army.

She reflects fondly of her time at Cedars. *"What I loved about Cedars was the sense of community. The culture of the College meant that I made friends across a number of year groups who I'm still connected with today. Also teachers who influenced my leadership journey through example and encouragement and pushed me to grow as a Christian leader."*





Dr Penny Mitchell

Dr Penny Mitchell [nee Hentschel] graduated from Cedars in 2004. With a determined work ethic in the classroom and a quiet Christian faith that influenced those around her, Penny left school to pursue a career in medicine. Penny says her career highlights so far include working around children. *"I have worked as part of the Paediatrics team on the Children's Ward and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Wollongong Hospital. A major aspect of my job has been caring for and treating unwell children. Being involved in their recovery then getting them back home with their families, happy and healthy again, has been particularly rewarding."*

Penny is currently working at a local medical practice and undergoing specialist medical training to fulfil a life long dream of becoming a General Practitioner, which she is finding to be an enormously rewarding, challenging and varied career. She has fond memories of her time at Cedars.

"School life definitely helped prepare me for university studies and career in medicine in many ways. Having a nurturing and supportive learning environment really helped to create a sound background academically."

Jordan Stalker

Jordan Stalker was Cedars' College Captain in 2011. With a passion for all things sport, Jordan's early successes were on the rugby field before making the switch to Gridiron. As part of the World U/19 team, Jordan led the team to defeat USA 35-29. But Jordan's discipline and passion for sport were also evident in the classroom.

Having won a scholarship to attend Gardner-Webb University, North Carolina, USA, in 2013 majoring in International Business, Jordan made the honours list for much of his course.

Jordan says that his highlight in the United States was being part of the homecoming winning team against the University of North Carolina in front of a record crowd. The event was made extra special because of the presence of his family. Jordan says, *"My time at Cedars consisted of me forming lifelong relationships and being shaped into who I am today. I still remember starting in Year 2 and will always appreciate the extra effort and genuine care the staff at Cedars gave to all the students. It is those sort of things that I look back on and realise I took them for granted."*



Join our College

As you consider your child's choice of school, you can be confident knowing that we're already thinking ahead on your behalf. At Cedars, our approach to education exists to intentionally build foundational qualities that will help equip students to go further in life. This is based on the belief that every

child carries unique, God-given potential that needs to be recognised and developed.

It's a responsibility we take seriously, where from Prep to Year 12, we're actively leading students forward throughout every stage of their learning to help them achieve the best result for their future.

Experience Cedars

We know that sometimes words aren't enough. So we're inviting you to experience the Cedars' difference firsthand. At no obligation, feel free to join us on a personalised tour where you can meet our Principal and see Cedars' school community and facilities for yourself. But because we know this decision equally involves your

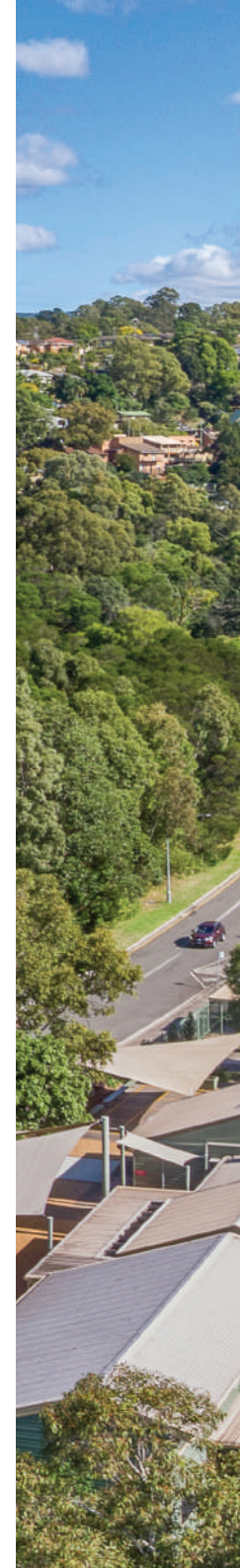
child too, we're giving them the advantage of joining a class for a day so they can also experience Cedars for themselves.

Please phone our Enrolments Officer on 4271 8124 to book an Experience Day for students in Years 1 - 12.

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