



BLACKFRIARS

Strategic Plan

2021-2024





Striving for Excellence



*The Very Reverend
Anthony Walsh OP,
Prior Provincial,
Province of the Assumption
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

It is my pleasure to present the Blackfriars Priory School Strategic Plan 2021-2024. The launch of this Strategic Plan occurs during the 800th anniversary of the dies natalis of St Dominic, marking his death in Bologna in 1221. At that time St Dominic promised the Order “I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life.”

Blackfriars is part of this promise and the Strategic Plan confidently grows from that pledge outlining our confidence as we look towards the school’s 70th anniversary in 2023.

Our strategic priorities build on the four pillars of Dominican Life and enable a renewed expression of being a Catholic and Dominican boys’ school. For our community of students, their parents, caregivers, and families; staff and school leadership; as well as our Old Scholars, this Strategic Plan looks forward, ensuring everyone is challenged and striving for excellence.



Kumangka

TOGETHER AS ONE

Artwork created by Allan Sumner
Kurna Ngarrindjeri Yankunytjatjara
Artist of South Australia 2021

The Kurna People are the original people of Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains, whose country stretches from Crystal Brook in the north to Cape Jervis in the south. The coastal plains between Glenelg and Kingston Park provided a hospitable summer camp environment with rolling sand dunes, freshwater lagoons and natural springs for the Kurna people, where food and water was plentiful. When the winter months approached the Kurna people generally moved further inland to the foothills to avoid the flooding of estuaries and rivers. This seasonal movement allowed food sources to regenerate which was part of the careful management of their lands.

Blackfriars Priory School is situated on the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today. We also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and First Nations Peoples.



Our Mission

Blackfriars is a Catholic Dominican school for boys which promotes the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social development of each member of the school community. We aim, in co-operation with families, to engage students in an educational experience within the context of a Christian community which is fulfilling and rewarding.

Our Vision

To deliver excellence in boys' education through the provision of a transformative, vibrant and reflective learning community that equips and inspires students to confidently and successfully participate as men of integrity in a rapidly changing world.

Our Philosophy

The philosophy of Blackfriars is to educate in the pursuit of truth through a life of contemplation and action. We are a Christ-centred Eucharistic community and this is reflected in all facets of our learning and teaching including an active prayer life and a passion for ministry, justice, peace, equality, religious education and pastoral care.

Our Dominican tradition commands us to recognise and accept the difference in ability and gifts of each student and differentiate learning and teaching appropriately. We synthesise faith and reason, recognising the signs of the times, so as to inspire boys to become fully human and reach their potential as balanced, humble men, who have a deep love for the world in which they live.



Four Pillars of Dominican Life

At Blackfriars we are inspired by the Four Pillars of Dominican Life. They work together to promote an authentic and flourishing life for each person, for his or her community, and ultimately for the wider human community. They address the key relationships in life: relationship with God, with self, and with neighbour.

While the Four Pillars have well-defined domains, they are not mutually exclusive and more than one Pillar can apply to the same aspect of life.



Prayer

Each one of us gives time to God, alone and with others, to thank him for who we are, for creation, and to be closer to him.

Study

We thank God for the gift of understanding and use it to learn more about him and his creation, and to improve our lives.

Community

We respect all members of the Blackfriars community, showing special care for those who are in need.

Service

As a community, we work together to ensure all of God's creation is treated with care and respect.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Be Leaders

Blackfriars will be the leading school for boys in Australia through empowerment, discernment and reflective leadership.

“Jesus came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45





STRATEGIC PILLARS

Be True

Blackfriars will search for and discern the truth as a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Be Connected

Blackfriars will develop and implement initiatives to strengthen our school community and engage in local and global partnerships.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20





STRATEGIC PILLARS

Be Ambitious

Blackfriars will move forward with curiosity, commitment and passion, excelling in all we do.

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1

**A highly engaged,
diverse and
inclusive
community.**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2

**A community of
high performance
and continuous
learning.**



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3

**A healthy, resilient
and respectful
community living
life to the full.**



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4

A contemporary, innovative and entrepreneurial approach to advance our community.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

5

A culture of student agency and expectation of active participation and voice.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

6

**A culture of
engagement and
partnership with
the world.**





BLACKFRIARS

Prayer | Study | Community | Service