



Christian Brothers Lewisham

2024

Annual Report

TO THE COMMUNITY



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

Dr Michael Blowes • Principal
68 The Boulevarde, Lewisham NSW 2049
Tel +61 2 8585 1744 **Fax** +61 2 8585 1787
Email office@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au
Web cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au

2024 Annual Report to the Community

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CUSTODIANS

'As we take our next step we must recognise the people whose footprints first graced this land'.

Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham, acknowledges that we stand on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people; the original custodians of the land. We are an inclusive community wishing to learn more about spiritual, cultural, values and the resources connected to this special Gadigal land.

We also must extend this acknowledgment to the elders of the surrounding Eora nation, both past and present. We acknowledge and respect that the elders have helped to nurture and care for this beautiful land. We thank them for their care of the land and ask that they guide us all to understand the importance of the land and Country to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Message Stick Ritual



The Message Stick is a traditional way of communication in Aboriginal culture. A message was inscribed on the stick and passed on so that tribes/clans could receive the same message.

In September 2012, at the Inaugural EREA Congress, this Message Stick Ritual was gifted to the EREA family by Vicki Clark from Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Victoria. Each EREA office and school received a Message Stick and Certificate of Authenticity, along with an explanation of the symbols used and the ritual itself. When we use this ritual, we honour the traditional owners of the lands on which we gather, our own connectedness, identity and mission.

Message Stick Symbols



Justice and Solidarity



Inclusive Community



Liberating Education



Gospel Spirituality

The message carried on this Message Stick is *"Engaging in the present and envisioning the Future"*.



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

...educating for liberation and possibility

MESSAGE FROM EREA COLLEGES NSW LTD

Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham is a highly valued member of the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) national network of schools which deliver learning through the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice underpinned by the four Touchstones of Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community and Justice and Solidarity. This strong national network consists of 55 schools in every state and territory serving approximately 40,000 students within a wonderfully diverse range of learning communities.

EREA NSW Colleges Ltd is the governing body for the seven mainstream NSW schools in Greater Sydney, Wollongong and Gosford, with enrolments of 8,500 students and 956 staff. EREA NSW was established to enable more proximate governance for the NSW schools in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The eight member EREA NSW Colleges Ltd Board has governing responsibility for the schools, specifically including ensuring the highest standards of child safety are met, oversight of compliance, staff experience and student experience including teaching and learning.

Across our network, we have witnessed our students excel academically, engage in meaningful service, and grow into compassionate leaders. The dedication of our educators and the support of our families have been instrumental in fostering an environment where every student can thrive.

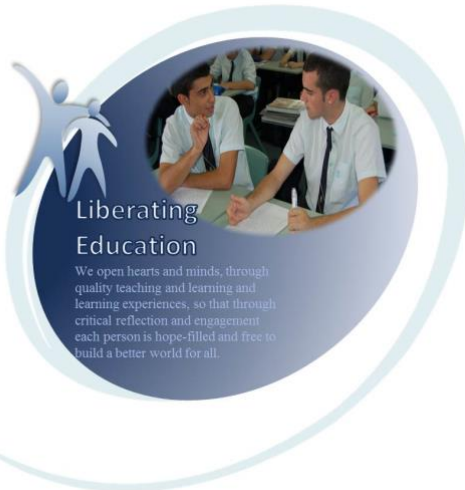
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many community members who make our schools great places to learn and grow. To our parents, our school leaders, our staff, our advisory council members, our board members, our Old Boys and the many people who contribute without an official title, thank you for your care, wisdom and generosity of spirit. To our young people in our schools, thank you for providing the energy and inspiration that brings our community together to strive for greater things.

Ms Maura Manning
CEO/Director of NSW Colleges
Edmund Rice Education Australia NSW Colleges Ltd

DEDICATION

Edmund Rice chose education as the central way through which he would serve God and the most disadvantaged people of Waterford in Ireland. He inspired others to join him in this work and soon his Christian Brothers developed a system of Catholic Schools which has spread to every continent.

Under the governance of EREA NSW Colleges Ltd, Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham, inspired by the legacy of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers, is underpinned by four significant 'Touchstones'. We are committed to offering a **liberating education**, based on gospel **spirituality**, within an **inclusive community** which is committed to **justice and solidarity**.



We pray that in all generations before us and in those which follow us, the education received at Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham continually empowers our students to be men of courage, advocates for justice and 'well rounded' contributors to Church and society. That in word and action their lives represent the charism of the Christian Brothers and their founder, Blessed Edmund Rice.

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham is a Catholic school catering for boys in Years 5 to 12.

For almost a hundred and fifty years, the Congregation of the Christian Brothers has been a major contributor to and participant in the Church's ministry of Catholic schooling throughout Australia. The Christian Brothers guided by the inspirations of Blessed Edmund Rice founded Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham (CBHS Lewisham) in 1889 and opened in 1891. The school was originally conducted by the Trustees of the Christian Brothers. Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) was created in October 2007 by the Christian Brothers to govern their schools, including CBHS Lewisham. In 2023, EREA NSW Colleges Limited was established to exercise governance over the seven mainstream NSW EREA schools. Edmund Rice Education NSW continues to assist in the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church, inspired by Blessed Edmund Rice's charism, the Brothers' gift to the whole church.

CBHS Lewisham is unambiguously a Catholic school. The school strives to build a culture and a climate at Lewisham that reinforces the conviction that a way of living based on the teaching of Jesus Christ provides the model that one needs to lead a rich and fulfilling life.

In 2024, as is the tradition, the school year commenced with a significant School Opening Mass. This occasion is an opportunity for the school community to pray together, and brings into focus the values that mark CBHS Lewisham as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Throughout the year, other opportunities exist for the prayerful expression of our faith. Inclusive faith development opportunities exist for students in each school year: class, to year group to whole school liturgies, Mother and Son Mass, Father and Son Mass, and spiritual retreats. Courses in Religious Education (Years 7 to 10) and NESA Developed Courses (Studies of Religion and Studies in Catholic Thought in Years 11 and 12) are embedded within the regular curriculum.

The school endeavours to ensure that boys are well known and cared for through its structured administration. During the past school year, CBHS Lewisham continued to develop a number of initiatives to meet specific student needs: Peer Support, and revisions to the Merit System that affirm students in their academic success and effort. In the senior years, boys have access to Careers facilities and resources. Across Years 5, 7, 8, and 9 boys have also enjoyed opportunities for personal development through the School's camp experiences. Year 11 students have enjoyed the Retreat programme, and Year 12 students their graduation as they leave our School community. Students, staff and parents have also had access to the services of the school's counsellors.

CBHS Lewisham, as a school in the Edmund Rice tradition, has established a strong reputation and tradition based on the development and achievement in academic, spiritual values, cultural, sporting areas and the creative arts. The school prides itself on striving to develop wholistically the talents of each boy so that he achieves to the best of his ability. The school also seeks to foster team spirit within through the active participation of students in the school's co-curricular activities.

MESSAGE FROM KEY SCHOOL LEADERS

Principal's Report – Dr Michael Blowes

In the very old days you could be swindled by a coin looking like gold but it was actually made out of soft lead. That's why we see images of old pirates biting into gold coins to see if they were hard enough to be real gold. Gold has long been perceived as a symbol of commerce, wealth and power. The swindlers dropped lead as a strategy and adapted their ways by substituting other metals such as copper into the coin counterfeiting process. Merchants needed a way to test if the gold coins were real and a black smooth stone was used to assess the purity of precious metals. By rubbing a gold coin against the black stone a person was able to tell if the coin was indeed gold or a mixture of alloys. These stones became important in telling a fake coin from a real one. These black stones were called touchstones and they were used to judge the purity of gold samples and their use led to the widespread adoption of gold as a standard of exchange. Touchstones could assess how much gold had been used in the making of the coin and thereby calculate its intrinsic worth.

That is the original meaning of the term "touchstone" and the word has evolved to mean a measure of integrity. Our own touchstones serve a similar process and we use them to judge the integrity of our mission as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. We may have the signs and symbols that make us look like an Edmund Rice school but our touchstones scratch more deeply than what a website or a school prospectus might say. It is our actions that reveal the true gold of Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham.

This year Edmund Rice Education Australia renewed its Charter and re-emphasised our four touchstones as a measure of our authenticity. The purpose of our enterprise can be stated that through a liberating education, based on a Gospel spirituality, within an inclusive community and committed to justice and solidarity we aim to co-create a better world for all. These are fine words but the challenge is to act upon them.

So what were our deeds this year that rose into action rather than just words? We utilised the transformative power of education to bring better outcomes to so many of our graduates this past year. We celebrated the outstanding HSC results of 2023 and noted how their results brought so many students the power to choose from a broad range of university degrees and training courses. It was one thing to be ranked in the top 10% of the state; it was another great thing to know that every vocational student gained an apprenticeship or a promising start in a career or traineeship.

Aspiration is a powerful force for liberation and we celebrate a rich history of students graduating from us to go on to make a positive impact in their communities. One hundred years ago in the Sydney Town Hall, the school gathered for Speech Night under the leadership of their principal Br J.A. Kearney. He was known as being "a gentleman and a scholar" who had a great talent for music. It was he that penned our school song in honour of the first students and staff who as the lyrics tell us "toiled through marsh and scrub so that ours might be their crown". And here we are a century later, a highly successful school, heirs of the crown. This school's richness has been this aspiration or desire to do well and on Speech Night we recognised the successes and achievements of so many students. We sang the school song with 1200 voices strong remembering Br Kearney and all those that were inspired by his words.

As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition the touchstone of Gospel Spirituality is a lived experience with morning prayer, weekly liturgies and powerful rites of passage as boys progress in their Graduations from Years 6, 10 and then 12. We are fortunate to have the weekly presence of Father Jack Evans on our campus leading our sacramental program. Apart from our normal calendar of liturgies as a special occasion on the Feast of the 350 Martyrs we celebrated the Maronite Mass.

The touchstone of being an inclusive community calls us to respect everyone no matter their status, background or identity. The school enrolls students from a broad range of suburbs across the Inner West and Canterbury regions with many cultural backgrounds being a distinctive feature of our identity. This year we made a special focus on the rich multicultural fabric we enjoy with celebrations on Founders and Harmony Day. Our students represent much of the Christian diaspora and we marked this with prayers of the universal church said in numerous languages. We have a preferential option for families who through disadvantage or poverty could normally not afford an education at Christian Brothers. Each year we reach out to more families offering bursaries and scholarships to allow their sons to be educated here.

We walk alongside First Nations peoples supporting them with a cultural and educational program that aims to improve the educational experience of young Aboriginal boys and to build the cultural competency of all students. This year we have 37 First Nations students and each year we are receiving more enquiries for places in our program.

The touchstone of Justice and Solidarity commits us to act for a more peaceful and just world that is underpinned by Catholic Social Teaching. We do this in so many ways through fundraising, support for charitable works and advocacy for change. On Speech Night the boys wore a white ribbon as an act of solidarity in support to end violence to women and girls which was a symbolic act to recognise the raised consciousness of boys to this critical issue. In Term 4 students discussed how stereotyping and cultural bias leads to disrespectful behaviour against women. They learnt how disrespect can end in a circle of violence. Each year group was presented with age-appropriate information about positive and respectful masculinity. Our Year 10 students worked with the girls from St Scholastica's College in discussing how the cycle of disrespect and violence can be broken. We are committed to promoting gender equality and we look to create new opportunities for young men to build positive, healthy and respectful relationships.

These touchstones help us set our direction and define our goals guiding us to follow the example of Blessed Edmund Rice. When they are scratched against our Lewisham culture it reveals authentic gold rather than lead or copper. I am confident that at CBHS Lewisham we have a liberating education, based on a Gospel spirituality, within a very inclusive community which is committed to justice and solidarity.

This year we have been blessed with the talent and goodwill of so many contributors to our 2024 story. Our School Captain, Daniel Khoury, led with a warm charismatic style that was grounded with generosity and hard work. He was ably supported by his student leadership team and we were pleased how they graduated as a group of fine young men.

We have enjoyed a successful year and further enhanced our reputation to those we serve. Year by year we are becoming a school of choice for boys in the Inner West. Our Deputy Principal, Mr Mark Woodbury, deserves much of the credit for our enhanced reputation as diligence, organisational skills and calmness has provided a good ordered culture which is operationalised effectively by Mr Michael Behayi (AP-Organisation & Culture). Our two Assistant Principals leading learning, Mr Keith Page (AP-Academic) and Ms Natalie Devenish (AP-Teaching and Learning) have made great progress with our data tracking, literacy support and the provision of Aquinas high potential classes this year. In an increasingly difficult climate for schools our Business Manager, Mr Darren Perry has ensured our financial future. Our Director of Human Resources, Mrs Ann-Marie Banno, has also successfully managed the headwinds faced on the recruitment and industrial front. Mr Dan Valencic, AP-Identity, has endeavoured to strengthen the religious dimension of the school and much of the improvements made this year were a credit to his leadership as were the educational developments in respectful relationships a credit to the work of Mr Chris Kidd (AP-Pastoral); I have appreciated their leadership, loyalty and energy in strengthening many aspects of the school and overseeing a great educational and co-curricular program. I also acknowledge the great work of Mrs Cathie Dalliwall for her

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professional approach to all things including the publication of this annual magazine. It is a labour of love with detailed editing and proofing culminating in a publication we all enjoy reading.

Sadly, the school community learnt of the passing of Fr Kevin Tuitu'u on 4 October 2024. He was ordained in 1980 into the order of Passionist Priests which has its Provincial Office at St Brigid's, Marrickville. Fr Kevin thoroughly enjoyed his time in schools and was School Chaplain at CBHS for eight years from 2011 until 2018 and is fondly remembered for his genuine care for people and justice.

I appreciate the work of the Parents and Friends Association and I thank Mrs Maria Ong for her leadership this year. The Trivia Night was a great success and the welcome night for new parents was enjoyed by all those who attended. The School Advisory Council has been a great support this year and I thank Mr David Robinson for his leadership this year as the Council has discussed a wide range of challenging issues facing the school including capital works, enrolment pressures and financial stewardship.

This year has built upon the achievements of earlier years and our success is underpinned by our energetic, generous and capable staff who work hard to ensure that boys can succeed no matter their aptitude or age. We are so fortunate to have such talented teachers and staff members at CBHS Lewisham who animate the touchstones into a lived experience.

2024 has truly been a golden year full of endeavour and achievement showing what great things can happen in a community drawn towards a loving God, inspired by a man like Edmund Rice and in pursuit of realising the full potential of young men.

Conanti Corona

Dr Michael Blowes
Principal



Deputy Principal's Report – Mr Mark Woodbury

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

Marian Wright Edelman

Educational

The core business of any school is the academic progress of the students in its care. Lewisham over the last three years has taken giant strides in this area. This has been due to the tireless work by the teachers to provide the boys the best education tailored to their needs based on the data collected and consistently reviewed and updated. The expectations are very clear that the boys are to do their best every day they come to school no matter the class, the level or the task. Thank you to Ms Devenish and Mr Page and the KLA coordinators for their tremendous efforts in these areas.

Sport

An integral part of any school is the sporting program. At CBHS Lewisham the boys have many opportunities at different levels to be part of the sporting program at the school. This year was the highest number of boys that could represent the school this year. We had a record number of Football teams, basketball teams and Touch teams in the Sydney Catholic Schools competition. Sport is an excellent way to be part of the school community to be involved and make new friends but to also showcase your talents. A huge thank you to all our coaches and managers throughout the year over the many sports that were on offer. Special thank you to Mr David Mamo who spends many hours each week in preparing our representative teams as well as our internal sports program.

Student Voice

The school has ensured that Students at CBHS Lewisham have a voice. Student Leaders in both primary and Secondary, the Student Representative Council, Student surveys and the concerned email address are just some of the ways we are trying to give the students a voice in our community. As a school we are always attempting to make our students independent and take responsibility for their learning and their actions, to continue this we need to evaluate our processes and hear from our student voice. Thank you to Mr Dan Valencic who has led the SRC at the school and who has shaped it into the voice it is today.

Parent support

At CBHS Lewisham we are extremely fortunate to have extremely supportive parents. This is reflected by the great numbers we have at events at the school, Mother's Day Mass, Father's Day Mass, Careers Night, Year Group Meetings, Open Classrooms, Graduation Masses, Musical Performances (Piano Recital & Music Night) Debating & Primary Presentation Nights. I want to thank the parents who stand with the school and work in partnership in our joint endeavours to ensure your sons are the best they can be.

Pastoral Care

Anxiety, school refusal, HSC Pressure, schoolwork expectation, social media concerns, friendship groups, all modern day issues surrounding our boys at Lewisham. The Pastoral Care Team need to be praised for their tireless work with all the students at CBHS Lewisham. The Buddy Program, the Year group meetings surrounding Right Relations, the countless Counsellor Sessions, the one on one meetings with students, the wonderful relationships the Team have built with students. They have set high expectations for the students but are also understanding of the individual needs of all the students. I Thank Mr Chris Kidd for his huge amount of effort and time he has put into ensuring his team meets the needs of our students.

Pathways

The tireless work of Mrs Robyn Stoddart has enabled a great number of students the opportunity to choose different pathways than attending university. Year 10, Year 11 & Year 12 can do VET courses, undertake work experience , school based Apprenticeships or attend TAFE. We are as a community proud of the boys who choose this path and support their endeavours and goals.

Staff Thank you

The wonderful opportunities given to our boys is centred around the dedication of our staff. Rubicon, Camps, Musical opportunities, Debating, holiday classes, Public Speaking, the many Social Justice Activities, sporting activities, Chess and the many clubs that run in the school rely on the good will of the staff. The staff are selfless in their time in providing all the boys opportunities to excel, enjoy or experience new activities. On behalf of the students and the school I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff who have gone beyond their day to day duties to give our boys the opportunities and experiences.

Mr Mark Woodbury**Deputy Principal**

School Advisory Council Report – Mr David Robinson, Council Chair

The main purpose of the Advisory Council remains to support Dr Blowes and the School Executive and leadership team and staff as they implement their vision for the education of students at CBHS. The term “punching above its weight” comes to mind as we acknowledge the academic success of the HSC Class of 2023 and the general uplift of academic standards across the school.

CBHS is a school of Edmund Rice Education Australia as are a community of 54 other schools and colleges across Australia. Early in the year the CEO of EREA Colleges NSW Ms Maura Manning attended our Council meeting and set out EREA’s vision and the school support services being created by EREA especially in the area of Risk and Safeguarding. An important component of the Council’s meeting agenda is the session conducted as Formation. This session centres around aspects of the Blessed Edmund Rice story and the current ethos and philosophy of EREA. All councillors find this component extremely valuable.

As one of the Advisory Council’s roles is to provide oversight of the School’s finances, a Finance Sub-Committee was formed consisting of three Council members who, on a quarterly basis look more closely into the periodic detailed financial reports and review the annual budget for the following year. There are and will continue to be financial challenges for the School as the impact on the Federal government funding formula based on the Direct Measure of Parents’ income (DMI) continues to create “real” decreases in government funding. The School takes every effort to keep increases in school fees to the minimum. The School is financially sound and has capacity to execute its building program.

One of the year’s disappointments has been the delay in execution of a major component of the Master Plan (86 The Boulevard) primarily due to a reassessment of the Inner West Council’s requirements. The Advisory Council established a Capital Works sub-committee consisting of ex-students Elias Elias, George Hayek, Wally Stanton and Tim Poisel, all of whom are experienced in various aspects of the design, planning and construction process. Their expert advice continues to be very much appreciated as they provide guidance so as to resolve matters to allow building to commence in 2025. On a positive note, the 64-66 The Boulevard property acquired in 2023 saw the former Church building gutted with current plans to make it into a multi-purpose space for gatherings, exhibitions and potentially for open classes when required. Work has commenced with the balance of the site to create additional playground space.

The School Leadership is appreciative of the response by parents, staff and students to the School Survey conducted during the course of the year. The Survey results will have a significant influence on the Five Year School Strategic Plan to be created in 2025. We expect there will be other opportunities for the School community to have input to the plan.

I thank all my fellow Council members Janine Hannigan, Antoinette McGahan, Anne Phillips, Lucy Snowball and Ben Wilding for their commitment, wise counsel and good humour. I would also like to thank the School Leadership Team for their support, expertise and transparency throughout the year.

Mr David Robinson
Council Chair

Fr. Kevin Tuitu'u

Sadly, the school community learnt of the passing of Fr Kevin Tuitu'u on 4 October 2024. Fr Kevin was the School Chaplain at CBHS from 2011 until 2018 and is fondly remembered for his genuine care for people and justice. He was born in Singleton and grew up in the south coast town of Corrimal. He was ordained in 1980 into the order of Passionist Priests which has its Provincial Office at St Brigid's, Marrickville. He was initially placed at St Brigid's and his first responsibility was that of coordinator of the catechists who taught at the local state schools, and he took up teaching duties at the local primary and high schools. During his time with the Passionists he was posted to their Glen Osmond Retreat Centre in South Australia as Coordinator and served as Parish Priest and Superior of the Order in Hobart. He also spent two years in Vanimo in the north-west of Papua New Guinea, where the Passionists have a mission. He thoroughly enjoyed his time in schools and was Chaplain at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill for six years, at Trinity Catholic College, Auburn for two years and then here at Lewisham for eight years.



Parents and Friends Association Report – P & F Executive

Term 1, 2024 commenced with the return of the P&F Meet & Greet evening. Together with the school leadership team, parents and students, new and old, united and bonded over light refreshments to start their community building at CBHS Lewisham.

The generosity of our boys and families have been overwhelming as they supported and contributed towards the CBHS Lewisham Bursary program through the various P&F Fundraising events were held throughout the year. Special thanks to our events and fundraiser coordinator – Athena Martikas for her amazing work and coordination of the Easter Raffle, Mother's Day stall in May, Father's Day stall in August and Christmas Stall in November.

Our highly anticipated Trivia Evening was successfully held in August, once again filling the McDonald centre with much joy and laughter. Attendees not only had their knowledge and understanding skills tested by answering trivia questions but tested on other skills also, as they participated in activities throughout the evening with a deck of cards, putting skills to the dollar and paper plane creativity and throwing. Thank you to all the generous local businesses and CBHS families who so kindly donated the prizes towards the success of the event.

As 2024 comes to an end, we sadly needed to farewell Clare Landy from team and school community. Her contribution to the CBHS community and in particular overseeing the P&F social media has been outstanding. Thank you for the friendship, time, generosity and guidance during your time at the school and on the P&F Committee.

It has been a blessing, pleasure and privilege to serve on the P&F Committee in 2024. Thank you to the School Leadership Team, staff, students and parents for all their contributions and support towards the P&F throughout the year.

Members of the 2024 CBHS P&F Committee:

1. Maria Ong
2. Athena Martikas
3. Clare Landy
4. Greg Bruner & Louise Marcroft
5. Marjan McGarry
6. Isabel Wong
7. Frank Madzin
8. Daniela Sahlani

Maria Ong

STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN STATE-WIDE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Christian Brothers' High School, Lewisham is a Catholic Independent Registered and Certified school to present students for both the Record of School Achievement and the Higher School Certificate.

The school is comprehensive, but nevertheless strives for academic excellence. All students are challenged to achieve their personal best.

Regular homework is set and an organised home study program is expected of every student at Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham.

The school has designed a curriculum structure that encourages each student to achieve within his ability range and to reach his full potential.

As well as the mandatory courses for the Record of School Achievement and the Higher School Certificate each student studies a course in Religious Education.



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2024 NAPLAN RESULTS

The results below represent the median achievement in each of the NAPLAN tests for each year group.

Year 5 NAPLAN Median Scores		
NAPLAN Test	Median Achievement	
	2024	2023
Reading	490	501.5
Writing	500.3	492
Spelling	497.9	497.8
Grammar and Punctuation	504.5	500.6
Numeracy	494.5	509.6

Year 7 NAPLAN Median Scores		
NAPLAN Test	Median Achievement	
	2024	2023
Reading	545.6	543.4
Writing	541.3	534.2
Spelling	549.6	538.5
Grammar and Punctuation	550.8	544.85
Numeracy	568.1	549.6

Year 9 NAPLAN Median Scores		
NAPLAN Test	Median Achievement	
	2024	2023
Reading	574.1	593.65
Writing	592.3	585.8
Spelling	585.5	582.9
Grammar and Punctuation	563.9	589.8
Numeracy	591.9	607

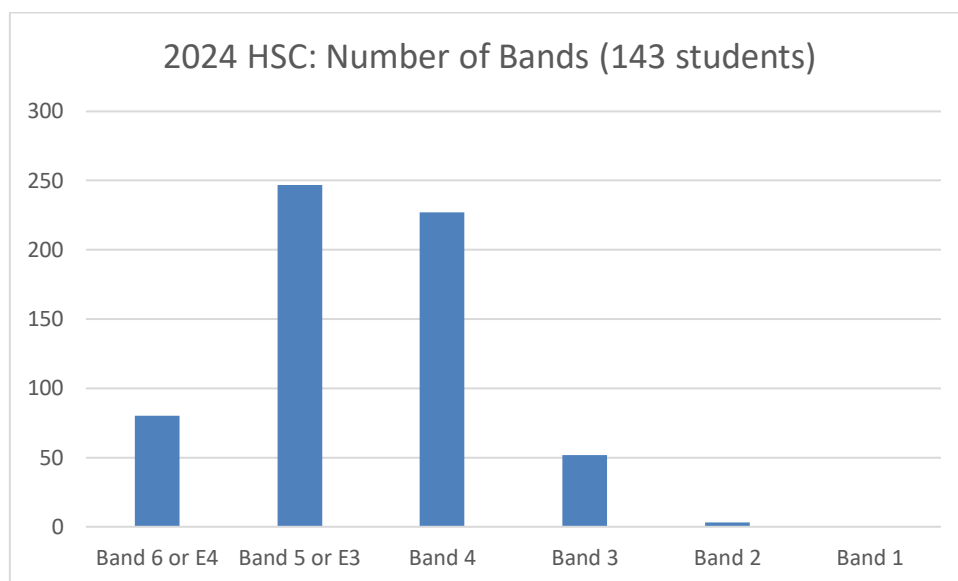
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HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**Percentage of students who received a Band 5 or 6 or Extension E4 / E3**

HSC Courses	CBHS 2024	State 2024	% Difference	CBHS 2023	State 2023	CBHS 2022	State 2022
Aboriginal Studies	75.43	71.98	3.45	78.93	72.02	50	35.01
Ancient History	79.91	72.92	6.99	76.55	71.44	60	33.90
Biology	78.94	73.89	7.53	77.81	73.30	44.44	26.84
Business Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	82.0	74.40	N/A	N/A
Business Studies	81.36	73.45	7.85	78.47	73.77	42.86	34.87
Chemistry	80.63	74.33	6.30	80.48	74.13	55.55	33.17
Construction VET Examination	75.00	77.68	-2.68	86.0	76.91	66.67	40.96
Economics	80.57	77.35	3.22	83.70	76.76	55.00	49.44
Engineering Studies	76.83	74.25	2.58	81.11	74.27	43.75	29.97
English (Advanced)	84.09	82.03	4.21	85.16	81.73	79.49	67.17
English Extension 1	41.93	42.42	-0.49	46.75	42.17	100.00	92.56
English Extension 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.90	40.07	N/A	29.47
English (Standard)	75.84	71.40	4.44	76.07	70.12	24.49	15.45
Geography	79.43	74.96	4.47	N/A	N/A	22.22	42.31
History Extension	41.40	40.16	1.24	41.80	39.79	83.33	25.39
Hospitality VET examination	75.00	78.52	-3.52	N/A	N/A	25.00	44.26
Industrial Technology	74.51	70.77	3.74	75.65	70.87	15.63	21.93
Information Processes & Technology	N/A	N/A	N/A	68.31	70.71	25.00	27.88
Information & Digital Technology	81.69	76.52	5.17	79.40	76.22	N/A	N/A
Italian Beginners	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.00	45.75
Italian Continuers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.00	55.24
Italian Extension	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.00	100.00
Legal Studies	85.28	75.55	9.73	89.90	75.27	70.00	40.97
Mathematics Advanced	81.89	78.43	3.46	85.95	78.04	71.43	49.01
Mathematics Extension 1	77.94	79.94	-2.00	82.64	77.78	95.65	73.57
Mathematics Extension 2	89.50	82.58	6.92	90.93	82.20	100.00	85.11
Mathematics Standard 1	80.20	71.46	8.74	79.23	71.99	0.00	26.45
Mathematics Standard 2	78.42	71.63	6.79	78.64	71.76	31.63	29.06
Modern Greek Beginners	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	83.33	84.00

2024 Annual Report to the Community

HSC Courses	CBHS 2024	State 2024	% Difference	CBHS 2023	State 2023	CBHS 2022	State 2022
Modern History	78.29	75.02	7.76	80.96	72.78	44.83	34.44
Music 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	88.75	82.09	57.14	69.62
Music 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	89.40	86.08	N/A	N/A
PDHPE	77.04	74.03	3.01	76.16	72.98	18.52	26.14
Physics	72.03	73.75	-1.72	80.56	74.81	92.86	41.45
Polish Continuers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.00	100.00
Retail Services	81.20	71.51	9.69	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Software Design and Development	76.47	74.22	2.25	N/A	N/A	15.38	37.99
Studies of Religion I	42.50	38.35	4.15	41.72	38.80	48.57	40.86
Studies of Religion II	81.10	77.75	3.65	80.09	77.37	40.74	46.47
Visual Arts	82.76	81.90	0.86	87.50	76.00	66.67	65.84



Summary of HSC Achievements	
Award	Students
All Rounder Achievement <i>10 or more units above 90</i>	Samuel Gheller Lukas Giannakakis
Top Achiever	Samuel Gheller
Distinguished Achievers List <i>Students who achieved above 90 in a course</i>	38 students (26.57% of students) received Band 6 or E4 (above 90) in 19 courses.
Higher School Certificate	143 candidates

2024 Annual Report to the Community

WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

Male Teaching Staff	Female Teaching Staff	Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Teaching Staff
53	52	1

Total no. of teachers employed	Resignations at end of 2022	Retention Rate
105	8	92%

Details of 2024 teaching staff that are responsible for delivering the curriculum as described in the Education Act

TEACHER STANDARDS CATEGORY	NO. OF TEACHERS
i. Teachers who have teaching qualifications from a higher education institute within Australia or as recognised within the national Office of Overseas recognition (AEI-NOOSR) guidelines, or	105
ii. Teachers who 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.	0

SENIOR SECONDARY OUTCOMES

Year	Number of HSC Students	Percentage of HSC Students Undertaking Further Study	Percentage of HSC Students undertaking the Workforce
2024	143	68.5%	31.5%

Year	Number of HSC Students	Number of HSC Students Undertaking VET or Vocational Training	Percentage of HSC Students undertaking Vocational or Trade Training
2024	143	28	19.58%
2023	130	37	28.45%
2022	169	46	27.22%
2021	144	20	13.89%
2020	158	28	17.72%
2019	182	31	17.03%
2018	157	39	24.84%

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-ATTENDANCE

Average Student Attendance Rate 2024

The average student attendance rate is calculated and reported as a single percentage.

2024 Average Attendance	
<i>Year cohort</i>	<i>Average attendance (%)</i>
Year 5	94%
Year 6	91%
Year 7	89%
Year 8	90%
Year 9	89%
Year 10	88%
Year 11	89%
Year 12	93%
<i>Average for Years 5 - 12</i>	91%

Management of Attendance

Student attendance is monitored by the Sentral online software package with data entered by Homeroom Teachers at the beginning of the day, and then at the beginning of each period by their classroom teacher. Students are required to explain absence from school in writing on their return to school. Parents are encouraged to report absence by telephone on the day that it occurs.

Non-attendance is followed up by the Homeroom teacher, then the Pastoral Co-ordinator and if persistent the Assistant Principal, Pastoral Care and the Deputy Principal. The Principal, school counsellors and Pastoral Care Co-ordinators also work with agencies such as the Department of Community Services and the Police Child Wellbeing Unit. The Department of Community Services and the Police Child Wellbeing Unit are notified if necessary.

Please refer to Pastoral Care Policy on School website: www.cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au

RETENTION OF YEAR 10 TO YEAR 12

Retention Rate 2024

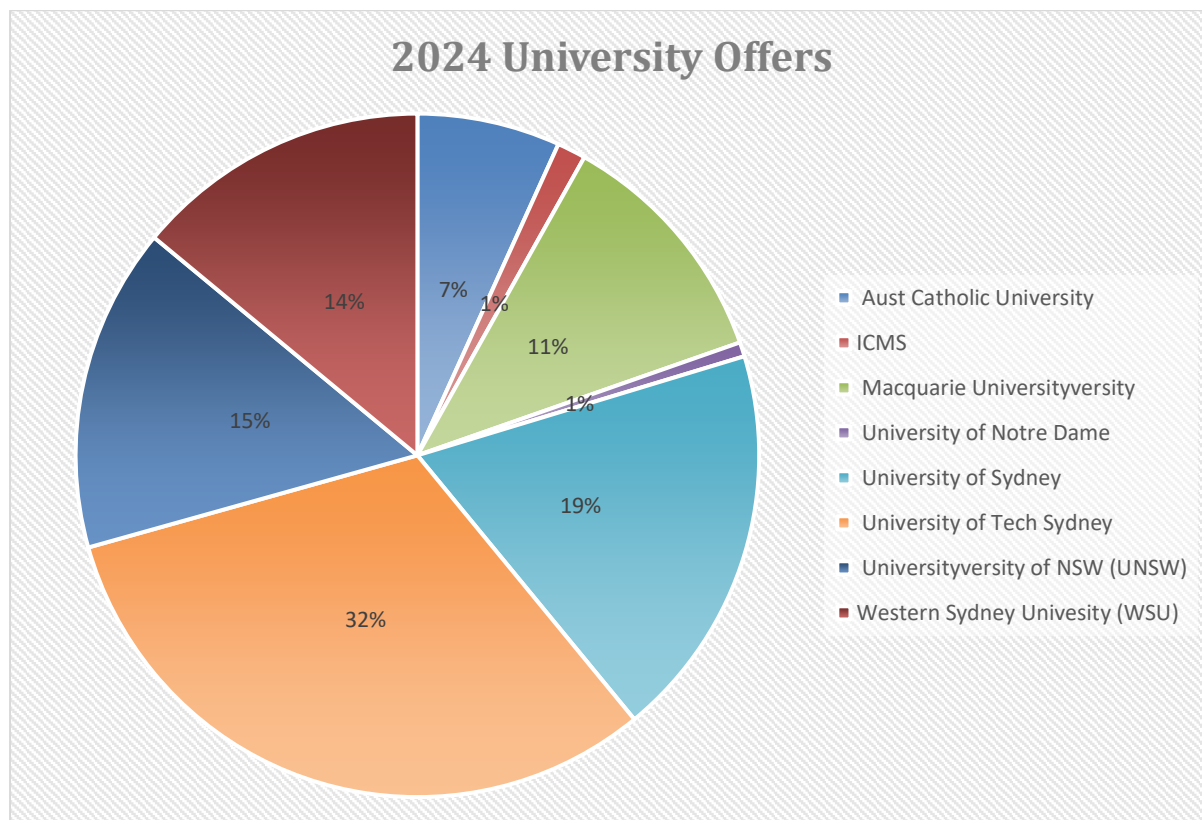
YEARS COMPARED	YEAR 10 TOTAL ENROLMENT	YEAR 12 TOTAL ENROLMENT	RETENTION RATE
2022/2024	160	143	89%

The retention rate is based on data relating to actual students who have been tracked at two different points in their career. In this case our data tracks students in Year 10 and then in Year 12.

The trend has also been relatively static over the years; the rate for 2021/2023 indicated the success of students achieving employment either at the end of Year 10 or during their Year 11 Course.

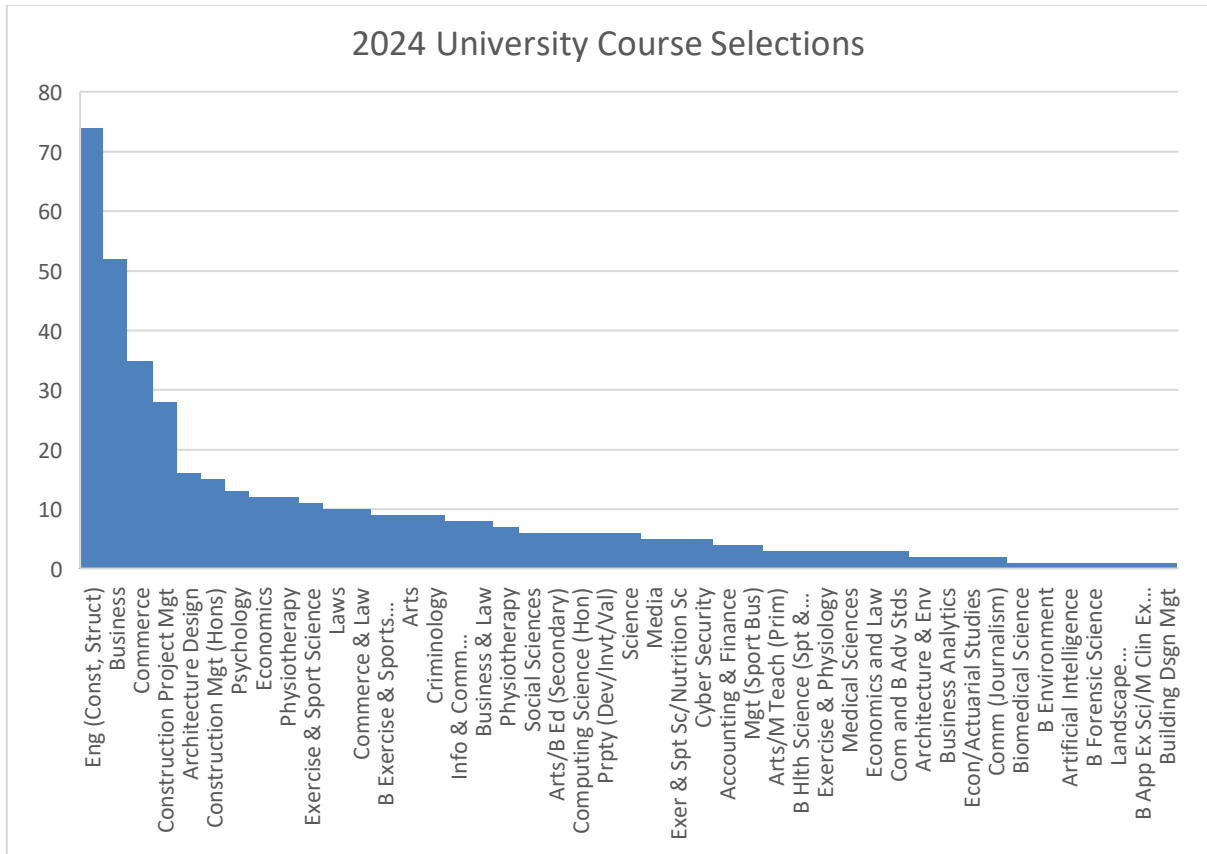
POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

HSC 2024 student enrolments at universities and areas of eventual study



- This pie chart is based on all University Admission Centre (UAC) offers made to our 2024 HSC students who applied for a university course/s. Some students received multiple offers from different universities.
- Our students are fortunate to reside in close proximity to a wide selection of tertiary education institutions. The universities who made the most offers to our students was University of Technology.

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Based on our University Admission Offers, 180 UAC offers were made to 143 students. This figure does not include the numerous offers students received in the Early Offer rounds before they sat the HSC. Many students received multiple offers and sought assistance from the Universities and UAC to research the best opportunities in their chosen area of study. Double degrees increased their popularity with many students choosing a double degree over 4 years. When choosing an area of study students are then also combining Business, Arts or Information Technology for extra skills. For the class of 2024 the Engineering field was popular followed by Business/Commerce, Project or Construction Management, Computing and Sport and Exercise Science.

ENROLMENT POLICIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY

The expectations for continuing enrolment are clearly set out for all students who are successful applicants in the Statement of Enrolment Understanding Contract. In addition to the Statement of Enrolment Understanding, students are subject to the normal guidelines for academic progression required by the NSW Education Standards Authority documented in the Assessment, Certification and Examination (ACE) Rules online.

As a Year 5-12 school, our total enrolments were 1,193 students for 2024.

COHORT	YEAR	NO. STUDENTS
Primary	5 and 6	212
Junior Secondary	7 to 10	682
Senior Secondary	11 and 12	299
TOTAL ENROLMENTS		1193

Of our total enrolments, there were 37 First Nations students

The student body is multi-national, being mostly second and third generation Australian. The ethnic groupings are globally diverse.

The majority of students are baptised Catholics and other Christians, including the Orthodox rites, with a very small percentage of Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist or students with no formal religious affiliation.

The School Enrolment Policy is publicly available for viewing on the School website at <https://www.cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au/our-identity/policies/>

SCHOOL POLICIES INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF POLICIES FOR STUDENT WELFARE, DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Student Welfare

In 2024, the school ran a number of specific student welfare programs with students:

1. All staff continued to implement Restorative Justice Practices in their dealing with all students, particularly those at risk of disengaging with their learning.
2. The Vertical Pastoral Care System allows students to become members of one of the eight Houses. Pastoral Care for secondary students is provided to each House through the Assistant Principal Pastoral, House Pastoral Coordinators, Homeroom Teachers and Class Teachers. Student Pastoral Care in the Primary School is coordinated by the Deputy Principal with each Class Teacher.
3. The Pastoral Team held Student Profile Meetings regularly throughout the academic year. These meetings of teachers identified specific educational and social needs of students at risk that assists with the development of Individual Student Plans.
4. The Pastoral Team reviews student progress at timetabled (once per school cycle) meetings that allow Pastoral Coordinators, Counsellors and the Assistant Principal Pastoral to review student progress and develop future support structures.

Student Complaints

Complaints about marking on assessment tasks and examinations are addressed by students bringing their complaint to the Curriculum Review Panel. Further details can be obtained from the Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning at the school.

Complaints from students relating to teachers, fellow students or school life in general are directed to the appropriate Pastoral Coordinator. If required these complaints are reviewed by the Pastoral Team at their regular meeting and if necessary referred to the School Leadership Team.

Grievances

There are several avenues through which staff complaints can be handled.

1. The Principal is available to staff to deal directly with matters of concern.
2. The online Staff Handbook Countering Harassment policy provides the definition, the framework procedures and guidelines for dealing with harassment in the workplace.
3. Grievance procedures are conducted according to the policies and Code of Conduct of Edmund Rice Education Australia.
4. The staff participates in regular meetings that provide opportunities for the airing and resolution of staff complaints. These timetabled meetings fall into the following categories: Whole Staff, KLA Coordinators, Pastoral Coordinators and Year Level Teachers.
5. The IEU chapter is encouraged to meet and to make representation to the Principal.
6. The Principal has an open-door policy for any individual staff member to see him personally on an individual issue.

Specific Policies

Relevant policies include;

- Anti-Bullying
- Attendance
- Complaints and Grievances
- Discipline
- Enrolment
- Student Welfare

The full text of these policies are available on the School website
(<https://www.cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au/our-identity/policies/>)

STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION

EREA NSW is committed to listening to the views and expectations of key stakeholders and commissions independent surveys to provide performance feedback on a wide range of related education topics.

The feedback from these surveys greatly assists Christian Brothers' High School with both its operational and strategic planning and its determination to continually improve the educational experience offered to the students.

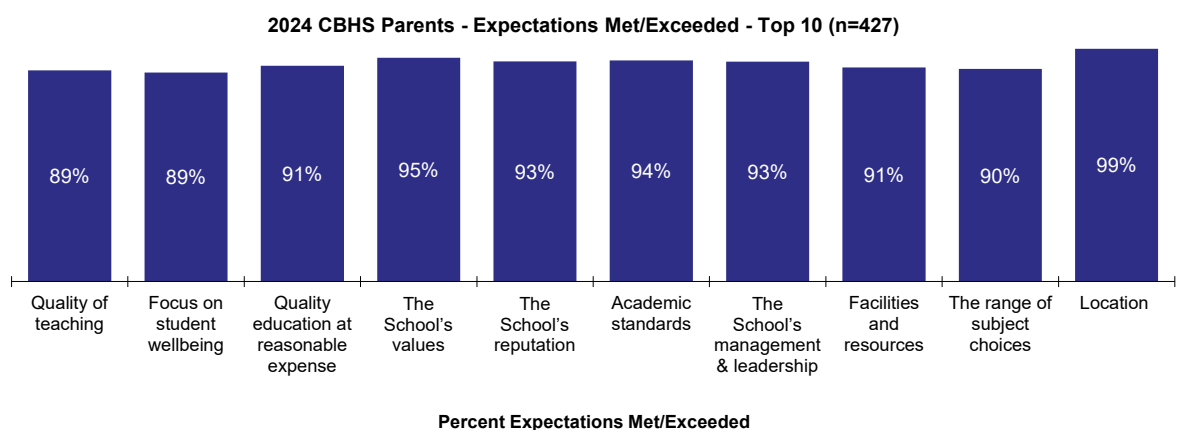
In 2024, 427 parents, 1016 students and 116 staff participated in surveys and provided views on areas such as academic performance, pastoral care, religious education, music, representative sport, communications, reputation and facilities.

Parents

A selection of the parents' top level findings are detailed below, ranked in order of the importance the parents placed on reasons for choosing a school for their son.

The top five areas are noted below:

1. 89% of parents noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the quality of teaching
2. 89% of parents noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the focus on student wellbeing
3. 91% of parents noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to a quality education at reasonable expense
4. 95% of parents noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the School's values
5. 93% of parents noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the School's reputation



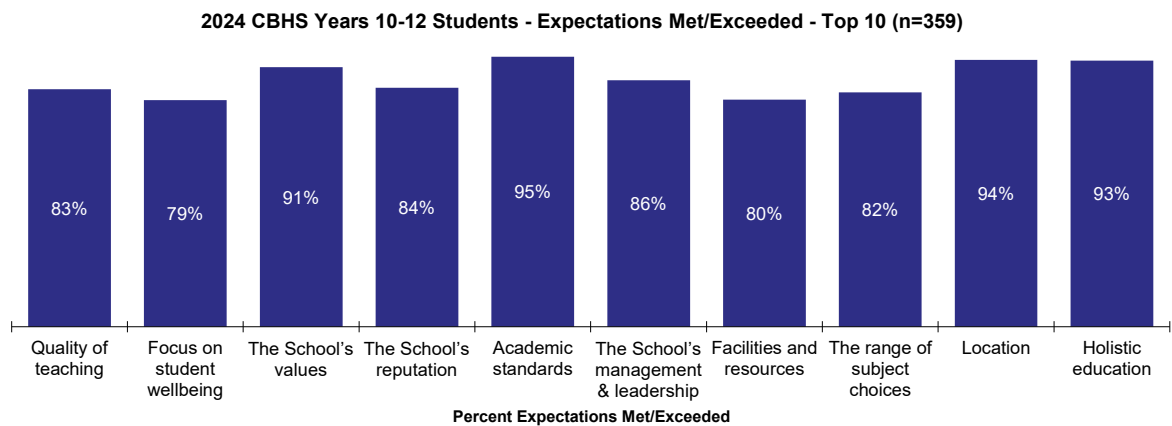
2024 Annual Report to the Community

Students

A selection of the students' top level findings are detailed below, ranked in order of the importance the parents placed on reasons for choosing a school.

The top five areas are noted below:

1. 83% of students noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the quality of teaching
2. 79% of students noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the focus on student wellbeing
3. 91% of students noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the School's values
4. 84% of students noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the School's reputation
5. 95% of students noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to academic standards



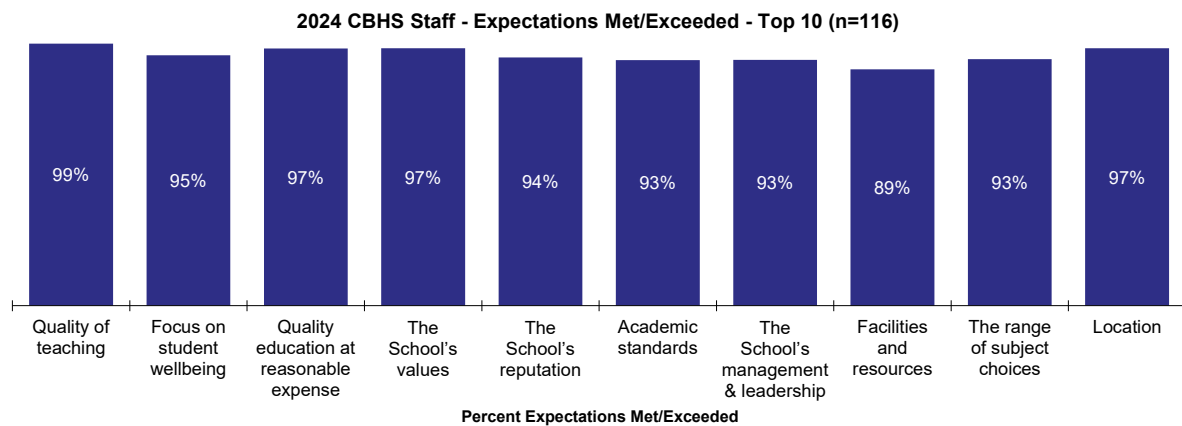
2024 Annual Report to the Community

Staff

A selection of the staff's top level findings are detailed below, ranked in order of the importance the parents placed on reasons for choosing a school.

The top five areas are noted below:

1. 99% of staff noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the quality of teaching
2. 95% of staff noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the focus on student wellbeing
3. 97% of staff noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to a quality education at reasonable expense
4. 97% of staff noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the School's values
5. 94% of staff noted their expectations were met or exceeded in relation to the School's reputation



Parents, staff and students were asked to provide open responses to the most valued aspects of Christian Brothers' High School. The most frequently nominated aspects were:

2024 CBHS Parents - Most Valued Aspects (Top 5)	2024 CBHS Students - Most Valued Aspects (Top 5)
Academic curriculum & standards	Friendships/connections developed
Safe, caring & supportive environment	Academic curriculum & standards
Quality of teachers & staff	Sports Program
The School culture & values	Experience at the School
Friendships/connections developed	Quality of teachers & staff

2024 CBHS Staff - Most Valued Aspects (Top 5)
Staff collegiality & working with other staff
Caring & supportive work environment
Job satisfaction & sense of pride in work
Working with the students
The School community

Parent Quotes on what they value about Christian Brothers' High School:

Values the school instills and expects from the children, we are on the same page at school and at home in our family life. The best schooling decision we have made for our child was to send him to CBHS Lewisham.

We are happy with the academic education and our son has met lots of like minded friends.

I think the school is doing an excellent job academically and from a pastoral level. I feel it is a great environment for boys and that teachers genuinely care.

My son is academic and is thriving in this environment. I am really happy with the education he is receiving and the fact that he can be involved as much or as little as he likes.

My son's academic and sporting needs are being met, it is a great balance for young boys to thrive. It's a nurturing environment

Student Quotes on what they value about Christian Brothers' High School:

Relationship with staff and peers has seen an exponential growth in senior years which I enjoy to connect with and have a laugh.

I value the morals and lessons that Christian Brothers' High School has taught me over the years.

I value the pride of the school and the learning opportunities I receive from the various programs in the school.

The school's support towards me is what I value the most, whenever I am stressed the counselling services are always available for me to go to and help me calm down, teachers are always helpful and will go over work if I find it difficult.

What I value most with my association with CBHS is the relationships that I have created within my time here.

Staff Quotes on what they value about Christian Brothers' High School:

I most value the opportunity to see students become respectful young adults as they move from primary to seniors.

I value our commitment to the touchstones, particularly inclusive community and justice and solidarity. Knowing that we as a community are consistently helping those in need is great and positive for our students to see.

Its ability to provide quality education in a safe and nurturing environment for its students to grow into wonderful young men with great character and potential.

Being an old boy and seeing the school grow each day is special to me as I really value my association with the school.

The opportunity to impart knowledge and skills under the umbrella of Gospel values and the teachings of Christ to the youth of my community.

INITIATIVES PROMOTING RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Justice and Peace Program at CBHS Lewisham

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love."

- St. Francis of Assisi

Edmund Rice Australia encourages all their schools to strive in offering *liberating education*, based on a *gospel spirituality*, within an *inclusive community*, committed to *justice and solidarity*. It is these touchstones that provide the platform for CBHS Lewisham to educate our boys for justice and peace, and deliver hope to a global community where the dignity of humanity and the integrity of creation is often diminished. The holistic approach in delivering a justice and peace education resonates throughout the Lewisham community and is underpinned with the integration of head, heart, hands and feet.

In 2024, we continued to return to normalcy of life post COVID, however many Australians and communities around the world were experiencing rising poverty and homelessness. With the cost of living skyrocketing, the economic disparities have left a growing number of individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. This crisis emphasises the significance of social justice whereby the outreach programs and initiatives we engage in at CBHS aim to foster change and support for the wider community. Hence, our goal this year was to support our local community as well as reconnecting our engagement with our overseas partnerships.

Our weekly commitment to volunteering at the St Vincent de Paul's Matthew Talbot Kiosk in Woolloomooloo was a shared responsibility amongst the Year 12 boys as they partook in this initiative every Friday afternoon in small groups. Here they served the community with light refreshments and a listening ear which brought a positive impact on their outlook on society. The partnership CBHS has with the Vinnies outreach programs extends to the Winter Appeal run by the Magee House. As a school community we were able to donate a truck full of food, warm clothing and other necessities for families throughout Sydney experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

The school community did a wonderful job fundraising for Caritas Australia Project Compassion through generous donations, the staff bake sale and our very own 'Caritas Cup' where each House group competed against one another in a Basketball competition. Not only were we able to raise sufficient funds, but also increased our school and house spirit. The Project Compassion initiative supports vulnerable communities globally with its mission of alleviating poverty, promoting sustainable development and offering vital humanitarian support in disadvantaged communities worldwide. This initiative embodies the spirit of compassion, promoting positive long-term change and a more equitable future.

Students in Year 12, the Rehayem brothers (George and Alexander) and a few dedicated teachers, were involved in the World's Greatest Shave to raise awareness and funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. In solidarity, they displayed their courage and shaved their hair, successfully raising over \$50,000! Year 12 were also involved in Movember and as the face of the campaign, the boys raised awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health. They sought to initiate conversations and foster open dialogue surrounding health and overall wellbeing.

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Our Peru Immersion continued this year with our Beyond Borders group holding a Virtual Immersion with Br Stephen Casey. There have been many initiatives to help fundraise and support the 'Build a House' Program. Events like Peru Day aimed to shed light on the hardships faced by homeless communities and raise awareness for the marginalised in Lima, Peru. We were able to stay in touch via zoom and students had the opportunity to learn about the rich tapestry of Peru's history and culture, and the missions of the Christian Brothers in Latin America. Virtually, seeing the program live from the hills of Lima we were able to meet the family who we were building a house for. During this virtual immersion, Br Stephen took us on a tour of the new home and provided insights into the process of materials needed and labour sourced in order to allow this project to be successful. We received daily building updates and also met some Peruvian neighbours and students from the Fe y Alegria School. We are proud to keep this long-standing relationship with Peru and be there in spirit. Thank you to all the students and families who were involved, and we cannot wait to be able to attend Peru again in person and to reignite the connectedness with our global partnerships and initiatives.

The Act for Peace School Ration Challenge advocates for raising awareness towards refugees and those displaced around the world in countries like Syria, Burma and Myanmar to receive ration packages. The funds we raised from this initiative contributes towards the resources for packing and distributing ration packs globally to those who need it most, emergency health care and life changing support. Our school set a goal of \$1,800, which was blown away by our participants and their sponsors. In total, we raised \$5,211.

To close out the school year on a meaningful note, we came together as a school community to host a food drive supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Our involvement in this initiative serves as a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas—one rooted in kindness, empathy, and the power of giving. By donating food and essential items, we aim to make the holiday season a little brighter for those who are facing challenges. Together, we can bring hope and joy to families in need, showing that even small acts of generosity can make a big difference.

"Have courage, the good seed will grow up in the children's hearts in its own time.

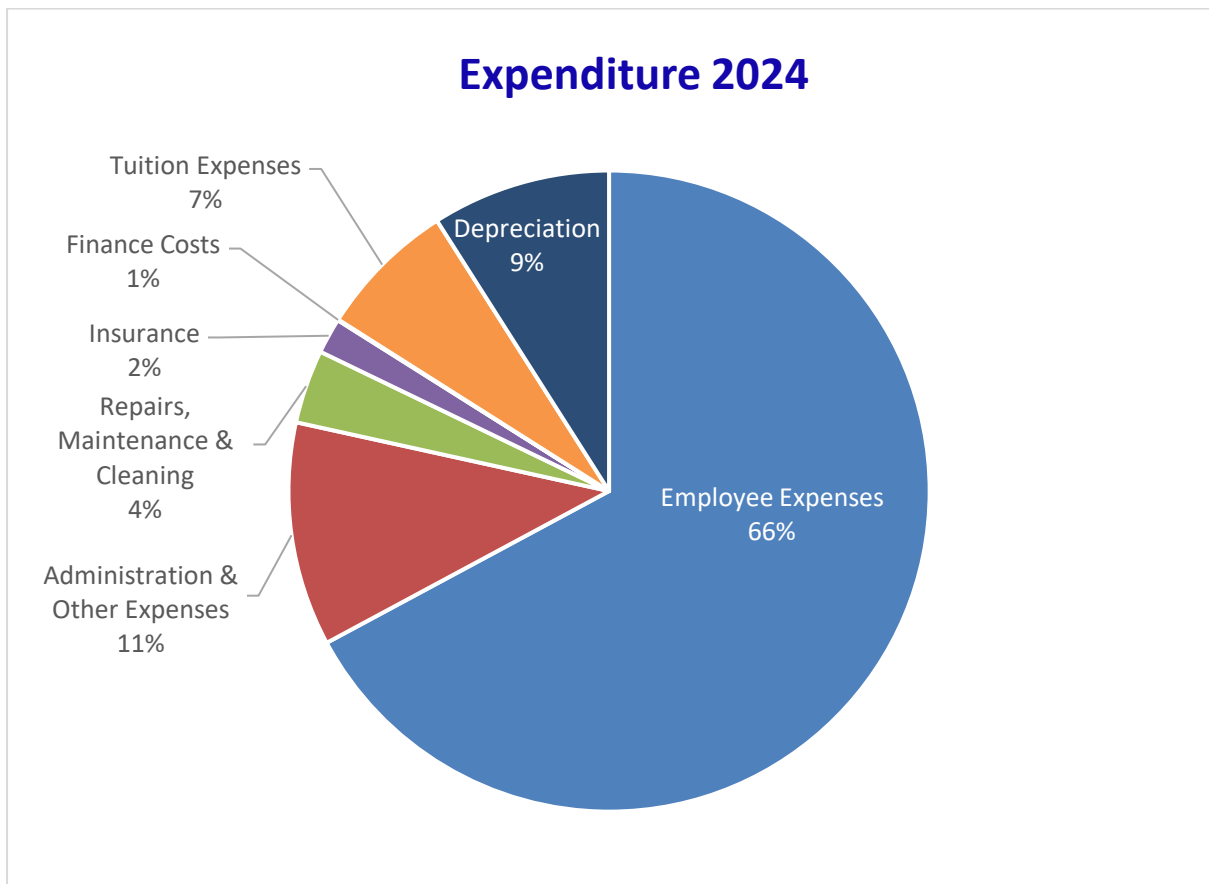
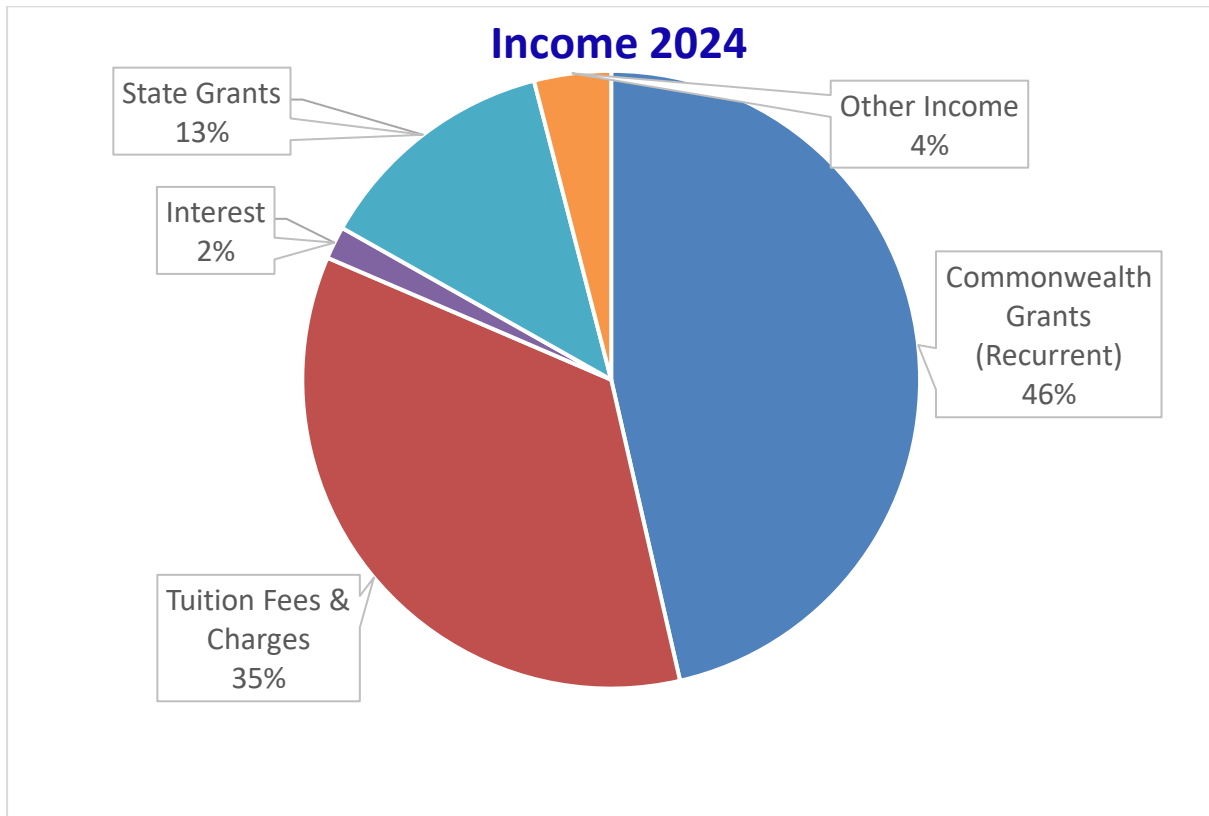
Give to the poor in handfuls."

- Edmund Rice

Miss Claudia Natalini
Justice and Peace Coordinator

2024 Annual Report to the Community

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION





Christian Brothers Lewisham

68 The Boulevarde, Lewisham NSW 2049

Tel +61 2 8585 1744 **Fax** +61 2 8585 1787

Email office@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au

Web cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au