

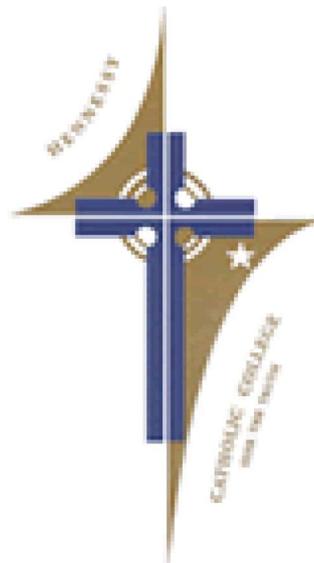


Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

# HENNESSY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Young, NSW

## 2010 School Report to the Community



## Welcome to our School

Welcome to Hennessy Catholic College!

2010 has been a year of celebration and coming of age for the College. This year we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> year as a Year 7 to 12 secondary school. Hennessy has gone from a school of about 199 students to approximately 470 students. We have cemented our place as a regional College providing a quality education.

Regional diversity is a core value that we are proud of. The election of our senior leadership team highlighted this, with representatives coming not only from Young, but also from the surrounding smaller towns.

The College has continued to provide a strong academic program, while at the same time providing vocational opportunities for students intending to move directly into the workforce after leaving school. A combination of both of these educational aspects has seen increased parent confidence in the quality of the educational product the College provides. Families have made the decision that their children continue their whole high school education with us and so fewer students are leaving the region to do their schooling elsewhere.

Our students continue to gain a high percentage of places for early entry to university, a testimony to the quality of education provided by the teachers of our senior classes. The numerous apprenticeships received by our students point to the strength of our VET courses and the confidence employers have in offering our students apprenticeships and traineeships.

Literacy and numeracy continues to be a key focus for the College. All Key Learning Areas are now implementing literacy and numeracy into lessons and assessment tasks wherever possible.

Co-curricular opportunities have continued to be an essential part of our identity. Participation in school carnivals has continued to be strong and build positive relationships. Many students have excelled in sporting and cultural pursuits. Being able to represent the College has become an immense source of pride for students. We go forward with great confidence into our second decade as a full regional secondary College.

## Highlights of the Year

Once again we have had another wonderful year at Hennessy. Some of our highlights include:

- Hennessy 10 Year celebration Mass;
- Gifted and Talented initiatives such as the Da Vinci Decathlon;
- Year 12 Sydney Trip, Graduation Mass and Year 12 Dinner and Awards Night;
- Engineering Challenge Day, Deadly Australians Science Show, etc.;
- Archdiocesan Social Justice workshops day;
- Variety Night performances;
- Year 7 Retreat and Orientation Day;
- Student welfare presentations given on cyberbullying, drugs and safe partying;
- PASS excursion for Year 9/10 students;
- Hennessy 10 Year celebration morning tea provided free to all students;
- Participation in ANZAC Day marches in local towns;
- Year 11 trip to the snow;
- Sports House Trivia Quiz;
- Hennessy Day mini fete;
- Year group retreats;
- House Spelling Bee literacy competition;
- Year 8 three day camp to the south coast; and
- Students catering for local community events.

We are very proud of all that we have been able to achieve this year. Some notable examples are:

- Girl Power Day workshops run by senior students for regional primary schools students;
- Japan tour and school immersion experience;
- Implementation of STELR Science program;
- School Leaders Leadership Conference;
- Girls Tennis Team receiving Young Sports Council most outstanding award for June;
- Inaugural Hennessy Art Show;
- Improved placing in CAMS Go-Kart challenge;
- Sporting successes in a range of team and individual sports at the Archdiocesan and NSWCCC levels;
- ICT technologies installed in most classrooms;
- Curriculum Differentiation workshops for staff;
- Lions Youth of the Year district winner;
- Cricket success in the Berg Shield & Downie Shield and outstanding success in Cross Country including All Schools representation;
- Student selected for the UNSW Rural Schools Medicine Week.

## Principal's Report

It has been a very significant year for us all at Hennessy Catholic College. This year we have enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate in so many ways our 10th birthday since expanding to become a Year 7 to 12 secondary school in 2000. We are now well placed to meet the current needs of education today.

To highlight the significance of the year we took as our theme the passage from Mark's gospel, "Seeds grown in good soil yield a rich harvest; thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold." Numerous events this year in the College have seen this lived out and highlighted the truth of just how much can be achieved if the right kind of environment is nurtured.

Our inaugural Hennessy Art Show gave us the chance to showcase the artistic and musical talents of our students from across the school. Our staff Spirituality Day and student values session on Hennessy Day were particularly important as they gave us wonderful opportunities to reflect and confirm those values we hold as most important in our community.

In encouraging our students to 'live spiritually' and connect with their faith, retreats were once again provided with a variety of experiences. These ranged from the school convened "I'm Special, Your Special" retreat for Year 7 to empowering guest presenters like Chris Doyle for Year 11 and the Catholic Youth Ministry Team for other year groups.

Hennessy Day was particularly significant this year with a full day of activities to commemorate our 10th year. Our special Year 10 liturgy and morning tea, the wonderful Year 12 Graduation ceremonies and our 10 Year Anniversary Mass were particular highlights.

Student achievements in individual and team sports, success in academic competitions, gaining apprenticeships, success in achieving early entry to university, being able to attend camps, being provided with study support after school and a myriad of exciting learning opportunities in school have only been possible due to our professional and dedicated school staff.

It has been a great year to celebrate who we are and step forward in confidence into our next decade of quality education.

## Student Achievement

The following tables show the school's results in the national testing of literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2010.

### School and National Mean Scale Scores

<b>YEAR 7</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	546.0	533.4	544.6	535.1	547.7
<b>School</b>	553.9	532.7	547.0	531.9	557.0

<b>YEAR 9</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	573.6	567.7	578.4	578.8	584.9
<b>School</b>	590.5	570.1	578.4	589.1	593.2

The above tables show pleasing results, with all our Year 9 results above the National Mean scores. Year 9 Reading is 16.8 points above the National Mean. Year 9 Writing and Spelling are very close to the Mean. Year 7 results indicate particular strength in Numeracy. Year 7 Writing and Grammar & Punctuation are presented as focus areas for the College.

### Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

<b>YEAR 7</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	94.8%	92.6%	92.9%	91.5%	95.0%
<b>School</b>	97%	97%	95%	91%	100%

<b>YEAR 9</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	90.7%	87.2%	89.6%	90.8%	93.1%
<b>School</b>	98%	99%	93%	98%	97%

The above tables show that the majority of our students are at or above the National Minimum standard. It is pleasing to see that all Year 7 students are above the Numeracy standard. With the exception of Grammar & Punctuation in Year 7, there are a slightly higher proportion of students at Hennessy meeting the current minimum standard compared nationally. As a College we will continue to focus on growth continuing on from Year 7.

**Proportion of students in each Achievement Band**

<b>YEAR 7</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>Band 9</b>	9%	4%	10%	5%	8%
<b>Band 8</b>	19%	18%	22%	11%	19%
<b>Band 7</b>	38%	32%	27%	38%	45%
<b>Band 6</b>	28%	33%	25%	29%	24%
<b>Band 5</b>	4%	11%	11%	8%	4%
<b>Band 4</b>	3%	3%	5%	9%	0%

<b>YEAR 9</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>Band 10</b>	2%	2%	4%	9%	8%
<b>Band 9</b>	22%	8%	11%	20%	15%
<b>Band 8</b>	30%	38%	43%	22%	34%
<b>Band 7</b>	30%	27%	19%	30%	29%
<b>Band 6</b>	13%	24%	16%	17%	11%
<b>Band 5</b>	2%	1%	7%	2%	3%

The above tables show pleasing results, with all areas for Years 7 and 9 adding up to over 50% of students being located in the top three bands. Writing in Year 9 is the exception, at just under 50%. Our Numeracy results in Year 7 are particularly strong, with 72% of students in the top three bands.

The very small number of students in the bottom band of all areas in Year 9 is excellent and strategies we have implemented have been effective. We note that this has resulted in an increased percentage of our Year 9 students in the second lowest band. Future efforts will be aimed at trying to assist these students to continue to improve so they can move up another band.

## Student Wellbeing and Engagement

### Pastoral Care Program

Hennessy welcomes a diverse range of students to a safe environment. Although not perfect, we continue to respond to the pastoral needs of everyone in our school community.

During this year we have taken significant action in the recognition and seeking of support for students' mental health. Welfare Co-ordinators have undertaken targeted in-service. Policies and procedures are being reviewed to better identify and respond to students at risk. The number of part-time hours for counselling services at the College was increased this year. All staff will undergo further in-service in 2011.

The importance of safe relationships and partying were also promoted through presentations by the police liaison officer and at the P&F information evening. The importance of setting goals was promoted through a multimedia presentation titled "True North". Our Hennessy Day celebration of 10 years also promoted these concepts through a day of celebration while setting goals for the future.

### Enrolment Profile:

Total number of students: 458

Female: 222      Male: 236

### Distribution by gender in 2010:

Yr 7:	Female	47.5%	Male	52.5%
Yr 8:	Female	44.8%	Male	55.2%
Yr 9:	Female	51%	Male	49%
Yr 10:	Female	44.3%	Male	55.7%
Yr 11:	Female	49.1%	Male	50.9%
Yr 12:	Female	51.7%	Male	48.3%

### Multicultural Aspect:

We have a small percentage of our students within our College who come from a more multicultural background. This encompasses students from New Zealand, Namibia, the Philippines and from within our own indigenous population.

### Religious aspect:

The school embodies the ethos of the Catholic faith, but we welcome everyone to be part of our community. We have a Catholic population of 73.1%, Anglican 15.5%, as well as other Christian denominations and some students of other faiths.

### Socio-economic Aspect:

Although Hennessy is a rural school, students come from a broad range of socio-economic and family situations. Although welcome rain has improved the drought situation, the benefits of this change is still to be realised economically for many of our families.

### Behaviour:

At Hennessy we continue to develop and improve techniques to assist students to develop more positive behaviours with various levels of response implemented to deal with negative student behaviours.

The "Rock and Water" program has been implemented into Year 7 Sport this year. Positive achievements of students are recognised through merit certificates, mention in the College newsletter, phone calls/letters to parents, assemblies and recognition in the local media.

Our Pastoral Care and Discipline policies for dealing with matters concerning student's behaviour are available on request from our College office.

## Priorities and Targets

During 2010 all Key Learning Areas have reflected on literacy and numeracy relevant to their subjects. It is pleasing to note that staff recognised the responsibility for literacy is across all subject areas rather than being limited to English and Mathematics. Marking criteria in a variety of subjects reflect numeracy and literacy skills.

Priorities for 2010 have included continuing literacy and numeracy focuses and school based professional development in spelling. Staff are working towards developing their own teaching practices with regard to spelling and are keen to promote spelling within their lessons.

To further enhance learning for all students, curriculum differentiation has been embraced at Hennessy through a variety of professional development days and follow-up staff programming tasks. The major professional development day was facilitated by Ruth Phillips from GERRIC at the University of New South Wales.

A key target for 2010 has been the implementation of a new reporting program to parents. This program is web-based and allows teachers to more explicitly report to parents on student strengths and areas for improvement. We have been very pleased with this program and have had very positive feedback from parents about this program being more parent friendly and informative.

Information and Communication Technologies have been further developed in 2010 at Hennessy. All teachers have incorporated ICT into at least some of aspect their teaching. One particular aspect has been the introduction of a software program called SuccessMaker to monitor and improve literacy and numeracy in a focused manner for students in Years 7 and 8.

## Literacy and Numeracy

At Hennessy our Literacy and Numeracy Plan for 2010 has included the following aspects:

- whole school professional development to develop staff confidence and competence in improving spelling for all students,
- initiation of an ICT based program for literacy and numeracy (SuccessMaker) for all Year 7 and 8 students and a smaller group of Years 9 and 10 students, to meet the individual needs of each student and to more accurately diagnose their individual strengths and weaknesses,
- further enhancement of writing skills in a variety of text types by the availability of a desktop delivered 'Text Types' support program for all students that can be accessed and used at both home and at school,
- continued focus on literacy and numeracy in all subject areas via explicit assessment tasks and marking criteria,
- the inclusion of NAPLAN teaching strategies for all areas for development in literacy and numeracy in relevant teaching programs.

## School Contact Information

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