



2013

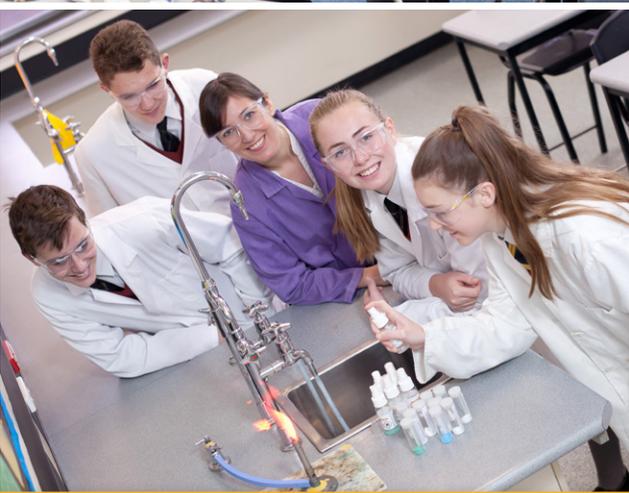
2013

Cabra Dominican College
Performance Report

CABRA
DOMINICAN COLLEGE



VERITAS





Cabra Dominican College 2013 Performance Report

School Context

Cabra Dominican College is a Catholic, coeducational college educating approximately 1125 students from Year 6 to Year 12. With students coming from throughout metropolitan Adelaide, Cabra draws its students from diverse backgrounds and circumstances, including four indigenous students. The College has an SES of 107 and an ICSEA value of 1065. Cabra also hosted twenty two international students in 2013 with the majority coming from Japan to further their education and enhance their English skills in particular. In 2013 Cabra continued to experience strong demand for enrolments in Year 6 and Year 8, with many students also seeking enrolment in other year levels.

Cabra Dominican College Community Overview

Total Students	1126
Total Families	826
Total Teachers	90 (83.5 FTE)
Total Support Staff	51 (36.2 FTE)

*The information provided in the table is taken from the My School Website.

In 2013 we recommitted ourselves to the mission of the College by working together to implement various aspects of our strategic plan. Consequently, we have enjoyed seeing many developments begin to take shape across all domains of our operations as a Catholic school.

The successful implementation of the Australian Curriculum was a major focus for our teachers with many hundreds of hours spent redesigning courses and developing new ones to ensure that Cabra students are provided with the best opportunity to take advantage of this national initiative. In addition to the investment by governments it was the creativity, skill and ongoing commitment of teachers that brought the new curriculum to life and gave it meaning for our young people in 2013. During the year many of our teachers were at the forefront of innovation through their participation in iPad trials in Year 7, an extension of our inclusion program for students with disabilities in Year 6, the development of common Individualised Education Plans and ongoing work with their professional associations.

With our focus on nurturing the unique gifts of each Cabra student we are proud of our commitment to and success in educating young people with a diverse range of educational needs.

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This approach is most easily recognised in the work of our Learning Support Centre that provided specialised assistance to approximately fifty students with diagnosed learning difficulties in 2013. Furthermore, we believe that our efforts to adapt the curriculum for these students, enables us to personalize the learning experiences for all, thus enabling them to develop their many unique gifts. This is especially true for those students who enjoy extraordinary gifts across many different areas including mainstream and extracurricular activities that underpin Cabra's Gifted and Talented programme.

Cabra Dominican College also hosts a specialist educational facility, the St Mary's Unit, which caters specifically for the learning needs of approximately twenty students with a diagnosed intellectual disability. With highly individualised programmes for its students, the St Mary's Unit has continually set the standard for excellence in this important and specialised field of education. At the same time the inclusion of St Mary's Unit students in many mainstream activities and classes reinforces a culture of respect for everyone and a strong sense that Cabra is a place where all students can feel safe to be themselves.

In 2013 Cabra students continued to pursue a wide variety of extracurricular activities within and outside the college. With approximately two hundred students involved in the Music programmes and ninety five different teams competing in a variety of sports, along with debating, mock trial, Science and Engineering Challenge, Tournament of the Minds and social justice programmes the College provided for a diverse range of student interests and abilities in 2013. Our college website and regular newsletters provide a window into the richness of our daily experiences and the various dimensions of our efforts to nurture the unique gifts and talents of each young person at Cabra.

Cabra Dominican College provides the following information under the requirements of the Federal Schools Assistance Act 2008 and associated regulations. Since the introduction of this type of reporting for schools the Federal Government has introduced the My School website which also contains valuable information about all schools including Cabra Dominican College.

Parents and Community

Our work with young people at Cabra is only possible in partnership with parents and friends of Cabra and the Dominican community. As we celebrate the achievements of our students in our 2013 College Performance Report I extend to those groups our sincere appreciation for their ongoing support for our work at Cabra in 2013. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our College Council and the Board of Directors for their wisdom and encouragement in 2013. Through their discussion and discernment they ensured that we remained faithful to our Vision and heritage as we continue our efforts to provide current and future students with a truly Dominican education.

In various forums in 2013, (parent-teacher nights, sporting events, parent committees, direct emails and conversations) parents commented on their high level of satisfaction regarding recent developments at Cabra. Ninety five per cent of the 2013 Year 12 families, surveyed after their children had graduated, commented that their experiences at Cabra were very positive.

The most significant feedback received from families related to proposed changes to the Daily Structure of our Timetable. With over two hundred families responding to an online survey about the proposal we were better able to support families through the design of our new structures while incorporating the new elements of the Australian Curriculum in our programs. Similarly, the increased levels of student participation in Community Living Week and our camps in particular reflected the strong student response to our ongoing efforts to tailor our programs to their needs and interests.

Throughout 2013 Cabra continued to experience strong demand for enrolments through to 2015 indicating high levels of satisfaction in the broader community for the programmes and opportunities offered at the College.

Our work at Cabra Dominican is supported by a large network of Old Scholars of all generations who generously support our work with the current generation of students. In 2013 Old Scholars were well-represented in the following College activities.

Coaching sporting teams

Membership of Board and Council

Contribution to various fundraising activities including support for Cabra Sudan – a school started by Old Scholar Deng Chour

In 2013 Cabra partnered with a group of Old Scholars in hosting a special fundraising event, 'The long and the short of it,' in support of the Mary Potter Foundation. The initiative raised \$24,000 and was sufficient to purchase a scalp cooling unit for Ashford Hospital and reminded us that Cabra students really are capable of helping to build a better world.

Professional Engagement

Staff Attendance

Teaching Staff attendance for the 2013 school year was 96% and the types of leave taken included sick leave, carer's leave, bereavement and special leave. The high level of attendance by staff is testament to their ongoing commitment to the mission of the College and the education of our young people.

Staff Retention

In Term 1 (2013) two new teachers joined our staff and 98 % of our teachers continued from the previous year. As usual we were delighted to welcome new staff members who brought new ideas and skills to complement the expertise and commitment of our existing staff members.



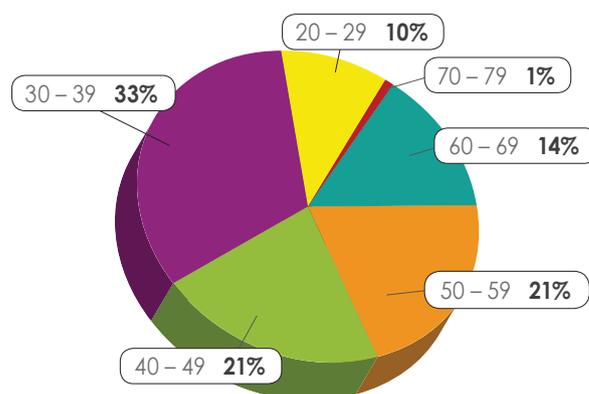
Teacher Qualification

The teachers at Cabra are highly qualified and many people are continuing to undertake on-going and further study. Many staff members also hold multiple qualifications. In 2013 staff held the following qualifications: Bachelor's Degrees (83), Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas (54), Graduate Certificate (46), Masters Degrees (12) and Doctorate (2).

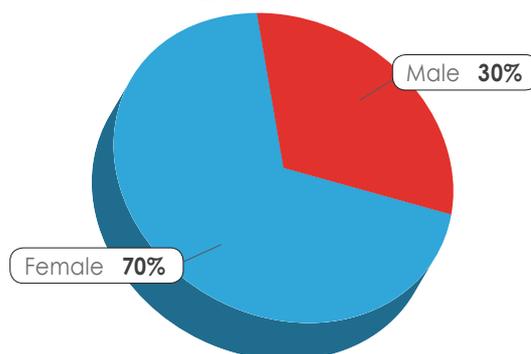
Proportion of Teachers with a University Degree (94% of Total Teachers)

Proportion of Teachers with an Advanced Diploma of Teaching (6% of Total Teachers)

Age Profile of Cabra Teachers – 2013



Cabra Teachers – 2013



Staff Professional Development remained an important priority in 2013 with all members of the teaching staff engaged in a variety of activities throughout the year. In 2013 teachers participated in a number of whole-staff in-service days in addition to many short courses and workshops relevant to their specific areas of teaching. Teachers also undertook additional hours of personal professional development outside of programmed school hours including a number of staff studying for Masters Degrees.

Staff Satisfaction and Feedback

Tapping into the wisdom and insights of our teachers and support staff helps us to maintain a supportive professional climate that promotes innovation and excellence. Providing staff with structured forums to discuss issues relating to their work such as the Staff Consultative Forum also helps us to provide for a healthy work environment and higher levels of professional satisfaction. While obtaining feedback took various forms in 2013, of particular note our review of the existing Timetable and Daily Structure. In an anonymous, online survey staff supported trialing a new structure better suited to our needs.

Our annual appraisal process for all teachers and teaching intentions survey both provide the college with ongoing feedback about teacher satisfaction with all aspects of the college including the professional opportunities available to each member of staff. The data gathered from both processes facilitates ongoing development of all Cabra staff and the educational programs we offer thus promoting continuous improvement in teaching and support for families. In 2013 we were grateful for the professionalism of our staff and their ongoing commitment to evaluating and refining teaching and learning at Cabra.

School Income

The following breakdown of income for Cabra Dominican College is derived from the 2013 Audited Financial Report. Further information relating to the income received by Cabra Dominican College is available on the My School website.

Tuition Fees	\$6,942,406
Other fees, charges and income	\$2,062,878
Government Grants	\$8,563,459



Key Student Outcomes

Student Attendance

Student Attendance	
Year 12	93%
Year 11	94%
Year 10	93%
Year 9	93%
Year 8	92%
Year 7	93%
Year 6	95%

Average attendance for the College 93.3%

Student attendance is monitored daily with parents receiving a SMS message if their child is absent from the college. Additionally, attendance is recorded on each child's academic reports. Our staff members also work closely with parents to ensure that all students maintain a high level of attendance. Where a student is absent for a prolonged period of time our staff also make arrangements for the student's learning to continue despite the circumstances preventing them from attending school.

Student Retention

In 2013 Cabra retained 95% of the students enrolled at the end of 2012 (less the 2012 graduating class). We were also fortunate to offer the majority of the vacancies to new families seeking to educate their children at Cabra Dominican College.

2013 SACE Results – Summary

The Year 12 results in 2013 were very pleasing and reflected very high levels of commitment to study by our senior cohort including approximately four percent of our graduates who undertook a VET course during their final year. The general trend of improved academic results continued in 2013 with Cabra students performing very well across all subject areas. While the following summary provides an overview of the ATAR scores there were many stories of individual excellence and achievement not captured by these figures. However, the statistics relating to student pathways shows that the vast majority of Cabra students made a successful transition into life beyond school in 2014.

Attainment of SACE

Ninety eight percent of Cabra's 2013 graduates obtained the SACE with one student enrolled in our Year 13 Programme for 2014.

The following snapshot of student achievement measured by the ATAR, reflects the ongoing improvement in our academic programmes at Cabra.

- 15.1% of students achieved an ATAR greater than 90.0
- 34.4% of students achieved an ATAR greater than 80.0
- 57.1% of students achieved an ATAR greater than 70.0
- 88.3% of students achieved an ATAR greater than 50.0

Student Pathways - Post Year 12 (2013)

- Of the one hundred and twenty six 2013 graduates surveyed early in 2014
- 70% of students are attending university
- 13 % of students are attending TAFE
- 17% of students are having a 'gap year'

NAPLAN Results Summary

Each year the NAPLAN test results provide teachers with a powerful diagnostic tool that allows them to refine their programs in order that they may better meet the needs of individual students. With this in mind we do not spend time practising for these tests because to do so can limit the usefulness of the diagnostic information received. It is also worth noting that comparisons of 'like schools' on the My School website do not consider the differences between schools that only accept students on the basis of academic ability compared to schools like Cabra that educate young people with a broader range of gifts and abilities. The following information along with other comparisons is also available on the My School website.

Year 7 2013

Component	% Students At/Above National Standard*
Reading	100%
Persuasive Writing	97%
Spelling	99%
Grammar and Punctuation	96%
Numeracy	98%

Year 9 2013

Component	% Students At/Above National Standard*
Reading	98%
Persuasive Writing	95%
Spelling	98%
Grammar and Punctuation	94%
Numeracy	97%

Finally, while the information supplied in this report only captures a tiny sample of the many wonderful experiences and opportunities enjoyed by Cabra students every day, I am delighted to be able to share some of our successes with our families and the broader community. If you would like to know more about our college I encourage you to spend some time accessing the information on our website including the fortnightly newsletters where we celebrate many of our students' achievements and their reflections on their growth into adulthood. Alternatively, you may wish to join one of our Principal's Tours where you can experience firsthand the richness of learning at Cabra Dominican College.

Brian Schumacher

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