



BRIGISTINE
COLLEGE

Shaping women of our time.

College Prospectus





When your daughter attends Brigidine College

she joins a community that has educated and inspired young women to believe in themselves, to dream big, to act justly, to pursue challenging and just causes, and to live a full life – to be a woman of our time.

Brendan Cahill, College Principal



Shaping women of our time.



Lighting the way

Welcome to Brigidine College, a school where we are dedicated to developing young women through education, experience, faith and service to be women of our time.

Located at Indooroopilly, only 8 kilometres from Brisbane's CBD and close to public transport, Brigidine College is Queensland's only Brigidine school, offering a Catholic all girls school secondary education for approximately 800 students in Years 7 to 12.

As educators and parents, we understand what you most want for your daughter: to be happy, to be independent, to be thoughtful of others and reliable, and to have a meaningful life.

At Brigidine College every staff member is committed to the holistic education of girls. The College is non-selective, educating girls of all abilities and backgrounds to enable them to develop and walk their own path. We recognise that life is more than a report card. Even so, our girls attain exceptional results.

Through academic, spiritual, sporting and cultural opportunities our girls flourish learning how to participate, be brave and lead in a myriad of endeavours.

Our girls are inspired to value learning, to be true to themselves and to exhibit the teachings of Christ and the Catholic faith. They are challenged to create a more just world and to live in Strength and Gentleness, our motto.

Brigidine College was established in 1929 and is a Kildare Ministries school in the Brigidine tradition. From our Celtic origins, the St Brigid's Lamp of Learning is the sign of the light of Christ and the light of learning igniting the sense of hope and purpose that education brings.

We continue to honour our heritage while forging ahead with exciting plans for our future and for the girls who will have a home with us.

Let us welcome you to Brigidine.

Brendan Cahill
College Principal







Compass for life

The choice of school for your daughter is the compass you give her for life. At Brigidine our young women live the Brigidine Sisters' motto - Strength and Gentleness. It serves them well for life.



True to girls

At Brigidine College, we believe that girls have greater opportunities and perform better in an all girls school environment.

At our College we focus on providing the right environment for a positive, vibrant and caring culture, where the right experiences provide girls the opportunities to discover themselves and their world. The right teaching and learning framework for strong academic results allows her to shape whatever future she wants.

Why send your daughter to an all girls school?

Academically, research shows that in an all girls school, girls are more likely to study – and do better in – science, technology and maths – and more likely to pursue university studies and careers in STEM fields.

Physically, girls at single sex schools are also more likely to do sports and benefit from the health and mental benefits that ensue.

Socially, strong positive relationships provide an ever-changing world with opportunities to flourish.

Experience, opportunities to try harder, take risks, become self confident, self reliant, courageous and resilient.

Why Brigidine?

Teaching

Through the Brigidine College Learning Framework, teachers and students develop skills - collaboration, effective communication, reflective and flexible thinking and behaviors, and independence - necessary for the 21st Century.

Leadership & Role Models

Leadership opportunities begin in Year 9 and earlier, for those who want to be part of College Committees and leadership groups in the Senior school.

Unparalleled Opportunities

From sport offerings to interschool competitions, immersion programs, work experience, excellence programs, VET pathways and tertiary educational engagement, our students have unparalleled opportunities to develop across all areas of their life and to gain a true appreciation of life beyond school.

Social justice

Applied social justice is one of the hallmarks of Brigidine College. Each month girls take on projects to raise awareness and provide practical assistance to charities and causes that they believe in and are passionate about. Our girls understand humanity and the responsibility that goes with being able to help the most vulnerable. More importantly, they get to experience the rewarding and far-reaching impacts of assisting others. In this way our girls grow into compassionate, confident women, aware of and capable of making a difference in the world.







Enduring Values

At Brigidine we draw on a deep history of purpose to develop and celebrate women's ability to make the world a better place through their vision and courage, *Strength and Gentleness*

(*Fortiter et Suaviter*).

Our College has a long and proud Irish heritage. The Irish Bishop, Daniel Delany, became convinced that the best way forward was to provide an education to the people of Ireland. On 1 February, 1807, he founded the Congregation of St Brigid at Tullow, the centre of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, in south-east Ireland.

St Brigid links the congregation to the spiritual heritage of St Brigid, Patroness of Ireland, and to the ancient Order of St Brigid of Kildare.

From the beginning, Brigid's ministry was associated with deeds of hospitality and compassion and, down through the centuries, St Brigid has become a figure of wisdom to the Irish people.

Our College, founded by the Brigidine Sisters in 1929, seeks to further this Brigidine tradition and ethos by modelling the charism of St Brigid, through the motto: *Strength and Gentleness*.

Core Values

In living our vision, our staff and our students will:

- Be faithful to our Catholic heritage
- Welcome all people, especially the most vulnerable
- Celebrate all that is good with joy and gratitude
- Engender a love of learning, hope and a sense of purpose
- Model and practise justice and service



High Achievers

What do you get when you blend
the calibre of our staff, the offerings
of our school and the unique
talents of each student?





Foundations laid

A woman who will know
her calling, have an
engaging career, and a
rewarding life, while
helping those more
vulnerable than herself.

At Brigidine we lay
the foundations for
excellence and our young
women do the rest.

Learning Skills

Brigidine follows a Learning Framework to develop each students' ability in five key areas that will enhance their learning of any subject and approach to any endeavour. These 21st Century skills include:

- Self Reflection
- Collaboration
- Effective Communication
- Independence
- Flexibility and Adaptability

Impressive Results

The Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN results are consistently 96-100% above national standard, an indication of our students' engagement with teachers and their studies.

Every year, over 97% of Year 12 OP eligible graduates are offered their first or second preference for tertiary placements. With effective study skills, weekly Optima lessons and focused individual learning plans, Brigidine students are ready to succeed in all forms of assessment as part of the QCE/ATAR programs. Additionally, our Year 12s also gain VET qualifications to enrich learning (65% in 2017).

Exceptional teachers

Teachers at Brigidine are highly trained in their specialist areas, passionate about their work and genuinely care about their students. They are guided by the philosophy of 'inspiring young women to be the difference' and are conscious of role-modelling. This is illustrated in the way they are lifelong learners. All of our teachers regularly undertake professional development and over 70% of our staff have post graduate qualifications, be that Diplomas, Masters or Doctorates. Our Sports/Arts coaches and coordinators are all exceptional practitioners in their fields of work.

Importantly our teachers retention rate is 97%, ensuring great stability for our girls and signifying how engaged our teachers are with their work, each other, the students and the school as a whole.

Tailored Schooling

The College has a specialised Middle School (Years 7 – 9) with stimulating and contemporary facilities, specifically designed for young adolescent girls to cater for their developmental needs.

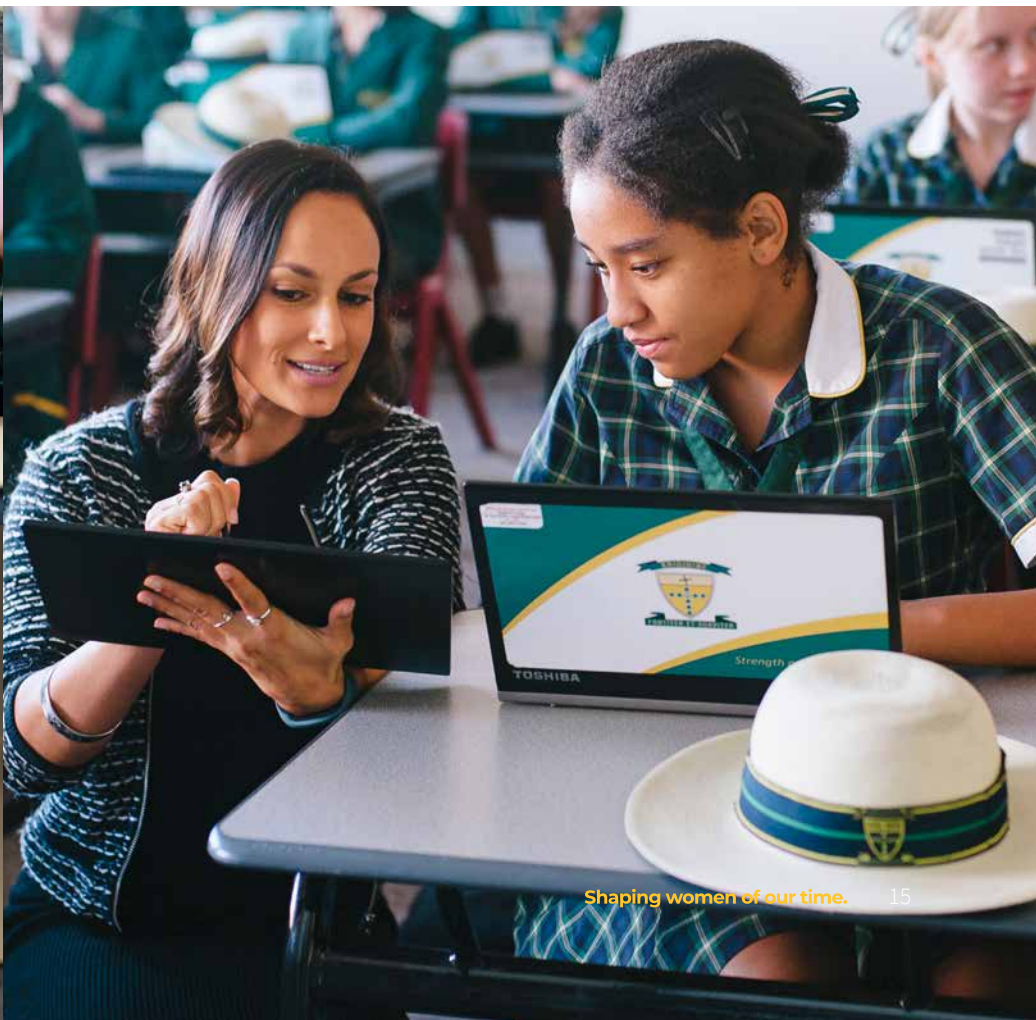
Our Senior School curriculum (Years 10 – 12) is enriching and challenging as it equips students with the knowledge, understandings, skills and abilities to be successful in their chosen pathway — both in the short and long term.

In addition to diverse academic offerings, Brigidine also provides highly practical educational pathway options (ATAR, VET, SAT) for our young women keen to be more hands on in their learning.

Authentic Careers

Our graduates have gone on to excel in their chosen fields, while keeping alive their passion and commitment to social justice. From lawyers advancing criminal justice and human rights, to nurses doing volunteer work in Cambodia, to doctors fighting disease outbreaks in Africa and jewellery designers developing sustainable supply chains - we are proud of their success and how they strive for a better life for others.

As global citizens actively doing good in the world, Brigidine College shapes girls into unstoppable women of our time.







Fabulous Facilities

Brigidine combines the grandeur of historic Queensland architecture with new, well-designed, purpose-built structures in a calm green setting to create one of the most eclectic and inspiring places to study in Brisbane.



The right environment

Within Brigidine's compact urban footprint are modern facilities that enable our young women to further their academic interests, develop their fitness and sporting prowess and advance their creative, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.

We also use some of the best facilities in Brisbane to extend our offerings, while minimising maintenance and fee overheads.

All buildings are fully wi-fi enabled, ensuring students can work from any location, at any time, with all students receiving a laptop computer as part of their tuition fees. Wireless presentation tools also allow teachers and students to seamlessly mirror any screen, from any device, enhancing collaboration and learning.

The Tullow Resource Centre is a welcoming space, developing literacy skills, inquiry-based learning and supporting classroom teachers to integrate digital technology in their teaching.

Our modern library is extensive and cosmopolitan with lounges and breakout areas for all to enjoy, while our team of librarians are known for their helpfulness and responsiveness to student's reading and research requests.

For creative pursuits, there is The Brigid Centre, a spectacular, state-of-the-art facility to learn photography, videography, graphic design, visual arts and drama, with a full dance studio.

The new science, technology, business and mathematics (STEAM) building will give students access to the latest learning apparatus and techniques to challenge their inquiring minds.

Our gymnasium provides a health and wellbeing training platform and our 25 metre pool are used year round for swimming and water polo.

Our chapel regularly hosts Eucharistic celebrations and liturgies throughout the year, that enable students to connect with their faith.

The Curragh Cafe is our healthy tuckshop café and beautiful shaded outdoor green space for students to relax between classes.

Opposite the school are large green ovals that are used for various sports such as hockey, soccer, AFL and PE classes. Brigidine also has access to nearby athletics tartan tracks and rowing sculls on the Brisbane River.

Our students also get to experience magnificent outdoor education facilities across the state, from Mount Tambourine to Maranatha Recreation Camp outside Yandina. These venues provide the perfect setting for our extraordinary special multi day Solas Bhride retreats that start with helping our new Grade 7 girls transition to middle school. We really are a school for the whole girl, bridging the best of Brisbane and the bush.





Outstanding Opportunities

We aim to provide our students with outstanding opportunities, so they flourish into young women who are confident and certain about their direction and purpose in life.

Academic Curriculum

Starting in Year 7, students participate in core subjects and a choice of enrichment options (electives) so they can be exposed to multiple spheres of learning and discovery. Programs of Excellence will be available to students from Year 7. The range of study options progressively increases each year. For students in Years 11 and 12 aiming for university entrance, the College curriculum includes 3 core subjects and over 24 optional subjects including 6 technologies, 6 arts and 3 science subjects.

VET Study options & Apprenticeships

From Year 11, girls may elect VET study options accessing a range of Certificate I to IV and Diploma programs from Brigidine and external RTOs. Brigidine College also supports school-based apprenticeship and traineeship programs (SAT) so students can study school-based subjects while completing structured on-the-job training, resulting in nationally recognised qualifications.

Sport

Our students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports including: AFL, basketball, cross country, equestrian, hockey, indoor cricket, netball, rowing, rugby 7s, soccer & futsal, swimming, tennis, touch football, track & field, volleyball, and water polo. Plus, we have an annual ski-trip to New Zealand.

Cocurricular Activities

A long list of service and cultural options are available to our students. From Justice and Democracy Groups, St Vincent de Paul Society, Interact Club, through to competitions in debating, maths, science, art, history and more. School clubs cater for music, performance and dance groups, as well as science and technology related activities.

Immersion, Outreach and Exchange Programs

Real world appreciation is provided with cultural awareness programs, domestically and abroad, to enhance student experiences. Exchanges are offered with sister schools in Nouméa and Tokyo – highly desirable destinations given all girls learn French or Japanese in Years 7 and 8 with the option to study languages through to Year 12.



Closer to home, students can meet regularly with Swahili girls from Milpera School to bond and teach unique skills and lessons or go on an annual trip to Northern Australia as part of our Red Earth Immersion program. The school has several multicultural, islander and indigenous students, with a National Sorry Day witnessed every May, enhancing our students' appreciation of the diverse and inclusive world we live in. More than 10% of our families speak a language other than English at home.

Business Opportunities

Business opportunities abound through work experience programs that start in Year 10 with over 60 prominent organisations across Brisbane, such as media and theatre companies, health businesses, veterinary practices, retail outlets, law, architectural and engineering firms. They continue with additional work exposure through invitational weekends and internships with companies like Technology One (a national IT, ASX Top 200 company) and the Wesley Hospital.

University Life

Starting in Year 10, students may participate in various extension programs run by Queensland's most outstanding tertiary institutions – UQ, QUT, Griffith, USQ and ACU. These include head start, acceleration, young scholar and extension studies, allowing students in Year 10 to Year 12 to do first year university subjects on top of their Brigidine timetable. Students interested in robotics have the opportunity to participate in STEM and Science workshops like Robogals Asia Pacific.

Conferences & Field Trips

At Brigidine, conferences are not just for adults. For example, our girls can attend the Youth Language Ambassador Conference and present a 10-minute Ted-type talk on building an internationally minded Australia, a Justice and Democracy conference in Melbourne or leadership conferences in Sydney. On top of this, we have multiple field trips for Biology, Geography, The Arts, self-development and more.

Chances are, if it is happening in the real world, our students can be a part of it at Brigidine. This is how we shape women of our time, and why people know that they can depend on a Brigidine girl.



Shaping Women

At Brigidine we don't just leave the holistic development of young women to chance. We provide specific opportunities that enhance their understanding of the world, helping them to ask important questions of themselves and others, to trust their natural instincts, and to form a character and values that will guide them through life.

Faith

- Our curriculum is developed within a framework of values and practices that are consistent with the gospel teachings of Jesus.
- Prayer and worship are a priority within the College timetable. Students actively participate in liturgical experiences and sacraments.
- Religious Education programs are linked to a student's life experiences.
- Indigenous, Hindu, Islamic and Buddhist traditions are also studied, as well as excursions and guest speakers for Study of Religion, so our girls have a broad view of religion and the tenant: Do Unto Others.

Leadership Development

Brigidine College provides many avenues for students to experience and exhibit female leadership. For Senior students, Brigidine has a College Captain, Mission Captain, Arts Captain, Sports Captain and House Prefects. Additionally, there are Captains for various cocurricular disciplines, as well as academic ambassadors.

Our Year 11 Peer Mentors and Year 9 Middle School Leaders are responsible for various activities and functions, including acting as hosts for College events. All students have a voice in their school through the Student groups. They can be a part of various committees in the areas of Liturgy, Justice and Democracy, Spirit, and the Arts.

Wellbeing Programs

Each year, students participate in Solas Bhride (Light of St Brigid) wellbeing and development programs that, perhaps more than anything else, shape who girls become and what they are capable of in the future.

In Year 7, students learn about the importance of belonging, making friends and how to be a good friend. They also cover personal and online safety.

In Year 8, girls learn about grit and how it leads to learning, improving and thriving. They get to explore their character strengths, set goals, understand habits and the vital role failure plays in resilience, challenge and success.



In Year 9, our girls explore self-worth, belonging, their sense of purpose and mental health, and learn strategies around these issues.

In Year 10, they explore their strengths, weaknesses and interests that will contribute to both their future pathways and their own identity. They also address many personal issues and understand the workforce.

In Year 11, the program covers key aspects of time management, planning, pressure and balance that are at the core of a successful adaption to senior learning.

The final year's program is all about shaping women who will make a difference in the world as self-confident, flexible and compassionate adults. It helps them with the challenges of Year 12 and life beyond school and includes personal responsibility, leadership, mindfulness and other valuable life skills.



Caring Community

At Brigidine, young women are cared for and supported by staff and their peers in a number of practical ways and via wellbeing programs that provide for the caring climate that exists in the College.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing reflects the Catholic values of the community where individuals care for and respect one another. It includes a structure where teachers and other professionals are responsible for the emotional and spiritual well-being of individual children and where strong relationships are established between teachers and the students and their families. A key part of this is ensuring students' sense of belonging. This starts from Day 1 in Year 7 and includes weekly wellbeing lessons.

House System

Upon starting at Brigidine, students join one of six Houses that becomes her family at school. Each girl belongs to a Home Room within their House, which is led by a Home Room teacher. They meet with their Home Room for 15 minutes before school and ten minutes at the end of the school day. Home Room is an important time of the day for our girls as they can attend to day-to-day administration and care issues. Each Home Room consists of girls from Years 7-12, so every year level engages and interacts regularly at Brigidine. This builds a connection between staff and students, contributing to the settled and inclusive environment for learning that is characteristic of the College.

Each House has an experienced and caring Pastoral Leader and, the College has a Deputy Principal Pastoral, who all make up the College's Wellbeing team.

Solas Bhride

Solas Bhride (Light of Brigid) is the name of our formal and comprehensive pastoral care program provided at every year level. For each year level, the programs address the specific developmental needs of adolescent girls unique to their age, focusing on four main themes:

- Transition and Belonging
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Empowering Choice
- Social Responsibility

It also includes retreat camps in Years 7, 11 and 12.



Counselling & Chaplain

Brigidine College Counsellors provide a high quality professional counselling service for students, parents and caregivers with concerns regarding student wellbeing, or requiring parenting support. Our dedicated Career Counsellor and Personal Counsellors are based in The Sophia Centre, a welcoming environment for all. They are committed to assisting students to reach their full potential and achieve their goals. There is a College Chaplain to support students (and staff) and to help prepare them for sacraments.

Mentoring

At Brigidine, we recognise the importance of mentoring. In Year 11 and 12, each student has a teacher mentor who meets with them one-on-one at least once a term to help them reflect on their academic progress, their learning and their post school goals. There are also Year 11 Learning mentors, who assist Year 7 and 8 students with study time each week.

The peer mentors are available to all students and are much valued amongst the school community. These students are trained in the skills to listen and help problem solve in a variety of contexts, with further support available from the College Counsellors.

Other Support

At Brigidine, there are other experienced leaders available to assist students who might be wanting further challenge or experiencing some difficulties. These leaders include Curriculum Leaders and a leader responsible for Senior and Middle Years programs. There are many Student Services that include: academic support, extension and enrichment through the College Learning Enhancement Centre (LEC).

The totality of our Wellbeing programs creates strong connections between staff and students and helps students build academic, social and emotional resilience, ensuring they thrive at Brigidine.



Living justly

It is rare for a school to incorporate into its schedule, the time for students to pursue social justice activities that help adolescents discover a stirring sense of purpose beyond their self-interest.

Our students are one with Jesus' kindness and compassion, through initiatives that enable them to live their faith, and serve others. These include:

Justice and Democracy

At weekly forums students get to explore what a just and free world means, reflect on scriptures and experiences and make plans for things that they can do together or as an individual. Beyond high school, past students can continue their connection through the group, Brigid's Women, which helps homeless people in Brisbane and refugees. They can also attend the Brigidine Justice and Democracy Forum in Melbourne annually.

Brigidine College's St Vincent de Paul Committee

meets fortnightly and raises funds to primarily support the Inala St Vincent de Paul Family Day Centre.

Indigenous Education Program

Year 12 students are involved in mentoring and tutoring Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Brigidine students at Homework Club.

Community Service

Year 10 students engage in community service. Some of these placements include Milpera, Holy Rosary, Greening Australia and The Romero Centre.

Homeless Connect

Senior students can participate in Homeless Connect, auspiced by the Brisbane City Council on two dates during the year.

Other justice-related initiatives include

Domestic Violence Awareness Day, Spirit Squad, Sorry Day and a host of donation appeals.

Through all these activities, students find a cause that has meaning to them and they understand the spiritual rewards/engagement that come from volunteering and helping others.

It is one of the aspects of Brigidine that enlivens our spirit and makes our College so special.

Importantly, the students embrace social justice and service activities while still managing to achieve amazing academic results and contribute to school life in other ways.

One of the greatest benefits of this is that our students learn to live well-balanced lives while at school, paving the way for them to live a full and meaningful life beyond school, that is high-performing and giving.

“This generosity of spirit—this caring about others and about the proposition that we are all created equal—is the single most effective antidote to the self-centred moral numbness that allows fascism to thrive.”

Madeleine K. Albright





Our Women

When your daughter attends Brigidine she joins a college that has educated and inspired countless young women to believe in themselves, to dream big, to act justly, to pursue challenging and noble causes, and to live a full life. These are women of our time.

Meet Lyma Nguyen

Lawyer, Advocate, Brigidine Graduate, 1999

Lyma, whose earliest memories stem back to the Indonesian refugee camp in which she was born, has devoted the better part of her working life to human rights.

She has particularly concerned herself with advancing criminal justice domestically and in the international sphere. Most notably she acts on behalf of ethnic Vietnamese Cambodians – as well as foreign nationals from Australia, New Zealand and the United States – who suffered during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Meet Claire Poppi

Jewellery Artist & Metalsmith, Brigidine Graduate, 2003

After receiving first class honours in her Fine Art degree, Claire Poppi established a studio with other jewellers and began her practice in jewellery & metal-smithing, focusing on sustainable design and wearable art. Her ethical use of biodegradable and recycled metals that form her environmentally friendly jewellery line, Small Green Leaf, sits comfortably with the Brigidine charism of environmental stewardship.

Meet Hanh Luu,

Director Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse

Hanh is a director and one of the original founders of Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse. A graduate of the University of Queensland, Hanh has a Bachelor of Pharmacy, is a current representative of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Qld Branch) and sits on the Board of Directors of Brigidine College.

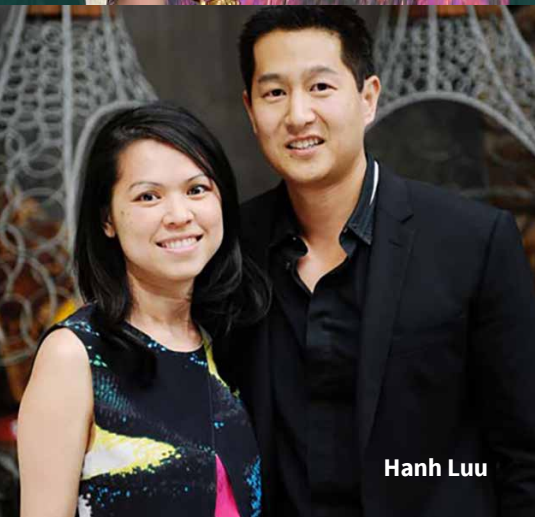
Meet Courtney Fook,

Co-founder Active Eight

Courtney is a determined young woman who co-founded an inspiring business with her husband, based around one simple concept... Inclusion. Her business 'Active Eight' provides young people with disabilities, the opportunity to achieve their full social, emotional and physical potential through dance, drama and several other programs. The business aims to promote the concept of inclusion, so that everyone can participate in activities, regardless of your ability.



Amanda Rojek



Hanh Luu



Meet Dr Amanda Rojek

Doctor, Rhodes Scholar Brigidine Graduate, 2003

Dr Amanda Rojek is a Rhodes Scholar, UQ Valedictorian and humanitarian. She has an interest in global health security and is focused on improving patient outcomes in emerging and epidemic disease outbreaks, having led the RAPIDE trial in Sierra Leone during the West Africa Ebola epidemic.

Amanda has volunteered for Remote Area Medical in Chicago, Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans and been a member of Queensland's State Emergency Service.

Meet Rachel Burke

Designer & Artist, Brigidine Graduate, 2006

Rachel Burke is an Australian-based clothing designer and multi-disciplinary artist, photographer and author. Creating specialty, wearable art pieces Rachel documents her creative journey and daily art practice on her website and Instagram page.

All of her tinsel garment pieces are custom made-to-order using high quality, up-cycled, garment bases and have been worn by celebrities including The Kardashians. Rachel continues to support Brigidine through presentations to current students.



We are close

Brigidine College is situated less than 8 kilometres from the centre of Brisbane City in Queensland, Australia.

Our vibrant campus is located on the corner of Ward and Fairley Streets, in the heart of Indooroopilly, not far from the University of Queensland at St Lucia.

We are close to frequent rail and bus services, with safe, surrounding streets for vehicle drop-offs and private bus pick-ups for school excursions.

Our stately historic buildings and Convent are located on a prominent hilltop, surrounded by leafy streets and opposite popular sporting ovals and a green river belt. By being able to access quality external facilities nearby, we can optimise our urban footprint and ensure our fees remain highly affordable and accessible to all.

When your daughter enrolls at our College, she will start an exciting educational journey, make extraordinary friends for life and grow in Strength and Gentleness

And so will you. Your family will be warmly welcomed, as is the Brigidine way, for ours is a close-knit community characterised by the best of Irish and Australian hospitality.

You will be able to attend and participate in numerous school functions including special occasions such as our Mother and Daughter High Tea and our Father and Daughter evening. You will be welcomed into our P&F and other committees.

Through this, you have the opportunity to make friends with other parents, families and contacts of the College, that will enrich your life and last a lifetime.

Most importantly, you will play your part in shaping your daughter into a remarkable woman of our time.







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