



SACE Appointments

If you or your son/daughter are wanting to meet with me to discuss all things SACE, VET, Careers and/or Work Experience, please feel free to make an appointment by contacting the College (8645 8568) or emailing sean.sheedy@samaritan.catholic.edu.au.

Subject Selection - Tips for Parents

7 ways parents can support their child's Subject Selection

1. Empower their decision-making

Although it's hard to see them struggle or make mistakes (or what we can perceive as mistakes), your role is to guide and support, not to choose for them. Help them think through their options, but remember that ownership of the final decision builds confidence and commitment.

2. Understand prerequisites and their limitations

If your child is considering university, have them research prerequisites for courses they're interested in. Even when specific prerequisites aren't listed, understanding the assumed knowledge for university programs could help them prepare effectively – not only could they be more likely to receive an offer, but it will also help them to keep up once they start the course.

Be cautious about selecting subjects solely to meet prerequisites if they genuinely dislike the content. This approach typically leads to reduced engagement in high school and could set them on a path toward career choices that don't align with their interests or strengths.

3. Focus on strengths and keep options open

Year 10 students aren't known for their rational decision-making skills, and 45% don't have a clear career aspiration (Yu & Warren, 2019). This is where you can guide them and help them stay on track.

Here are a few examples of some less-than-ideal decision making when it comes to subject selection:

- Choosing subjects they think will scale better or are "easier" in the hopes that might help them to get a better ATAR
- Selecting subjects they think will look better on their resumes
- Avoiding subjects they enjoy because they think they're too easy or aren't linked to a career path that's been visible to them

Instead, encourage them to lean into their strengths and consider subjects that they enjoy, they're interested in, and that they're really good at. Assessment results and teacher feedback

can both provide objective insights into where they excel and help encourage this approach.

“Choose the enabling subjects, the ones that will keep the doors of opportunity open...”

[Dr Alan Finkel](#), Australian Chief Scientist 2016-2020

4. Utilise school resources

Direct communication between students, parents, and school staff can significantly simplify the subject selection process. Book appointments with Career Practitioners or Guidance Officers and attend information sessions to access expert advice and support.

5. Consider local employment realities

Research the local job market to help your child develop realistic expectations. Sometimes students think that if they study certain subjects at school and uni, they'll be able to enter their chosen career straight away. Which might be true for certain cases, but it's also heavily dependent on where they'll be living and what opportunities are available locally.

If opportunities in their preferred field are limited locally but they're really enthusiastic about a specific career, expand your research to nearby regions or broader geographic areas.

Rather than discouraging them from taking subjects they're passionate about, help them identify all the career paths and opportunities where their skills, strengths, values and qualifications could be valuable.

6. Chat frequently

Conversations with your child are always the best way to find out where their heads are and what their struggles might be. Whether it's micro-conversations in the car or long chats over dinner, talking openly and honestly can be incredibly valuable and help your teen feel reassured in their decisions.

7. Provide balanced support

Your role in subject selection involves both encouraging their interests and asking questions that help your child to consider practical implications. This balanced approach could help them make decisions they can commit to with confidence.

University Open Days

Pondering life after high school can feel overwhelming, but in your quest to make the best decision for you, there's one opportunity you definitely shouldn't miss: open days.

Whether you're thinking of heading off to university, college, or another tertiary institution, these events are your chance to explore campus life, meet current students and staff, and get a real feel for what studying at a particular institution might be like. So let's take a quick look at why they matter and how to make the most of them.

Why open days are worth your time

There's something about experiencing a university firsthand that just hits different. You know that feeling when you walk into a place and think "yep, I could belong here"? That's what you're looking for at an open day.

Open days give you direct access to the people who know the institution best. You can chat with actual students (who'll give you the unfiltered tea about what studying there is really like), professors who are passionate about their subjects, and advisors who can help you navigate everything from applications and scholarships, to course options, accommodation, clubs, and support services.

When do open days happen?

Universities around the world typically hold their open days during the months leading up to application deadlines. In the northern hemisphere, this often means spring and early summer, while in the southern hemisphere, it's usually mid-to-late winter.

Most universities plan these events well in advance and publish dates on their websites at the beginning of the year. Mark them in your calendar as soon as you know them, as sometimes you'll need to register in order to attend and the popular sessions can fill up fast.

The good news is they're completely free and there's often food, entertainment, and competitions happening so while you might have to factor in travel costs, you could walk away better off than when you go in.

Preparing an open day action plan

The key to getting the most out of an open day is a bit of preparation. Don't stress - we're not talking about studying or anything too taxing. Just take a little time to:

Register for the event

Check out the university's website and register for the open day online. Most universities will send you a program and updates once you're registered.

Think about what matters

Have a think about what really matters to you in a university. Is it the course content? The campus vibe? Sports facilities? Support services? Internship opportunities? Everyone's different, and knowing your priorities will help you focus on what's most important to you.

Prepare your questions

Jot down any questions that you can't find answers to online. There's no point wasting your open day asking things you could have Googled, right?

Know who to go with

Also, consider who you want to bring along. Parents can be great for a second opinion, but sometimes they ask different questions than you would. Friends can make the day more fun, but might distract you from your mission. Choose wisely!

Sort out what to bring

Keep it simple - a notebook or your phone for notes, comfortable shoes (campus tours involve a lot of walking), a water bottle, and a bag for any goodies should be all you need. You might also need some funds for travel, parking, or other costs like food on the day.

Questions to ask on open day

When you're chatting with university staff and current students, here are some conversations worth having:

About courses

- Are there any prerequisites for applying or any subject knowledge I should have before starting?

- How much of this course is theoretical vs. practical hands-on learning?
- Do you offer part-time, online, or flexible study options?
- Can I customise my degree with electives I'm interested in?
- What do graduates from this program typically do after finishing?
- What are the costs for this course?
- Do you offer any work experience, placements, or networking opportunities?

About support services

- What's the support like here? Who helped you when you needed it?
- Are there services for students with specific learning needs?
- How would you be able to accommodate my needs?
- Do you offer mentoring programs, study groups, or academic support?
- Is there any financial help available if I need it?

About campus life

- What societies and/or clubs are available to join?
- What facilities and services are available on campus?
- What's the best way to get around the campus and city?
- What accommodation options do you offer?
- What's the surrounding area like and is there stuff to do off-campus?

Virtual open days

Living too far away? Dealing with a disability that makes travel difficult? Or just can't make the scheduled date? No worries - if you can't attend in person, there are often

Workspace Values

Different careers offer different work environments, which can impact how you feel about your job. Take a moment to think about where you feel most comfortable and what motivates you. This can help you understand what you truly value when choosing a career path.

Fast-paced and constantly changing

- You may value: Adaptability, Challenge, Growth

Quiet and focused with deep thinking

- You may value: Reflection, Problem-solving, Independence

Collaborative and team-driven

- You may value: Connection, Teamwork, Impact

Independent and flexible

- You may value: Autonomy, Flexibility, Personal Control

Creative and ever-evolving

- You may value: Innovation, Expression, Freedom

Structured with clear expectations

- You may value: Security, Clarity, Efficiency

Career Spotlight - Education

Education You don't need to have all the answers or be a certain type of person to become a teacher — but you do need to have a love of helping others learn and grow.

What is a Teacher?

Teachers work in education, supporting students' development academically, socially, and emotionally.

- Early Learning Educators guide and nurture children in their most important early years (birth to age 5).
- Primary School Teachers teach a broad range of subjects to children from Foundation to Year 6, building essential skills for life.
- Secondary School Teachers specialise in particular subjects (like English, Science, or PE) for students from Year 7 to Year 12, preparing them for further study or work.

What skills and strengths are needed?

Teachers need strong communication skills and must be able to build positive relationships with students, families, and colleagues. They must be adaptable, organised, patient, and confident in managing a classroom. Teachers also need creativity and a passion for learning, so they can inspire and engage young people every day.

What are the pathways? You usually need to study Education at university.

There are several options:

- A Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood, Primary, or Secondary)
- A Double Degree (e.g., Arts/Education or Science/Education for Secondary teachers)
- If you already hold a degree in another field, you can become a teacher through a Master of Teaching program.

Some states also offer pathways that combine teaching with practical placements to get you classroom-ready faster.

Next steps

Want to learn more? Check out resources on Career Tools and The Good Universities Guide to explore study pathways, job opportunities, and industry insights.

How to Get Started in Construction

How To Get Started in Construction

Want to get started in construction, but not sure where to begin? We'll show you how to build your construction career starting now!

Explore Your Options

Visit Construction Pathways for information about occupations and pathways, and the resources to help you make your start.

Map Your Pathway

Consider the type of education and training your preferred occupation requires. You could choose:

A VET school subject or pre-trade program to learn practical skills and get job ready.

An Apprenticeship, Traineeship, or School-based option so you can earn while you learn. You'll combine paid work with a nationally recognised qualification.

A Vocational Education and Training (VET) course for hands-on learning to develop your skills.

A Higher Education (university) degree if your preferred occupation requires it.

Get Your White Card

Compulsory to ensure you're safe onsite, this one can't be skipped.

Do Work Experience

Explore a range of jobs and find out if the construction industry is for you. Develop your skills and the confidence to step onsite now, with the Year 13 & CSQ Construction Pathways Virtual Work Experience! You can explore a day in the life of a Pipelayer, Carpenter or Design Manager, with interactive tasks to help you discover what a career in construction could look like.