

# OCCHIENA CENTRE

---

The Centre is named in honour of Margaret Occhiena, the mother of St John Bosco, who dedicated herself to her son and the boys he cared for at Valdocco. Following in her footsteps, the Occhiena Centre enhances social emotional and educational opportunities and services for all students at St Joseph's thereby facilitating engagement, achievement and participation.

## Specific Programs

Occhiena Centre programs provide support and assistance to students, their families and the College staff.

**The Occhiena Centre provides a range of support programs for students including:**

### + In Class Support

Learning tutor support in classes across a range of subjects; with a focus on literacy and numeracy support.

### + Literacy & Numeracy Elective

Withdrawal based learning program with assessment based student selection process. Students participate in small group tutelage program for the development of literacy, numeracy, managing personal learning and oral language skills. This is a Years 7 & 8 program.

### + Homework Tuition Program

A supervised homework program that provides assistance for students from Years 7 - 12: completing work, establishing study routines and developing improved organisational skills. Supervision and learning support is provided by learning tutors, working from both campuses. Homeroom teachers and subject teachers also provide after school tutorials – please enquire to Curriculum Leaders.

### + Indigenous Education

Support for the educational, cultural, pastoral and personal development of Indigenous students. Students are supported by intensive literacy and numeracy programs and a Koorie Education Worker.

### + New Arrivals

Support for the educational, pastoral and personal development of students newly arrived in Australia through support within classes and utilisation of intensive English program within the College.

### + Homeroom Support

Learning tutors assist students with preparing for the first classes of the day.

### + Mentor Program

A social skills program for students with specific social emotional difficulties. Students meet with the Director, Occhiena Centre on a regular basis. Groupings are based upon Year levels. Students are provided with a time out card to enable respite from the classroom during instances of heightened anxiety.

### + LNSLN support

Program development and personal and educational support for students with special needs through the Australian Government Programmes for Schools: Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs (Students with Disabilities) Programme. Closing dates for funded support applications are August for on-going applications and the first week of either Term 4 or Term 1 of the following year.

### + Educational assessments

Individual literacy and numeracy assessments.

### + Referral to and Liaison with Support Agencies

### + P.A.R.T (Parents As Reading Tutors)

1:1 tutoring (1 period per week) with a parent volunteer – focussing on the development of literacy skills, in particular, reading.

### + Yard Support

Each learning tutor has timetabled yard support sessions. This program aims to assist students who may require social support.

### + Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

Students with outstanding ability are given the opportunity to be involved in the GATE program, which enhances their talent within all learning areas. Please see over for further information.

### + Games periods

Supervised, games based recess periods for all students.

### + Small Group Tutoring program

Withdrawal based learning program for students who experience difficulty with literacy or numeracy. Tutelage is provided for students in Years 7 – 9.

### + Literacy for Living program

A functional and vocational literacy program for students in Year 10.

### + Supported Exams for Years 9 & 10

Assistance with reading, clarifying, explaining and scribing.

### + Years 11 & 12

Applications for special exam arrangements for Units 3 and 4 subjects and applications for Special Entry Access Scheme (university and TAFE applications). Special exam arrangements are within VCAA guidelines and require evidence based applications which are due in early March.