# the South



Issue 21 2021 connecting girls • empowering young women

### In this Issue











#### Mission

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, engages young women in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning.

#### Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled Catholic community with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion, we honour the sacred dignity of each person.

We aspire to provide exemplary and innovative education that will challenge young women to achieve their personal best and to embrace the future with hope, courage and confidence.

In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, we encourage young women to identify their strengths, enhance their sense of self worth and be open to new ideas.

#### Values

We live the Dominican values through:

**Prayer** by nurturing spirituality and celebrating joyfully as a community of Faith

**Study** by striving for personal excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth through research, creativity and innovation

Justice by empowering young women to embrace diversity, respect human dignity and actively engage in the gospel imperative of responding to local and global injustice

**Community** by recognising that a sense of belonging and connectedness is the foundation for fostering good relationships and service to others

### The Spirit

#### Editorial Team

Tracey Grobbelaar Director of Development Carolyn Currie Communications Coordinator Liz Merrett Alumnae Coordinator Amy Stubbs Marketing Manager

#### Photography

Gabrielle Snell Events Coordinator



A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

**Tel:** +61 3 9835 0200

Email: reception@siena.vic.edu.au

815 Riversdale Road Camberwell 3124

www.siena.vic.edu.au

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# From the Principal

The novelist Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, 'To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.'

In this edition of The Spirit we discover the truth of these words. As we at Siena continue our travel through the pandemic, we see how hope has marked each step; rather than travelling just to arrive, the 'how' of our travel has been critical. This hopeful travel has enabled us to experience success in our labours: care and connection maintained, learning excellence, creative expressions of beauty and fullness of life, still. Sometimes, when the destination is not known or is suddenly unclear, perhaps the best we can do is hope and work for what might be.

The many transitions of life and particularly those through adolescence, we know to be marked by a range of emotions: hopes and fears, loss and doubt, joy and discovery. These transitions are also marked in a practical way by various 'way finders' looking to those who have gone before us, looking to those who inspire us who help us chart the course for our journey to the next stage. Our shared experience of a global pandemic has highlighted challenges for us all, particularly those at transition points in their lives. Young people are arguably amongst those most impacted: fear threatening hope, loss threatening the joy of discovery, uncertainty threatening a prepared road map to an anticipated destination, isolation threatening connection. In each of these moments, parents and educators have been united in supporting our students in a journey of hope and determined efforts

In our Dominican tradition we see this in the life of Dominic and Catherine – pilgrims, actively engaged in the cares and needs of the world, yet deeply contemplative, knowing God at the centre of all action.

St Catherine herself wrote that we 'must walk on two feet', balancing our inner and outer energies. If our students are to make sense of an increasingly complex world, we seek for them a formation of both the inner and the outer journey of life. This inner journey is at the heart of our faith tradition and invites us to be contemplative, reflective, self aware and with God. This in turn invites and impacts how we perceive the world, how we act and react.

Over the month of October farewelled an extraordinary group of young women, the Class of 2021. On their final day, they listened to motivational speaker Ben Crowe, who spoke of the importance of mindset in these final weeks. Three mindsets were considered:

#### Connection Mindset:

- Acceptance of self and others
- Who am I in relationship to others?
- Embracing who you are and letting go of FOPO (Fear of Other People's Opinion!)

#### Purpose Mindset:

- What do I seek? What is my highest goal?
- What are the values, motivations and relationships that give meaning?
- What do I stand for?

#### Performance Mindset:

- What is my focus NOW?
- What are the attitudes that I can control to be the best version of me?
- Development of Courage Mantras Let's Do This, I Am Enough

As they complete their formal education at Siena, we now gather around our graduates in praying for their successful completion of exams and the fullness of opportunities in 2022.

Go well, great women of Siena!





Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually - let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ (1881-1955)

say what this new spirit gradually

forming within you will be. Give God

the benefit of believing that God's

hand is leading you, and accept

the anxiety of feeling yourself in

suspense and incomplete.

Elizabeth Hanney Principal





# Farewelling Board Members

The Siena College Board supports the College, promoting the wellbeing and learning of all students and providing an environment in which the College continues to flourish. The Board has a strong commitment to preserving and fostering the Catholic identity and the Dominican charism upon which the College was founded. The Directors of the Board are accountable for the sound governance of the College. They provide strategic direction and contribute legal, financial and other professional expertise to the governance of the College.

#### In December 2021 the College farewells the following board members:

#### Kath McCarthy, College Board Chair

Siena College gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Kath McCarthy (Class of 1989) who this year concludes consecutive periods of service at governance level. Spanning eight years, Kath has served on the Risk Management Committee and Board and in 2019 was appointed Chair of the Board. Throughout this time, we have been blessed by Kath's generous and wise service.

Board members volunteer their time, and the role of Board Chair requires a significant commitment in leading Board meetings and discussions. As a member of the Board Executive and working closely with Dominican Education Australia, Kath's leadership has been marked by gracious humility and fine discernment in all matters.



Celia Conlan (Class of 1987) joined the Siena College Board in December 2017 and has served as a member of the College Policy Committee since then. Celia has chaired the Policy Committee since 2018. We acknowledge and pay tribute to such a positive, exemplary role model and extend our deep gratitude for her guidance and governance provided at both Policy and Board level. Celia is an alumna of the College and has engaged with our student body on numerous occasions by sharing her career journey and experiences. Whilst Celia steps down from the College Board and Policy committee we know that she will continue to offer her wealth of experience as an alumna.







At Siena College, our rich Catholic, Dominican tradition grounds our learning and growth community, to enable each young woman to grow in heart and mind, for life. We provide an education with an emphasis on maximising learning, growth and wholeness, within a faith community. Each of these are woven into our Dominican pillars which express our identity and purpose: A spirituality grounded in contemplation, an education focused on intellectual rigour and critical thinking, a formation for action in the world in justice and service, and a community to make this full flourishing possible.

In this issue of *The Spirit*, we introduce our new Master Plan on pages 11 to 14.

The new Master Plan for Siena College weaves an integrated and holistic learning environment across its landscape, in an environmentally conscious way. We are proud to continue the provision of educational excellence, in the Dominican way; following the footsteps of so many staff, students, leaders and of course Dominican Sisters who have contributed to the strong and vibrant school community we now enjoy.

We remember always that we live and learn on the sacred grounds of our First Nations People. This has been beautifully proposed in our building names, our gardens and walkways, and our community gathering and sacred spaces.





### Dominican News





Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP, Prioress of the Congregation, was one of 278 delegates who recently participated in the Plenary Council. The Plenary Council is a formal meeting of the bishops and representatives of the Catholic Church in Australia. The journey of preparation, begun in 2018, has been one 'of listening to God by listening to one another'. The Council was inspired by Pope Francis's vision for the Church:

I dream of a missionary option: that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.

The first assembly, held online from 4 to 9 October, was designed to engage participants in prayerful reflection,

listening and dialogue. Sr Mary-Clare reflected on the experience.

I was greatly impressed with some of the people who were a part of the Council, most especially, the committed young people. Of the 278 participants, only thirty were women. Topics discussed included, the crisis of faith in our Church, women and church governance, the role of deacons, interfaith, remarriage; pastoral reality, youth, exclusion of persons from the church, church leadership, preaching...

The days finished for me with a sense of optimism – many of the proposals that had come forward could happen tomorrow. They don't have to go to Rome. Dioceses and parishes can implement these changes now. Will they happen? If change isn't seen, there will be much disillusionment among the faithful.

The second Assembly will take place in Sydney in July 2022. At this meeting, formal proposals will be put to delegates for voting. Decisions made at the Council will become binding for the Catholic Church in Australia. To learn more visit https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/plenary-council-2021

**Sr Julianna Drobik OP**DEA Trustee



# Save the date for Memorial Mass

#### Wednesday, 30 March 2022 Siena College Chapel

The Siena College community gathers each November for our Memorial Mass to commemorate those dear to us who have passed away. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to hold our Mass this year. Therefore, we have scheduled this very special Mass for Wednesday, 30 March 2022. Further details will be provided early next year.

Our community holds you and your family in our prayers during these challenging times. May the blessings of faith, hope and love be yours.



# Mission and Identity

### Celebrating the Feast of St Catherine

This special day brought with it the possibility of beginning this celebration with a whole College Mass in our Latingata Morrom Gymnasium. The word Eucharist comes from a Greek word meaning *thanksgiving* – and we certainly had much to be grateful for, including:

- Our Dominican heritage and international family
- The legacy of St Catherine
- The many people who make up the unique community of our college: students, staff, parents, alumnae and community partners
- The opportunity to gather together once again for the first time since 2019

#### National Reconciliation Week

The theme of National Reconciliation Week (NRW) was *Reconciliation – More Than A Word. It Takes Action.* Our Veritas Leaders, FIRE Carriers and members of the Reconciliation Action Plan Team facilitated the launch of NRW, which included presenting our Principal, Elizabeth Hanney with a mounted copy of the Uluru Statement From the Heart. Our Reconciliation Action Plan calls for all of us to continue to seek authentic relationships with and greater protections for First Nations Peoples, lands, waters, sacred sites and cultural heritage.

#### At Table with Dominic

2021 has marked the commemoration of 800 years since the death of St Dominic with the global theme *At Table with Dominic*. As a community of faith we have considered

- What does it mean for us to be at table with Dominic here and now?
- Who else do we need to be at table with?

On the Feast of St Dominic we gathered online to enjoy the opportunity to reflect on our 2021 theme *Be Possibility*. Our College Chaplain, Fr Kevin Toomey OP, read from the Gospel of Matthew - Dominic is said to have carried this Gospel with him as he walked the landscapes that brought him into contact with those who were marginalised.



#### Siena Service

This year has seen us launch Siena Service, which aims to

- To be authentic to our Dominican tradition of service in a contemporary and changing context
- To open up a space for encounter and making meaning to support student achievement, engagement and wellbeing
- To assist students to develop empathy and understanding of the lives of others, and foster a willingness to help make a difference in our world

At the end of this *Be Possibility* year we reflect on our College theme. In Matthew 19:26, Jesus tells his followers '...with God all things are possible.' Verbs used with 'possibility' mean to explore, look at or into, open up new horizons, raise

- these suggest a journey into something deeper, or with new insight, through networks of relationships if we share a vision in seeking such possibility of wholeness.

















# Learning and Teaching

And we thought last year had a lot in store for us! And once again, the Siena community has continued to rise to the challenge with great aplomb. The online environment provided opportunity for students to engage with learning and situations through the alternate medium of online. And they have definitely engaged!

Our Year 9 students participated through Humanities in the Victorian Young Leaders Global Youth Forum 2021, through Melbourne University. Our nine students participated with students from China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Japan and other Australian schools in a three day program, enabling them to learn from prominent guest speakers, lend their voice to issues of globalisation and create a video reimaging global education for the 21st Century. Lending further voice was alumna and OECD activist, Ruby Bourke.

The scientists within our student body thoroughly embraced the design thinking process in the Science Hackathon to combat Food Wastage. Our Year 7 students addressed the problem of food waste by designing an idea for an app.

We continue to seek opportunities to create active and engaged citizens who seek to address injustice in the world. So whilst online learning may have taken us out of our usual environment, students have more than embraced these opportunities!

Alumna, Dr Lorien Parker (Class of 1991) joins us this term, working with our Science teachers to bring science to life. With her practical applications of science in the classroom, we look forward to our partnership with Dr Lorien and the further richness this opportunity adds for our students.

We will conclude the term with a cross curricular program for our Year 7 and 8 students, addressing sustainability and food wastage. The program will see students participate in activities across Religion, English, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Science and Civics and Citizenship. Excellent opportunities to embed the learning opportunities of the year.



They say that you see spirit in times of difficulty and these past months, we have all been tested again. Our staff and students have demonstrated the utmost resilience and spirit in all that they have attempted and achieved. They have done all that has been asked of them and more.

**Donna Laughlin**Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

"Our solution is to prevent food waste before it happens by using a combination of a Smart Trolly and an app to help people know how much they should be eating and understand when they have loaded their trolley with enough food for their family for the week. When the person loads their trolley, they can scan the barcode. The Smart Trolley has a screen that displays how much of different types of food they have placed in there. It compares this to an average amount that a family of their size needs. You can take a test to get an exact match to how much food your family needs. The screen scans a barcode that you can show on an app in your phone to get your details each time you shop."



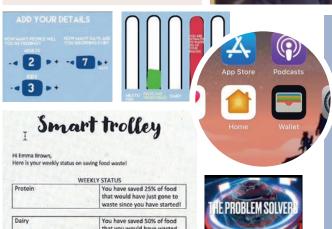


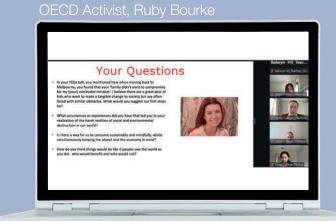












# Scientist in Residence

Dr Lorien Parker (aka Dr Loz), is an award winning early career scientist turned science communicator for children. Her extensive background in biochemistry and molecular biology (from completing a PhD and then subsequent post doctorates in cancer chemotherapy drug design), combined with her passion for engaging children as young as three in science, has led to the development of her unique science program and small business, Science Play Kids. In 2018, Dr Loz was named as one of the most inspiring 100 women in Australia by the Australian Financial Review. In just over four years, Dr Loz has designed, developed and delivered thousands of science workshops that engage children in science. She approaches science education through play-based learning

by helping children see the science in their everyday lives. Her creative approach to science teaching marries art and science, engaging children in science concepts through colour, texture and a huge range of sensory elements. Dr Loz is encouraging children to be problem solvers, explorers and investigators by showing them that asking questions (and then finding answers) is what science is all about. Her vision is for every child, across the full scale of neurodiversity, regardless of their academic ability, to have the opportunity to experience how cool science is. Dr Loz produces curriculum linked lesson plans, unique science kits and many engaging science videos, both online and through Science Play Kids social channels.





# Virtual Arts and Technology Exhibition

This year, we again displayed our Art, Design and Technology Exhibition on ArtSteps, a virtual and interactive gallery space. Within the virtual gallery, visitors were able to "walk through" the exhibition and view artwork by our Year VCE Arts and Technology students.





Alexandra Yarak

Year 9 Art students drew inspiration from nature to develop a botanical design based on the shape and form of flowers. Through simplification of form into strong geometric shapes and line and limited colour palette, students created effective motifs that translated well into a decorative relief print.



Jasmine Skutela 🔺







▲ Amelie Buhagiar













# Antonio de Montesinos Award







Our Year 12 Public Speaking Captain, Amanda Marasco was an eloquent host of this year's Antonio de Montesinos competition. Congratulations to Tia McCann (Year 8) our 2021 winner, who spoke so passionately in her speech entitled 'The Possibility of a Dream'.

Congratulations also to runner up Hayley Di Stefano (Year 12) whose speech 'Dear Mr Prime Minister' was passionate and thought-provoking. We are so proud of every participant for their involvement in this traditional College event.

### The Possibility of a Dream by Tia McCann

Every day that dawns brings new possibilities. But how can we truly seize these possibilities? How can we open up our eyes to realise them in our everyday lives? When I was exploring the idea of possibilities, it occurred to me and I started to wonder: is there anywhere where nothing is impossible? And then I found the link: Everything is possible in our dreams. And it is our dreams that are calling us to Be Possibility. Being the change we wish to see in the world, in a world where things seem so very complicated. And I'm not talking about the possibility that our dreams hold at night when we are sleeping, oh no, I believe that the best dreams holding the most possibility happen when we are very much wide awake.

And if dreams are so good at making the impossible possible, this is exactly how they call us to be possibility in our everyday lives.

On the 28th of August 1963, Martin Luther King stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C and in front of crowd of 250,000 people he spoke words that have forever gone down in history. 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.'

His speech titled 'I have a dream' was one of the most influential and iconic speeches of the American Civil rights movement as he called for an end to racism in his country. But why was his speech so special? Why is it something we still hear about today even though these were words spoken some fiftyeight years ago? Maybe it is because as he shared his dream, he shared the dream of many. A dream that was once thought to be impossible. And whilst the world did and still does have a long way to go towards racial equality, his dream carried hope for thousands of people. His possibility became iconic of a movement. Just as we all can as we realise the possibility in our own lives through the power of our dreams.

Dreams carry more possibilities than we often imagine. When we dream for something more in our own world we are finding hope, comfort and possibility that things may change, can change, will change. Dreams and possibilities are the things that motivate some of our simplest tasks and everyday behaviour.

Whether it's a student spending hours studying away dreaming of one day achieving those perfect grades, a football player trudging around a field as it pours with rain, dreaming of the grand final glory, a girl in Uganda walking miles to fill a container with the simple dream of clean water for her family, a scientist working day and night in the lab perfecting a vaccine as they dream of a world beyond the pandemic, an athlete training hours before dawn day after day dreaming of Olympic gold. Becoming their possibility.

So what is the possibility held by our dreams, in the modern day world? Every day society struggles under the weight of a pandemic which is changing life as we know it. But why did we spend hours in lockdown, still log on to online school each day and wash our hands for twenty seconds? Because our dream held the possibilities, the power for change.

And a world beyond a pandemic isn't just one person's dream of reality, it is the dream of thousands, millions, billions of people from every corner of our globe. Some possibilities are so por

Some possibilities are so powerful they unify humanity, on a global scale.

During this time, it can be really easy for us to get ourselves down, dwelling on all of the things we don't have, the people we can't see and the things we can't do. We can focus on all of the things that have been cancelled, the overwhelming things we see on the news, the annoyances of living on top of family members, and the frustration of not going to school and seeing our friends and teachers.

The phrase 'Be Possibility' however, is an invitation for us to dream about and then enact on what is possible, and in this way, we are invited to look at all of the good things that will come eventually in the future, today, tomorrow, next year.

In this sense of dreaming, we are not brooding on the negative aspects of our life, but we are choosing to find hope, comfort and gratitude, by looking forward into the endless prospects of the

So what is the power of our dreams? How can they enable us to be possibility in our world today? To me, our dreams show us what our lives could be, they help us to realise the endless possibilities that are available, even under the most challenging of circumstances, if only we dare to be possibility. And the thing about being possibility is that it can not only change your life, no I dare to go even further and say that being possibility can change the world. What will you change?



# Wellbeing

#### Helping our students feel known, seen and supported

At the time of writing this article, we joyfully welcomed all students back to campus. The smiles and waves were truly heart-warming and it was wonderful to hear happy voices once again in the hallways. This process of returning to school will require space and time to acknowledge that even though we are returning to a familiar environment, things are not exactly as they were before and changes may remain in place for some time yet. We are not so much going back but moving forward to a new normal

Periods of isolation have caused significant disruption to our lives and therefore, now more than ever, it will be vital to take deliberate action to support student wellbeing. Staff at Siena College will continue to work proactively to support the individual needs of all students and to build resilience, which is more than just overcoming challenges and coping, it aims for each student to fully flourish and cope with life's challenges. The Wellness Program is underpinned by approaches that focus on establishing and maintaining positive relationships and purpose, being selfaware and mindful and practising selfcare. Additionally, an important part of the learning process for our students is recognising when support is needed and how to access it.

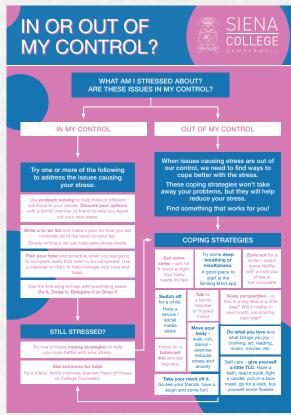
When our mental health and wellbeing are aligned, we are better at remaining connected with our social networks. These connections are incredibly significant during these uncertain

times and positive relationships are an important part of the journey to adulthood. In our Wellness classes in Term 4, we will continue to provide guidance in the many social and emotional skills required for a healthy relationship. These will help our students to obtain, retain and maintain positive relationships and strong friendships.

The Wellness Program Roadmap will commence as students return to campus and roll into 2022 with a focus on measuring and supporting student wellbeing. Guest speakers, productions and further opportunities for collaboration and connection both in the classroom and at lunchtime will encourage our students to rediscover the joy of being on campus.

#### Antonella Rosati Deputy Principal Wellbeing







### Siena Sisters

This year at Siena we had seven Year 7 students with an older sister in Year 12: Olivia and Anna Griss, Katie and Grace Kim, Stella and Elena Feltrin, Rose and Grace Hoy, Jahrielle and Ciarra McAlary, Lucille and Livia Moses, and Olive and India King.

We thought it might be fun to have the little sisters ask some hard hitting questions!



#### Olivia Griss (Year 7) interviews sister Anna (Year 12)

#### Who has been your favourite teacher?

I would definitely say Mr McCann for Year 11 Legal Studies BUT I love them all.

#### What was your favourite memory of Year 12?

Every day that we were able to spend at school together.

#### If you were in charge of planning Fiesta and you could invite any three artists to perform, who would they be?

Fleetwood Mac, Harry Styles, Beyonce

#### What is your favourite book you have had to read for school?

Pride and Prejudice would surprisingly be my favourite one that I have read.

#### What was your favourite game to play in PE?

Sprout ball with Mr Rice - a Year 7 favourite

#### What is your favourite thing to eat at the canteen?

The cookies and gingerbread men are a must have!

#### If you could travel back in time to Year 7, what advice would you give vourself?

To enjoy every single day, and try and not stress about the small things.

#### What is one thing you would never change about Siena?

One thing I would never change about Siena would be the way we value community events, and the celebrations we have when it comes to doing and being a part of the greater good. I would also never change the people. Siena is truly such a special place, and I am very grateful to have been a part of such a loving school community.



#### Rose Hoy (Year 7) interviews sister Grace (Year 12)

### Describe your time at Siena in three

Fun, enriching and influential.

#### Who has been your favourite teacher?

It's hard to chose, I've had lots of great teachers but probably Mr Nguyen, Mr Johnston or Ms Laughlin. Mr Nguyen was my Year 7 Maths teacher and was the first teacher I had that I felt really believed in me and made me believe in myself. Mr Johnston made me love Economics, I had him in Year 10 for the Commerce elective and thought it was going to be a really boring class, but I ended up really enjoying it and Economics is now one of if not my favourite subject, and I have him again this year which is great. Ms Laughlin really just made me enjoy English, I really like how she teaches and loved doing

To Kill a Mockingbird with her, I felt like I really grew a lot in my writing with her as my teacher.

#### What was your favourite memory of Year 12?

Probably all of Year 12 Retreat. I really enjoyed that, just spending time with everyone in the year level before everything got really crazy. Or, doing the Year 12 dance at Fiesta, seeing what we spent so long working on come together was really satisfying, and it being our last one made it particularly memorable.

#### If you were in charge of planning Fiesta and you could invite any three artists to perform, who would they be?

That's really hard to choose, probably G Flip, Thelma Plum and One Direction. G Flip and Thelma Plum as they are really inspiring Australian artists who are making some incredible music and One Direction because who doesn't want to see a One Direction reunion?

#### If you could travel back in time to Year 7, what advice would you give yourself?

Don't worry so much about what everyone thinks of you, no one really cares that much, and get some good study habits and stick with them, it'll help especially in later years. I'd also probably say good job for trying GSV and music and getting involved with all that because I've found it really rewarding and made a lot of my friends that way.

#### What is one thing you would never change about Siena?

One thing I would never change about Siena is the empowerment that is ingrained into the school's culture. I really wanted to go to a coed school when I was in Year 6 but my sister was already at Siena, so I came here and I'm so thankful I did. I don't think I would be the same person if I hadn't come to Siena. The school is really empowering, there is such a strong focus on justice initiatives and being aware of the world around us, particularly when it comes to women's issues and that is now such a big part of my identity that I don't think I would be the same without it.

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### Siena Sisters

#### What are the best memories that you have had during your time at Siena?

My best memories at Siena would be from the camps, Generations in Jazz, Year 12 Retreat and going to the Gold Coast for aerobics nationals, that was really cool as it was my first time on a

#### What have been some of the most valuable lessons you have learnt during your time at Siena?

The most valuable lesson I have learnt at Siena is probably to get involved. I really gained the most out of my time at Siena through the extracurricular activities I did and participating at House events. It's how I met a lot of the people I'm friends with now and also how I learnt a lot and made some of my best memories. Getting involved is the most valuable lesson from my time at Siena.

#### What has been your favourite class during your time at Siena?

My favourite subjects would be the ones I'm doing in VCE so Biology, Economics, English, Maths, Media and Psychology. But my favourite class would probably be my Year 7 or 9 point group, especially Year 9 as we just had a lot of fun in class.



#### Katie Kim (Year 7) interviews sister Grace (Year 12)

#### What is one thing you would never change about Siena?

One thing I would never change about Siena is the great variety of extracurricular activities. Programs in sport, music and leadership have been a massive part of my time here and I am so grateful to have had so many opportunities.

#### What has been your favourite subject at Siena?

History because the content is so different each year. I never get bored in class as it's all so new and interesting whilst being an important subject for enhancing my understanding of the world and other cultures.

#### What is your favourite memory of **Year 12?**

Year 12 Retreat was my favourite experience this year. It was a perfectly timed break from study in such a beautiful natural environment and I loved the opportunity to spend time with my friends and get closer to my year level.

#### What is your favourite book you have had to read for school?

It's a toss-up between two books I've studied this year, The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood and Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. Ultimately, I think The Penelopiad had the most interesting plot and themes to explore.

#### What was your favourite game to play in PE?

Bench ball is always a class favourite. It was especially fun in younger year levels when we would have class at the same time as older girls and play against them.

#### What's your favourite podcast?

A French podcast where the episodes cover a variety of social issues as well as general topical discussion at a level that I can understand.

#### What is your favourite thing to eat at the canteen?

I think one of the most stressful experiences at Siena was trying to get a pinwheel at recess before they sold out! Definitely my favourite canteen snack in Year 7.

#### If you were in charge of planning Fiesta and you could invite any three artists to perform, who would they be?

I love everything ABBA and I reckon that Lady Gaga would have the perfect energy for Fiesta. Of course, I have to include Harry Styles, I don't think my year level would forgive me if I didn't choose him!

.....



#### Stella Feltrin (Year 7) interviews sister Elena (Year 12)

#### Describe your time at Siena in three words:

Fun, interesting, big

Who has been your favourite teacher? Ms Mackintosh

#### What was your favourite memory of Year 12?

Athletics day and swim carnival

#### What is your favourite book you have had to read for school?

Montana

#### If you could travel back in time to Year 7, what advice would you give yourself?

Be more social with other year levels

#### What is one thing you would never change about Siena?

••••••

The Year 12 common room

Carolyn Currie Communications and Content Coordinator



### a New Chapter: Master Plan

We are excited to announce our Master Plan for the upcoming development of Siena College. The brief for this Master Plan was to ensure the opportunity for our students to thrive in:

- A contemporary learning environment to foster our vision for educational excellence
- A place where wellbeing, connection and a sense of the sacred is lived
- An ease about being onsite to best enable learning and connection

### Linking the Master Plan to our Strategic Plan

#### Faith and Catholic Identity

 Creating a welcoming, inclusive and diverse environment, where each person is respected as an individual loved by God

#### Contemporary Learning and Teaching

- Promoting and valuing excellence in learning
- Designing and delivering engaging, authentic and transformative learning opportunities
- Optimising the use of current and emerging technologies

#### Wellbeing

 Cultivating safe physical, emotional and social environments that are positive, predictable, structured and familiar

#### Community

- Developing innovative partnerships and alliances with the wider community
- Fostering community partnerships that provide opportunities for students and staff through learning and service

#### Governance and Leadership

- Having oversight of the philanthropic endeavours and community partnerships in the College
- Monitoring enrolment trends and endorsing the College brand by being aware of the intergenerational viability of the College



#### Act Local

We are proud of our history within the Boroondara community and support the Climate Action Plan (CAP) which sets out a community based response to climate change. Our Veritas Centre will meet the demands of our students and families for environmental sustainability and support the collective goals in the CAP.

#### Think Global

STEAM is an area of curriculum that is growing across all sectors of education in response to international research, indicating that 75 percent of future occupations will require these specific skills and knowledge. The Veritas Centre will be a physical extension of the Siena College educational philosophy – to develop critical, reflective, and creative thinkers with the capacity and enthusiasm for independent, lifelong learning.

#### A Message from the Architects

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to deliver a new learning environment within a cohesive Master Plan at Siena – a campus that is stimulating, harmonious and reflective of the spirit, joy and creativity at the core of learning. Our vision and design for the College is to create spaces for students to take ownership of their environment, learning places to foster student engagement, common spaces to cultivate social interaction, reflective spaces for spiritual growth and opportunities for collaborative learning to be carried from inside to outdoor learning spaces.

The Master Plan creates a new expression of life at Siena, one that plans for future use of affordable and clean energy, and provides much needed green space and east to west flow within the campus.

McGlashan Everist Architects

#### A Message from the Landscape Architect

Our emphasis is on developing a more integrated relationship between the landscape and interior space, and on providing ample opportunity to develop new outdoor areas for respite, play and learning. The Master Plan reimagines the current layout of the campus into one that celebrates movement, beauty and views, with increased pedestrian connectivity and improved wayfinding. The landscape will build on the diverse and eclectic older plantings, reintroducing precolonial vegetation to the planting palette and expanding the biodiversity and habitat that the campus offers.

Mark Jacques



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# a New Chapter: Master Plan

#### Stage 1 Veritas (Truth)

'Veritas' is an ardent and ongoing search for truth in its many manifestations: through study, dialogue, discernment, scientific enquiry and curiosity. Everything is our teacher. Truth will call us to encounter, to witness to beatitude living, an awareness of who we are before God and one another and our common responsibility to help flourish all forms of life with dignity and respect.

#### **STEAM**

The acronym STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics – refers not just to isolated disciplines but rather an approach to learning that uses each domain as an access point for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking.

Instead of teaching content knowledge and skills isolation, STEAM combines scientific inquiry with use of technology, engineering design and problem solving, creativity of art, and mathematical modelling to support student comprehension and understanding of the real world.

### The Veritas STEAM Centre will provide:

- State of the art Science laboratories and general purpose classrooms
- Brand new kitchen facilities enabling the reintroduction of Food Studies to the junior years
- Hands-on learning opportunities, with a 3D printer equipped Maker Space Centre, providing artistic and technological exploration through design, prototyping and testing including a presentation facility
- Co-laboratories created for the Sciences that enable students to transition seamlessly between theoretical and experiential ways of learning
- A clear connection between the Arts and STEAM buildings
- A sustainable building harvesting energy through solar cells with a weather station, energy and water usage meters making data visible to students for real time, authentic learning

Looking to the Future
A Maker Space Centre
An innovative Food
Studies Program
Scientist in Residence



**Tony Grant** Director of Business Services











# Places, Spaces and Graces

In developing a new Master Plan much planning and thought was given to the naming of our buildings and campus. Importantly, we sought to ensure, in the hearts and minds of all staff and students, a deep knowledge and appreciation of our Dominican story and acknowledgement that we live and learn on the sacred grounds of our First Nations People.

This has been beautifully proposed in our building names, our gardens and walkways, and our community gathering and sacred spaces. View our

**Places, Spaces and Graces** on the College website

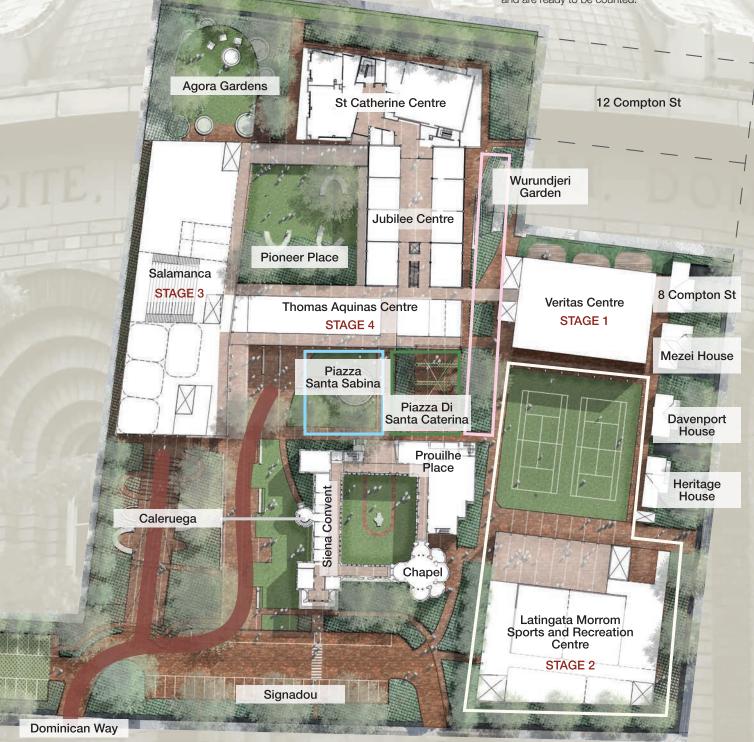
#### The Dominican Way

This proposed, integrated pedestrian pathway through the footprint of Siena College is not just a physical ground-map, but also a symbolic journey that invites us to go deeper into the Gospel story of Jesus, in the tradition of St Dominic and St Catherine who were disciples urgently on the move to bring Good News to a world at risk.

Dominican education is renowned for its pursuit of truth in an educational environment where beauty forms part of its fabric, supported by the Four Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Justice (Service).

#### Veritas (Truth)

'Veritas' is an ardent and ongoing search for truth in its many manifestations: through study, dialogue, discernment, scientific enquiry and curiosity. Truth will call us to encounter, to witness to beatitude living, an awareness of who we are before God and one another and our common responsibility to help flourish all forms of life with dignity and respect. Closely aligned to truth is knowledge; knowledge with heart, a consciousness that helps us understand the very world we inhabit and our place in it. Knowledge and truth together build bridges to a fully-lived life, poured out for others. Called to be truth-seekers and truth bearers, we offer our world a sign of hope and are ready to be counted.



# Giving Day



On Tuesday, 5 October the College hosted its second 24 hour Giving Day: *Give Possibility*. The Give Possibility Campaign aimed to raise funds to support and grow our Siena College Equity Scholarship Program.

It provided an opportunity for the entire Siena Community to come together and reinforce our Dominican commitment to social justice.

The Siena College Equity Scholarship Program, provides educational opportunities for girls from socially and economically diverse backgrounds.

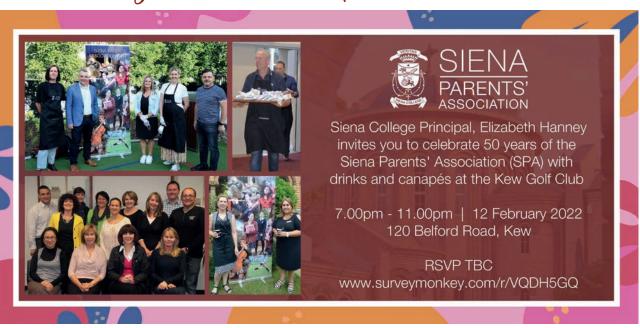
This year was another example of the wonderful generosity and spirit of the Siena community despite the challenges of COVID-19 and lockdown.

We are extremely grateful for the support received from the Siena students, alumnae, suppliers and the wider community. We raised \$115,590 a great result!

**Tracey Grobbelaar** Director of Development



# Celebrating 50 Years of SPA



Celebrating the Class of 2021

The Class of 2021

The Class of 2021

The Class of 2021



















































**The Spirit** Issue 21 | 2021

We wish you and the entire Class of 2021 all the best for the future.

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# Introducing our 2022 Captains

Our 2022 College Captains, Macey and Ashling, were beaming with happiness at being back on campus when we sat down to chat about their plans for next year.

### Welcome back! How wonderful to hear voices around the College again!

**Macey:** It's so exciting to be back, catching up with everyone. Although I do have an exam in a few days so that is kind of stressful!

### Can you tell us a little about your family and how you arrived at Siena?

Macey: I went to St Bede's Primary School in Balwyn, and my younger sister Charlie is in Year 9. I have a younger brother at Xavier.

**Ashling:** My parents immigrated from Ireland in 1999, we attended St Luke the Evangelist Primary in Blackburn. I have two brothers who are at Whitefriars College and my older sister Niamh also came to Siena

### Of course – she was also College Captain, wasn't she?

Ashling: Yes! In 2016.

### What will your approach be to leadership next year?

Macey: I think our approach will be to lead with the students rather than for them... breaking down the barriers between the SRC and the wider student body, we believe it's definitely more effective to work in unison with people.

### What are you most looking forward to in your final year – besides being onsite!

**Ashling:** Hopefully uninterrupted use of the Year 12 Common Room, having a Year 7 'Little Sister' and Year 12 Retreat for sure.

**Macey:** Just all being together, having fun, that's where the memories are made.

### Have you thought about further study beyond VCE yet?

**Macey:** Not really, I do love Science and especially Biology so possibly something in the Science field.

**Ashling:** I am leaning towards a double degree, Music and Education at Monash looks awesome, I think a double degree gives you options.

### Finally, what is one thing Siena has taught you?

**Macey:** One thing Siena College has taught me is the power of women. The need for women to empower each other and the strength that empowered women have in achieving limitless possibilities.

Ashling: This is a big question but I think the most important thing Siena has taught me is the importance of effective and collaborative teamwork when reaching a goal, as well the benefits of respecting those you meet to make everyone feel comfortable and valued in any situation.











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# Alumnae News

Albeit virtually, the College managed to engage with many from our alumnae community during Semester 2. We thank them for giving so generously of their time.

This year, the Careers Showcase was held via a series of webinars in early August. Students and parents listened to forty-six alumnae in twelve industries over three evenings. Our quest speakers spoke about their studies, opportunities, changing career direction and following their passion.

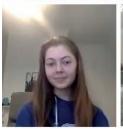
Rebecca Dabbs (Class of 2000) met over Zoom with our Eco Warriors to speak about her work with corporate clients to improve their sustainability and environmental impact. Rebecca

was delighted to hear about the initiatives at Siena to reduce waste, power consumption and maintain the momentum towards a more sustainable campus, and looks forward to further interaction with our Eco Warriors.

Michael Petrie's Year 11 Politics students had the privilege of listening to alumna, Olivia Kourmadias from the Class of 2018. Olivia studied International Relations at ANU and is currently working in maritime security. She shared a wealth of information about her studies and opportunities in Canberra. Olivia encouraged our students to be strong and confident, and to take on challenges whilst staying true to our Siena values.











### Ulumnae Wall Inscriptions for 2021/22

The Alumnae Wall located in the Convent and Cloisters is an historic tribute to our Dominican Sisters, Prioresses, Board Chairs and Principals, along with a panel for students from each decade commencing from 1940. Every student who attended Siena College from 1940 onwards, has the opportunity to have her name inscribed on the panels making up the wall.

Inscriptions are \$50 per student and further details are available via this link: https://events. humanitix.com/siena-college-alumnaewall-2021-2022



### Reunions

#### Saturday, 19 February 2022

Alumnae from the Class of 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

#### Friday, 4 March 2022

Class of 2021 One Year Reunion

#### Saturday, 26 March 2022

Alumnae from the Class of 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011

#### Saturday, 15 October 2022

Alumnae from the Class of 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012

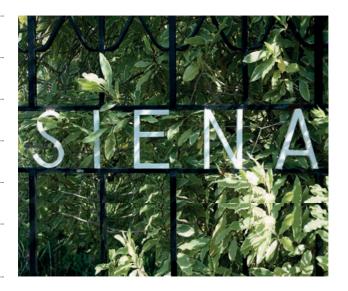
#### Friday, 21 October 2022

Alumnae from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s

#### Saturday, 22 October 2022

Back to Siena Day for all Alumnae

(in lieu of 80th anniversary celebrations missed due to COVID in 2020)



#### **Booking Details**

Booking details for 2022 Reunions will be made available via the Siena Global Connect App: Visit sienaglobalconnect.com.au



### **SIENA GLOBAL CONNECT**

Connecting Past, Present and Future

The Siena Global Connect app provides you with direct access to our network of alumnae. Scroll through our personalised news feed, find old classmates or attend a reunion

### TO GET THE APP

#### iOS Users

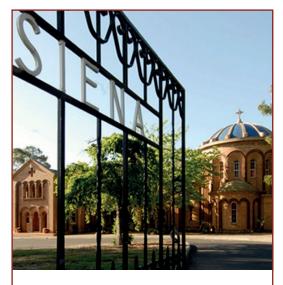
- Download 'Graduway Community' from App Store
- 2. Enable auto updates (optional)
- 3. Search for 'Siena Global Connect'
- 4. Sign in / Register

#### **Android Users**

- Download 'Siena Alumnae' from Google Play Store
- 2. Enable auto updates (optional)
- 3. Sign in / Register

Visit **sienaglobalconnect.com.au** for instructions on navigating the app.





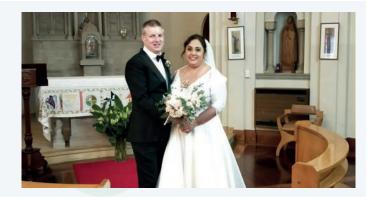
We are actively building our alumnae networking platform, Siena Global Connect, and have some 'lucky door' prizes to give away to new subscribers between now and the end of the school year.

We highly encourage you to join up to Siena Global Connect and stay connected to the Siena community.

# Congratulations

#### Weddings

Cristina D'Intini (Class of 1993) married Paul Roberts at St Dominic's on 19 April 2021. Wedding photographs were taken in the Convent and Cloisters at Siena. They celebrated their marriage with family and friends at Zonzo's Winery Estate in the Yarra Valley.



# Births

- Karsha Dickinson-Stolz (Class of 2002) and husband Mark are very excited to welcome their daughter, Florence Rose. Florence was born on 8 March 2021 and is pictured here with big sister and brother Gwendolyn and Louis.
- Angelica Hatzidimitriou, née Motta (Class of 2010) and husband Jamie are delighted to introduce Serena Marie born 9 March 2021.
- 3. On 30 April 2021 **Steph Ryan** (Class of 2011) and partner Andrew welcomed Sebastian Ryan Brook.
- 4. **Maree Hodgson** (current staff member), husband Luke and brothers Jed and Blake are very excited to announce the safe arrival of Zara Mae Hodgson on 13 May 2021.
- On 2 June 2021 Daniela Case (Class of 2008) and husband Tim welcomed Jack Case.
- 6. Congratulations to **Dan Henderson** (current staff member), his wife Rachel and big sister Millie on the safe arrival of Thomas Henderson on 20 July 2021.
- We are very pleased to introduce the next generation of the Barcellona and Fedele girls.

#### From left to right:

Frankie Barcellona (daughter of Clare Fedele, Class of 1999), Isabella Findlay (daughter of Vanessa Barcellona, Class of 2001), Annabel Mezo (daughter of Emily Mezo, née Barcellona, Class of 2003), and in the front welcome to Ruby Barcellona (Clare Fedele's second daughter) being smothered with love by her cousins.















# We Remember

#### May they Rest in Peace.

Margaret Cross, aged 89, passed away on 8 March 2021. Margaret is the mother of Mitchell Cross (current staff member).

**Keith Gower** passed away on 22 March 2021. Keith is the father of Belinda Biggins (current staff member).

**John Loschiavo** passed away on 24 April 2021. John is the father of Dom Loschiavo (current staff member).

**Terry O'Brien**, husband of Elizabeth O'Brien, née Manton (Class of 1954) passed away on 12 May 2021.

**Piero Galli** passed away on 24 May 2021. Piero is the father of Anita Galli (current staff member).

**Brian Pearson** passed away on 14 June 2021. Brian is the father of Jan Pearson (current staff member).

**Donald Wentworth Edwards** passed away on 15 June 2021. Don is the father-in-law of Barb Edwards (current staff member).

Anne O'Connor (Class of 1956) passed away on 7 August 2021. Anne will be fondly remembered for her artistic gifts, and for her generous and kind spirit. At the College's recent Arts and Technology Exhibition, we acknowledged Anne's achievements as a botanical artist.

Francis Gill passed away 26 August 2021. Francis is the husband of Mary Gill, née Palisi (Class of 1958). Francis will be remembered as a wonderful husband, loving and caring father and a fun-loving grandpa.

We fondly remember the Murphy sisters who passed away recently:

**Sr Bernadette Murphy OP** (Class of 1952) and **Carmel Haley** née Murphy (Class of 1942).



# From the Archives

#### 50 years of the Yearbook and 50 years of SPA

2021 sees the publication of the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the College Yearbook. First issued in 1972, the plain brown cover stamped with the Siena Convent crest enclosed a comprehensive summary of the events of the academic year. Sr Rosemary's Principal's Report listed significant moments for the College, student successes and staff arrivals and departures. The yearbook also featured the yearly calendar, student work, news of former students and a complete set of black and white class photographs.

Over the past fifty years, the yearbook has increased in size and page count and in 2005 it became a fully colour publication. Showcasing student work has always been an important function and many issues have featured student artwork on the cover. Many of our alumnae authors had their early writing published in the yearbook and the photographs often capture sportswomen, musicians, actors and other notable alumnae of the future.

Most importantly, the yearbook is an inclusive publication. Whilst not every student can have an article published or artwork featured, we have always endeavoured to include the name of every student who attended the College during the year. Thus, the yearbook is not only an authentic snapshot of the Siena College community in any one year, but

also a valuable historical reference for College Archives and a wonderful source of nostalgia for our alumnae.

1972 also marked the first full year of operation for the Siena Parents' Association (SPA). The inaugural meeting took place in November 1971 with the intention to, 'assist the Dominican Sisters and lay teachers to provide a suitable education for our children.' (1972 Yearbook). In its first year, SPA raised \$1,200 from their raffle alone. The Tuck Shop, staffed by volunteer mothers and grandmothers, became a regular source of income and fathers (and some mothers) helped in a practical way by participating in working bees.

Over the years SPA has organised barbeques, dinner-dances, theatre and cinema visits, socials, chocolate drives and more recently celebratory breakfasts and second-hand book and uniform sales. The money raised from these fundraising events has been channelled into projects big and small: from refurbishing the Hall and tennis courts to purchasing computer and gym equipment and buying gifts for Year 12 graduates.

Before the Formal became the highlight of the Year 12 social calendar, the most anticipated event of the year was the Debutante Ball. This event pre-dated



the formation of SPA and was initially run by the Parish as a dinner-dance for students who had graduated the previous year. In 1984 SPA relaunched the Debutante Ball as a Year 12 event and in 2003, the Presentation Ball (as it was now known) became a Year 11 occasion. SPA continued to organise and host this much loved annual event until 2014.

Fifty years on, the Siena Parents' Association continues to play essential role in the life of the College. Its fundraising efforts, which support the College in so many ways, are a testament to the success of the original intention as expressed in that first meeting in November 1971.

Maureen McAuley College Archivist





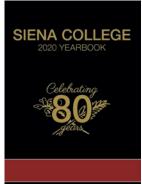












Siena College Archives would like to thank our generous donors.

This year we received donations from:

Julianna Drobik OP (Class of 1973) Kristen Monteiro (Class of 2014) Paul Failla (Current member of staff) Michelle Costa (Class of 1984)

Phyl Naughton née Commons (Class of 1954)



Register today for an Open Morning or a College Tour



A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

### **OPEN EVENING 2022**

Tuesday, 10 March

### **OPEN MORNINGS 2022**

Friday, 25 February Friday, 25 March

Thursday, 28 April

Monday, 23 May

Thursday, 9 June

Friday, 15 July

Monday, 15 August

www.siena.vic.edu.au

