



Melbourne  
Montessori  
College

# *Curriculum Information*

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

# Why Montessori?

## Celebrating Community

Melbourne Montessori College has been providing a high-quality Montessori education for children for 50 years. Our school evolved from small yet passionate beginnings into what is now a substantive, independent school that is dedicated to preparing children for the real world.

All classes are multi-age, giving each child the opportunity to learn from others and the flexibility to develop their personality at their own pace, both socially and intellectually. In the Junior School, children usually stay with the same teacher for three years. This leads to strong teacher-student bonds and a deep understanding by the teacher of individual student characteristics. In the Senior School, class sizes are small by design, offering greater flexibility and more focused teacher attention. Our students grow into compassionate and self-motivated individuals, who are internationally-minded and globally responsible citizens.

### Differences between Montessori and Traditional Education:

Montessori Education	Traditional Education
Based on helping the natural development of the human being.	Based on the transfer of a national curriculum.
Children learn at their own pace and follow their own individual interest.	Children learn from a set curriculum according to a time frame that is the same for everyone.
Children teach themselves using materials specially prepared for the purpose.	Children are taught by the teacher.
Child is an active participant in learning.	Child is a passive participant in learning.
Understanding comes through the child's own experiences via the materials and the promotion of children's ability to find things out for themselves.	Learning is based on subjects and is limited to what is given.
Learning is based on the fact that physical exploration and cognition are linked.	Children sit at desks and learn from a whiteboard and worksheets.
Child can work where he/she is comfortable, move around and talk at will while not disturbing others.	Child is usually assigned own chair and encouraged to sit still and listen during group sessions.
The teacher works in collaboration with the children.	The class is teacher-led.
The child's individual development brings its own reward and therefore motivation.	Motivation is achieved by a system of reward and punishment.
Environment and method encourage internal self-discipline.	Teacher acts as primary enforcer of external discipline.
Child works as long as he/she wishes on chosen project.	Child generally given specific time limit for work.
Uninterrupted work cycles.	Block time, period lessons.
Mixed age groups.	Same age groups.
Working and learning matched to the social development of the child.	Working and learning without emphasis on the social development of the child.
Shared emphasis on intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development.	Main emphasis on intellectual development.
Shared focus on the acquisition of academic, social, practical and life skills.	Main focus on academics.

### Montessori education can offer your child:

- The opportunity to work at their own pace in a non-competitive environment.
- Holistic and immersive learning experiences based on physical, hands-on interactions.
- The opportunity to follow their natural curiosity and learning, both independently and collaboratively.
- Education in the real world for the real world.

## Our History

The first Montessori Cycle 1 classroom in Victoria was established in 1974 at the current Brighton Campus. The success of the program generated demand for a Montessori primary class which was established in 1976. In 1979, land was purchased in Roselea Street, Caulfield to provide a permanent home for the primary classes forming Caulfield Montessori School. In 2005, Caulfield Montessori School and Brighton Montessori School combined to become Melbourne Montessori School (MMS) with more than 250 students across both campuses. MMS became an independent preschool and primary school for children from 3 to 12 years of age. Montessori Parent and Toddler Groups and an Early Learners Program was established in 2007 for children 18 months to 3 years of age.

In late 2013, MMS purchased the Brighton campus and surrounding grounds, supporting the expansion of the Junior School and allowing the establishment of the Senior School. The Senior School delivers the Montessori Adolescent Program, Montessori Careers Program (MCP) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. It continues to grow, year by year with the first Year 12 cohort graduating at the end of 2020.



*Our first Montessori Classroom was established in 1974.*

In 2024 Melbourne Montessori School celebrated its 50 year anniversary and re-branded to Melbourne Montessori College (MMC).

## Well-Known Montessorians

**Montessori Education has a worldwide tradition of over 100 years. The following are just some of the famous students who have attended Montessori schools:**

- Jeffery Bezos, Founder of Amazon.com
- Sergey Brin, Co-Founder of Google
- Larry Page, Co-Founder of Google
- Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia
- Joshua Bell, Violinist
- Elizabeth Berridge, Actress
- T. Berry Brazelton, Paediatrician and Author
- Julia Child, Chef, TV Cooking Show Star and Author

- George Clooney, Academy Award Winning Actor
- Prof. Peter Drucker, Writer, Management Consultant, Social Ecologist
- Anne Frank, Author of The Diary of Anne Frank
- Katharine Graham, Owner/Editor of the Washington Post
- Freidensreich Hundertwasser, Austrian Painter and Architect
- Helen Hunt, Academy Award Winning Actress
- Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Nobel Prize Winner for Literature
- Jaqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, Editor, Former First Lady
- Taylor Swift, Global Singing Sensation
- Prince William, Prince Harry and Prince George

**Many famous people choose Montessori Schools for their own children including the following:**

- Cate Blanchett, Actress
- Cher Bono, Singer and Actress
- John Bradshaw, Psychologist and Author
- Yul Brynner, Actor
- Bill and Hilary Clinton, Former President and New York Senator
- Michael Douglas, Actor
- The Hon. Alexander Downer and Nicky Downer, former Foreign Minister
- Jennifer Granholm and Daniel Mulhern, Governor of Michigan
- Yo Yo Ma, Cellist
- Gordon Ramsay OBE, Chef, TV Presenter and Restaurateur (his wife is a Montessori Teacher)
- Jane Reilly, Television Presenter
- Natasha Stott Despoja, Former Leader of the Australian Democrats
- Willie Nelson, Musician, has a Montessori School on his ranch

**Other famous people connected to Montessori include:**

- Alexander Graham Bell (inventor) and his wife Mabel founded the Montessori Education Association in 1913. They also provided financial support directly to Dr Maria Montessori and helped establish the first Montessori class in Canada and one of the first in the United States of America.
- Thomas Edison, scientist and inventor, helped found a Montessori school
- Erik Erikson, noted anthropologist/author, had a Montessori teaching certificate
- Jean Piaget, noted Swiss psychologist, made his first observations of children in a Montessori school. He was also head of the Swiss Montessori society for many years.
- President Woodrow Wilson's daughter trained as a Montessori teacher. There was a Montessori classroom in the basement of the White House during Wilson's presidency.

[melbournemontessori.vic.edu.au](http://melbournemontessori.vic.edu.au)

### Brighton Campus

741 Hawthorn Road  
Brighton East VIC 3187

### Caulfield Campus

6 Roselea Street  
Caulfield South VIC 3162

03 9131 5200

[enrolments@mmc.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@mmc.vic.edu.au)



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# Results and Pathways

## Celebrating Achievement

We are extremely proud of our 2024 Year 12 cohort, who have demonstrated resilience, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to their learning journey. At MMC, we believe in reimagining education for a rapidly evolving world. Our approach fosters adaptability, academic excellence, and holistic development to prepare students for the exciting future ahead.

Due to our small class sizes and personalised teaching methods, students who may have otherwise found traditional settings more of a challenge, have found an environment where they can truly thrive. The Montessori approach allows for deep, individualised learning, empowering students to reach their full potential in ways that extend beyond standard academic measures.

While academic results reflect the perseverance and effort of our students, they are just one measure of success. True achievement lies in the skills, passions, and individual potential each student cultivates during their time with us. As a community, we celebrate these diverse talents and strive to unlock the unique abilities of every learner.

Every student in our 2024 cohort was accepted into a course aligned with their interests and aspirations, a testament to their hard work and the support of our dedicated educators. Additionally, 40% of our students achieved an ATAR equivalent of 80 and above, positioning them among the top 20% of students nationwide.

We are excited to see our graduates embark on their next chapter, equipped with the knowledge, creativity, and adaptability to thrive.



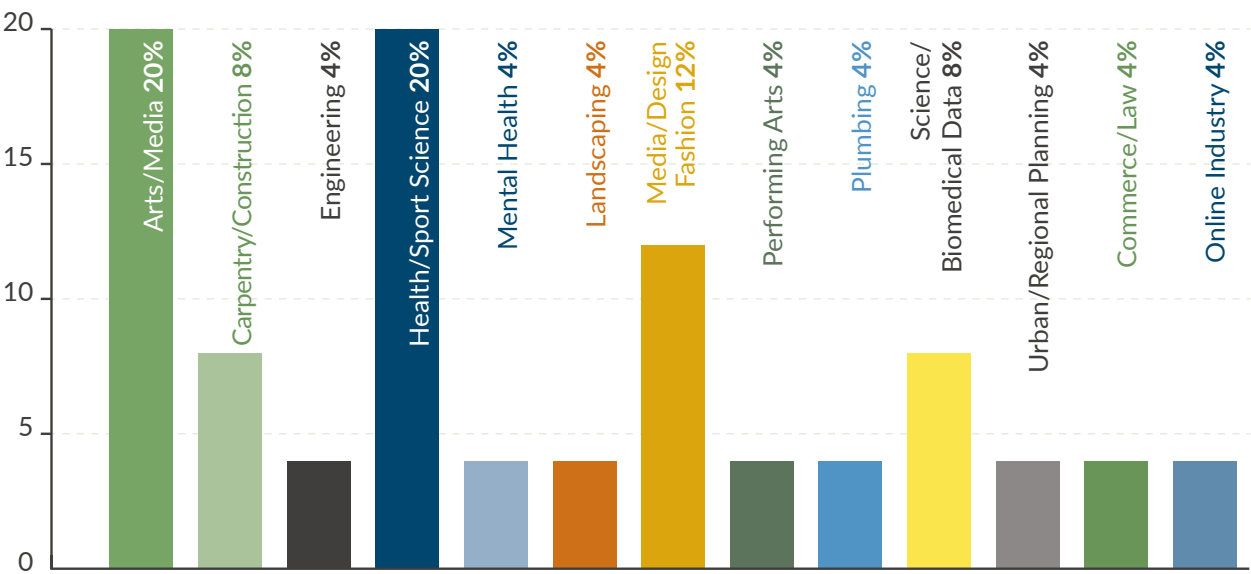
*Daniel Thomas*

**Daniel Thomas**  
Principal

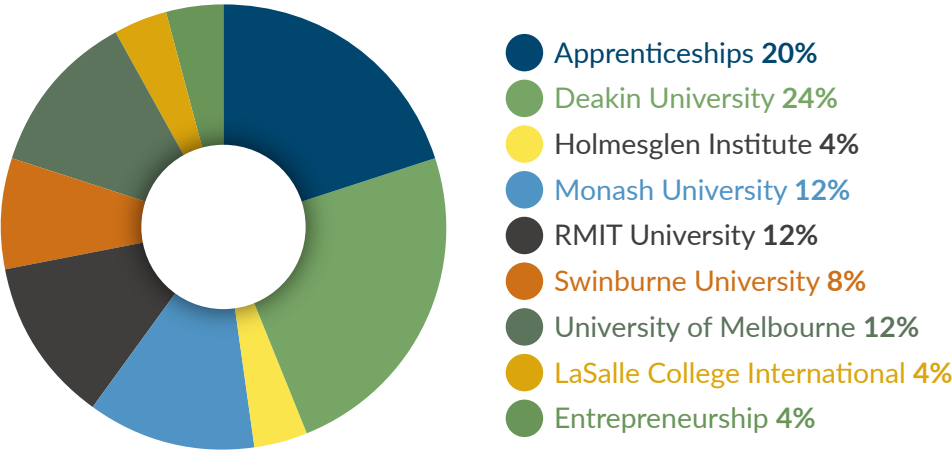


Whether they pursued the VCE Vocational Major (VM) or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, each student has forged a meaningful path toward their aspirations. This snapshot reflects the choices of all known MMC Senior School graduating students since its inception:

### Industry Choices



### Pathway Choices



Our students' diverse career aspirations reflect the breadth of opportunities available to them, whether through university, vocational pathways, or direct entry into industries they are passionate about. Their choices are a testament to the strength of a Montessori education—one that fosters independence, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.

Congratulations to our graduates! We look forward to seeing the incredible contributions you will make to the world.

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# Cycle Six, International Baccalaureate

Years 11 to 12

Students extend their knowledge and passion for independent learning as they explore the disciplines offered in our two-year International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is a two-year curriculum that fosters high academic standards and international understanding. It is recognised by Australian tertiary institutions and major universities worldwide as the gold standard in university preparation.

Offering more than just academic knowledge, the learner and their personal development are central to the IB Diploma Programme. Students explore and develop their intellectual, emotional and ethical attributes with the IB Learner Profile and develop an excellent breadth and depth of academic knowledge.

The IB Diploma Programme encourages students across the globe to become active and compassionate lifelong learners. The core values and education philosophy of IB are in harmony with the Montessori philosophy; the development of engaged, empowered and independent learners.

Students completing the IB study six subjects chosen from subject areas including language, humanities, the experimental sciences, mathematics and the arts, in addition to the three core components of the programme around the Extended Essay, CAS and Theory of Knowledge.

## What is an IB education?

An IB education is preparing students for higher education and active participation in a global society.

IB learners strive to become inquiring, knowledgeable and reflective thinkers, principled yet open minded communicators, balanced and caring risk-takers. These attributes represent the IB Learner Profile: a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond intellectual development and academic success. This is the IB's educational philosophy. Students learn more than a collection of facts. The Diploma Programme prepares students for university and encourages them to ask challenging questions, learn how to learn, develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture, and develop the ability to communicate with and understand people from other countries and cultures.





## Why the IB Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma is an exciting and challenging internationally recognised programme.

Its philosophy and mission statement align very well with Montessori principles. Offering more than just academic knowledge, the learner and their development are central to the programme.

Research suggests that there are many benefits to choosing the Diploma Programme. The programme aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge – students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

## IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## Reasons that students take the IB Diploma:

1. It offers the breadth and depth required to develop excellent pre-tertiary skills.
2. Encourages students to be critical and independent thinkers who feel ready for life after school.
3. Students drive their own learning and develop excellent time management skills to become autonomous lifelong learners.
4. Creates balanced and well rounded individuals through Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).
5. Provides the best preparation for university by developing metacognition and critical thinking skills.
6. It assesses more than just examination skills.
7. Provides a qualification recognised by universities around the world.

## Pathway Selection

Students at Melbourne Montessori College choose their pathway in the first semester of Year 10; either the Montessori Careers Program or the IB Diploma Programme. We encourage every student to choose the pathway that suits their personality and will bring out their personal best.

The pathway selection process will include tasks and activities for students to present their preferred choice and provide 'evidence' that demonstrates they are well prepared for the programme.

Success is highly dependent on the student's commitment towards their choice and their ability to self-manage their school-life balance. In the second semester of Year 10, students can further demonstrate their readiness for their choice of program and subjects will focus on the prior knowledge required for the chosen program.



**Location:** Brighton Campus

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