



PARENT'S  
PROSPECTUS

Marcellin Technical College

A SMART  
MOVE  
*into the workforce!*



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MOVE  
*into the workforce!*

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# Why study at MTC?

A place at Marcellin Technical College (formerly Australian Technical College – Adelaide South) is a great way to start training for a career before leaving school. Students can get training, work experience and a nationally-recognised qualification and earn a wage as an Australian School-based Apprentice.

The College is tailored towards the start of a student's trade career. The work students will do in Years 11 and 12 is targeted towards the workplace and they'll receive mentoring and support from industry-experienced teachers and trainers. It's very different to a 'traditional' school and there are four major benefits to finishing Years 11 and 12 with Marcellin Technical College.

**Real-world subjects:** the best way to learn is to find out how what student's learn relates to what they want to achieve ... at least that's what our students tell us. Our curriculum has been built on trade principles. Our SACE program has been designed specifically for Australian school-based apprentices. But we have taken the traditional subjects such as English and Mathematics and reworked them so that they have greater meaning. They still satisfy all the requirements of Year 12 studies under SACE, but they are now within an industry context:

- English becomes Workplace Communications
- Mathematics becomes Mathematics for Industry
- Health focuses on being Fit for Work
- Science has a Trade Principles focus

**Integrating education, training and a start to a great career:** as tradespeople for the future, students will require induction to Small Business Management, which provides essential small business management and entrepreneurial skills to be an effective employee or employer. Projects that are covered in Small Business Management are quoting, costing, business planning, quality control, customer service, marketing and business ethics.

IT skills are integrated into the learning, with practical applications and exposure to trade skills such as Computer Aided Drafting as an example. To continue the focus of hands on applied SACE, students are also involved in a personal project of their choice that can gain additional SACE credits.

It's great to know as well, that all on the job and off the job training students undertake as Australian School-based Apprentices all contribute to the SACE through the Vocational Studies and SSABSA VET components.

**Teacher-Mentors:** our teacher/mentors are passionate and have the student's well-being at heart. They also have a special relationship with our student that is different to a usual teacher-student relationship one would find in a traditional school. They are mentors who work with students to steer them on the trade path. They are in the workshop, getting their hands dirty and working on projects with the students. And our students have told us they respect the fact that they are learning from industry people who have lived what they're teaching.

**Pathways to a trade, or TAFE or University – whichever you want!** It's a smart move for students to keep their options open. Studying at Marcellin Technical College gives students career options – to be a tradie or technical person, run their own business or go on to University. Students will complete their SACE qualifications, giving them the opportunity to take up further study down the track – either at TAFE or at University. And having Year 12 to fall back on is a good safety net to have.

*A smart move into the workforce*

*“ Sending our son to the College was the best thing we've ever done. He was at a private school before that and it wasn't really working. He was starting to believe that he's not a good person because he didn't fit into the type of school he was at. The frustrating thing is that he's naturally intelligent but didn't fit into the way the school wanted to teach.*

*Once he started at the college, he's really taken off. He's a much happier kid, he believes in himself and feels he's okay. As a mum – and an employer who has two apprentices – I'd endorse the College to anyone. It's the best of both worlds giving kids their SACE as well as starting a trade. ”*

*~ Mary, Parent*

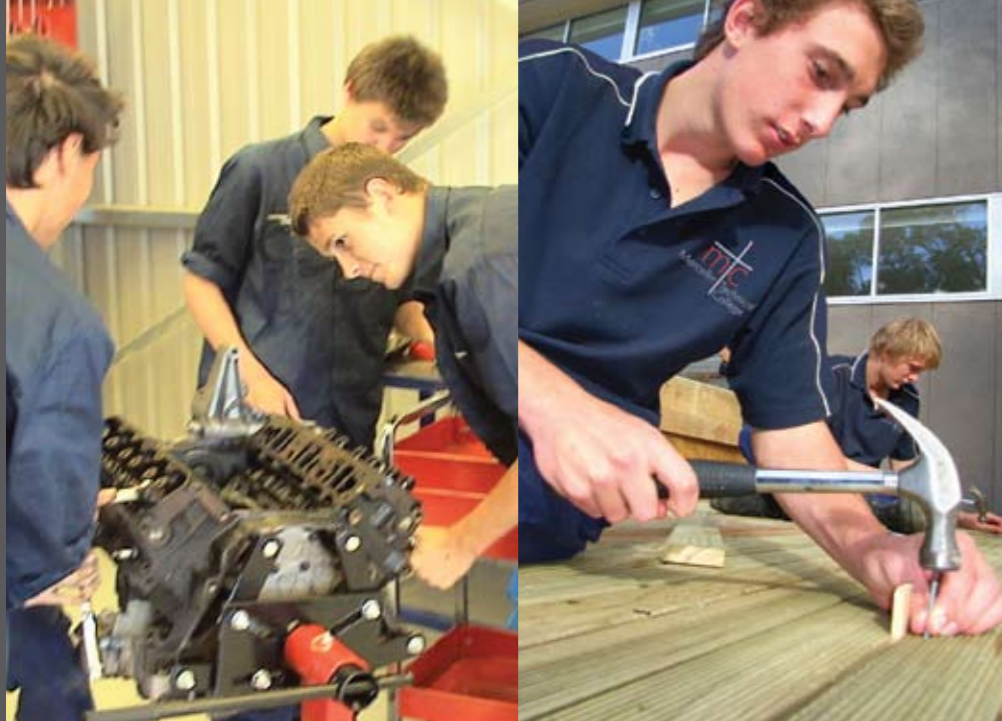
*“ Ever since I was six, I've been making things at home, hammering things, taking stuff apart. I've always wanted to work with timber. At school, I was getting straight As for my woodwork but I had to change to metalwork because I couldn't do woodwork the whole year round. I got a D for it because I wanted to be a carpenter. I could understand why I couldn't keep doing something I loved doing.*

*This place is great for me because I can concentrate on it. It's important that there's a place like this where you can work on the things you're good at, but still get your SACE at the end of it. We're studying more stuff that we can put towards our apprenticeship. All the hours you're doing towards your SACE you can put towards your modules. My mates are studying Australian History and stuff like that which I can't really use as a carpenter when I'm building a house. ”*

*~ James, Student/Apprentice*



**m****c**  
Marcellin Technical College



*“ My son's grades have improved, he has been more enthusiastic and he's not as bored as he was. At the College, he's now doing subjects that he's got an interest in. He's always been interested in technical subjects but with the more traditional subjects he was just there because he had to be.*

*The model the College uses is a better way to teach boys – some boys right from the beginning aren't as ready for the type of learning that most schools provide and if it's not specific, they zone out. And that can be disheartening and frustrating – you know how important it is for them to do well at school. I speak to quite a few parents about the College. I tell them it keeps the boys focussed and on track and it's all based around the technical knowledge. And I know parents whose kids are just starting high school and they're already looking at it because their kids are very hands-on.”*

*~ Jeanette, Parent*

## Which trades are on offer?

Marcellin Technical College focuses on key industry sectors that meet the needs of industry within the South Australian region.

### Automotive

The automotive field is more than just being a mechanic. Today the industry has a diverse range of high-tech, innovative and rapidly changing workplaces and occupations that include mechanics, auto electricians, spray painters or body repairers. It is also an industry that has its sights set on producing and maintaining vehicles and components that produce less pollution and reduce our carbon footprint.

**Possible career paths:** Light and heavy vehicle mechanics

### Building and Construction

Building and construction is a very diverse sector for those who like to be on the move, as you may work on projects (jobs) at a number of different job sites. The range is massive – both in the types of projects you can work in (residential housing through to commercial buildings) and in the types of materials you can work with (wood, steel or even concrete, just to name a few). There are many trade disciplines that work in building and construction such as carpentry (installing and finishing), roofing (putting roofs on housing) or plastering (fixing the internal linings of commercial or domestic buildings). Plumbers also come under the building and construction sector, where you may be designing and installing a range of plumbing needs; this may either be maintenance or for new buildings, and with the focus on conservation plumbers are at the forefront in helping us to reduce our water consumption.

**Possible career paths:** Bricklaying, Carpentry, Plumbing, Roofing, Plastering

### Commercial Cookery

One of those great trade careers where students can take their career to the world! But succeeding in commercial cookery is more than TV chefs. It has become very sophisticated and professional in recent years. Apart from a passion for food, students will learn people skills, team work and good time

management – all skills needed to succeed in this industry. Commercial cookery is at the heart of the thriving and expanding hospitality and tourism industry and has great job prospects for those with a passion!

**Possible career paths:** Baker, chef, cook, pastrycook, caterer

### Electrotechnology

Electrotechnology is at the foundation of everyday life – lights, television, DVDs, computer games, MP3s or security systems, just to name a few. As new gadgets hit the market the more this sector needs new, enthusiastic, trained workers to help it keep up with all the new technologies and the demand.

**Possible career paths:** Electrical fitter, Electrician, Electrical Linesperson, Instrument fitter, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic

### Metals and Engineering

Being a 'metal head' can get access into all sorts of trade occupations and industry sectors that you may not have even dreamed of - and it's more than just working in a workshop. Careers in metals and engineering may mean coming up with the ideas and conceiving engineering designs, manufacturing or assembly. Another option could be the fabrication engineering path – cutting, shaping, joining and finishing metal to make, maintain or repair metal products or structures. Alternatively, students can pursue a mechanical engineering career to carry out mechanical work on machines, sub assemblies and manufactured parts.

**Possible career paths:** Boilermaker, Fitter, Metal Machinist, Sheet metal worker, Toolmaker, Welder

More information about our trades is available on our web site:

[www.marcellintechcollege.com.au](http://www.marcellintechcollege.com.au)

*“ The teachers here are great. You can call them by their first name, you feel like you're working with them on problems. You can really relate to them and they have great experience in the industry. When they talk about something, you listen more because you know they've got experience. The teachers here have different expectations of you than other places. They're very professional about it and it's like a workplace. They'll support you if you want to work hard.*

*It's a better place to learn because everyone is focussed and you don't have teachers trying to stop blokes mucking around.”*

*~ Mitch, sheet metal*



# How does it all work?

Usually students come to Marcellin Technical College for Year 11 and Year 12 to complete their secondary schooling. And this is what most of them do:

**SACE Qualifications:** like a mainstream school, students complete their South Australian Certification of Education (SACE), giving them the important school qualifications that they may need further into their career.

But they won't be studying the same subjects as every one else in other schools. They'll be doing science while looking at engines; or English but applying it in the workplace rather than Shakespeare; or maths, but applying it to resistance in electrical circuits. They will be applying their knowledge immediately, rather than wondering what relevance it has.

**Work Education:** Work Education is taught as an integrated subject that develops skills beyond just the technical ones. Students learn about how to research, evaluate their efforts, perform well in interviews and establish career goals.

**Try-A-Trade:** this is a key part of finding out what the students are good at. In Try-A-Trade they get a taste of individual trades in a work context to understand what actually goes on. If they like it, great! If not, they can always try something else.

**Work experience:** work experience is another way of developing a student's skills in particular trades. But we've found it's also very important as a way to build up contacts and networks and many previous students have found apprenticeships at the places where they had work experience.

**Finding an apprenticeship:** finding an apprenticeship is something we do together with students and parents but students take the lead. It's the student's responsibility to find an apprenticeship, but we will support them, providing them with the right information and connections into the workforce.

As you can see, it's a very different environment to a mainstream school.

## Which career pathways are available to students?

Once a student completes Year 12, they complete the final part of their apprenticeship as a full-time employee and then it's primarily up to them. Most apprentices stay on in their apprenticeship and their career takes off! And that's where one of the key benefits of studying with Marcellin Technical College kicks in. With Year 12 completed and SACE finalised, they can take on further study, move into TAFE to do a Diploma or head to University. It's really a choice.

# What else do parents need to know

## and other Frequently Asked Questions?

### Who is best suited to attend Marcellin Technical College?

Students entering Year 11 who have a great attitude and want to work with their hands in a trade-based career. It's not for the faint-hearted and we definitely don't recommend students come here just to get away from a mainstream school. We're preparing them for a trade career and giving them every opportunity to succeed ... but the students that do the best are those who are committed.

### What assistance will students receive to find an apprenticeship?

The College will provide support by identifying appropriate career pathways and linking with employers for work experience and Australian School-based Apprenticeship opportunities, but ultimately it's up to the student. And once they've found an apprenticeship, our teacher-mentors help them to manage school, training and work.

### What is the length of an Australian School-based Apprenticeship?

The length of a school-based apprenticeship depends on the field the student is in and how many training hours are involved. Our students commit to a minimum of 35 weeks at the place of employment and eight weeks of trade training with the RTO during their two years at the College.

### How much time is spent during the year on the job and how much is spent attending the College?

In Year 11, students undertake a six-month preparatory and prevocational program. From July, they start a school-based apprenticeship, so would begin to spend up to six to eight weeks with an employer (in blocks of two, three and five weeks). In Year 12, students spend approximately half their time with their employer (or work sites) and the remainder of the time is spent completing SACE and Trade Training at the College or RTO.

More information is available from our web site: [www.marcellintechcollege.com.au](http://www.marcellintechcollege.com.au)

### What if the student doesn't get an apprenticeship quickly?

The College will continue to work with a student until they get that apprenticeship they're looking for, but they won't be standing still while they're waiting. Students still go on work placements to build their contacts and gain valuable work experience and, in some cases, make a case for an employer giving them an apprenticeship.



*"I would recommend the college to anyone. Our son seems to get on well with the mentors that he's had and because he's gotten on so well with them he's a lot more self-confident. He has come out of his shell with his work skills and his personality. When kids do get a bit of confidence, sometimes they go beyond their actual ability but if they get stuck in a rut, their true potential doesn't come through."*

*"If you're thinking about sending your child here, I would suggest you drop in and see the place. Everything is well set up and everyone seems to give the kids the right sort of encouragement and that's a great thing. You'll be quite surprised and happy about what you see. I know we were."*

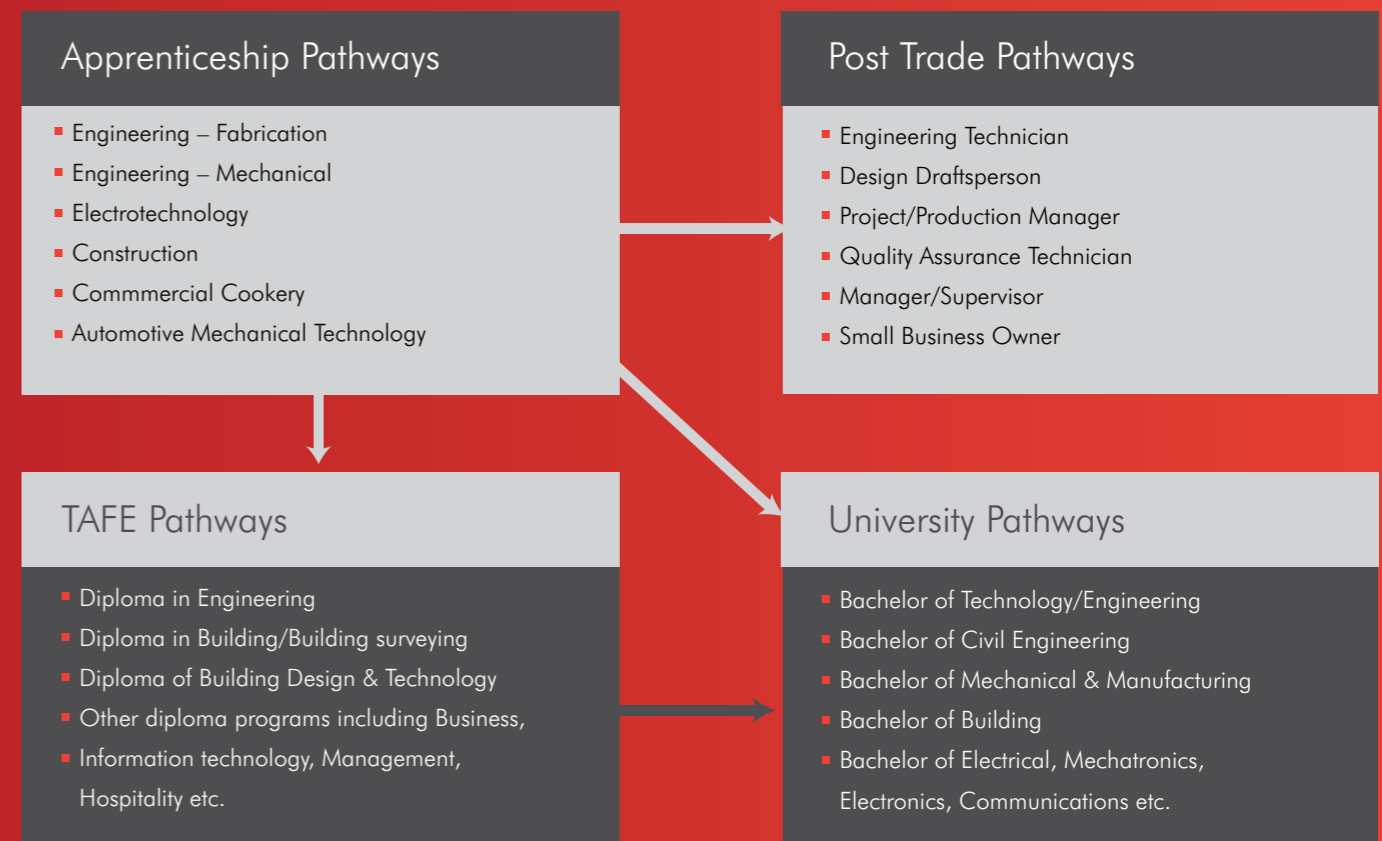
*~ Clayton, Parent*

*"It's interesting when I talk to my mates because at the moment they're doing their exams and my school is set up completely differently. I did most of my school work last year so I'm only here one day a week this year. My mates ask 'how can you do that?' If I didn't come here, I'd still be sitting in the same class doing Romeo and Juliet and wondering why I'm here."*

*~ Jarrod, Student/Apprentice*

# Future Pathways model

It is your future and by having an apprenticeship under your belt it can open the door to future pathways you never thought possible.



## How does my son/daughter get in?

All prospective students need to apply for a place at Marcellin Technical College. To get your enrolment package, you can contact our office on 8186 9700 or download it from our web site [www.marcellintechcollege.com.au](http://www.marcellintechcollege.com.au).

All applicants are then required to undertake an aptitude test, as well as attend an interview prior to being accepted into the College. The aptitude test covers the skills that you'll need in a trade career.

Students can also help us see how committed they are to a trade by providing a portfolio of projects worked on. They can bring photos of work they have done or examples of work experience they have already picked up. All of these things help us to make the final decision on their place at Marcellin.

## About Marcellin Technical College

Marcellin Technical College started life as the Australian Technical College – Adelaide South in 2006. We were originally funded by the Australian Federal Government and industry-led by a governing board representing industry groups and members of ATEC.

We are now supported by Catholic Education South Australia – a great step in securing our future while still allowing us to continue providing a trade-focussed education.

This new support also allows us to develop and expand our course offerings even further over the next few years. We will continue to build closer links with our community and provide more educational opportunities that fit well with their values and the community values of Catholic education.

We have been renamed after St Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers community, according to the values his style of education represents: simplicity, deep concern, open-mindedness, trust, strength of character, family spirit and practical wisdom.



## Any questions?

Any questions at all, please contact the College on 8186 9700.

Alternatively, you will find more information on our web site [www.marcellintechcollege.com.au](http://www.marcellintechcollege.com.au)

## How to find us

Our state of the art technical facilities are located on the corner of Beach and Mander Rd, Christie Downs (the former Christies Beach West High School campus).

The College is conveniently located adjacent to the Noarlunga Centre interchange for buses and trains and across from Colonnades Shopping Centre.

# A SMART MOVE

## Marcellin Technical College

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