



# St Bede's College

## History

St Bede's College was founded in 1938 by the De La Salle Brothers. The founder of the Brothers was Saint John Baptist De La Salle, who was born at Rheims in 1651 during the reign of Louis XIV.

St Bede's College is a dual-Campus, independent Catholic College for boys with approximately 1,900 students. Situated in the south-eastern suburbs of Mentone and Bentleigh East, the College caters for boys from Years 7 to 12. St Bede's College is a Catholic school conducted in the Lasallian tradition.

The College was founded in 1938 under the patronage of the early medieval Saint and Scholar, St Bede. The College is governed by an Incorporated College Board, which is responsible to the Trustees of the De La Salle Brothers and led by the current Principal, Ms Deborah Frizza, who is responsible to the College Board.

## Our Patron Saint, St Bede (also known as the Venerable Bede)

St Bede is widely regarded as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars. He wrote around 40 books mainly dealing with theology and history.

Bede was born around the year 672 in the English region of Northumbria. At the age of 7, his family entrusted his education to the care of Benedict Biscop at the Benedictine Monastery, St Peter at Wearmouth. He became, as the Holy Father explained "one of the most outstanding scholars of the early Middle Ages." In 682 AD, Bede moved to the monastery at Jarrow, where he spent the rest of his life. By the age of 19 he had become a deacon and was promoted to priest at 30.

His scholarship covered a huge range of subjects, including commentaries on the Bible, observations of nature, music and poetry. His most famous work, which is a key source for the understanding of early British history and the arrival of Christianity, is "The Ecclesiastical History of the English People" which was completed in 731 AD. It is the first work of history in which the AD system of dating is used. Bede considered it vitally important to convince the Churches of the Celts and the Picts to celebrate Easter together, in accordance with the Roman calendar. The Pope exclaimed that thanks to Bede's approach to theology – which involved a combination of the Bible, liturgy and history – Bede has a modern message for the various "states" of Christian life.

Bede died at the monastery in May 735 AD.

## Our Lasallian Values

St Bede's College is primarily concerned with the human and Christian education of the whole person. Relationships are the cornerstone of learning within St Bede's College and are central to the wellbeing of the community. In the tradition of St John Baptist De La Salle, we aim to educate and shape articulate young men. It is our aim to instill in our students the values of life-long education and values of compassion and service to the community. As a Catholic College in the Lasallian tradition, we also aim to present Christ as each person's model.



# St Bede's College

We will respect ourselves and one another, appreciate individual differences and encourage one another to reach our full potential.

The De La Salle Brothers exist to provide a human and Christian education to young people, especially the poor. The Lasallian Brothers are members of a religious teaching congregation founded by St John Baptist De La Salle in Rheims France in 1680. They strive to model their lives on Christ and to lead their students to an appreciation of and commitment to Gospel values.

## Our Lasallian Heritage – John Baptist De La Salle

St John Baptist De La Salle so inspired the world that he was declared the universal Patron Saint of Teachers in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.



John Baptist De La Salle was born into a world very different from our own. He was the first son of wealthy parents living in France over 300 years ago. Born at Reims, John Baptist De La Salle received the tonsure at age 11 and was named Canon of the Reims Cathedral at 16. Though he had to assume the administration of family affairs after his parents died, he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a Doctorate in Theology. Meanwhile he became tentatively involved with a group of rough and barely literate young men in order to establish schools for poor boys.

At that time most people in France were extremely poor: peasants in the country, and slum dwellers in the towns. Few could send their children to school; most children had little hope for the future. Moved by the plight of the poor who seemed so "far from salvation" either in this world or the next, he determined to put his own talents and advanced education at the service of the children "often left to themselves and badly brought up." To be more effective, St John Baptist De La Salle abandoned his family home, moved in with the teachers, renounced his wealth and position as Canon and formed the community that became known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools.



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***"To touch the hearts of the young and to inspire them with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform, and it is the one that God asks of you; it is the purpose of your work with the young."***

**St John Baptist De La Salle**



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His project met opposition from some church authorities who resisted the creation of a new form of school conducted by consecrated laymen. The educational establishment resented his innovative methods and his insistence on gratuity for all, regardless of whether they could afford to pay. Nevertheless, De La Salle and his Brothers succeeded in creating a network of quality schools throughout France that featured instruction in the vernacular, students grouped according to ability and achievement, integration of religious instruction with secular subjects, well-prepared teachers with a sense of vocation and mission, and the involvement of parents.

John Baptist De La Salle was a pioneer in founding training colleges for teachers, reform schools for delinquents, technical schools, and secondary schools for modern languages, arts, and sciences. His work quickly spread through France and, after his death in 1719, continued to spread across the globe. In 1900 John Baptist De La Salle was declared a Saint. In 1950, because of his life and inspirational writings, he was made Patron Saint of all those who work in the field of education. John Baptist De La Salle inspired others to teach and care for young people, to meet failure and frailty with compassion, to affirm, strengthen and heal. At the present time there are De La Salle schools in 80 different countries around the world.

## John Baptist De La Salle – A Brief History

<b>April 30, 1651</b>	Born at Rheims, France
<b>April 9, 1678</b>	Ordained priest
<b>April 7, 1719</b>	Died
<b>February 19, 1888</b>	Beatified
<b>May 24, 1900</b>	Canonised
<b>May 15, 1950</b>	Proclaimed Patron of Christian Teachers

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## References

Quote taken from the [Lasallian Website](#)

St Bede content taken from the [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/bede\\_st.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/bede_st.shtml) plus our handbook. Our Lasallian Heritage content taken from the following [Lasallian Website](#)