

# Edinburgh College

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Character... through nurture, learning and service

Edinburgh College  
33-61 Edinburgh Road  
Lilydale, Victoria, 3140

03 9728 2211  
[admin@ec.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin@ec.vic.edu.au)  
[edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au](http://edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au)

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## Section One – College Overview

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### Introduction



Edinburgh College has provided quality Christian education since 1964. Situated on 20 hectares and positioned on a beautiful ridge in Lilydale on the eastern edge of Melbourne, the College consists of an Early Learning Centre, Primary and Secondary schools, providing continuous education for all age groups.

In 2013 the Victorian Registrations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) approved the current name of Edinburgh College. This coincided with the 50th anniversary of secondary education on the campus. During 2015 the Board of Directors for Adventist Education determined that the Early Learning Centre, Primary and Secondary schools would be amalgamated into a single entity. The VRQA approved the application for an amalgamated College in time for the commencement of classes in 2016.

Organisational changes in 2015-16 included the formation of a single College Council to determine strategic direction, review quality management processes, manage finances, resources and facilities as well as support the learning and teaching program.



The Quality Adventist Schools (QAS) program, introduced in 2014, continued as an important self-improvement tool and incorporates a five-year review of 20 components of an effective school. In October 2016, Edinburgh College successfully completed its first five-year review period. Three improvement goals were identified by the College team and affirmed by the QAS review team:

1. Supportive Christian Culture
2. Quality teaching led by evidence
3. Effective procedures and communication

Since 2017 there has been a 30+% enrolment growth rate at Edinburgh College. This has created the need for a new 10-Year Master Plan, due to the double streaming of Primary School and the increased Year 7 numbers in the Secondary School. Our Early Learning Centre opened its brand new third room at the end of 2019. Plans for a fourth room have already begun. Three new primary

classrooms were opened in late 2020. Four more primary classrooms are currently in the planning stages – to be opened for 2023. Plans to update and expand our Performing Arts and Sports Centre, including four new secondary classrooms are also being finalised.



### **Commitment to being a Child Safe School**

Edinburgh College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all our students. It has a zero tolerance for child abuse and has procedures in place to protect children, support those at risk



and respond to incidents or allegations for all forms of child abuse. These procedures are outlined in the Duty of Care, Child Protection and Child Code of Conduct policies. All are available on the school website.



In 2020, there were 391 students enrolled at Edinburgh College (Prep to Year 12) – up from 328 in 2019. For the first time the College had a triple-stream Year 7 class and our Primary Prep and Year 1 classes continue to be double-streamed. Due to this growth, we were able to successfully apply for a Stage 1 of 3 BGA primary classroom build – which includes 3 new classrooms, which opened in November 2020. Our Early Learning Centre is also growing with a third room in early 2020. This has all been outlined in our 10-year master plan. It is projected that we will have an increase in student enrolments from 392 to 430 by the start of 2021 – which will include a double or triple-stream Year 7 class.

## Principal's Comments

This time last year many of us had plans to enjoy a lovely, safe, family summer holiday followed by embracing life's duties for 2020. We, at Edinburgh College, were excited about 2020 and were raring and ready to go! However, we all had no concept of what lay ahead!

"You can't control the curve balls life throws you, so you have to learn how to control yourself and change quickly to make sure the curve ball doesn't knock you out." — Mark Edwards



This year has been an extraordinarily challenging year for many of us. We have seen families, homes and property impacted by the historically devastating bushfires throughout the past summer. We have seen concern, fear and anxiety written across each of our faces as we coped with the global viral threat and what that meant to each of us personally and collectively. We have seen loved-ones overcome by tragedy, loss, trauma and grief. We have seen shock and anger on the faces of people fighting for the rights of others. We have seen disunity and social media overflow into our global communities. We have had our children and fellow adults' question why all these things are happening, and when will they cease.



“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.” — Helen Keller

Yet through it all, via the way our community loves and cares for one another, we have seen God’s light in the darkness. We have seen His hope in each time of crisis, His enduring love surrounding our families and communities, and His peace that calms our busy minds. We have all been so blessed by the ongoing resilience, support, creativity, determination, joy and gentleness of our Edinburgh College community throughout this year. We have all had to reassess our situations and make changes in our lives to adapt to surrounding circumstances.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and self-control.

— 2 Timothy 1:7

It has been an ongoing privilege as the Principal of Edinburgh College to see our community daily choosing to focus on goodness and value-added behaviours rather than fear, worry and self-pity. May God continue to be welcomed into every area of our College, our workplaces, our homes, our areas of influence and into our own hearts and the hearts of our loved-ones. Remember, the Bible is the key to anchoring our thoughts and actions deep into Jesus’ love, hope and faith.

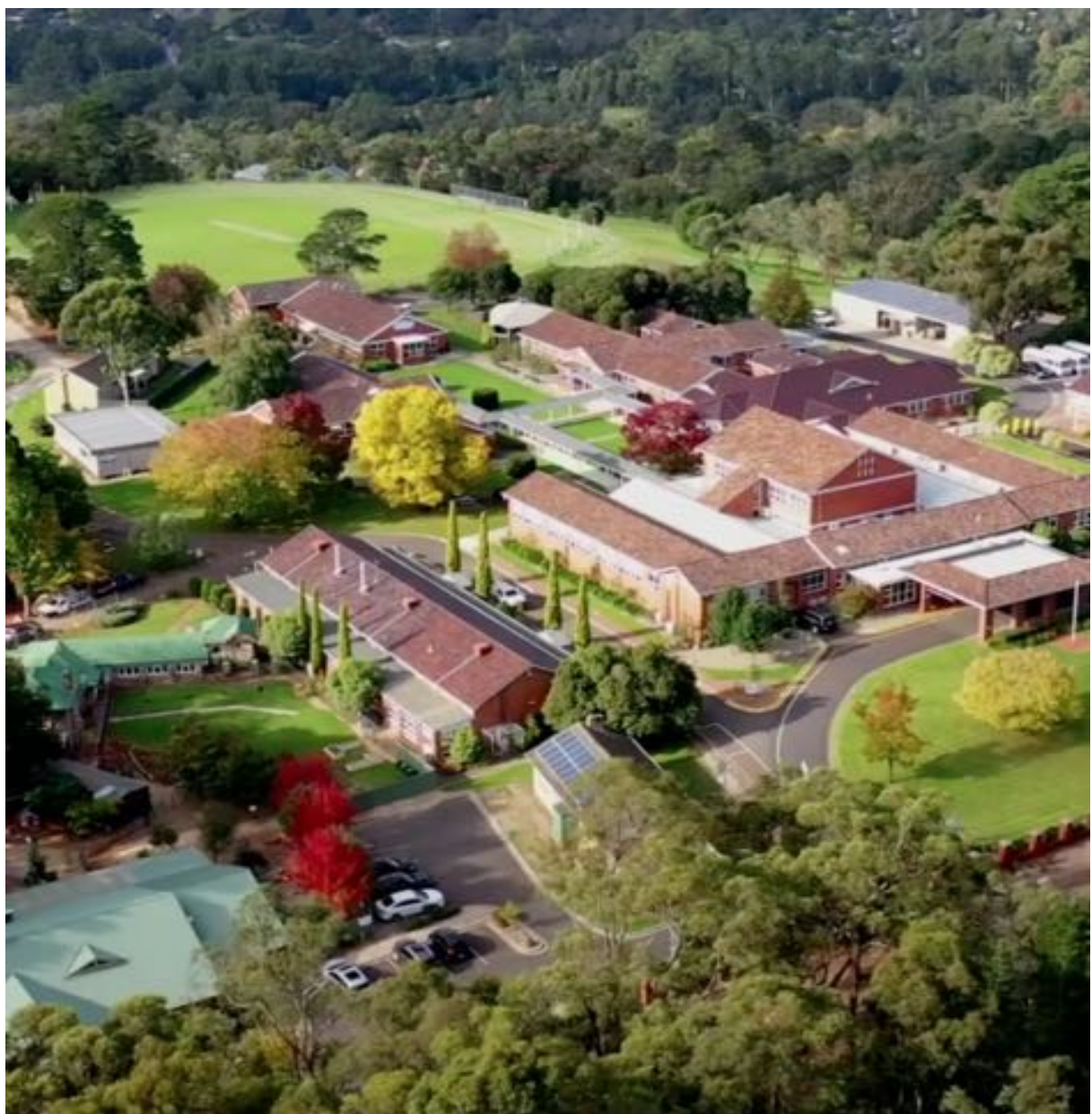


These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' — John 14:25-28

Bring on 2021!

Mr. Tim Borgas

Principal





## Section Two – Professional Engagement

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### Staff Attendance



Our Edinburgh College teaching staff continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to their profession during 2020 with an average attendance for the year of 94.6%.

### Staff Retention

In 2020 there were 45 teachers at Edinburgh College. During 2019/20 year-end, 15 full-time and/or part-time teachers either retired and/or transferred to another location. This represents a retention rate of 71%. The new younger staff who begun at Edinburgh College in early 2020 quickly became remarkable assets to our school community – particularly with the need to adapt to remote learning from late March 2020.

### Teacher Professional Development

The professional development program for 2020 was changed dramatically from late March 2020 due to Covid-19. Our faithfully hard-working and supportive staff ensured that we all upskilled in the following areas:

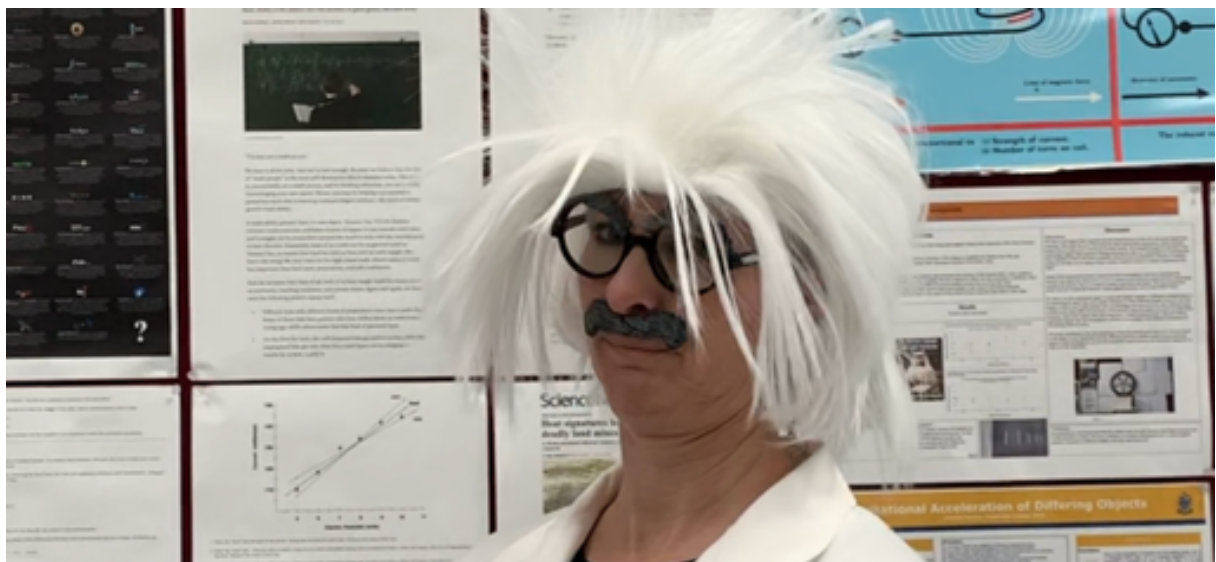
- SEESAW Training

- SEQTA & Google Classroom Training
- Remote Meeting Training
- Wellbeing for students and teachers -remotely
- Spiritual support for the community
- Proactive seek avenues to connect and support the wellbeing for students, families and teachers-remotely
- Support the Edinburgh Postal Service

During 2020 teacher professional development emphasised whole-school programs, focusing on learning and teaching and well-being of staff. All teachers maintained their First Aid – Level 2 credentials and Resuscitation upgrades, Anaphylaxis and Asthma training.

### Teacher Qualifications

Edinburgh College teachers are well qualified and are teaching in their specific fields of expertise. The average teaching experience is 10.1 years. All current teachers have a minimum qualification of at least one Bachelor's Degree in Education. Six teachers have Masters either in Education or Leadership and five teachers have Bachelor's Degrees in Education with Honours. Their experience, coupled with small class sizes afford Edinburgh College students every opportunity to succeed.





## Section Three – Student Progress and Achievements

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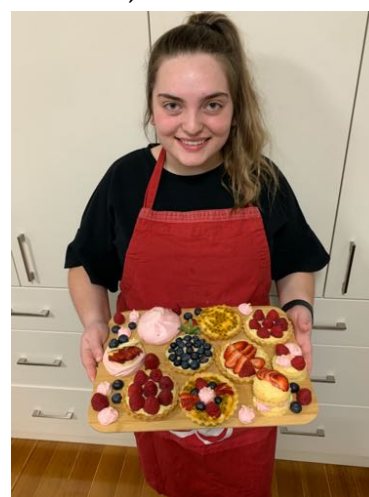
### Edinburgh College Program

Edinburgh College operates an open enrolment policy and is therefore, a non-selective entry school. The College provides a varied academic program for its students, and outstanding access to Information Technology resources via the 1:1 laptop (Chromebook) or iPad program and has campus-wide wireless internet access.



Our curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum and VCE requirements, which includes:

- Early Years Jolly Phonics (ELC and Primary)
- Learning Discoveries program (Primary)
- Gifted and Talented program (Primary)
- Spelling Mastery (Primary)
- Extensive use of Technology
- Music, Drama, the Arts, Physical Education and LOTE (Mandarin F-8)





- The Challenge Program (Secondary)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Secondary)
- Basketball Academy
- Sporting Program with Accredited coaches
- Horticulture and Service programs
- Student Voice – Assist in subject choice and campus development



### Buddy Programs (ELC, Primary and Secondary)

Our three 'House' groups (Yarra, Gilson, Melba) include all students and staff from Prep – Year 12. Years 4 - 6 students participated in many of the in-house activities with our Years 7 - 12 students, which is a rich enhancement of our whole campus buddy system. Vertical homerooms operate each Wednesday for Year 7 - 12 students – with huge success.

Fostering student leadership across the campus continued throughout 2020 – when deemed safe. 'The Challenge' program is implemented for Year 9 students, a personal development program that looks at the overall wellbeing of students and teaches them skills for life.

Year 10 expands the options with the introduction of Commerce and Sport and Recreation, as well as an early VCE option of Religion and Society. Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) offers students a number of options for commencing vocational education.

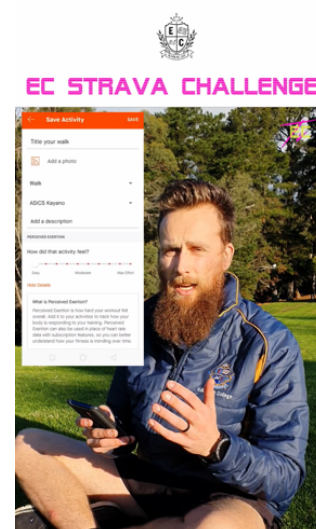


VCE subjects include Art, Religion and Society, English, Health and Human Development, Accounting, Business Management, Food-Tech, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Music, Product and Design, Psychology, Sports & Recreation and Legal Studies. Students wanting to take other VCE subjects often do so through distance education.

## Connected Community

Our wellbeing team, combined staff and bus drivers worked intentionally together to ensure that we were looking out for each member of our community. The following activities were embraced by our team:

- Daily classroom worships and fun activities
- Weekly online and interactive Assemblies and Chapels



- Weekly resources and wellbeing packs sent to all student homes
- Wellbeing Support Forums
- Weekly fitness challenges
- Weekly fun challenges
- Fortnightly wellbeing surveys sent to all Year 5-12 students
- Fortnightly remote morning tea with the Principal and families
- Fortnightly SRC meetings to discuss ways in which students and staff can support one another
- Return to School Events



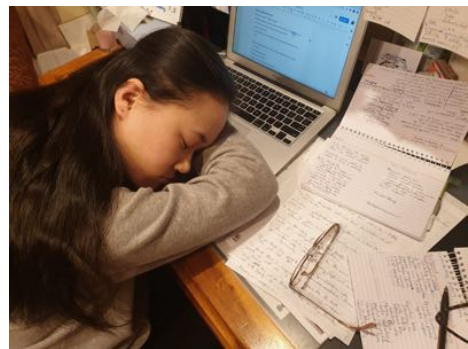
Our community survived 188 days of lockdown because we actively cared for one another.

### Student Attendance

Student attendance remained at a pleasing level throughout the academic year with an average attendance rate of 93.7%.

### 2020 NAPLAN Results

Due to Covid-19 NAPLAN 2020 was cancelled nationally



### Senior Secondary Outcomes

Edinburgh College seeks to attract families wanting a Christian, values-based education and all students are welcome to participate in the VCE program. In 2020 a total of 15 Year 12 students completed the VCE. The top ATAR score for 2020 was 93.85. This year Edinburgh College had 10.2% of study scores being above 40. Once again, the students at Edinburgh College achieved at



median score of 30 or over, resulting in Edinburgh College being ranking in the top 35% of Victorian Schools.



### Student Recognition

Recognition of Prep to 12 students' academic success and leadership potential is evident from Presentation Night awards including Values-based Awards, Academic and Citizen Awards, Australian Defence Force, Duke of Edinburgh, Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship (University of Melbourne), Caltex All Rounder and recognition of a wide range of sporting achievements.

The new Merit System was introduced for the Secondary Students in 2020, which was warmly accepted by our secondary cohort.





## Pastoral Care

College students are provided with excellent academic, co-curricular and pastoral care programs to develop young people of character.

The Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Classroom teachers, Roll Marking teachers and Chaplains, coordinate the Pastoral Care programs. The program includes: social coaching and resiliency workshops such as the Buddy Programs (4-year old and Year 5; Prep and Year 6; Years 5/6 and Year 11; Year 7 and Year 11 Peer Support program); outdoor classes, Bush Kinder, class camps; leadership workshops including attending La Trobe's Next Generation Youth Forum. Chaplains conduct Weeks of Spiritual Emphasis.



The service program of the College is popular with students, from 4-Year-old kindergarten through to Year 12 undertaking a number of service activities. These service activities throughout College life culminate in the Year 11 service trip to Vanuatu to assist with a community building program – which in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19.



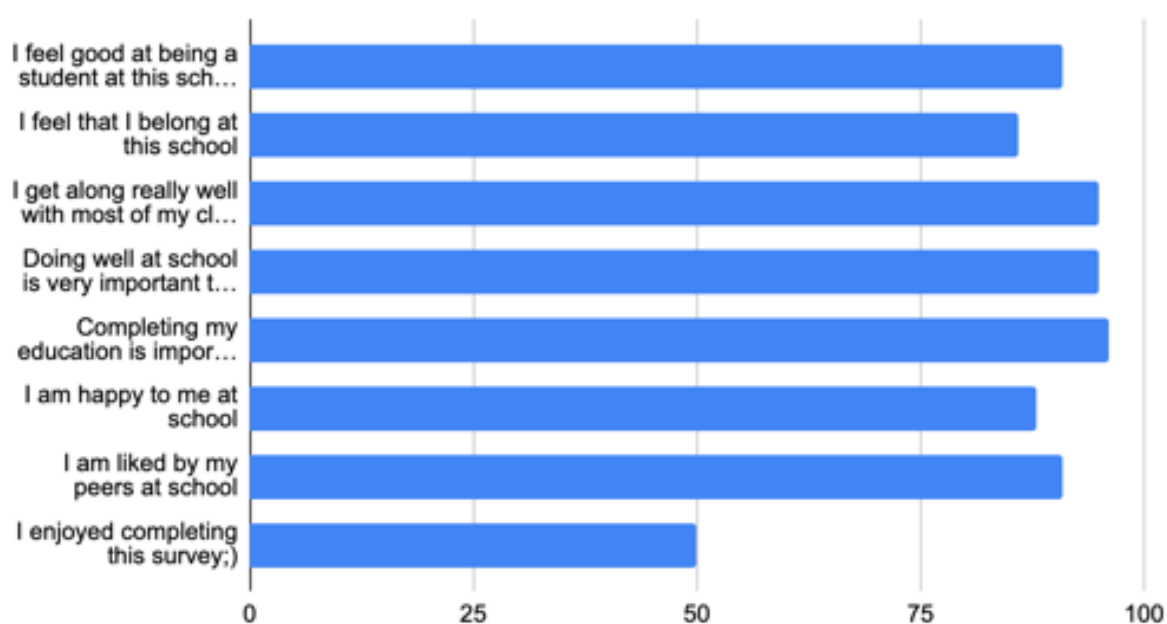
## Section Four – Community Feedback

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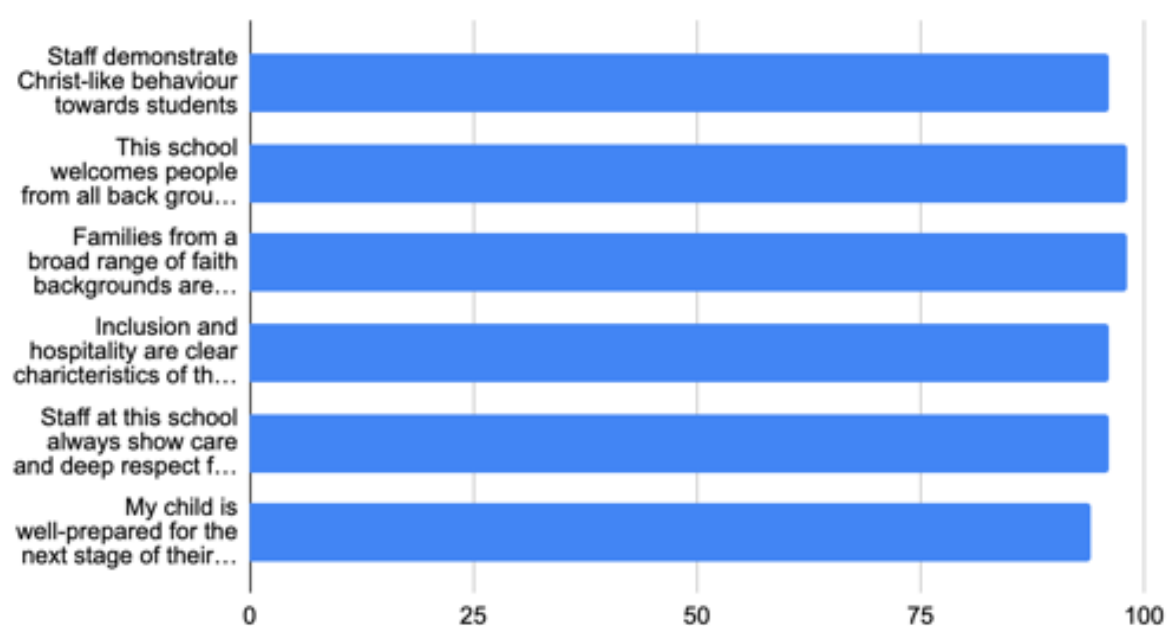
Edinburgh College seeks feedback from our community in order to improve learning and teaching as well as administrative management processes. Insight SRC, a marketing company specialising in school development, is the desired platform for our biannual surveys.

### Satisfaction Surveys: Summary of Responses 2020

#### Student Survey



#### Parent Survey

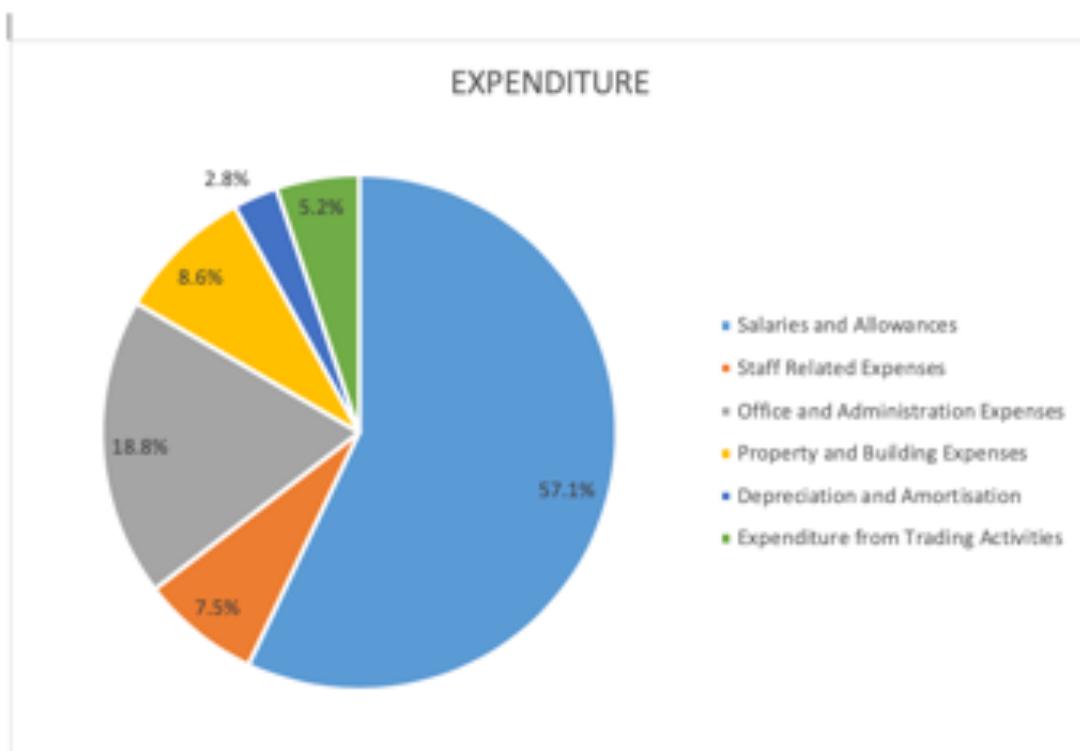
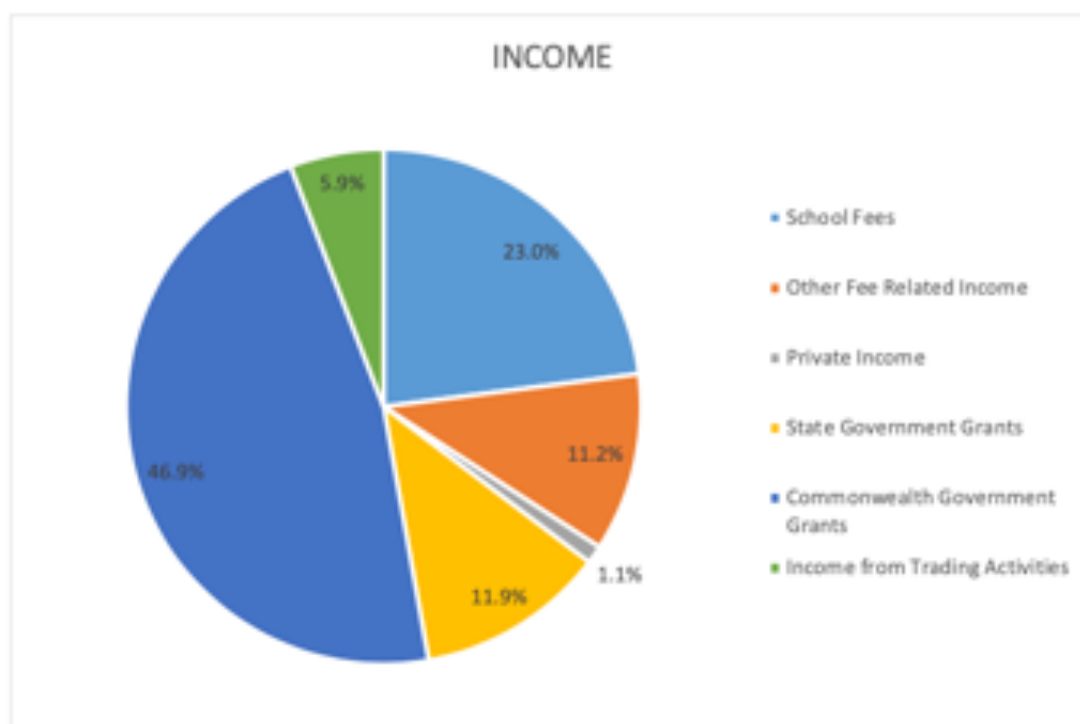




## Section Five – Financial

Financial activity at Edinburgh College during 2020 is summarised in the following graphic representations:

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



## Section Six – In Him We Live!

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At Edinburgh College,  
come to work each day'.  
prayerfully promote  
invitation of....

*Lord is good; blessed is  
refuge in Him'*



Our mission is to  
*character in a faith-  
that promotes academic  
commitment to service.*



we know 'why we  
We believe and  
the wonderful daily  
'*taste and see that the  
the one who takes*  
- Psalms 34:8.



develop children of  
*nurturing environment  
excellence and a*

## In Him We Live!

