



## Santa Maria College, Western Australia

### About us

We are a large, metropolitan, year 5–12 Catholic girls day and residential college located in Perth, Western Australia.

### Our approach

Our improvement in writing has come from a range of strategies.

We have a strong departmental focus on professional development in creative writing. Every staff member has undergone 10 development sessions, each targeting different aspects of narrative construction.

Our feedback processes focus on identifying areas of growth as influenced by Carol Dweck's research into growth mindsets. Teachers identify and communicate growth steps for each writing assessment and students write reflections and acknowledge what they can do to improve. They are encouraged to use positive language to describe how they will ensure future success.

We have increased our focus on formative assessment to build teacher awareness of the class's strengths and growth areas so they can cater for student needs appropriately. We hold frequent in-class exercises and skill builders, and do not wait for polished final products. We also encourage peer review as an important part of classroom practice.

We have modified our teaching programs in years 7–9, moving to a thematic approach to boost cultural capital and empathy in our students. We now include one creative writing assessment and one persuasive writing assessment per year in these programs.

There is a culture of collaboration within our English team, with sharing and open dialogue regarding the best ways to boost student improvement a key feature of our daily work.

### Our profile

ENROLMENTS **1,290** LBOTE **11%** INDIGENOUS **0%** ICSEA **1117**

