



**APPLICATIONS OPEN:** MON 4 MAY 2026  
**APPLICATIONS CLOSE:** FRI 14 AUGUST 2026

# BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

When families are in crisis, disaster strikes or financial disadvantage is overwhelming, keeping kids in school and on track to succeed can be challenging, if not impossible. Around the world, 124 million children and youth are out of school. We believe that a brighter future starts with an education and giving a child the opportunity to thrive at Damascus College is the aim of the Bright Futures Scholarship.

Established in 2018 the Damascus College Bright Futures scholarship sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy (John Thirsk Estate), Fr Brendan Davey and Damascus College, is for the purpose of supporting students and families who are experiencing financial or personal disadvantage, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice activities and contribute to their local community, but may not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education.

This scholarship is awarded annually to one incoming Year 7 student for 50% tuition relief, and is awarded for the duration of a student's enrolment at Damascus College (maximum of 6 years).

To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must meet the selection criteria requirements overleaf.

A bit about the scholarship benefactors...

**John Thirsk** was a notable sports journalist who was cared for by the Sisters of Mercy as a result of family tragedy. The Sisters of Mercy provided John with an education and a safe place for him to return throughout his life. He considered the sisters as family and his gift to them was to enable them to provide for others the support that they offered to him. The Sisters have entrusted these funds to Damascus College.

**Fr Brendan Davey** grew up in Ballarat and was priest of the Diocese for over 60 years. Fr Brendan always had a great empathy for human vulnerability and valued the gift of education. Upon his death he gifted Damascus College with funds to enable Catholic education to be made available to young people who may not otherwise be able to access it.

The Bright Futures scholarship honours the Christian spirit that prevailed through the work of Fr Brendan as a priest of the Diocese and the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.



## VALUE

One scholarship valued at 50% of the annual tuition fee at Damascus College, paid as one instalment at the beginning of the year. The capital expense and technology fee is included in this tuition calculation. The scholarship will be paid annually, for the duration of the award recipient's enrolment at Damascus College, which is a maximum of six years. The ongoing annual payment will be made at the beginning of a school year, and is conditional upon the recipient successfully meeting the ongoing requirements listed below.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Grade 5 student currently studying at a Primary School within the Ballarat area (50km radius from Ballarat), does not have to be attending a Catholic Primary School.
- Submitted Enrolment Application Form to Damascus College for Year 7 by the advertised deadline.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following selection criteria:

- Family is experiencing financial and/or personal disadvantage. Please provide evidence to support application.
- Student demonstrates involvement in volunteer, social justice, fundraising and leadership activities within the Primary School or broader community. Please provide examples.

- Student demonstrates an involvement and commitment to a faith tradition. Evidence must be provided.

- Student to choose two values to describe and give examples of how these values relate to them.

Values: Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service, Courage.

Student can choose to write up to 200 words for each value, submit a video or photos that describes how these values relate to them. Students are encouraged to be creative.

- One written reference, to be obtained from a community member in support of the scholarship application.

For applicants that are shortlisted, the panel will contact Primary School Principal for support of shortlisting applications.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN ON MONDAY 4 MAY 2026 AND CLOSE ON FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2026**

**Download the application form from the Damascus website at: [damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships](https://damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships)**

## GIVING TO BRIGHT FUTURES

As a Catholic school, Damascus College is committed to providing excellence in education, and it is our privilege to be able to offer opportunities that benefit our students and the wider community. Most important to us at Damascus is the welfare of our young people and hence the emphasis on providing an environment which is secure and safe, happy and productive.

**Your generosity and commitment can help to make a real impact on the lives of our students.**

Your gift allows us to support an exciting and enriching educational experience for students and can also make a difference to the causes you care about on a local and global scale. You may choose to give to fulfill your philanthropic aspirations as well as your financial plans, to honour the people you hold dear, or to strengthen and celebrate the Damascus College community. Whatever the reason, together gifts of all sizes add up to make a big difference.

Damascus College seeks to extend the Bright Futures Scholarship opportunity to more than one Year 7 student per year with your help. Proceeds raised will support this worthy scholarship fund, in order to extend its reach to multiple students each year.

If you would like to financially contribute to the Bright Futures Scholarship please call Damascus College 03 5337 2222 or visit [damascus.vic.edu.au/community/giving](https://damascus.vic.edu.au/community/giving)