Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School was founded in 1985, a year that marked the 400th anniversary of the birth of Mary Ward. Mary Ward, founder of the Loretto Sisters’ order, the Institution of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was often described as a dangerous innovator because she held views about education and the role of women that were considered radical at her time. A person of immense courage, compassion, creativity, especially with the launching of the self-directed learning program in 1992. Since that time, experience, research, technology, curriculum development, the input of students, alumni, parents, teachers, support staff, and administration have all helped to shape an exemplary learning community that provides excellence in Catholic education.