



Senior
School



Principal's Welcome

Firmly established as the leading learning community in Melbourne's fast growing west, Westbourne Grammar's senior school is home to just over nine hundred students from Years 7 to 12.

Our vision, Shaping Learners Who Inspire the World, means that our students and their wellbeing are always at the centre of every decision we make about their education and social development. What this involves in practice is that in addition to a very comprehensive academic program, the school provides a wide range of opportunities for active engagement in contemporary, challenging and enriching twenty-first century learning experiences.

It is in this context that we understand just how important it is for our students to make a successful transition from the earlier years into the exciting learning environment of the senior school. By the time they graduate from Year 12 our students have attained high levels of competence in the essential skills of literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology, critical and creative thinking. They will also be well prepared to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world of employment in which they will be required to be digitally agile problem solvers, collaborators, creators and autonomous workers.

To achieve this our senior school is based around key developmental stages which actively recognize individual variations in learning styles, intelligence, interests and peer group relationships. Students thrive in age-appropriate, purpose-built clusters: the Horsburgh Centre (Years 7-8); the Geoffrey Ryan Centre (Year 9); and the Senior College (Years 10-12). At the same time, our students benefit from being placed in vertically integrated House groups where the wellbeing of each individual is carefully monitored and pastoral care provided by a team of teachers, counsellors, career advisers and the school chaplain.

In recognising that academic success is one aspect of a rich school experience, a variety of leadership opportunities, community service projects, outdoor programs and numerous co-curricular activities and sports greatly enrich the experience of senior school. Across the senior years our school seeks to encourage and enthuse our learners as they grow and develop into thoughtful, independent, confident young adults with a keen sense of their responsibilities to themselves and their community.

We expect a lot of our schools and of our young people. But in expecting so much, the rewards can be amazing. As Kofi Annan so perceptively put it: 'Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.'

I look forward to welcoming you to the Westbourne community.

Meg Hansen
Principal



Senior School Learning

The academic program at Westbourne Grammar School aims to instil a lifelong commitment to growth through learning.

Located on the main campus at Truganina, the senior school is characterised by three age-appropriate learning clusters: the Horsburgh Centre (Years 7 - 8); the Geoffrey Ryan Centre (Year 9 Program); and the Senior College for Years 10 - 12.

In aiming to inspire an appetite for lifelong learning, the common theme across all year levels is a strong focus on achieving proficiency in the core curriculum subjects, the development of academic skills and a positive approach to learning. In addition, active participation in the wide range of curricular and cocurricular opportunities ensures Westbourne students remain busy and engaged.

The school has a laptop program and technology is integral to learning in all subject areas. The school's information technology system houses the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where teachers upload content, assessment, homework assignments and other learning resources for students to access. Academic reporting for all students is continuous and online ensuring information for parents about their child's progress is constantly available.

YEARS 7 AND 8

The learning program at Years 7 and 8 is designed to encourage students to extend thinking skills and deepen inquiry. As different ideas and concepts are explored in a stimulating and supportive environment, confidence develops and self discipline matures. Leadership opportunities are revealed within which relationships are enriched and tolerance and respect are cultivated. The core curriculum includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Art
- Sport
- Outdoor Education
- Languages (LOTE) German or Japanese
- Science
- Music
- Physical Education
- Humanities

YEAR 9

This is an exciting year for students at the purpose-built centre within the campus. Year 9 is structured to stretch students in the classroom and beyond. The program offers the core subjects English, mathematics, science and humanities coupled with two electives and two enrichment subjects over the year. This allows students to follow their interests and passions whilst learning in a structured way to help them find their strengths and develop their skills.

Very deep learning takes place in the year-long collaborative project which uses the Future Problem Solving framework and a formal project planning approach in which students grapple with real life issues and look for potential solutions. The presentation of these projects to parents, staff and the community is a highlight. Skills gained throughout the program greatly equip students for the senior years of school and for life beyond school. Year 9 is an intense, rich experience that connects strongly to the idea of the hero's journey.

YEARS 10 - 12

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are reaching a level of learning maturity and are actively counselled and supported to choose the academic program that fits their aspirations and expectations for post-school outcomes. Year 10 allows students to select subjects that will prepare them well for Years 11 and 12 and begin to specialise in particular disciplines. For students who are academically ready, some VCE subjects may be taken in Year 10. Westbourne offers a very comprehensive twenty-eight VCE subjects supported by two university extension programs.

Challenge and Extension: Summary of key opportunities

		YEARS P-3	YEARS 4-6	YEARS 7-9	YEARS 10-12
Critical Thinking	Chess		•	•	•
	da Vinci Decathlon			•	
	Future Problem Solving		•		
	Tournament of the Minds		•		
	Extension and Enrichment Program (EEP, JEEP)	•	•		
Literacy	Debating (DAV)		•	•	•
	Spelling Competitions		•		
	Reading and Writing Festivals and Competitions		•	•	•
	Public Speaking Competitions			•	•
	Toastmasters				•
	Inspire - Student Literacy Journal			•	•
	Anzac Spirit Writing Competition			•	
Mathematics	Mathematics Olympiad (MOPS)		•		
	Australian Mathematics Challenge and Competition			•	•
	University Mathematics Challenges				•
	Australian Mathematics Olympiad				•
	Science and Engineering Challenge				•
Science	National Qualifying Examinations				•
	National Science Olympiad and Forum				•
	Australian Science Competitions and Challenges			•	•
	Monash Pharmaceutical Sciences Challenges				•
	Kids Teaching Kids Conference			•	•
Computing Commerce	Environmental Leadership Day			•	•
	Microsoft Academy			•	•
	ABW Business Simulation Competition				•
	Legal Studies and Politics Workshops				•
	I Plan a Business Competition				•

		YEARS P-3	YEARS 4-6	YEARS 7-9	YEARS 10-12
Humanities	Evatt Trophy (Model United Nations)				•
	Youth Parliament				•
	Human Rights Convention				•
	Great Transport Race			•	•
Community	Leadership Training Events		•	•	•
	Shrine of Remembrance Program		•	•	•
Languages	Cambodia Challenge Tour				•
	Japanese Language Competitions			•	•
	German Language Competitions			•	•
Music	Exchange Programs and Tours			•	•
	Performer of the Year			•	•
	Music Competitions	•	•	•	•
	Music Master Class			•	•
	Chamber Music Groups			•	•
Visual Art	Bands, Orchestras, Ensembles, Choirs	•	•	•	•
	The Art Show	•	•	•	•
	Photography Club			•	•
Performing Arts	Jewellery, Sculpture and Life Drawing			•	•
	School Musicals		•	•	•
Sport	School and Year Level Plays	•		•	•
	Interschool Sports and Carnivals		•	•	•
	ACS Representative Teams		•	•	•
Outdoor Education	Duke of Edinburgh Award			•	•
	Compass Award			•	
	Hillary Challenge				•

Academic and Social Wellbeing

Social and emotional wellbeing underpin effective student learning and positive behaviour and we maintain a critical focus in this area. Our community values all members and promotes positive relationships, particularly between teachers and students. The Wellbeing Program centres on the 3Rs: relationships, resilience and respect.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The school is committed to implementing the principles of Restorative Justice to encourage students to develop responsibility for their own actions. Restorative Practice has been incorporated into a whole school approach and is represented by a range of informal and formal strategies such as the use of effective language, restorative conversations, class circles and community conferencing. Restorative Practice involves the use of transferable values and principles to promote social equity in relationships, empathy and personal accountability.

Supporting our students' health and wellbeing is a Health Centre staffed with fully qualified registered nurses and psychologists.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Sports

The high level of engagement and performance of Westbourne students in a wide variety of sports is a real feature of school life. House sports and interschool competitions during the different seasons are thriving, and students are trained by a team of coaches - some of whom are Olympic, Commonwealth, Australian or state champions in their codes. This gives Westbourne students an edge in competition but it also enhances the great sense of enjoyment, commitment and sportsmanship that characterises our comprehensive sports program.

- Australian football
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Beach volleyball
- Cricket
- Cross country
- Futsal
- Hockey

- Netball
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Touch rugby
- Volleyball

Music and Performing Arts

There is a very long tradition of outstanding performance in music and drama at Westbourne. With thriving music and performing arts departments, hundreds of students participate in the ensembles, choirs, bands, orchestras, plays, musicals and soirees offered.

- Symphonic Band
- Senior Choir
- Concert Choir
- Senior Strings
- Legends Big Band

Careers Education and Course Counselling



From the first day students commence at the senior school, they begin to make choices – choices about their subjects, electives, co-curricular activities and sports. The teaching staff are here to help guide them and to give students informed feedback to ensure they are making the right choices, choices that match their abilities and aspirations. A highly personalised process is undertaken with staff having deep knowledge of student performance and being able to advise students and their families accordingly.

This becomes particularly important as students move towards Years 10, 11 and 12. Students are carefully advised in Year 9 as to their subject selection in Year 10. Year 10 models our expectations and work requirements for VCE in Years 11 and 12 and some students are able to undertake some VCE subjects if they meet the academic requirements.

For preparation for entry into Years 11 and 12, each Year 10 student's academic progress is carefully assessed and conversations take place to assist their thinking in relation to subject selections. Directors of Faculty are available for subject selection sessions prior to information evenings with parents and all teachers can assist students in answering queries about subjects and prerequisites for selection.

Throughout the senior secondary years, our Careers Counsellor, VCE Coordinator, Director of Learning, Directors of Faculty and teachers assist students contemplate their pathways following Year 12. A comprehensive careers and pathways advisory process works with students as they think about their post-school destinations, career choices and preferences. The Careers Counsellor meets with students to help them realistically explore their tertiary study options and is there to assist when results and university offers come out in December and January. Our students have a consistently high rate of progression to university – over 92% over the last three years.



Community

GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

Depending upon the established or emerging interests of students there are numerous inspiring and challenging international and domestic opportunities.

Language students may travel to Germany or Japan; musicians experience the biennial European Music Tour. Swimming and athletics have annual training camps which are wonderful opportunities for students from Years 7 - 12 to pursue common goals and get to know each other. Every year we have a ski trip in addition to optional Year 10 outdoor experiences.

Kampuchea House in Cambodia is the whole school's focus for our fundraising year. Our commitment to supporting the project contributes to providing housing, education and security for rural children. We achieve this through significant consolidated fundraising throughout the school and also by linking current Years 10 and 11 students, the Year 12 School Captains, the previous year's School Captains and staff in an annual working visit to Kampuchea House and associated projects in Cambodia. This is a truly life changing experience and connects our students with a profound and real community service challenge.



Highly sought after opportunities to undertake the Hillary Challenge and the Duke of Edinburgh Award are available for Years 11 and 12 students.

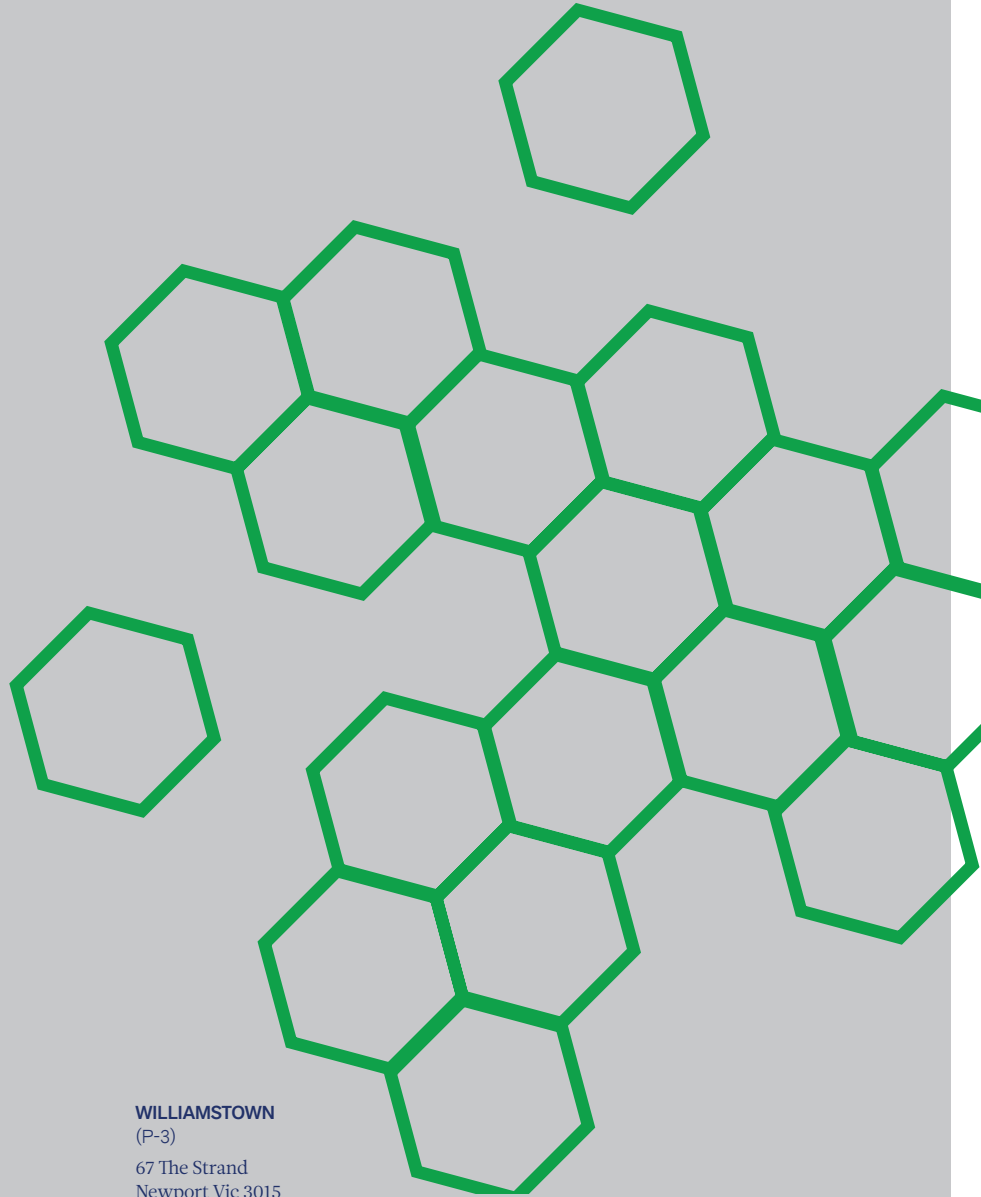
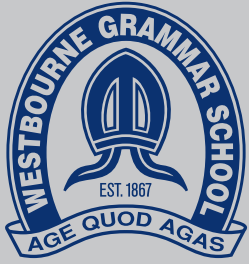
For budding politicians, the Model United Nations is a great and exciting opportunity to hone thinking and speaking skills.

The senior school years empower students to reach their full potential as they explore their interests, develop their talents and abilities and discover their passions .

GET IN TOUCH

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