

HEALESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



2020

PROSPECTUS

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The key vision of the school for 2020 and beyond is to create the best possible learning opportunities for all students, culminating in outstanding results at the senior school level.



WELCOME

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE

Welcome to Healesville High School, a school with a long and proud history of serving the local community.

Since its inception, the school has established an excellent reputation as an inclusive and caring educational community with a strong focus on academic performance and personal development. As a school community we understand and know our students, their strengths and their areas for improvement. We work to develop students into well rounded individuals, ready to be successful on a local, national and global scale.

Healesville High School has outstanding specialist facilities including a fully equipped performing arts centre, Mac and PC computer laboratories, a purpose-built art exhibition space, a permanent examination centre, modern science laboratories and library, extensive sporting facilities and a student-friendly cafeteria. The state-of-the-art Trade Training Centre complements extensive senior school facilities and allows the delivery on-site of vocational courses in Building and Construction, Automotive and Panel Beating.

I am proud to be the principal of a school that provides students with an abundance of varied experiences. We have an outstanding instrumental music program, an annual production, a recently introduced yearly art exhibition, interstate and international camps, and leadership programs to develop our students. In addition, students have access to an exceptional Outdoor Education program and the opportunity to compete in a range of sports at district level. Our focus remains firmly upon providing our students with consistent and authentic opportunities for development. We really know our students and provide personalised experiences for each of them.

We offer a number of individual pathways at the senior level. Students access a wide range of Victorian Certificate of Education classes and a successful Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning program is offered, allowing the personal development of each student to be supported. Students may also select from a broad range of Vocational Education and Training subjects, enabling engagement in industry-based learning and a further expansion of the educational experience.

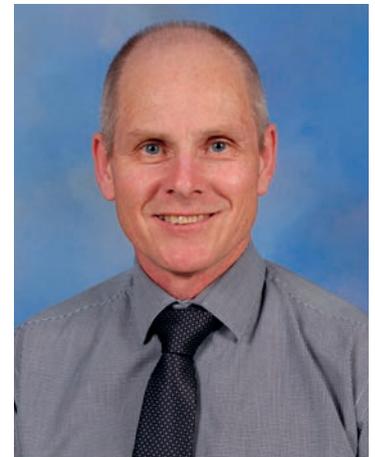
Our 2019 VCE results were pleasing and certainly worth celebrating. We are particularly delighted by our English mean study score, which is almost two points above the state mean for this subject. In addition we are pleased with the outstanding median study score achieved by our students. This result indicates consistency and excellence across the group and may be attributed to a collective focus on student learning outcomes throughout the school. We are also confident that a whole-school focus on literacy, a commitment to offering a wide range of VCE subject choices, with resultant small class sizes, and an emphasis upon identifying each child's learning needs have contributed to the outstanding academic results achieved. We are committed to maintaining and even further improving upon this level of achievement.

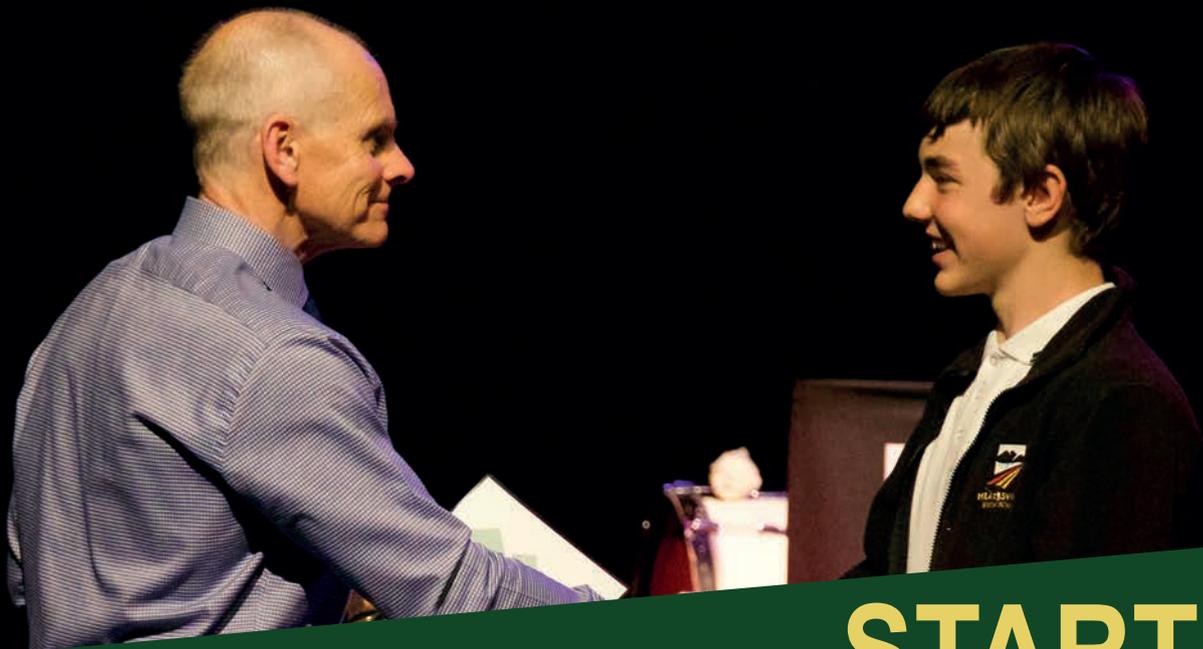
As the principal of Healesville High School, I believe that all students entering our school are given every opportunity to improve and to develop into well-rounded young adults. I have great trust in my staff to challenge all students, to expect students to give their best and to provide students with the experiences they need to enthusiastically engage in their education.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with prospective students and parents at our upcoming Open Night. We have so much to offer and I hope to discuss this with you in the near future.



Allan Rennick
Principal





STARTING SECONDARY LIFE

The transition from primary to secondary school is an exciting time for students and parents. Healesville High School's transition program is carefully designed to make this a smooth and comfortable process and our small size enables this to occur easily.

We strive to make everyday life as simple as possible for our new students. Our teachers work closely with local primary schools, familiarising themselves with individual students to provide engaging and challenging programs. We are well prepared to welcome your child into Year 7.

Upon arrival at Healesville High students are comforted to discover that they have been placed in Home Groups constructed to include some friends from primary school. We also limit the number of class teachers and room changes for our new students.

A team of teachers plan the learning program of each Year 7 Home Group, placing considerable focus on the curriculum of the Junior Years, including literacy and numeracy testing on arrival to identify the need for either extension or extra assistance.

We purposely keep our Year 7 classes small so students not only have a greater opportunity to connect with their peers and teachers, but so they are provided with more personalised instruction. This is a key strength of our Year 7 program and it allows teaching staff to effectively cater for the needs of all students.

In relation to student wellbeing, we are exceptionally well resourced and amongst other things, students have access to a dedicated student wellbeing leader, a psychologist, an adolescent specialist social worker, a school nurse and the Doctor's in Schools program. Of course, many students may not need specialised care, however parents can have peace of mind knowing that Healesville High School is well resourced to manage all sorts of unexpected issues. In addition to dealing with individual concerns, these professionals also work to proactively manage and deal with a range of concerns that are pertinent to young people in our modern world.



WHAT WE VALUE



RESPECT

Care for self, others and the environment
Accept and embrace diversity
Tolerate different opinions



RESPONSIBILITY

Be accountable for your actions
Make a commitment to all that you do
Act in a fair and reasonable manner



TEAMWORK

Be trustworthy and honest
Get along with others
Be sensitive to the feelings of others



RELATIONSHIPS

Cooperate and share
Learn together in a supportive way
Persist and make genuine effort





SMALL SCHOOL

Our students have access to a wide variety of opportunities, all aimed at enriching their experiences of secondary school. Students can participate in sport at school and interschool level and when they enter the Senior School, they have access to a well-resourced and engaging Outdoor Education program.

We run an annual school production and for many students, this is the highlight of their school year. Our Instrumental Music program is exceptional and we are regarded as having one of the strongest programs in the eastern suburbs. Under the expert guidance of our art department, students can join the 'Art Factory' and this program allows students to explore and develop their artistic pursuits and passions and to exhibit their work.

Students have the option of attending school camps and a range of excursions to develop their connectedness to school and to each other. Leadership qualities are fostered and students are encouraged to be part of our Junior Leadership team and the Student Voice program. We also work with outside providers to broaden our students' perceptions of strong leadership.

A key strength of this school is that we really know our students. This helps us to create an environment where your child feels like they belong.

We offer a range of VCE, VCAL and VET subjects and students benefit from small classes and ample teacher attention- something that certainly helps students to achieve academic excellence.

Some specific examples of the opportunities our students can engage with include:

-A biennial World Challenge experience that involves students fundraising and planning a four week international trip to a developing country. During this trip students volunteer in a local community and in the process they develop their capacity to work with others, their perseverance and most importantly, their understanding and appreciation of a different culture.

-A biennial trip to visit students at our Japanese sister school, Osaka Business Frontier High School. This experience supports students in their study of Japanese, develops their global perspective and creates lasting friendships with their host families.

-The opportunity to perform in or act as a support for the annual school production. We always put on a great show and students involved in this experience not only develop a sense of belonging, but through the expert guidance of staff members, they are able to explore and develop their artistic talents.

These are just four examples of the numerous opportunities we offer our students. We are committed to providing students with the experiences and opportunities they need to enable them to be well-rounded and engaged members of the community. We routinely consider the specific interests of students and introduce new experiences that are consistent with these interests.



BIG OPPORTUNITIES







ARTS AT HEALESVILLE HIGH

Students at Healesville High School are able to involve themselves broadly in artistic endeavours. We are extremely proud of the music program and the success students have achieved in this area.

Our students have the opportunity to learn an instrument and to be a valued member of one of the many bands and ensembles, including the Rookie Band, Legends' Band, Jazz Ensemble and Sax Ensemble. Lessons are provided by the passionate and capable music department, led by the Music Coordinator, Ms Amanda Morrison.

As part of this program students participate in a range of in-school and community based performances. In 2019 we were awarded a Gold Medal at the Victorian School Bands Festival and on an annual basis many students are selected to perform at the North Eastern Victoria Regional Concert at Hamer Hall.

The music program develops students' discipline, engages their passion and helps them feel connected to students from different year levels. At the end of 2020, a large number of music students are travelling to London and Paris to explore the music scene in these cities and to perform in front of international audiences.

Healesville High School music students can opt to study VCE music, enabling them to unite their passion with their academic studies.

In addition to music, we are also proud of the Art Factory. Students have the chance to study a range of art subjects as part of their regular program and they can also opt to engage in additional art-based activities outside of their regular schedule. We have a designated exhibition space and students work throughout the year to develop unique and engaging exhibits, culminating in an annual art show. Students are guided by enthusiastic and talented art teachers and they learn how to work with others and to develop their ability to express themselves through artistic endeavours.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Developing students to be leaders within the school and the wider community is important to us. Students have the opportunity to apply for a range of leadership positions and those successful become part of a formal leadership structure. These positions include; School Captains, Year Level Captains, Sport Leaders, House Captains, Music Leaders and Arts Leaders. Students occupying these roles make important contributions to the school; they organise events to promote student connectedness, they consider ways the school may be improved and they provide important feedback to our staff leadership team. Additionally, they are involved in events such as student leadership conferences aimed at developing a young person's capacity to lead others.

The Leo Club provides an important partnership between school and the Healesville Lions Club. The Leos are supported by members of the Healesville Lions Club to plan and implement a range of projects to make a difference to the local and broader community. Students involved in this program benefit from the connection with local people who have experience and passion for supporting their local community. All students can opt to be involved with this club.

In addition to these formal leadership roles, we consistently look for opportunities to develop a students' leadership capacity. We actively encourage and expect senior students to act as leaders and role models for junior students and they consistently impress by their willingness and capacity to do this.



FACILITIES

Over the past ten years our school, first built in 1962, has been completely rebuilt. As a result, our students have access to exceptional facilities in an absolutely beautiful environment. These facilities include, but are not limited to;

- modern classrooms
- well-resourced library
- permanent examination centre
- 25 metre indoor pool
- modern Performing Arts Centre
- two indoor and two outdoor basketball courts
- fitness centre
- permanent art exhibition space
- purpose built Trade Training Centre.

Students, staff and parents are justifiably proud of the outstanding facilities at our disposal.



VCE RESULTS

It is with great pride that we report the outstanding VCE results achieved by the graduating class of 2019.

In the compulsory study of English, our students achieved scores which, when averaged, were two clear points above the state average. The median study score across every subject attempted by our students in 2019 was the highest attained since 2011. Also worthy of note, this score placed us in the top 20% of our 25 neighbouring secondary schools.

We are committed to offering a broad and extensive range of VCE subject choices and the resultant small class sizes clearly provide students with outstanding opportunities for individual teacher attention.



'CONNECT'

'Connect' is our pastoral care program. Students in Years 7-12 are matched with a staff mentor and other students with similar interests. The aim of this program is to ensure every student has a teacher with whom they develop a strong connection.

Groups contain a maximum of 15 students across all year levels. This allows for younger students to not only develop a strong relationship with their mentor teacher, but also have an opportunity to connect with and learn from older students in their groups.

Groups meet regularly throughout each term and engage in activities designed to build connectedness to school and to each other.



FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Kylie Short is the mother of three students at Healesville High School (Tayah- Year 8, Jade- Year 11 and Mikayla- Year 12). Kylie is School Council President and she is delighted to be a part of this school community.

Kylie has enjoyed watching her girls' confidence grow during their time at our school. She believes this is largely a result of the support they have received from their teachers, the way they have been listened to and the ability of teachers to tailor their teaching to suit individual learners.

She is also appreciative of the opportunities and experiences afforded to her girls. Jade was selected to take part in a leadership camp called Camp Awakenings and Kylie believes this camp played a pivotal role in developing Jade's confidence. Jade and Mikayla participated in the World Challenge experience to India at the end of 2019. Kylie believes this experience challenged and inspired her two older girls, in the best possible way. She is pleased they had the opportunity to engage in a meaningful global experience that challenged their thinking and engaged them with a different culture.

The inviting nature of Healesville High School makes Kylie glad she selected this school for her children. If she needs to, Kylie believes she can contact staff members to discuss issues pertinent to her daughters and she believes she is listened to and her concerns are acted upon. A key strength, according to Kylie, is the size of the school. She likes that staff know all students and that staff take the time to have individual conversations with her daughters. She believes these conversations help her daughters remain motivated and encourage them to aim high.

Kylie believes Healesville High School is an excellent choice. She hasn't had any second thoughts about sending her children to this school. She encourages all local families to attend our Open Night and explore the many opportunities and strengths associated with this school.

AFFIRMATIONS

Gabriel Hammond- Year 7

"I like going to school with older people and they have been really friendly."

Charlotte McMurray- Year 7

"I love learning Japanese."

Hala Riyad- Year 7

"I really love sport classes and I am pleased I have made new friends."

Sam Gommers- Year 7

"Being the only student from my primary school made me a bit nervous, but I made friends really quickly and wasn't nervous for long."

Skye Hackel- Year 7

"I am enjoying doing lots of new classes, especially Science and English. I like that we are given more responsibility."

Jack Collins- Year 7

"Having a variety of classes is really fun. The teachers have been really good and make learning interesting."

Eden Todd- Year 7

"I love the canteen!"

Lesley Grigg- Healesville Lions Club

"I am most impressed with the programs Healesville High School has in place to develop values that are important in our community."

Mikayla Short- School Captain

"I believe we are lucky that our school is small enough that all of our teachers know our names and notice us around the school. I think this helps build strong relationships between staff and students."

Ruby Langford- School Captain

"Going to school here has sparked a sense of belonging that I don't believe I could have felt anywhere else. There is no other school that would've made me happier, or prouder, than this one."





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