



attitude  
Kingswood

know yours





AT THE CORE OF THE KINGSWOOD EDUCATIONAL  
PHILOSOPHY IS ONE SIMPLE IDEA



**Genuine acceptance and support of the individual helps students discover and value who they truly are. This self-understanding creates self-esteem, meaning and motivation. It fosters the desire to succeed. It helps students make the right decisions about their study, their careers and their personal lives.**

# be yourself

The freedom to be yourself - to be everything you can be - is the gift that lasts a lifetime. It takes a different kind of school to achieve this. At Kingswood, we dedicate our resources to creating the right environment and programs to guide students on the path to self-discovery. We are passionate about the benefits of the Kingswood education, and we want to be able to share those with you.

# discover



TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS OF BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN  
EACH INDIVIDUAL, WE RELY ON FOUR KEY PRINCIPLES.



#### **EXPLORE**

Try things. This is the best way to learn about yourself, your interests, your motivations. At Kingswood, we believe in the freedom to explore. But with freedom comes responsibility. Our behaviour management policy help students develop self-control without stifling their creativity.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

The school grounds and facilities are there to serve one purpose, and one purpose alone - to provide the right supportive environment to enable students to develop their own unique selves. We have designed our buildings and grounds to encourage interaction within classes and across year levels. We have developed a safe, accepting community that nourishes growth.

#### **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Our pastoral care programs and spiritual dimensions are enriched by the values of the Uniting Church. We light the spark of motivation that enables our students to exceed their own expectations. We do all these things with a goal - personal achievement and growth.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

We believe passionately in the value of a general education. Our full-participation ethos across “curricular” and “extra-curricular” activities means wider learning for every student. This commitment enables us to provide a diversity and range of activities beyond what would be expected of a school twice our size.

# explore



→ **Sue Hayman** Kingswood differences

Sue embodies our commitment to nurturing individual differences. She has the special role of working with individual differences - whether due to learning difficulties, or due to special talents that need extension and challenge. In a sense, we consider that every child has their own learning needs because of their unique mix of abilities. Sue is highly experienced in working with adolescents, keenly participates in our City Cite program, and has acted as an effective mentor to teachers who are new to the school.

"It's a great school for girls"

# Independent

TO FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE, WHAT MOTIVATES YOU, TO DEVELOP PRINCIPLES, OPINIONS, INDEPENDENT THINKING - YOU NEED FREEDOM TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND YOU.



### THE CARROT OR THE STICK?

How do we maintain discipline when we encourage exploration and self-regulation?

**It comes down to relationships built on trust.**

We set clear boundaries for students. Our behaviour management policy means we take all action in the best interests of the child. If a student is struggling with any behavioural or personal issue, we involve a team of people to help - including family members, pastoral care teachers, counsellors, peers and heads of schools.

**No limits to the breadth of interests**

We encourage students to find themselves through exploration of their talents and interests. For example, if a child loves modern dance or equestrian and we don't happen to offer that activity on campus, we support that child in joining an external club or team. We don't have compulsory Saturday morning sport, as we want to allow students time for training and other off-campus activities of their own choosing.

By knowing each student as an individual, our teachers can identify special external programs, activities and experiences that will challenge and motivate them.

#### ↑ Daniel Berg

As a keen sportsman, Daniel's natural ability was clear. We encouraged him to reach the highest levels in his chosen sport - baseball. He was selected for a scholarship to the National Major League Australian Baseball camp. We worked to accommodate his training schedule with "off campus" work during Year 12 as he attended the camp in Queensland and as he competed in the World Championships in Canada in the under 19 Australian team.

### HOW DO WE ACHIEVE IT?

**Class sizes** - we keep them low so each child gets the maximum opportunity for teacher and peer support.

**Teachers** - we attract teachers who are dedicated to our unique approach to education. In fact, we are constantly hearing glowing praise about our teachers from parents.

**Co-education** - the evidence keeps mounting on the benefits of co-education. We believe fully in the balance, positive modification of behaviour, social skills and exposure to others' points of view that result from a co-education. Kingswood has many strong female role models in leadership positions.

**Kinder to Year 12** - we offer the complete range of ages on the one campus, through three distinct yet connected schools:

Junior School: Pre-School - Year 6

Middle School: Year 7-10

Senior School: Year 11-12

It's an attitude that makes Kingswood special.

**Knowing and valuing the students as individuals is not a policy - it's a philosophy held by every teacher whom we employ.**

### KNOW YOUR CAREER

**We take careers counselling seriously.**

It starts early in helping students discover their own talents and interests through Junior and Middle school programs. Our Year 9s spend several weeks at our City Campus on Swanston Street and participate in work visits. In Year 10, students have scheduled vocational education and work experience programs.

When making subject choices for VCE, we conduct 1-on-1 course confirmation sessions with students, and we provide a period of settling course choice, as well as a policy that allows students to change courses at the end of unit 1. After all, you can't always know until you try.

Our careers counsellor operates from the centre of the Senior School, where students are free to make individual appointments throughout their VCE to explore and develop their thinking about their future.

thinking

WE HAVE DESIGNED OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT TO REFLECT OUR PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION.

### DESIGNED FOR INTERACTION

Each of the 3 schools (Junior, Middle and Senior) has a purpose-built area designed to bring the school together.

The "MPA" or Multi-Purpose Area is designed to be a central meeting point that encourages interaction between students and staff.

Offices and classrooms are arranged around the central meeting area, so students have direct access to teachers.



Open door policy means teachers get to know students better as individuals, creating trust.

The many activities are hosted here, with gatherings, meetings and concerts.

### SPECIALIST LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Our purpose-built facilities allow us to provide a wide range of subjects. These facilities include the Technology Complex (woodwork, metalwork, etc.), Art Studios, Photography Lab, a Food Technology Centre (fully functional kitchen), Computer Labs, Library Resource Centre,



Computer-aided Graphic Design Labs, Media Studio, Music Rooms, Science Labs and Sports Fields.

**But our best resource is and always will be our teachers.**

### WELL-BEING

As a measure of our commitment to the inner life of staff and students, Kingswood has conducted surveys of staff and student well-being as part of a plan for continuous improvement in the school.

It has found a very high rate of satisfaction with the school's philosophy and approach. Students feel there is something special and different about Kingswood:

**"The teachers treat you like an adult - they really help"**

**"Co-ed is good for girls - it is natural - we're on the planet together, after all"**

### SPIRITUALITY

As a school of the Uniting Church, we have a strong commitment to developing students' spiritual and ethical selves.

Our approach is to expose students to religious, moral and philosophical schools of thought, and to assist them to make their own decisions about what to believe. We encourage openness, diversity and acceptance of different views.

Our progressive views of education and religion help accelerate personal growth and form a foundation for a life of tolerance and social responsibility.



"To be popular

# designed





# environment



you just have to be yourself"

## for life

"I love the open space and community feeling of the place. They don't make a big deal about the facilities. They just get on with the job"

### Self-motivation

Parents constantly give us feedback about the effect of the Kingswood environment on their children. One parent told us this:

**"My son was struggling at his other school. He wasn't motivated, and wasn't achieving his potential. When he came to Kingswood, things turned around completely. He's settled in, with a good group of friends. He wants to study for the first time without any pressure from me. He loves it."**

# encouragement

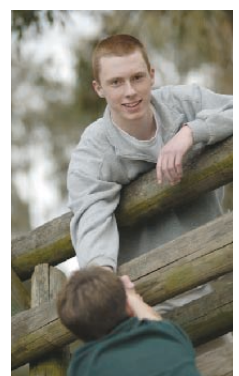


## ↑ Lisa Krepp

With the right support and encouragement, the only limit is natural talent. And talent is something Lisa has plenty of.

She achieved the top VCE score for a female in Victoria in 2000, and the 4th highest score overall. In her later secondary years, she was encouraged to take on a challenging workload. She completed 8 VCE subjects with distinction at Unit 3 & 4 level. She participated in many competitions during her schooling, winning several in public speaking, economics and political discourse. We are proud of Lisa because she discovered her abilities at Kingswood.

Because she achieved what she was capable of across her particular set of talents.



### GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

Knowing students as individuals puts us in a special position: we can identify and develop the abilities and talents of individuals. We see giftedness as a broad, encompassing concept: talents can range across any category of ability: academic, visual, creative, physical, technical, language, expression, social, or others.

Our programs for talented students are custom-built to the specific needs of the individual. We do not operate a pre-set acceleration program, but we do adjust learning according to ability.

The same principles underlie our gifted program as our special needs program - by knowing the child, we can support them with extra assistance or individual programs that maximise their personal ability.

### SELF IN COMMUNITY

We believe that students can find themselves best through their relationships with those around them. We have peer support programs that enable older students to mentor younger students. We take extra effort to get to know each child in the school so we can adapt their learning to their needs. We see the effect - students leave Kingswood with a heightened sense of social responsibility, self confidence and progressive attitudes to the world.



### THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

We have a strong international student population, and a strategic alliance with our sister school Gao Xin School in Xian, People's Republic of China. A mix of nationalities broadens the experience of all students.

### TOLERANCE

It's the way you feel in your own skin that matters. Kingswood is a place for students - student opinions count.

**"Everyone is more supportive and the genders get along together"**

**"You can be what you want to be - your own character"**

*Quotes from our Well-being Survey*

*"Kingswood has made me feel that I can be myself. The teachers are focused on what is your best not what they want you to be."*

"There is a place for  
everyone"  
care



↑ **Bruce Wilson** Kingswood inspiration

It takes a special combination of talent and commitment to be a Kingswood teacher. Bruce is a good example. He joined Kingswood because he liked the educational philosophy and the challenge of his position: Head of Arts (Visual and Performing). As the State Reviewer of Art for the Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority, he keeps at the cutting edge of teaching in the Arts. But it is his love of teaching, of uncovering the talent and confidence of students, that makes him an inspirational teacher and leader.

# experience



For us, co-education is a critical part of providing the right balance of experience to students. **A mix of gender, culture and age exposes children to other ways of seeing the world.** Here are some of the activities in which Kingswood students participate.

## events

- International Day
- International Dinner
- Open day touring
- Christmas Lunch
- Food for Profit
- Function catering
- Cooking for Christmas (social service)
- History Challenge
- Asia Wise
- Medieval Day
- Ancient Civilisation Day



## excitement

- Surf Bronze Camp
- Soccer Coaching
- EISM Sporting Program
- Athletics Training
- Surf Certificate
- White Water Kayak Certificate
- Soccer Scouting Club
- Outdoor Education Camp
- Snow Sports Championships
- Life Saving Program
- Life Saving Camp
- Mt Beauty Adventure Camp
- Active Girls Breakfast

- Leadership Training Program
- Student Representative Councils
- Leadership positions
- Model United Nations
- Conflict Resolution & Mediation
- Constitutional Convention
- Peace Program
- Civics and Citizenship

- Share Market Game
- Human Powered Vehicle**
- Deakin Business Week
- Plan Own Business Competition

- Chinese Reading Competition
- Tour to China
- French exchange program
- National Languages Quiz
- Alliance Francaise Poetry Competition
- Work experience
- City Campus

## creativity

- Young Artists
- Arts Workshop
- Choir
- Girls Vocal Group
- Performing Group
- Concert Band
- String Ensemble
- aRt Ensemble
- Improvisation Band
- Rock Bands
- "NILL" Jazz Band
- Big Band**
- Dramatic Arts Production
- House Performing Arts
- Control Room Operations

## engagement

- Genethics Workshop
- Tournament of Minds
- Genethics Essay Competition
- Research Workshop
- Computer Club
- Schools Computer Competition
- Web Page Competition
- Animal Week
- Airwatch
- Science & Maths Talent Quests
- Siemens Experience
- University of Melbourne Maths Comp
- Maths Trust Enrichment
- Maths Day (Uni of Canberra)
- University Enhancement Maths
- Robotics Challenge
- Physics Gymnasium
- Solar Car
- Science Club
- Youth Science Forum
- Science & Technology Workshop
- Murder under the Microscope - Challenge

- Public speaking competition
- Poetry recital
- Poetry competition
- Writer's Workshop
- Schools English Competition
- Read-a-thon
- Writer's Festival Excursion
- School Magazine
- Debating
- Short Story Competition

## enrichment

## opportunities & experiences



EXPERIENCE MEANS NOT ONLY THAT A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES IS AVAILABLE, BUT THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL IS SUPPORTED TO PARTICIPATE.



**Andrew Robertson**

As the Head of Mathematics at Kingswood, Andrew works at the cutting edge of Mathematics education. But his involvement in the school certainly doesn't stop there. He helps guide students' personal growth as a Year 12 Pastoral Care teacher, and is the motivating force behind Kingswood's exciting Human Powered Vehicle project (involving students in designing and building an energy efficient car). As with all Kingswood teachers, his desire to constantly improve the quality of learning for young people, his personal talents as a musician and sportsman, and his open personality make him a winner with students.



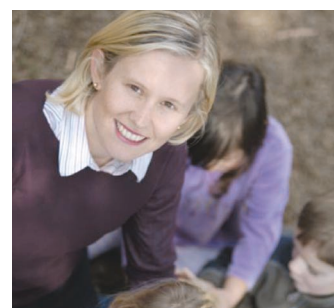
# opportunity

"You're treated  
like an equal and valued."



#### EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Nestled amongst the trees, the ELC provides a unique space in which children from 3-5 years are nurtured and challenged, a sense of wonder and curiosity is developed in a safe, secure environment. Our focus is on each child as an individual.



→ **Anna Tibb** is a good example of the commitment our teachers have to education. She is the Pre-School coordinator with overseas experience in early childhood teaching. Her wide interests in outdoor pursuits and environmental issues help colour her teaching style. With a passion for music, Anna provides a stimulating educational program that enriches children's learning. On top of all that, she is studying for her counselling diploma to deepen her skills in caring for the needs of Kingswood children.

# junior school



## LITTLE GREEN FINGERS

Our attitude to learning can be seen everywhere in the school - even in the Junior School garden.

Instead of creating a rigid, manicured garden (something perhaps adults might expect), we involve the children in developing the garden. What you see is exploration, creativity and personal growth.

The small pond, designed and created by Year 1 students, is crowded with plant life. Colourful gnomes sit happily in the Fairy Garden. Terra-cotta goannas and lizards adorn the Outback Garden. What you see is motivated, happy, contented children.

Kids want to get their fingers dirty in learning about life.

## CURRICULUM

In Junior School, the aim is to create the foundations for learning, by establishing understanding and skills in the core areas of:

Literacy: the skills to think, reason, understand and communicate

Numeracy: the basis for maths and science

Technology: the skills to excel in the future

Creativity: visual arts, drama, music, performance

Languages: French, Chinese (Mandarin)

These are complemented with learning in personal development, through values programs, and spiritual guidance.

## JUNIOR SHERLOCK

On Wednesday and Friday afternoons throughout the term, intrepid groups of primary students gather for the "Kingswood Challenge Program".

The budding detectives visit a "crime scene" to observe the evidence, later taking it to the lab for testing. Scientific skills are applied, as well as deductive reasoning.

Problem solving skills are also honed at regular chess afternoons, where students learn the rules and tactics in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

## OUTBACK THEME

The Junior School has a true sense of community. Parents, teachers and children work together on many inter-age activities and themed educational experiences.

We use the "Outback Experience" to expose students to a variety of learning events.

Outback Artists, Passionate Poets, "Outback" - the musical, Board the Ghan, "Henly on Todd" - boat race, Bush Dancing

## GIFTED PROGRAMS

Because each child is an individual; abilities can vary significantly from other class members. We want to challenge gifted children according to their ability, and provide accelerated programs, on and off-site lessons, and other activities to keep them motivated and involved in their learning.

Thinkers Plus - a weekly cross-age creative thinking group, Tournament of Minds - a national drama/thinking competition across science, tech, maths or language, Visiting Artists & Writers program, Literature Group - accelerated reading sometimes involving reading with older classes, Musicals, Extension Mandarin and Chinese culture program, Science & Environment Club, Interscholar Sports, Cross-age tutoring, Young Curators Course, Computer Club, Chess Masters Club, Young Artists Program, Robotics Challenge, Maths Talent Quest

## STAND BY ME TRANSITION

The transition from home to school is made confidently through our Early Learning Centre and Prep Program which helps children adjust to the world of school.

We also make it easy for primary students to make the transition to Middle School. With everyone on the same campus, year to year transition is nothing to fear.



# middle school

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Middle School is a time of experiential learning, with camps, excursions, the City Cite, extension and enrichment activities, and creative classroom sessions. We also recognise the changes that happen through adolescence, and the need to allow for individual learning styles.

## THEMES

We have created pastoral care themes for each year level, reflecting the age-related needs of Middle School students:

**Year 7:** self-esteem, awareness, learning style

**Year 8:** others, groups, peer pressure, community

**Year 9:** relationships, environment, the world

**Year 10:** ethics, opinions, what we think

## ACADEMIC STRENGTH

Extending gifted students is part of our promise to treat students as individuals. Christopher Moran is a highly gifted mathematician. By providing him with extension activities, such as the Australian Mathematics Trust Extension Program, the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians, the Westpac Mathematics Competition and the Mathematics Talent Quest, we have been able to expand and deepen his natural academic talents.

## CURRICULUM YEARS 7-10

English, Mathematics, Science, SOSE, Vocational Education, Languages: French & Mandarin Chinese, Health & Physical Education, Personal Development, PE Applications, Sports Coaching, Sports Management, Outdoor Education, Information Technology, IT Programming, IT Applications, Food Technology, Design Technology (Wood/Metal /Fabric), Horticulture, Drama, Music, Media, Visual Art, Visual Design, World Religions & Spirituality, Community Service, Study Skills



## CITY CITE

The City Cite is an excellent experiential learning activity-oriented program.

Based at the specially prepared City Cite, Year 9 students explore the city of Melbourne through creative integrated projects.

Students thrive at the City Campus, developing organisational and team-work skills.

One student, Andrew Trouw, became so enthusiastic about the program that he even recommended that the school day be extended so he could complete all the learning projects he had



begun. He was inspired to design his own City Campus, and has been involved in the orientation of the following year's students.

→ **Melissa Bennett** Kingswood enthusiasm

To be a great Middle School teacher requires a great attitude - to stimulate students during the adolescent years after junior school but before the high pressure of VCE kicks in.

As the new science teacher, Melissa broadens the students' learning through her special interest in genetics and her work as the voluntary teacher at external student science programs.

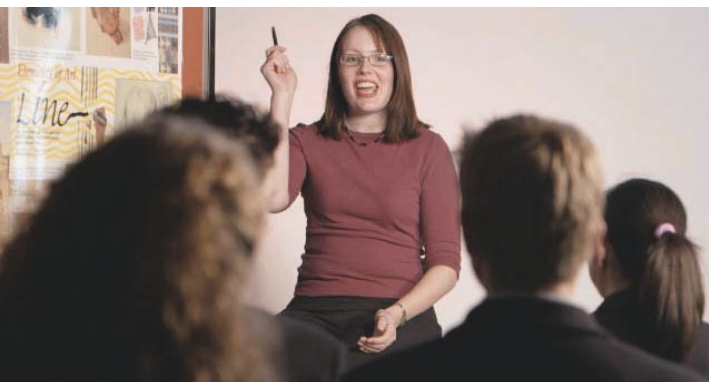




#### Leadership - Christina Prickett ↑

Each year, over one third of all Middle School students take on leadership roles. These include school captains, house captains, sports captains, peer support leaders, pastoral care representatives, social service representatives and debating captains.

Christina has been able to take full advantage of the opportunities for leadership at Kingswood. She has been a leader in sport and in the classroom, and was elected Middle School Captain at the beginning of her Year 10.



Her infectious enthusiasm and passion for teaching can't help but stimulate the students. But she isn't alone - the excellent mentoring and team approach at Kingswood have enabled her to achieve her best as a new member of staff.



↑ **EDWARD ALDERSON**

*Edward studied English, Art, History, Information Processing and Management, Visual Communication and Design in VCE. By winning the Kingswood PFA Senior Art Award and awards for Visual Art and Visual Communication and Design his skill and interest in Art was recognised.*

*He has chosen to study Fashion at RMIT.*

**DAVID HOUSEMAN**

*David participated fully in the life of the school.*

*He studied English, Specialist Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Physics and Chemistry in his final year. One outstanding achievement was to be selected for the Australian Team competing in the Rio Tinto Australian Science Olympiad in the UK, where he was the top Australian scorer.*

*His academic achievements were rounded out with participation in piano, trumpet, sports, writing and other activities.*

→ **YING HUA YU**

*Ying Hua arrived in Australia to study Year 12, and has had amazing success considering the additional burden of learning English. She studied ESL (English as a Second Language), Chemistry, Chinese, Specialist Mathematics and Mathematical Methods. She was Dux of Kingswood in her year of study, achieving an ENTER score of 99.05.*

*She has chosen to study Commerce at the University of Melbourne.*

→ **JESSICA LEACH**

*Jessica became interested in the world of tourism and hospitality.*

*She studied hospitality subjects in VCE, and also enjoyed work placements at Sheraton Hotels in Melbourne, Brisbane and Noosa.*

*She has chosen to study Bachelor of Applied Science in Hospitality Management at William Angliss Institute of TAFE/RMIT, while gaining relevant experience working at Le Meridien in Collins Street.*

# senior school

## NO BELLS OR UNIFORMS

There is an implicit understanding built up between teachers and students in the Senior School. It says be yourself, but respect others and take responsibility for your own success and actions.

This prepares students for working life where self-motivation, responsibility, creative thinking and personal drive are what determines success.

We are committed to general education even in VCE offering workshops for all VCE students focusing on Arts and Science and Technology, covering new ideas and learning experiences in these fields.

On top of a wide choice of VCE subjects, we take students through courses on self-defence, drivers education, sexual health, active listening and coping with stress.



## SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK

### VCE REVIEW PANEL

If students run into difficulties, they meet with the VCE Review Panel of 4 senior teachers whose goal is to find the source of problems and help students come to their own solutions. This illustrates our core philosophy: to learn about oneself is to improve.

### VCE IMPROVEMENT

We are proud of our recent performance on the VCE Improvement Index - we have been ranked in the top 3 schools in Victoria for the highest increase in the Index. The Index is a measurement of how much our individual VCE students have improved their results over the period of their VCE study. It is a measure of the success of the school in motivating students to lift their final results, beyond their expectations.

In our view this is more exciting than absolute numbers - it says every student can improve their performance.

## VCE RESULTS

Our strategy for VCE is to help students achieve their best and to gain the results they need to pursue the career of their choice. VCE is a means to an end.

We encourage individuality and diversity - we do not pre-select students based on academic ability. As a result, our academic results and career choices reflect that diversity of ability and interest.

## VCE STORY

The paths our VCE students take are as diverse as the students themselves. They range from the creative, to the vocational to the highly academic. Most students achieve one of their higher preference for further study or work. A majority choose tertiary education at major Victorian Universities.

## VCE SUBJECTS

English, Accounting, Art, Business Management, Drama, Economics, Geography, History, International Studies, Legal Studies, Literature, French, Chinese, Music Performance, Physical Education, Studio Arts - Photography, Visual Communication & Design, VET Certificate II in Arts (Multimedia), Biology, Chemistry, Information Technology, Information Processing and Management, Information Systems, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics, Specialist Mathematics, Food & Technology, Physics, Psychology, Hospitality Operations, (Design & Technology VET Certificate II & III), VET Certificate III in IT

*These are indications of the courses offered across Years 11 and 12, although the exact offering may change slightly from year to year.*



# take flight **Kingswood**

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Kingswood's symbol is the Wyvern,  
a winged dragon of mythical power  
and wisdom.