

THE
HAMILTON
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

CONFIDENT FUTURES



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AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE



WE EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS AND
TEACHERS TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE
TO LEAD, DREAM BIG AND TAKE RISKS.







A WARM WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

'Confident futures' is more than a tag line for the students and staff of The Hamilton and Alexandra College. We proudly strive to seek the best for and from every student, and to prepare them to make a meaningful contribution to the world.

We are known for our sense of community and connectedness. What sets us apart is our regional setting with everything city schools have to offer – a wide range of opportunities, unique programs, world-class facilities, and a range of boarding options – all set in a natural environment.

Our children will live in a world of 15 billion people. They will need the ability to question, make connections, and take an innovative and creative approach to problem solving. To best prepare them for their world of tomorrow, we need to provide them with opportunities to think laterally and imaginatively, and offer subjects that enable them to find novel and valuable solutions.

We will measure our success by how our young women and men serve their community now, and throughout their lives. Are they prepared to embrace the rich opportunities available and make a positive contribution? Are they ready to follow their passion, whether in commerce, agriculture or a trade? Do they express optimism about their future? Have we, as a learning community, been successful in lighting the fire of curiosity, imagination and goodness in each of them? Have we prepared them for a confident future?

The fortunes of the College have been closely entwined with the rich history of the Western District of Victoria for the past 146 years. I am confident such fortunes will only continue to grow.

“As students in a regional school, we are so lucky to be given the same opportunities as students in Melbourne.”
Elly



“The focus is not about just getting results on paper, but about building a better person inside each student.”

Jarrod



WE ASPIRE TO BE OUR BEST
POSSIBLE SELVES AND CONTRIBUTE
TO WHATEVER WE CAN.

A LEARNING CULTURE

An emerging challenge in this millennium is the gap between our skills and our wisdom. Science and technology are accelerating furiously, but wisdom, which is knowledge infused by meaning, is not.

Society's best brains are being saturated with immediate issues that are becoming ever more complex, rather than reflecting on the reasons for doing this and what the long-term consequences will be.

That is why we educate the whole person at College. Our learning programs focus not just on preparing our students for assessments throughout their schooling, but also to master key 21st Century skills in a fast-evolving world. We believe that developing strong student wellbeing will lead not only to exceptional academic accomplishment, but also to becoming good citizens and able leaders, and contributing to a better society.

Our strong learning culture is based on delivering a systematic curriculum with a focus on differentiated learning and continuously striving to improve our teaching practice. We aim to achieve this with our excellent student/teacher ratios, extension programs, extra studies that cater for all abilities and daily after-school homework support.

EARLY LEARNING

(3YO AND 4YO)

A strong learning culture starts with a solid foundation. Our Early Learning program is based on the Reggio Emilia approach that actively nurtures each child's potential and capabilities.

We believe each child brings a deep curiosity and an innate sense of discovery that drives their desire to understand the world and their place within it. Learning activities are flexible and open-ended to allow children to develop their love of learning. Our play-based program features a wide range of indoor and outdoor experiences, and we focus on the importance of relationships and environment, with children interacting with students in our Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.

Our program features specialist Art classes, outdoor sessions at the Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning nature area, and a specialist Music program based on the Kodály approach which focuses on learning through singing games, fun and play.

The Early Learning Centre is set in a beautiful environment that it shares with our Junior School, giving students direct access to amazing facilities. Our programs operate during school hours and children have access to before and after-school care.



“ I love the students and their courage. They help others and try new things. ”
Ned

JUNIOR SCHOOL

(PREP TO YEAR 5)

Our Junior School program is designed to build a strong base for life-long learning through the development of competencies in the areas of literacy, numeracy, ICT capability, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, ethical behaviour and intercultural understanding. Students learn from specialist teachers in Art, Physical Education, Chinese and Music, a highlight of which is the Year 2 Strings program.

We believe all students benefit from being with a diverse group of learners who bring a mix of skills, interests and learning abilities. Our highly capable and versatile teachers use differentiated instruction to engage students of all learning styles, abilities and levels of readiness to ensure each child achieves their full potential.

To ensure a seamless and successful transition experience, our targeted programs support each student as they move from the Early Learning Centre to Prep and from Year 5 to Year 6 in the Middle Years Positive Education Centre.

Evidence clearly demonstrates that happy children learn better, and Positive Education is embedded into programs. Students are encouraged to start taking responsibility for their learning through goal setting and self-assessment, taking on leadership positions and to give back to the community through our Service Learning program.

The Junior School is set in a beautiful environment on the site of the historic Myrning Homestead. Students have access to a range of facilities on-site and at the nearby Senior School.



MIDDLE YEARS

(YEARS 6 TO 9)

Our Middle Years program has a strong emphasis on wellbeing. Located in the purpose-built Middle Years Positive Education Centre (myPEC), students are taught by staff who specialise in teaching at this level.

Through our Positive Education learning program, we nurture a growth mindset in our students so they are motivated to persevere and progress in all areas of their learning through effort and practice. We teach them skills in resilience and self-discipline and help them identify their own character strengths which they are encouraged to apply in their everyday lives – studies, sport, cultural activities, communication and how they contribute to their community.

Helping students build strong relationships is pivotal to our learning community. We encourage them to be kind and empathetic to others, focus on positive emotions throughout their day and show gratitude in their lives.

We believe learning should be engaging and reflective by nature. The Year 9 Experience goes a long way towards achieving this and is a feature of the Middle Years program. It includes the China Experience where students spend four weeks in China, the City Experience where students spend one week in Melbourne's CBD, and the Outdoors Experience where students pursue challenging outdoor activities during a one-week adventure camp. Students also participate in our extensive Co-Curricular program.



“ Many inquisitive minds attend this school, attracted to the unique opportunities on offer to suit everyone. ”
Grace

SENIOR SCHOOL (YEARS 10 TO 12)

With their ideas still evolving, our focus in the Senior School is to give students the opportunity to open their minds to what their confident future might look like and prepare them for it.

Our curriculum is designed to provide breadth and depth of learning, with students able to choose from a wide range of VCE and VETis subjects from Year 10. Students also have the ability to take courses through outside providers, enabling opportunities in Agriculture, Automotive, Media, and Building and Construction. Students are carefully guided through a collaborative selection process involving parents, teachers and careers guidance.

Our Senior School program features structured Careers and Leadership programs and an extensive Co-Curricular program, designed to give students experiences that suit their interests and broaden their thinking. Students can choose from a wide range of opportunities in Sport, Outdoor Education, Aviation, Horsemanship, Music, Performing Arts and Public Speaking, as well as extended options such as camps (academic and music) and service and cultural tours (within Australia and internationally).



“ It’s the amazing culture that truly makes this school special; being part of a place that values and accepts the strengths and weaknesses of every person. ”

Lukas

LEADERSHIP

Leadership at College is not a title; it’s what we do and how we behave every day. We nurture leadership through our strong Service Learning program and by offering students across all year levels a wide range of opportunities to develop and implement leadership skills. Formal leadership opportunities are available from Year 5.

At Year 10, all students undertake our progressive Learning Leadership program which aims to recognise a student’s involvement in the school’s co-curricular and academic programs and to develop leadership skills to prepare students for the challenges of VCE.

“ Although we come from diverse backgrounds, we work together as a team, united in getting the best out of one another. ”

Sami



“The experience had a real impact on us and many of us have been inspired to pursue further volunteering opportunities.”

Hannah

GLOBAL MINDSET

We measure our success by the sense of connection our young people feel with their community, their sense of purpose, and their global awareness. We need to prepare them during their school years by giving them opportunities to explore being global citizens, and to help them understand that the best lessons don't come from travelling to wonderful places, but from the unique people, cultures and languages they will meet and learn about along the way.

We offer Chinese and French language classes, with Chinese offered from Prep and French from Year 8.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of experiences designed to broaden their world view, including the Year 9 China Experience, Year 10 Outback Australia Tour, World Challenge in Cambodia, Taiwan Study Tour and European Art Tour.

“How big is your world? Mine is so much bigger thanks to my China experience.”

Harrison



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM...









“I know I can always find someone to support me or share a conversation with, whether younger or older. This is something I've never experienced or heard of at another school.”

Alec



“What's special is our ability to be able to express ourselves.”
Grace



WE WANT OUR SCHOOL TO BE A PLACE WHERE ALL FEEL WELCOME AND WHERE OUR STUDENTS HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING AND JOY.

POSITIVE AND CARING RELATIONSHIPS

We pride ourselves on our authentic culture, where mutually respectful and inclusive relationships are nurtured right across the school.

We are determined to have graduates who are mindful, not 'mind full'. We support our students to build a personal moral compass – so they develop a strong sense of their place in the world and contribute to a just community.

Our focus is on nurturing respectful, grateful, resilient, compassionate and optimistic young people.

BOARDING

“A successful and happy boarding environment is based on respect - respect for the individual, respect for the school and respect for the wider community.”

Alex Smith, Director of Boarding

Our vibrant boarding culture is based on strong pastoral care, opportunities for personal, social and cultural development and a diverse program of inclusive activities.

We are committed to providing a range of boarding options, so families can access a dynamic, independent education to suit their individual needs. At College, we offer full, weekly, day and casual boarding: casual boarding provides flexibility to participate in weekday co-curricular activities, and weekly boarders live in from Monday to Friday and travel home on weekends. The school runs buses daily to Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Portland and Mortlake and weekly to the South East of South Australia to support these options. To read more about our boarding options go to www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au

A recent multi-million dollar redevelopment of facilities emphasises our commitment to being one of the State's top boarding schools. The addition of separate wings for our Year 12 students is designed to not only optimise their learning and living environment, but to also encourage greater independence and collaboration.

Our boarding program features study sessions each night after dinner supervised by our senior academic staff. Boarders also have the opportunity to attend additional study sessions after school in the library.



“Boarding means fun, friends and family, where you get to ride the school journey together and create lasting memories and friendships. You build up tolerance and self-independence that prepares you for life outside school.”
Lily



STUDENT WELLBEING

Our structured program is based on a highly personalised approach and is designed to nurture a strong sense of belonging, encourage individuality and promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

We want our students to become increasingly responsible for their learning experiences and develop the resilience to overcome obstacles. We give them time to pause and reflect, and provide structure and support in the areas of independent study, personal development and wellbeing.

In the Junior School, a student's class teacher is responsible for their primary pastoral care; students in the Middle Years belong to a Mentor Group and develop a very close connection with their Mentor teacher; and the House system in the Senior School provides students with support in all areas of their development. Boarders have an additional layer of support in the Boarding Houses.





“The passion of our teachers helps foster and inspire ambition in students and bring out their best in all areas.”
Jarrod



“The sense of community and teacher support is amazing.”
Amy



WE ARE COMMITTED TO DRIVING
IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF CLASSROOM
TEACHING AND LEARNING AT THE COLLEGE.

A TEAM OF EXCELLENT STAFF

As a community of learners, opportunities for learning and development are equally important for our staff as for students.

We actively seek to attract expert teachers and to nurture a culture of collaboration and teamwork within a supportive and enriching environment for our staff.

Relevance remains key to nurturing confident futures. Our teachers aspire to educate the whole person, focusing on a holistic approach. They avoid teaching simple solutions to complex issues, instead seeking to light the fire of curiosity, imagination and goodness in each student in their care.

“A vibrant sense of community is the single thing that sits underneath our successes and achievements and is the foundation of our school pride.”
Sami



“ In a way, College creates a tiny bit of home at school, looking out for everyone no matter what. ”

Jarman



WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY HOW WELL WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY NOW AND THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES.

A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

“ College fuelled my imagination and my curiosity in the world around me. ”

Erin Wyeth (1998), Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills in Melbourne

Pride in the school lays the foundations for strong relationships and a close-knit College family. However we are not just connected here at school, but also to our wider community, our country and most importantly, our global world.

Through service initiatives, students in all year levels develop strong partnerships with local and global communities.

Student-led service activities range from hands-on work helping with indigenous literacy, welcoming refugees and feeding the homeless to working at Mulleraterong (a local disability services provider).

“College helped influence and encourage my decision to become a pilot. My teachers recognised and understood my passion for aviation and helped steer me in the right direction to make my dream a reality.”

Will Allen (2016), Commercial Pilot at Sharp Aviation



“ Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone. Make sure you have a go and greet future challenges not with fear, but with intent. ”
James Agar (1995), Head of Global Communications at BHP



YOUR CONFIDENT FUTURE

“ At the end of the day, the reason we're here is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the girls and boys in our care and help them build better futures, anywhere in the world. ”
Dr Andrew Hirst, Principal

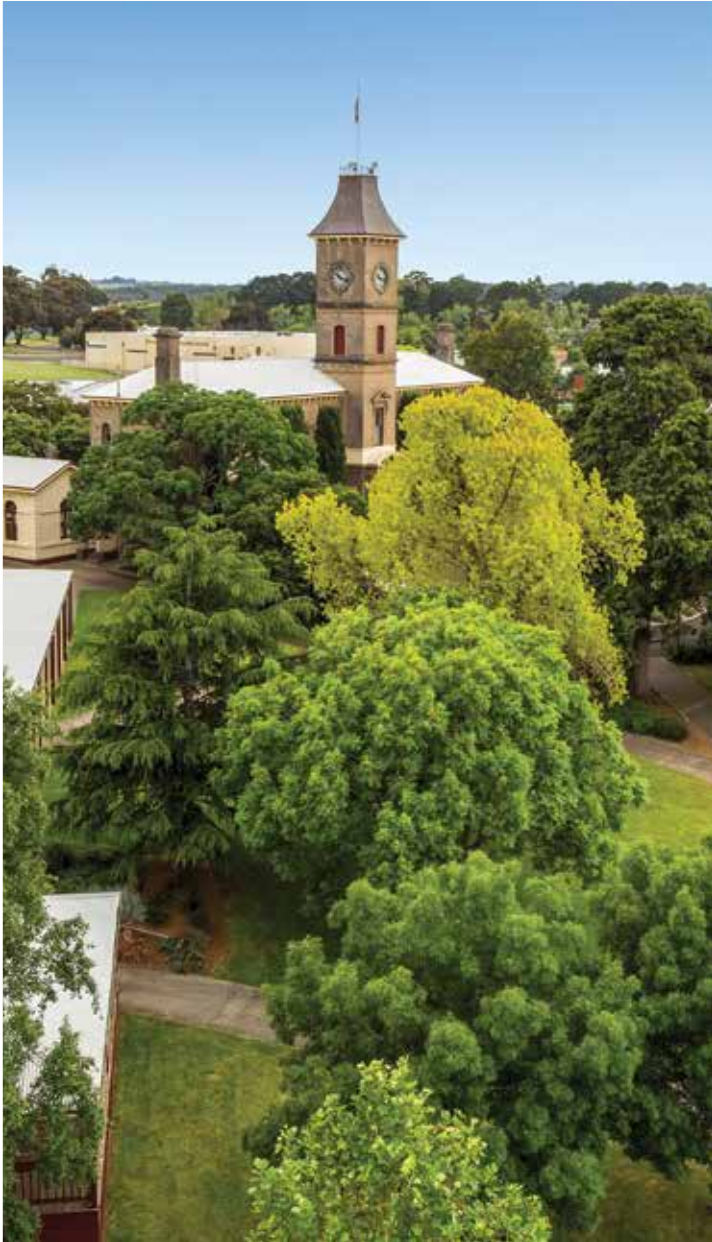
Our students will step into a future where the focus will be on solving big social, economic, ethical and environmental problems. It will offer them opportunities to excel at and challenges to tackle. They will choose careers and follow pathways that we don't yet know anything about.

We need to prepare them so they can adapt to the new forces that will influence their future world, such as increasing globalisation, intense competition, technological advances, automation, digitalisation and environmental constraints.

Through our structured curricular and co-curricular learning programs and our relentless focus on wellbeing and personalised care, we are arming our students with the skills that will help them succeed and the values that will help them make positive and meaningful contributions to society.

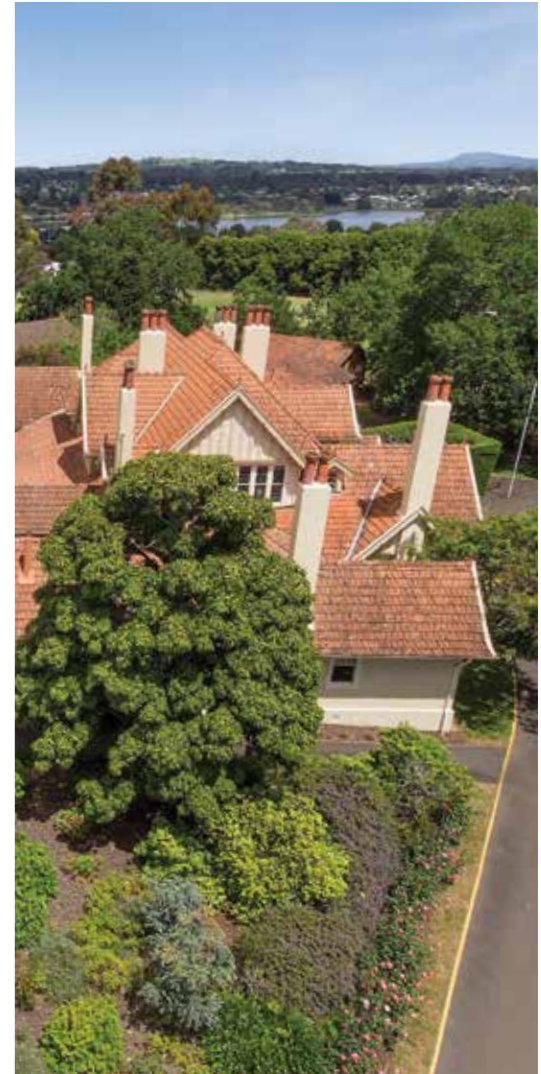
The future is theirs. We are preparing them to step into it with confidence and enthusiasm.

FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT



“ College allows students of all different skillsets to flourish and provides us with a wide variety of co-curricular activities to support and encourage our non-academic passions. ”

Maddie



Read more at
www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au



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“We proudly strive to seek the best for and from every student.”
Dr Andrew Hirst, Principal

A leading regional co-educational day and boarding school

A long and proud history of quality education since 1871

www.hamiltoncollege.vic.edu.au

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