

Nepean Christian School 
In Christ We Grow

SENIOR COLLEGE PROGRAM

“The compressed curriculum is honestly the best idea when it comes to approaching the HSC. It helped me focus on less subjects at a time and spread out my final exams between year 11 and 12. I believe it gave me a significant advantage in my final years.”

BIANCA MARCHIO, CLASS OF 2017, STUDYING
BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AT
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

NEPEAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

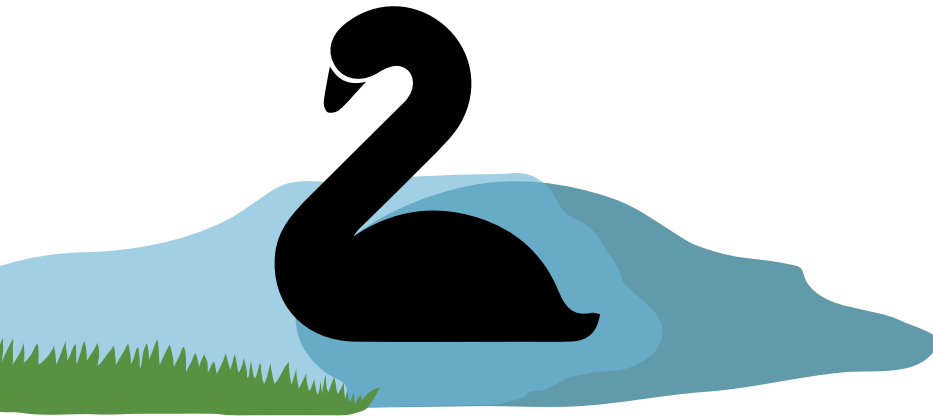
Nepean Christian School is a beautiful Christian School nestled at the foot of the mountains in Mulgoa about 8km south of Penrith. We are a rich, diverse, K to 12 learning community, where Christian faith permeates all aspects of school life, including how we bring learning to life and in the relationships that we share. We were established in 1983 as a school for families, and that tradition continues to shape who we are and how we operate.

As a school of around 600 students, we are large enough to offer a breadth of opportunities but small enough to ensure that every child is known by their name and that no child ever slips through the cracks. We are a community grounded in Christian faith but welcoming to all. You can find out more about our school on our web page www.nepean.nsw.edu.au.



SENIOR COLLEGE PROGRAM

The Senior College is the flagship program of the school. It has been designed to equip students to be lifelong learners, leaders within the school and beyond and to have the willingness and capability of serving, all firmly under the framework of Christian faith. It is far more than just the HSC. It is a holistic program designed to expand the possibilities for students to become our next generation of leaders.



THE BLACK SWAN

We have chosen the Black Swan as the emblem of the program. *Mulgoa* is the Dharuk word for black swan. When white settlers first arrived, they were shocked to see black swans. Their experience told them swans had to be white and they thought of these unusual creatures as odd. Like the black swan we want to do things differently at NCS. Our Senior College Program is different to the way that other schools present Years 11 & 12. We are growing and equipping students for the whole of life, as servant-hearted leaders. Today, black swans are found throughout the world on the lakes of Europe and America. It is our hope and expectation that our graduates will similarly go forth to challenge the view of what it means to be servant leaders in all areas of life.

A SELECTIVE PROGRAM

This program is not for everyone. We are looking for students who identify and want to be part of the three pillars of learning, leadership and service. For that reason, students who wish to enter Year 11 & 12 at NCS must fill in an application form and undergo an interview process. Acceptance is not based on any academic merit or past leadership experience but rather a willingness and desire to engage in all parts of the program and to take up the opportunities of becoming a generation of leaders. Students cannot enter Year 11 without being part of the program.

We have referred to it as a 'college' program to emphasise that our aim is to prepare graduates to lead and serve in the school and beyond. We recognise that our students are beginning to enter adulthood, with all the responsibilities and opportunities that involves. The college style program highlights that transition process.

You will find an Application form and Student Agreement attached to this prospectus. If you are new to NCS, you will also find an enrolment pack.



LEARNING

As a school, we are committed to fostering a love of learning and a desire to explore, challenge and take learning risks. Our aim is that every student is able to achieve their best, knowing that 'best' will look different for every student. We have put steps in place to assist students to achieve extraordinary ATARs but we know that successful learning is not just about marks on page but having grown in a passion for knowledge and wisdom.

COMPRESSED HSC

One step that we have taken to assist students in boosting their HSC potential is to create an HSC structure whereby students complete two HSC subjects by the end of Year 11 effectively spreading the stress of exams over two years.

In Year 11, students study four subjects, instead of the usual six. Two of those subjects are taught with twice as many face-to-face lessons, enabling students to complete the course in half the time. They then study for two exams when the rest of the state is preparing for six or seven. The same pattern is followed the next year. This time students will complete exams in the remaining four subjects and thus complete their full HSC.

Brilliant!

AN ENORMOUS ARRAY OF SUBJECTS

Small schools don't have to skimp on subject choice. Here's what we offer:

- **English:** All levels up to Extension 2 English
- **Maths:** All levels up to Extension 2 Maths
- **HSIE:** Modern History, Ancient History, Business Studies, Legal Studies, History Extension
- **Science:** Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- **Creative Arts:** Music, Drama & Visual Arts
- **Technology:** Industrial Arts Timber, Industrial Arts Multimedia, Design & Technology, IPT (Computing)
- **PE:** PDHPE, Community and Family Studies
- **Vocational Education:** Hospitality, Carpentry, Automotive, Childcare, Electrotechnology, Entertainment, Business Services & Beauty therapy.

Our VET program is run in conjunction with other schools that form the Key Alliance. Students are bussed to neighbouring schools to complete courses.

For subjects that our school doesn't offer, we have a long, successful history of enabling students to access courses via distance education.



DEDICATED LEARNING SERVICES

The school has a staffed Senior Study room in our library, specifically established to enable students to access every possible resource needed to study.

Every student is appointed a one-to-one teacher mentor who meets weekly and ensures students remain on track to achieve their study goals.

The school has a permanent senior tutor who assists students in the Senior Study with developing their study skills, breaking down assessment tasks, engaging in research as well as careers and university entry. Our senior tutor also 'receives' students who enter the Study to help them set goals for the period and stay on-task.

The Program begins with a three-day Stepping Up Camp to Cockatoo Island where students engage with the expectations of the program and begin to develop strategies for stepping up to learning. The school also employs an outside provider, Elevate, who runs a workshop program to assist students in setting effective study habits.

The school has developed its own ATAR tracker program. Students can book private appointments to look at how they are tracking towards their ATAR goals based on the Year 11 HSC results and develop a plan for improving university options.

HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY

Because students have chosen to be part of the program, we have systems of high accountability. It is expected that students will come to class ready to learn. Any student who has not completed the prerequisites for the lesson, is not allowed to remain in the class. They must report to the Senior Tutor who supervises them completing the material, and emails parents and mentors.



“ The Senior College Program has enabled me to serve in the community and take on a leadership role. I've been able to grow in my leadership skills as well as develop my academic ability. ”

MORGAN MONK, SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT 2022

LEADING

Every student in the Senior College program will be recognised as a 'school leader' with the responsibilities and opportunities that accord with that position. Leadership goes beyond the traditional role of captains and prefects and instead will be expressed according to the way God has equipped each person differently. Our expectation is that younger students will look up to senior students and therefore we expect all senior students to model the values and ethos of the school.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

We recognise that leaders are grown and shaped through training as well as the opportunity to serve. For that reason, the college program incorporates a broad range of training and equipping opportunities with professional external facilitators, members of the business community, church leaders and members of parliament. The school will provide training in:

- Public Speaking
- Conflict resolution
- Business Management & Ethics
- Social justice
- Politics and the political process

TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

In addition to the training that all students are offered, Christian students can also apply to be part of the Timothy Leadership Initiative. Students who are part of this program will be given further leadership training in sharing faith and modelling gospel values.

Our Timothys represent the school at various functions and attend a separate Christian leadership camp. Much is invested in our young Christian leaders and much is expected in how they lead their peers and younger students.

COHORT LEADERSHIP

All students in the program are assigned a primary Year Group that they provide mentorship as "big brothers and big sisters" at carnivals and community events. They serve as role models, encouragers and mentors.

LEADERSHIP PROJECT

All students must complete a Leadership Project. A Leadership Project identifies an issue or area in their community in which they can make a difference by designing and developing a response. Students must undergo a process of identification, strategising, implementation and evaluation.

The purpose of the project is to empower students to understand that as leaders, they can make a difference to the world around them. It helps them to identify areas of passion and understand the skills and abilities that God has given to them. It teaches them a process of planning and reflecting.

Leadership Projects can be simple or complex. However, they must stem from genuine interest and willingness to serve others around them.



SERVING

In a Christian context, the purpose of growing leaders is to equip students for service. Service is not simply about doing good deeds but growing servant-heartedness, understanding that the mark of Christian leadership is about learning to serve others. It is a life that is led out of love and compassion for others. The school will provide opportunities for service within the school context and for student-directed, independent service. Students will learn to serve in teams and individually

VANUATU

NCS is committed to helping students to see opportunities to serve beyond Sydney and their local cultures. Our school partners with a sister-school in Vanuatu. In July we send all of our Year 11 students to Vanuatu to work alongside teachers and locals in building partnerships, teaching about Australia and learning about Ni-Van culture. Students come back transformed by the opportunity to have served and to have experienced the genuine hospitality of another culture.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

As we seek to build in our students a lifelong commitment to serve, all students must complete 20 hours of community service in Year 11 and another 20 hours in Year 12. Service must be undertaken without expectation of recognition or reward. Students are encouraged to invest in organisations with whose work they identify. This might be a church, school, a charitable organisation or a community based group.

SCHOOL-BASED SERVICE

Students will have plenty of opportunities to serve informally around the school at carnivals, special event days, through clubs, tech crews, the Black Swan Cafe, organising the Black Swan Ball and much more. Students who look for opportunities to lead, grow empathetically towards others and find enormous joy in helping those in need.



“ The Senior College Program has given me the chance to fully immerse in my learning whilst gaining the tools needed to live a Christ-like life. ”

SAXON WILLOUGHBY-GREEN, SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT 2022



CERTIFICATION

At graduation, students will receive certificates acknowledging their completion of the Senior College program. It will indicate:

- Academic results
- School leadership
- Service completed

These certificates will be specifically designed to assist with university applications and scholarships, and future employment.

Students will also receive references from the school that acknowledges how much more they have achieved than students who have simply done the HSC.

Welcome to the Senior College Program. You are on your way to becoming Black Swans.





A Community

unlike any other you've experienced.

Nepean Christian School 
In Christ We Grow

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