



OXFORD FALLS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



Our Ethos

For Greatness, For Excellence, For Christ

Our Vision

To develop in each child their unique qualities, equipping them to enjoy a successful, Christ-centred life.

Our Mission

To provide Christ-centred educational excellence, encompassing the spiritual, physical, emotional and academic development of each student.

WELCOME TO

Oxford Falls Grammar School



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Some of our current students will still be living at the start of the 22nd Century. This raises a significant question for parents and schools alike: how do we prepare our students for a world that does not yet exist, and one that we can barely imagine?

Oxford Falls Grammar is a school that is “anchored in the past, attuned to the present and preparing for the future.” We are firmly anchored in our rich history, rituals and traditions. But as we look to the future, we are in the business of empowering young people to be confident contributors to society; to be well grounded intellectually, psychologically and spiritually. We strive to develop our students’ abilities, capacities and skills to equip them, now and in the future, to live a successful Christ-centred life.

A 21st Century learning focus and the pursuit of high academic achievement provide various opportunities for our students in an ever-evolving world. But this is only part of the story. Equally important is helping our students develop their character, values and sense of self. As such, they have a firm foundation and strong compass with which to independently navigate the increasingly challenging complexities of modern life.

We are also a school where little things mean a lot. We value manners, courtesy, respect, personal deportment and an ability to shake hands and look someone in the eye when you talk to them.

I commend to you this Prospectus, which is just a glimpse of the amazing opportunities that await your child at Oxford Falls Grammar School.

Dr Peter Downey

Principal

*EdD, MEdLead, MA, BEd,
DipBibStud, MACEL*



Our Heritage

OFGS was founded in 1984 under the vision of Ps Phil Pringle (Senior Minister, C3 Church Oxford Falls) to start a Christian school intentional in its spiritual direction and exemplifying strong Christian values while offering contemporary, high quality education.

Through diligence and perseverance, Ps Pringle and the original School Board established Oxford Falls Grammar School with the management of an independent, autonomous board. Today, with more than 1,100 students and after 30 years of educating young lives, we continue to enjoy outstanding results in academic achievements, sports, visual and performing arts.





Our Campus

Oxford Falls Grammar School is located in the leafy surrounds of Sydney's beautiful northern beaches. The spacious grounds of the Junior and Senior School campuses are designed to maximise the learning, sociability and physical activity of our students. The modern buildings and expansive landscaped grounds provide a wonderful environment for school life at OFGS. Both the Senior and Junior School enjoy excellent classroom resources along with access to exceptional campus facilities.

The performing arts space has purpose-built dance and drama studios, five music tuition rooms, a production studio, an acoustic music room, an electronic music studio, and a dedicated concert and stage band rehearsal room.

Our expansive outdoor areas include a full-sized football field, a designated K–2 area with specialised facilities, a Junior School oval and adventure playground. A large deck overlooks the creek and is a wonderful space for students, teachers and the community to gather. Located near the deck, overlooking a beautiful bush and creek setting, our barista at the Creekside Café offers excellent beverages to the School community.



Christianity in Action

Oxford Falls Grammar School is a Christian school. Through active involvement in a caring and dynamic Christian faith community, genuine individual experiences are accumulated as students see Christianity 'lived in practice' by their peers and teachers.

Under the guidance of our School Community Chaplain, Christian Studies Teachers and Youth Chaplains, students develop into self-aware, respectful, and mindful adults. Our contemporary Christian study program teaches students in an engaging, meaningful and relevant way about God and His love for them. We believe each child should feel valuable and loved, with a sense of purpose and identity.

The Youth Chaplains are involved in the delivery of the Chapel Program, facilitate Christian courses, connect groups and organise prayer meetings. These ensure our students enjoy a meaningful and positive lifestyle of the Christian faith.


Our Christian ethos is demonstrated through the OFGS Outreach Program. It is a K-12 philanthropic initiative that seeks to raise money for less fortunate children and communities across Australia and Asia. In Year 10 and 11, students have the opportunity to participate in an annual overseas mission trip. OFGS fosters a strong culture of generosity. We believe it is important to encourage students to think beyond themselves and to help others around them.

Student Wellbeing

The wellbeing of students is an essential part of educating the whole child. From Kindergarten through to Year 12 OFGS creates a positive, welcoming environment. Each student is encouraged to learn and grow individually, while remaining a part of the OFGS school community.

Our wellbeing programs are integral in achieving our School Vision: 'To develop in each child their unique qualities, equipping them to enjoy a successful Christ-centred life'. Our collaborative approach between teachers, Senior School Year Advisors and Junior School Heads of Stages provides guidance and support to students as they develop a strong sense of self-worth and identity. The teams focus on promoting positive learning and study practices, fostering healthy relationships and encouraging students to take responsibility for their actions and behaviour.



A close-up portrait of a young girl with light brown hair and green eyes. She is wearing a black woven hat with a black band that has "OXFORD FALLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL" printed in white. She is also wearing a blue and white striped shirt. She has her hands resting under her chin and is smiling warmly at the camera.

OXFORD FALLS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Junior School

The OFGS educational approach captures and cultivates our youngest students' wonder, curiosity and excitement as they commence school. Our balanced curriculum and positive learning environment builds the spiritual, social, physical and intellectual dimensions of each child, as they discover their passions and develop their identity.

We understand each child is unique and will learn and respond to different styles and approaches. Our teachers foster a genuine love of learning by preparing creative and innovative lessons with the needs of each student in mind. Our specialist sport, language, performing arts, creative arts and music teachers develop each child's talents and passions across their areas of interest.

As a Christian school, our students learn to respect and care for each other. In the Junior School, our students proudly support a wide range of local, national and global outreach initiatives. Our popular lunchtime clubs give students the opportunity to research and present information on relevant issues for the school to support. This development of solid character and compassion for others creates a beautiful environment for children to build positive and uplifting friendships that last into their older years.



At OFGS our nurturing environment allows students to take positive risks, encouraging them to become involved and explore new interests. Every day we seek ways to empower students with a love of learning and the skills to achieve their full potential.

KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 2

Kindergarten lays the important foundation for a child's educational journey. Our teachers design stimulating, play-based academic experiences that develop critical thinking and cultivate lifelong learning.

Building a student's literacy and numeracy skills is paramount during this stage of schooling. These are supplemented with subjects such as music, drama and art. STEM, the learning integration of science, technology, engineering and maths, is introduced in Kindergarten to develop a student's natural process of inquiry and innovation.



Our spacious grounds and outdoor facilities provide specialised areas for our Kindy to Year 2 children to explore as they develop physically, emotionally and socially.



GIFTED AND TALENTED

Our Gifted and Talented program commences in Kindergarten with the early identification of a student's strengths and talents. Extension classes are taught by specialist teachers who encourage creative, divergent and higher level thinking. There is a dedicated Gifted and Talented class for Years 5 and 6 students, to inspire academically gifted children to achieve their full potential. Our Learning Support Program provides a warm and inclusive environment for students who need additional help.

YEARS 3–6

The vision for students in Years 3–6 is to strengthen their academic skills, emotional well-being, social abilities, spiritual awareness and personal character. Building on our foundation of educational excellence, Junior School children have access to a wide range of activities, including robotics, sport, music, dance and drama. Information and communication technologies (ICT) are integrated into a creative curriculum for each class.

Student participation in OFGS' cultural days and field trips enriches their historical knowledge and promotes a positive understanding of diversity. The OFGS Outdoor Education Program commences in Year 3, and includes camp attendance and student engagement in learning experiences outside the classroom. Each camp is designed to develop a student's independence, resilience and to demonstrate team spirit in a collaborative, adventurous environment. In Years 5 and 6, students develop self-directed learning responsibilities and have the opportunity to apply for leadership roles.





Senior School

The Senior School years at OFGS focus on developing young men and women of outstanding character with passionate spirits and grateful hearts. Our educational strategies focus on the individual student, fostering critical thinking, curiosity and a love of learning. Each student's learning experience is rich, challenging and promotes their intellectual, personal and spiritual growth.



As a co-educational school, we understand boys and girls learning styles differ. Therefore, selected senior year subjects are separated into single sex classes. The remainder are co-educational. This initiative promotes effective learning in a single sex environment and still allows the mixed interaction and perspectives of co-education.

Innovative, inquiry led teaching is introduced through the STEM initiative. STEM integrates the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, preparing our students for the challenges of the future.

Teacher quality is hugely influential on your child's educational success. OFGS' Quality Teaching Program drives innovative, professional development for every teacher in a collaborative, supportive environment. This is an exciting initiative with a direct impact on positive student engagement and learning.

Our dynamic co-curricular subjects within the performing arts are highly regarded, with over two thirds of our students actively participating across these programs. The OFGS campus provides dedicated facilities for our students studying music, dance or drama.



In the Senior School, students are placed into mentor groups under the care of Year Advisors and Mentors. They are responsible for the academic progress and wellbeing of their students, and are the first point of communication with parents.

Our Gifted and Talented Program continues through Senior School and offers students the opportunity to optimise their abilities through a variety of enrichment classes and activities. Our specialist Learning Support teachers are on hand to support students requiring additional assistance and organisation as they move through Senior School.

Sport is a vibrant part of the Senior School curriculum, encouraging physical activity, awareness and health. Students have a wide range of sports to choose from including; football, basketball, netball, rugby league and rugby union, tennis and gymnastics. Students can participate in interschool and CSSA competitions and our elite athletes are given the opportunity to trial for representative teams to National level. Through active participation in the OFGS sports program, students develop a wonderful culture of team spirit and can achieve their personal best.

Performing Arts

Oxford Falls Grammar School is highly regarded as a leading independent school in the area of performing arts. The number of students involved in our co-curricular Performing Arts Program exceeds 700, which represents two-thirds of students in the school. Our tuition is seamlessly integrated into the school day through private and group lessons. OFGS has one of the largest music tuition programs in Sydney with over 400 students receiving private music lessons each week in our music studios.

Music Program

Music has the capacity to engage, enrich and inspire all students, encouraging each student to reach their creative and expressive potential. Whether your child's passion is string, woodwind, vocal or a brass instrument, OFGS has an ensemble or performance group to meet their musical interests. Co-curricular and private tuition programs complement class based academic programs and are open to all students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The OFGS Band program consists of a premium School Concert Band plus Junior and general School Bands. Our Concert and Stage Bands have annual workshops with leading Australian bands and music legends. Student confidence and collaboration is built throughout the year with performances at high profile public events and school functions.





The OFGS Vocal Tuition Program includes a Junior and Senior School Choir incorporating choreography, performance skills and solos. All choir students participate in our annual Vocal and Performance Workshop and perform regularly at school events and public official functions.

Students in the OFGS Percussion Program perform as a percussion ensemble. The ensemble participates in the Australian Percussion Eisteddfods, performs at school events and tours with the Concert Band.

The OFGS Rock and Pop Program is for bass players, guitarists, keyboardists, percussionists and vocalists. Guitar and bass students have the opportunity to perform in Bass Ensembles and Guitar Ensembles. Rock Workshops are held annually and have featured rock legends.



Music Ensembles

OFGS offers an extensive range of music groups for our students to join including:

- School Concert Band
- School Band
- Junior Band
- Junior Woodwind Ensemble
- Senior Woodwind Ensemble
- Junior Percussion Ensemble
- Senior Percussion Ensemble
- Debut Bass Ensemble
- Junior Bass Ensemble
- Senior Bass Ensemble
- Junior Jazz Band
- Senior Jazz Band
- String Ensemble
- Junior Guitar Ensemble
- Senior Guitar Ensemble
- Infants Choir
- Junior Choir
- Senior Show Choir
- Keyboard Club
- Pop and Rock Bands



Dance Program

Dance participation promotes creativity, self-expression, fitness and collaboration as students develop fundamental movement and technical skills. Working individually and within groups, students learn structured dance sequence movements and use the elements of dance and choreographic devices to communicate meaning through dance.

Dance is offered as a co-curricular activity from Year 1 to 12, with a variety of ensembles including lyrical, jazz, hip hop, technique and musical jazz. Performances include the annual Dance Showcase, school assemblies and eisteddfods. Our dedicated dance teachers have inspired and guided our passionate dance students to successfully compete at competitions throughout Sydney. In Year 9–12, dance can be chosen as an elective curriculum subject with a specialist teacher.



Drama Program

The student's imagination and creative expression is stimulated through our Drama Program. Students develop voice and movement skills to create character, mood and dramatic atmosphere. Self-confidence is built through a variety of acting techniques and presenting skills.

Drama is offered as a co-curricular activity from Year 3–12. Our co-curricular drama groups meet weekly before school under the instruction of highly trained and experienced teachers. The drama groups include; Year 3 and 4 drama, intermediate drama for Year 5 and 6 and senior drama for Year 7–12. Drama can be taken as an elective subject in Years 9–12. Broader aspects of dramatic play are explored including; theatre history, improvisation, text analysis and practitioner acting theories.



Sport

Sport is an integral and vibrant part of OFGS school life. Through active participation in the OFGS Sports Program, students develop a wonderful culture of team spirit and can achieve their personal best. Students are given the opportunity to be involved in a variety of summer and winter sports and build their physical fitness and skills.

Students participate in our annual swimming, athletic and cross country carnivals. We are a member and compete in the interschool competitions of the PISA, CSSA (Christian School Sports Association) and the CIS (Combined Independent Schools). Our elite athletes are given the opportunity to trial for representative teams to a National level.

OFGS offers the following sports:

- Basketball
- Football
- Netball
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- AFL
- Touch Football
- Gymnastics
- Snow Sports
- Softball
- Rock Climbing
- Surfing





THE OFGS BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL ACADEMIES

Students aged 10–16 have the opportunity to participate in the OFGS Football and Basketball Academies. The objective of each academy is to develop and enhance individual skill and technical development in either football or basketball. Our experienced coaches provide an inspirational training environment, empowering students to achieve their personal best.



THE NEW OFGS TENNIS ACADEMY

In 2016 the OFGS Tennis Academy was launched. It introduces OFGS infants to tennis in Kindergarten to Year 2 along with building individual skills and techniques for students in Year 5–12. Our professionally trained tennis coaches provide high performance instruction and tailored training programs.

BEIJING FOOTBALL TOUR

A bi-annual highlight for football students in Years 8–10, is the opportunity to tour to Beijing and experience new and interesting cultures as they play against local Chinese school teams.

SPORT HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

OFGS offers tailored programs to increase skills and confidence across football, netball, tennis, basketball and rugby union throughout the school holidays.



OXFORD FALLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

 1078 Oxford Falls Road, Oxford Falls NSW 2100

CALL 02 8978 0500 www.ofgs.nsw.edu.au

 www.facebook.com/oxfordfallsgrammarschool

 twitter.com/oxfordfallsgrammar