Brisbane Girls Grammar School

aspire to be a *Leader* in EXCEPTIONAL scholarship

BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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2013 Enrolments Information



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FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL is committed to the intellectual, social and emotional development of our girls. Confident in the traditions and values underpinning our culture, the School embraces the challenges of the future to support our girls to become thoughtful, resilient and confident young women.

While our School is academically non–selective, our students have a remarkable record of achieving exceptional academic results. Brisbane Girls Grammar consistently ranks as a top performer in the Year 12 Queensland Core Skills Test (QCST) and Overall Position (OP) results. Over the last five years we have been the top performing girls' school in the state.

The School's teaching and learning facilities have expanded significantly in recent years and the latest addition is a dedicated sporting campus at Fig Tree Pocket. Complementing the main campus in Spring Hill and our Outdoor Education Centre in the Mary Valley, this thirteen–hectare site will enable the School to develop our own playing fields to further enhance the successful sports programme.

The School's comprehensive framework of student care, based on the House system, assists the development of each student's social, emotional and psychological growth. Teachers and specialist staff ensure that our girls and their families receive the care and support they require during the crucial developmental stage of adolescence.

Brisbane Girls Grammar School offers a wide–ranging programme of academic, cultural, sporting, community service and leadership activities. We value our reputation as the secondary school of preference for girls. In everything we do, we aim to provide the best possible educational environment for your daughter to achieve her potential.

MRS MARISE MCCONAGHY



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CURRICULUM

Brisbane Girls Grammar School's curriculum is designed to encourage exceptional scholarship and to educate students in a broad and liberal tradition by ensuring that they are engaged in a wide range of disciplines.

Our curriculum reflects our philosophies of teaching, learning and assessment. Across the girls' academic programmes we focus on learning how to learn well, promoting a positive learning mindset, and maximising learning potential. Our teaching emphasises the capacity of an individual to learn, and educates the girls to embrace academic challenges and benefit from their endeavours.

The School's commitment to exceptional teaching provides authentic and empowering learning environments for students. Our teachers foster rigour and deep understanding, educating the girls to use disciplined and critical inquiry. Students are taught to understand the connectedness across different contexts and become engaged with their learning and the learning process.

Our subject offering is grounded in the Grammar school tradition, encouraging girls to build a personal curriculum that is engaging and of a high intellectual quality. The embedding of the Australian Curriculum across the School in a thoughtful and systematic manner has allowed us to examine and refine our academic programmes, ensuring that all our students take part in innovative and rigorous learning experiences.



Year 8

The Year 8 Curriculum comprises core subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Philosophy of Learning, and Health Science and Movement Studies.

Our students are required to select two different Languages to study, one in each semester, and may select from Latin, French, German, Japanese and Chinese.

Girls also complete semester units in Visual Art, Drama, Music, and Design and Technology.

Participation in the annual Outdoor Education programme, which is run at the School's second campus, Marrapatta, located on 40 hectares near Imbil in the Mary Valley, is an integral part of the curriculum for students across Years 8 to 10.

Years 9 and 10

In Years 9 and 10 students study a core curriculum comprising English, Mathematics, Science, History, Health Science and Movement Studies, Innovative Design, and a Language selected from Chinese, French, German, Japanese or Latin.

In addition students select two elective subjects from: Visual Art, Multimedia and Technologies (MIT), Drama, Geography, Music or a second Language. This allows students the opportunity to study two languages in their academic programme if they wish.

Years 11 and 12

Over 95 per cent of our students pursue university studies following graduation from Year 12 and the School's senior curriculum reflects this tradition.

In Years 11 and 12 the subjects offered are all registered by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). English and one Mathematics subject are compulsory. Students may select from: Accounting, Ancient History, Visual Art, Biology, Chemistry, Drama, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Information Technology Systems (ITS), Japanese, Latin, Mathematics A, Mathematics B, Mathematics C, Modern History, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Study of Religion, Science21. Students must study six subjects unless determined otherwise in extenuating circumstances.

All graduating students will be eligible for a Senior Statement and, if OP eligible, they will be issued with a Tertiary Entrance Statement. A third, relatively new credential, is the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE); however only students who fulfil the specific criteria will attain this qualification.

To be OP–eligible students must complete 20 semester units of QSA subjects (the equivalent of five QSA subjects) over the 4 semesters of Years 11 and 12. Three of these subjects must remain unchanged throughout Years 11 and 12.





2012 ACADEMIC RESULTS

The School's exceptional record of academic excellence was again demonstrated with the 2012 Year 12 students achieving outstanding results.

Overall Position (OP) Results

GRADE	GIRLS GRAMMAR	STATE
1–2	16.3%	6.17%
1–5	40.53%	19.69%
1–15	94.27%	78.89%
1–20	100.0%	97.05%*

* STATE OP 1–25 = 100%

QCST Results

GRADE	GIRLS GRAMMAR	STATE
A	37.8%	15.5%
B	39.6%	27.8%
C	18.5%	34.6%
D	4.0%	20.8%
E	0%	1.3%

These results show 77.4 per cent of our students received an A or B grade compared with 43.3 per cent of students across the state in the QCST. It is worth noting that entry into Year 8 at Girls Grammar is not academically selective—which provides us with a diverse student population—and importantly, the School does not award academic scholarships. Therefore these impressive results are testament to our high quality teaching and the positive learning culture inherent in the student body.

NAPLAN Results

The performance of the 2012 Year 9 group in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests was extremely pleasing. This standardised testing is completed by all Australian students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. There are five results emerging from the papers: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. The achievements of the Year 9 girls are recorded in the table below.

TEST	GIRLS GRAMMAR	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Reading	638	574.5
Writing	628	553.3
Spelling	635	576.6
Grammar	661	572.8
Numeracy	650	584

Results of standardised testing are often used by the media to "rank" schools. While these results place Girls Grammar in the top Queensland schools and the top performing girls school, such a practice is not educationally sound as it places too much importance on a single testing instrument and does not acknowledge the selection processes of some institutions. NAPLAN results should not be viewed in isolation. These tests alone do not provide a complete picture of a student's ability or of the academic programme of a school; however, if used thoughtfully the results can provide data regarding the learning needs of Year 9 students, both as a group and as individuals. The value of this testing then lies largely in the potential of the data to inform teaching practice in a very specific way.

Having acknowledged the limitations of comparisons made using NAPLAN data it is still gratifying to note that Brisbane Girls Grammar School is consistently in the top ten Queensland schools for numeracy results. This is particularly significant given the comprehensive data from a variety of perspectives which suggests that boys perform better in terms of numeracy than do girls. The Mathematics Faculty has worked hard to develop programmes in Years 8, 9 and 10 which target the numeracy skills of the students in those cohorts.

The exceptional results of our Year 9 cohorts each year reflect the girls' dedication to their learning and the differentiated teaching programmes implemented by our excellent teaching staff.

CO–CURRICULUM

Grammar girls are encouraged to extend and explore their interests and knowledge through their choice of co–curricular activities.

Every student has the opportunity to involve herself in a variety of pursuits including community service, sport, music ensembles, debating, public speaking, enrichment activities and performing arts. Designed to complement and balance the curriculum these programmes encourage participation, team–work, self–confidence and creativity.

The leadership roles assumed by students in many of these activities contribute to academic resilience and significant personal development.

Community Service

The opportunity for students to give back to the community is a vital component of our co–curricular programme. Through a wide range of clubs, activities and service committees, Grammar girls are encouraged to create a meaningful link between their School life and the wider community. Girls commit time and energy to community service, raise funds for charities and worthy causes and help create awareness of issues and social concerns on a local and global scale. Year 12 students have the opportunity to participate in an Antipodeans Abroad Expedition.

Service groups include Interact, Oaktree Foundation, The Kirsten Jack Memorial Leukaemia Committee, Second Chance Committee and Save the Children Club.

Drama

There are several drama activities available for students.

FELGATE SOCIETY: This inclusive club encourages students from any year level to participate in various dramatic activities.

GRAMMAR DANCE: Girls enjoy exploring different dance genres, extending their skills, flexibility and strength as well as choreographing works for performance.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR PRODUCTION: Each year the School produces a senior and junior drama production sometimes in conjunction with boys from Brisbane Grammar School.

Music

The three core music domains (strings, band and choir) offer more than 800 places for students to pursue their musical talents at their specific level of proficiency. Specialist music staff provide instrumental and vocal tuition in group and private lessons. Tuition is available, subject to demand, in the following instruments – including voice (see table below):

BRASS	WOODWIND
Trumpet	Flute/Piccolo
Trombone	Clarinet
Euphonium	Oboe
French Horn	Bassoon
Tuba	Saxophone
STRINGS	**OTHER**
Violin	Percussion
Viola	Drum Kit*
Cello	Chamber Music
Double Bass	Voice
Electric Guitar*	Piano*
Classical Guitar*	AMEB Theory*

* Private tuition only

CO–CURRICULUM

Sport

In January 2013 the School completed the purchase of a 13–hectare site and third campus to add to its existing Gregory Terrace Campus and Marrapatta Outdoor Education Campus. The site, located in Fig Tree Pocket, will be a dedicated sports campus and will enable Girls Grammar to develop its own playing fields for its thriving sports programme.

The Fig Tree Pocket site comprises already developed sporting fields, ovals, club house and caretaker's house adjacent to parklands. The School has a long tradition of valuing physical activity in the lives of students because of its ability to teach physical skills, discipline, self esteem, team concepts and a healthy lifestyle. Currently our sports programme offers 19 competitive and several non–competitive sporting activities. The School is a member of the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools Sporting Association (QGSSSA) competition, a range of Brisbane Club associations, as well as operating a comprehensive Interhouse programme.

Current competitive sports are: Artistic Gymnastics; Athletics; Badminton; Basketball; Cricket; Fencing; Cross Country; Football; Hockey; Netball; Rhythmic Gymnastics; Rowing; Softball; Swimming; Tennis; Touch; Volleyball and Water Polo.

Also on offer are Rock Climbing; Pilates; Zumba; General Fitness Activities; Yoga and Aquarobics.

Clubs and Activities

The diverse range of clubs and special interest activities available at the School allow girls ample opportunity to deepen their understanding and expand their skills in areas of personal interest. Many of these activities have a real–life or community focus and provide the girls with appropriate challenges that help develop a sense of leadership, maturity, complex reasoning and responsibility.

Options include: Anime; Apollo Readers Club; Art Workshops; Art Walks; Astronomy Club; Athene; Calligraphy; Chess; Composer's Club; Debating/Public Speaking; Digital Photography Club; Economics Society; Ecoman; Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; e–Sports; GECO (Grammar Environmental and Conservation Organisation); Gwen Harwood Society; Health Promoting Schools; Interact; International Young Physicists' Tournament; Junior Young Physicists' Tournament; Kleio Society; Libellum Reading Group; Multimedia Club; Opti–Minds; Science Olympiads; Singers and Songwriters Club; UN Club.

Cafés

Girls Grammar Cafés provide the opportunity for all interested members of the School community, past and present, to gather informally over refreshments and engage in lively discussion on a range of topics and ideas in different disciplines. Brisbane Girls Grammar was the first secondary school in Australia to institute these café symposia for the benefit of its community.

The School currently has three cafés—each café meets once a term and has a designated convenor.

Philosophy Café was the first in the suite of cafés to be instigated at the School. Guest speakers provide stimulating presentations on a diverse range of universally big ideas. Feedback and comment are encouraged and students, staff and parents have the opportunity to express their ideas in a forum of respectful discussion.

Art Café provides wonderful opportunities for members of the School community to meet practising artists as guest speakers and engage in discussions about all aspects of art, both theoretical and practical.

Readers Café is a thriving community of avid readers who discuss and debate the merits of a number of selected books. Guest speakers are also invited to present book reviews during the year.



ENROLMENTS

The enrolment process

Brisbane Girls Grammar School is an independent secular school recognised as an international leader in the education of teenaged girls. The School offers Year 8 to Year 12 at its inner city Brisbane campus.

Step 1 > Application for Year 8 (2014) and Year 7 (from 2015)

Entry into Year 8 at Brisbane Girls Grammar School is academically non–selective, there is no entrance examination or selection interview. Girls are required to have successfully completed Year 7 in Queensland or the equivalent interstate or overseas. Offers of places will be made according to the date we received your daughter's enrolment application. There are no preferences given to daughters of past students or staff, or sisters of current students or past students.

The School accepts enrolment applications any time after birth. Enrolment applications can be completed via the on–line application process on the School's website, or using the form enclosed.

Applicants' names are placed on our enrolment list in strict order of application. All applicants are accepted for their age appropriate entry year and placed on the enrolment list. Places are not offered until approximately three years prior to the year of entry.

It is recommended that applications for entry within the next three years be discussed with the Enrolments Office prior to submission.

The School does not accept enrolments from international students wishing to study on a student visa.

> Application for Years 9–11

Places in Years 9–11 may be available and applications for these year levels should be discussed with the Enrolments Office prior to submission. Places in these years are offered at the discretion of the Principal. Once a student has been short–listed, an interview with the Principal will be organised.

Step 2 > Offer of Place

Parents of girls registered on our enrolment list will be contacted approximately three years prior to their year of entry to ascertain their interest in remaining on the enrolment list. Commencing three years prior to the year of entry the School will send out formal offers. Offers will be made to families on our enrolment list in strict date order of application. To accept the offer you will be required to pay the confirmation fee and provide any documentation upon request. Students must have completed the previous school year to a standard that will not disadvantage them on enrolment as determined by the Principal. Parents must inform the School of all special needs which may be relevant to the education or welfare of their daughter. In the year prior to commencement, students and parents are invited to attend an interview with the Principal and their Head of House. The offer process continues in strict date order until the School has a full cohort. In recent years we have been able to offer places to the majority of girls on our enrolment application lists.

Step 3 > Fees in Advance Payment – June (prior to commencement)

Families with a confirmed place for their daughter are required to pay a Fees in Advance payment in June prior to the year of entry. This amount is non–refundable and will be credited to the first term's tuition fee instalment. Should parents cancel their daughter's enrolment after this date, advance fee payment is forfeited to the School as fees in lieu of notice.

Step 4 > Orientation

Preparing new students for their start in the School is a vital component of the enrolment process. In the year prior to entry into Year 8 we will provide you and your daughter with several opportunities to familiarise yourselves with the School, meet staff, participate in parent and community events and meet other girls and their families commencing in the same year.

Changes to Enrolment Applications

It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to advise the School of any changes to contact details once your daughter's enrolment application has been accepted. If the School is unable to contact you, your daughter's enrolment application may be forfeited.

Changes to entry year should be advised as soon as possible and will be considered but cannot be guaranteed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

– Why choose a girls' school?

Teaching girls uses an approach that recognises gender differences and specific mindset developments based on recent brain research. An all–girls school can also create a positive atmosphere that counteracts the negative influence of mass media and its often troubling depictions of women and girls. To access more information on girls' education please visit The Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia at www.agsa.org.au

– Why is Year 7 being introduced in 2015?

Year 7 moves to secondary school in all Queensland schools in 2015. The move, announced in June 2011 by the state government, will bring Queensland into line with other states and recognises that Year 7 students will require specialised facilities and specialist teachers under the Australian Curriculum. The move presents Girls Grammar with the exciting opportunity to extend its expertise in educating teenaged girls to Year 7.

– Where do the girls go to primary school?

As Brisbane Girls Grammar School is a city school at the edge of Brisbane's CBD, our catchment is very large and girls come from a diverse range of schools and backgrounds. Seventy per cent of students come from state schools and thirty per cent from independent and Catholic schools. In the year prior to your daughter's entry to the School she will be invited to participate in several activities and events designed to introduce her to the Grammar community and other girls from her cohort.

– Does Brisbane Girls Grammar only cater for those who are talented academically?

Brisbane Girls Grammar is an academically non–selective school. While our programmes have a strong academic focus, they are carefully structured to be progressive learning experiences across a range of pursuits that will assist each and every girl's educational and personal development. Whether it is in sport, music, academic achievement, personal maturity, or the gifted capacity for friendship, leadership or service, all talents are afforded status and respect.

– What type of student care is provided by the School?

Student care at Girls Grammar is tailored for teenaged girls and is responsive to the needs and developmental age of the individual. Through the Student Care programme, all students learn about what is and what is not acceptable behaviour with regard to their peer group relationships, and staff reinforce this at every opportunity. The School is organised so that there is a group of people whose core concern involves overseeing the social and emotional strand of the girls' education. However the provision of care and the development of student well–being is the domain of every teacher in every classroom. This ensures that our girls receive a truly holistic education.

– How does the House system operate?

The House system is the basis of student care throughout the School. There are nine Houses and each girl belongs to a House and is cared for by the Head of that House, House Group Teachers and counsellors. In addition, two House Captains are elected from the Year 12 cohort for each House and each Year 8 girl has a Year 12 buddy from their House. The House system builds connectedness with the School community and girls gain the sense of belonging which is fundamental to their ability to develop and grow socially, emotionally and intellectually.

– Brisbane Girls Grammar is a large school – will my daughter get lost?

The Student Care programme operated through the House system ensures that each girl receives individual care and attention. A student to teacher ratio of 1:11 and optimal class sizes allow for individual attention. The resources available to girls at this School provide opportunities that may not be accessible in a smaller school. We offer over 120 co–curricular activities and opportunities to participate in national and international competitions and forums.

– What are the class sizes?

Class sizes can vary depending on the year level. On average a class has 26 students in the Junior School (Years 8–10). Class sizes in the Senior School (Years 11–12) are generally smaller.

– Does Brisbane Girls Grammar offer scholarships?

Brisbane Girls Grammar School is academically non–selective and may offer one bursary each year to a student at entry into Year 8. Awarded on the basis of overall merit and financial need, the recipient may be entitled to either part or full fee remission. Only families who would otherwise experience difficulties in paying their daughter's tuition fees should apply.

– Do you have a relationship with a boys' school?

Brisbane Grammar School is considered our brother school and the two schools engage in a number of activities together including music performances, drama productions, the Year 11 Charity Social, and science competitions.

ENROLMENT & TUITION FEES

Enrolment Fees

Enrolment Application Fee $440 (GST inclusive)
Confirmation Fee $1600

The Enrolment Application Fee is payable at the time of lodgement of an application. The Confirmation Fee is payable at the time of formal acceptance of the School's offer of enrolment and execution of the School Agreement. Fees are not refundable and are subject to change. Parents of girls enrolling as new students in January 2014 are required to make an Advance Fee payment to the School of $2,000 by 10 June 2013. This amount is non–refundable and will be credited to the first fee instalment of 2014. Should parents cancel their daughter's enrolment after this date, the $2,000 advance payment is forfeited to the School as fees in lieu of notice.

Tuition Fees

Brisbane Girls Grammar School has an all–inclusive fee policy that covers the cost of tuition, as well as a range of curricular and co–curricular activities including academic camps, the visual and performing arts programme, group music tuition, class excursions, QGSSSA/club and other sporting nominations, provision of qualified sports coaches and creative arts instructors, use of the library, printing, photocopying and computer facilities. The costs of curriculum items such as textbooks, language periodicals, and specialised equipment/ materials are a parent/guardian responsibility. There are no additional technology, outdoor education or building levies imposed on parents.



Years 8–12

$4,970 PER BILLING (4 BILLINGS PER ANNUM)
OR PER ANNUM $19,880 WITH DISCOUNT $19,383

The Tuition Fee does not include the costs of co–curricular and sporting camps/tours, other nominated, special or voluntary activities and some sporting club levies and registration fees.

Fees for private lessons are paid direct to the person providing the service. Parents/guardians receive a separate account for these lessons from the teachers, tutors or coaches concerned.

Payment dates & charge on overdue accounts

For planning purposes, parents are advised annually of the due dates for payment of fees and again with each billing statement. Payments not received by the due date are considered to be in arrears and in breach of the School Agreement. Accounts in arrears will be subject to an administrative charge which is made in accordance with School policy.

Discounts

Discounts for Tuition Fees are available where annual fees are paid in advance in one instalment and are received on, or prior to the due date notified by the School. The amount payable (net after discount) for 2013 is listed above.

Termination of enrolment

Should parents wish to terminate their daughter's enrolment prior to her completion of Year 12, then written notice must be received by the School by no later than the first day of the term at the end of which it is intended she should leave, or if it is intended she should leave during the term, by no later than the first day of the preceding term. Parents failing to comply with this requirement will pay or forfeit (as the case may be) to the School, ten weeks' fees in lieu of notice. Parents of girls confirmed as new students in Year 8, January 2014, who wish to terminate the enrolment of their daughter without penalty must notify the School in writing by 10 June 2013.

FEE PAYMENT POLICY

Board Policy

(A complete copy of the School's Fee Payment Policy can be found on our website.)

The Board of Trustees ('the Board') is responsible for the development of the School's Fee Payment Policy ('Policy').

The Policy, and the fees and charges payable pursuant to it are subject to review by the Board. Notice of any change to the Policy or the fees may be given to parents by mail or email, and made available to the School community via the School's website.

Tuition Fee Increases

Tuition fees will be reviewed on an annual basis and annual tuition fee increases approved by the Board. Parents may be notified of annual tuition fees in writing by mail or email prior to the commencement of Term I of each school year. The updated tuition fee schedule may be published on the School's website. The following factors may be considered during the Board's review of the annual increase of tuition fees: agreed increases in staffing costs, predicted increases in utilities, interest rates, predicted inflation rates, maintenance requirements, new developments and expansions to the curriculum and co–curricular programme offerings, increased technology requirements, government compliance requirements, new capital expenditure and government funding levels.

Responsibility for Payment

The individuals who are party to a Student Enrolment Agreement with the School are jointly and severally liable for the student's tuition fees and any other costs associated with the student's enrolment at the School. This means that each individual who signs the Student Enrolment Agreement is personally liable for the full amount owed to the School. Where more than one individual signs the Student Enrolment Agreement (for example, where both parents sign) the School may at its absolute discretion elect to pursue any signatory for the full amount owed.

Where the School is provided with a Court Order which provides for an alternate arrangement (as between the parents) for payment of the student's tuition fees and any other costs associated with the student's enrolment at the School, the School may act on the Court Order at its absolute discretion, to the extent permitted by law and will act in accordance with the Court Order as required by law.







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