



A message from our Principal

Downlands College extends a warm welcome to you and your family.

I am very proud and privileged to be the Principal of this exceptional school that has developed leaders, entrepreneurs and individuals who have made a difference in the world. Founded by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in 1931, Downlands College has a rich history and continues to be characterised by its strong Catholic ethos and MSC spirit which underpins all we do.

At Downlands we acknowledge and embrace the diverse heritage, cultures and backgrounds of our students, staff and broader school community. The development of strong, life-giving relationships forms the cornerstone of a Downlands education, and our unique MSC heritage ensures that the Downlands journey is intertwined with an 'education of the heart'.

A focus on relationships allows our core values of love, courage, compassion, understanding and humility to be woven through all our interactions.

Widely recognised as a leading coeducational day and boarding school, Downlands College is known as the 'school of choice' and a school 'where your heart finds a home'. At Downlands there is a niche for every student. We journey with each individual student academically and pastorally to provide the best possible school and post-school pathway. Opportunities include a very broad curriculum offering (academic and Vocational Education and Training), sport, performing arts, agriculture, leadership, social justice projects and community service.

Our goal is to have happy students who perform to their personal best in all situations and who take responsibility for their learning and relationships. This includes student presentation, excellence in academic pursuits, co-curricular involvement, treating peers and community members with respect and kindness, and having a sense of humour.

We will continue to ensure the wider community recognises that a Downlands educational journey is one that will develop selfless leaders who are advocates for values-based communities. Our distinctive culture is informed and guided by our beliefs and commitment to community, personal growth, relationships, spirituality and individual learning journeys.

The historical character of our buildings, incorporated with modern facilities, our stunning gardens, expansive grounds and the smiling, friendly students and staff can provide you with an insight into a Downlands education. I invite you to come and experience the Downlands difference.

Mr Stephen Koch, Principal

B Rural Sc (Hons), GDip.Ed., GDip.RE

How to enrol at Downlands

Downlands College is a Catholic, coeducational, day and boarding school owned and conducted by the [Missionaries of the Sacred Heart](#) (MSC) with the assistance of a deeply committed group of teachers and support staff.

The Downlands College Enrolment Guidelines for Parents and Privacy Policy form an integral part of the Downlands College Application for Enrolment and should be read before signing the Application.

1. Families wishing to enrol their daughter or son at Downlands, should forward the following to the College – PO Box 250, Toowoomba Q 4350 or email enrolments@downlands.qld.edu.au
 - a completed and signed Downlands Enrolment Application
 - the enrolment application fee (\$75)
 - a copy of your child's school reports for the past two (2) years
 - a copy of your child's NAPLAN results (3, 5, 7, & 9, as applicable), and
 - a copy of your child's birth certificate
2. Once the College receives the above information, families will receive confirmation of receipt of application and be invited to organise an enrolment interview. The interview is most often conducted by the College Principal and is attended by the child along with his/her parents/carers.
3. The Principal may then write, inviting the family to become part of the Downlands community by confirming their child's enrolment. Families will be advised, in writing, if their application is not successful.
4. Parents/carers and the child sign the Acceptance of Enrolment at Downlands form, remitting this, along with the \$500 confirmation fee, thereby securing a place for their child at Downlands.

Experience Downlands

Each year, in May, families are invited to the Downlands College annual Open Day.

The day begins with a short presentation by our Principal, Stephen Koch, before our students conduct visitors on exploration tours of the facilities, including boarding houses and the Rural Centre. Teachers are on hand to answer your questions, while our students demonstrate their skills through classroom activities and co-curricular performances.

In the spirit of MSC hospitality, the Downlands Parents & Friends Association host a lunchtime Sausage Sizzle and families are invited to come for the morning - stay for an hour or stay for the whole day!

Families who have visited during previous Open Days have told us that a Downlands Open Day is a fabulous experience for the whole family, and a wonderful way to ensure that your child is really looking forward to high school.

For those unable to attend Open Day, personal tours of the College are available. Tours generally take 60 minutes (add an extra 30 minutes if including a boarding house; add 30 minutes if you wish to explore Downlands on-site Rural Centre) and are usually conducted weekdays 9am - 2pm. Families are invited to contact the school 07 4690 9500 to organise a personal tour of the College.

More information about Downlands is available on the College website www.downlands.qld.edu.au



Philosophy and Aims

Downlands College is a Catholic, coeducational, day and boarding school owned and conducted by the [Missionaries of the Sacred Heart \(MSC\)](#) with a committed group of teachers and support staff. Downlands was opened in 1931 as a boarding school for boys with a total enrolment of 68 students.

Today it accommodates more than 860 day and boarding students from all parts of Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and beyond.

Downlands motto is *Fortes in Fide - Strong in Faith*. Our faith is based on a **belief in and a commitment to a loving God**. We value **truth, learning and respect for the individual as essential features of the education process**. In the search for truth, Downlands encourages students to integrate faith with life.

In the light of this philosophy, the College aims:

- To provide opportunities for students to grow in Spirituality of the Heart, in an understanding of the tenets of the Catholic faith, and in commitment to service – in the context of their Australian Catholic heritage.
- To create a family atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and belonging.
- To help students become life-long learners and to strive for the highest level of achievement of which they are capable.
- To nurture students' powers of reasoning and critical thinking.
- To meet the needs of all students as personally as possible and to help them realise their full potential.
- To create a climate of trust and freedom, openness and co-operation, which will foster the emotional and moral growth of students.
- To promote a spirit of reverence and respect one another, and for all things sacred in a way that leads to gentle social relationships.
- To encourage a sense of personal integrity, responsibility, initiative and perseverance.
- To foster a sense of care and compassion for one another, especially for the less advantaged, in both the College and the wider community.

- To increase an esteem for family life.
- To equip students to live lives of courage and compassion and make a difference in the world.

Consequently:

- Effective Religious Education programs as well as school and small group liturgies are emphasised.
- Extensive opportunities for pastoral care are provided through a well developed Pastoral Care program, which incorporates a behaviour management structure.
- An extensive range of subjects is offered, with great flexibility of choice.
- Serious study is emphasised
- Excellence is nurtured
- A wide range of sporting, social, cultural, service and leisure activities are organised.
- Opportunities are provided for all students to be challenged and to experience a sense of achievement.
- Support is provided for those in emotional and financial need.
- Staff development programs and formation are organised.
- Parents are welcomed as part of the school community.

Community Living

The Downlands community strives to live according to the ideals of the faith that inspires it.

To know and proclaim God's love

Downlands exists as a learning community so that its members may learn to know the love God has for each of us, witness to it in each other's company at times of worship and prayer and share it with each other in our relationships. Because we are created in the image and likeness of God's goodness, we choose to serve that goodness in others by living the Gospel values of concern, compassion, understanding, respect and acceptance. This choice will form the faithful witness of our lives.

Gentle Relationships

Our community grows by the constant gift of God's grace that inspires the efforts of its members as they build it into one of faith and trust, knit together by gentle relationships where each is accepted, affirmed, listened to and challenged.

Spirit of Service

Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served, is the model for staff, students and parents in their choice to be available to help one another with openness, simplicity, encouragement and a sense of humour.

Compassion in times of need

We belong to our community because we have chosen to, accepting, as Jesus accepted, that we will all know times of weakness and failure, and so that when we need counsel, challenge and care in order that growth and development can occur, it is offered in a spirit of compassion and forgiveness.

Pastoral Care

At the heart of Downlands College is our commitment to Pastoral Care. This comes from the Constitution of the MSC with its emphasis on God as love, and our response in loving each other. To act in this way is not easy, to see beneath the surface, to the person's heart, requires empathy and a deep knowledge of ourselves. As a community, we are about teaching and growing, not just academically but also personally. We are not primarily about rules, conformity, control and punishment but about growth towards responsible choices.

The Assistant Principal - Pastoral Care is responsible for the Pastoral Care system at Downlands. He is supported by Junior, Middle and Senior School Team Leaders, Year Group Leaders and Pastoral Care (PC) teachers.

Behaviour Management

The Downlands Student Level System provides equity in the management of student growth and development. All students start at Downlands on Level 3 and may subsequently move to a level that most accurately reflects their involvement in their Academic application, meeting College expectations and involvement in the College community.

This framework provides equity in the management of student behaviour. Student behaviour is categorised into levels. All students start on Level 3 and may subsequently move to a level that most accurately reflects their behaviour. In addition to the Level System, Pastoral Care teachers encourage students to record their achievements and participation in College activities with a view to having these recognized through the Downlands Fortes awards.

Students on Levels 1-3 demonstrate continued positive growth. Students on Levels 4-7 are demonstrating inability to meet the College classroom and community rules and expectations.

To support decisions regarding students who display inability or unwillingness to co-operate with the College policies and community spirit, a Support Group including Year Group Leaders, the student's Pastoral Care teacher, as well as the Assistant Principal - Pastoral Care, will assist the students through devising an intervention program to assist the student's growth and development. Parents and carers of the student are informed of the College's concerns and are encouraged to contact the Assistant Principal - Pastoral Care. The demonstrated response of the student to the intervention program determines any changes made to the student's allocated level.



Student Code of Conduct

I will respect the right of all students to learn.

I will strive to work to my potential in those subjects/activities I have undertaken.

I am aware that any uniform is a distinguishing mark and therefore what I do and how I behave while I am in my Downlands uniform may reflect on our College community.

I will respect the right of all College personnel to carry out their duties without interference.

I will respect the rules and regulations of the College and will work within these guidelines.



Coeducation and Student Leadership

Students attending coeducational schools are provided with an invaluable opportunity to understand and appreciate the perspectives boys and girls bring to a school - and to recognise the sheer complexity of gender.

Downlands students have the opportunity to interact with a large range of individuals of both sexes, ensuring that they understand that gender is only one of many determinants of identity. Importantly, boys and girls develop good friendships over the years and learn to appreciate each other's strengths, without feeling self-conscious. Recognising how society 'constructs' gender, they learn to discard sexist attitudes and to realise their own individuality within a mixed sex school setting.

Whether one feels aligned to single sex schools or coeducation, it has to be accepted that coeducation recognises that society is made up of individuals, both male and female, living jointly as members of communities. This points to the undeniable fact that one of the core purposes of schooling is socialisation and that it is more naturally and fully achieved within the context of boys and girls being educated together.

What we gain from our education are 'patterns' – patterns of behaviour and patterns of interaction, and these patterns make up who we are. Schools can do much to develop those patterns of interaction between boys and girls in the formative years and these internalised strategies will stand students in good stead for life after school.

The social development of our students, including the formation of appropriate values and attitudes, are a prerequisite for the ongoing wellbeing of our society. It therefore appears anachronistic to opt for a segregated form of schooling in order to prepare young people for our ever changing society.

Leadership

Student Leadership at Downlands is characterised by alignment of philosophy, process and practices with the MSC Vision for enhancing student growth, and is characterised by a focus on servant leadership as core, relationship building, gentleness and affirmation.

Our student leaders are committed to upholding MSC values and acting as role models for the rest of the student community. They are expected to stand with and for the charism and be able to articulate it in their own words.

Numerous opportunities exist for students to develop leadership skills across all Year Levels. Formal programs at the College include the Student Representative Council (SRC), where students are elected as spokespersons for their peers in matters that are of concern or relevance to their cohort. The SRC fosters problem-solving, community involvement, school pride and peer service.

Camps, Pastoral Care programs and Retreats are integral to the distinctive Vision and Mission of Downlands College. They are offered as development pathways for our students. The focus is on self reflection, identity, group interaction and spiritual growth. All students participate; many comment that these days impact most strongly and number amongst their lasting memories of Downlands.

Students in Year 6 enjoy opportunities to represent Downlands Primary at functions and events both at Downlands and in the community, such as the Mayoral Prayer Breakfast.

Once students reach Year 11, there is a renewed focus and expectation about what being a Downlander entails. Students are encouraged to understand that here, leadership is integrally tied to relationship in community and service. The challenge is for them to discover what and how they may best contribute in the context of what it means to be a student in an MSC school. Towards the end of Year 11, students participate in a specific Leadership Program, inclusive of physical activities requiring teamwork, and culminating in a process through which College Leaders are identified. The process aligns with the College Levels System. It requires nomination, initial voting, interview, presentation of speeches and final voting.

Year 12 provides daily opportunities for students to model the College core values and all Year 12 students share this responsibility. While some earn more formal roles and represent the College officially, the Downlands difference is the cherished sense of community and belonging.

Boarding at Downlands

Since 1931, Downlands has been a home away from home for boarding students from Queensland, other areas of Australia and overseas. With the family as its model, Downlands offers a safe, secure environment which encourages growth - intellectually, spiritually and socially.

Boarding students at Downlands come from vast distances to attend our College - from Darwin in the Northern Territory through to Armidale in the south and the many towns and cities in between, from Brisbane to Kowanyama, Thargomindah to Longreach as well as from overseas.

Organisation

Downlands boarders live in five separate boarding houses and are cared for by committed and qualified staff. Heads of House and their assistants ensure that each child is treated with love and respect.

In each House, students have individual cubicles within rooms housing two to four students. Each cubicle is equipped with bed, lockable drawers, wardrobe, desk and chair.

In accordance with the family model, girls reside in two Houses, Chevalier and Baker. Baker Houses girls from Years 5 to 9 while Chevalier Houses girls from Years 10 to 12. Boys from Years 5 to 8 reside in Copas House, while Cody Houses Year 9 and Harris House is home to boys from Years 10 to 12.

Boarding Programs

The Boarding Program is structured to allow for the growth of the individual, aiming at encouraging the boarders to develop in maturity and independence. Study is seen as vital to each child realising his/her potential for success. Through active supervision and guided assistance, boarding students are encouraged to develop skills to enable life-long learning. Students in Years 5 to 11 study in classrooms while Year 12 students, with parental permission, have the option of studying in their dormitories.

An Activities committee ensures that supervised, fun activities are available to boarding students each weekend. These activities include beach trips, rock climbing, movies, trivia and pool nights, trips to Brisbane to attend rugby, netball and basketball



league matches, theme park visits, social events conducted with other Toowoomba and Brisbane-based boarding schools e.g. socials, sporting competitions such as volleyball, tennis, picnic games.

Boarding students are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of life at Downlands including school life, co-curricular cultural and sporting activities and life in the boarding House - there is much to do and many friends with whom to do it.

Downlands mentoring program is another important component of boarding life for residents.

Casual Boarding and Extended Day Student Program

Day students either live in our lovely city or travel in from places such as Allora to the south, Crows Nest and beyond to the north, Rosewood to the east and from Dalby to the west. Some of these students take advantage of the Extended Day Student Program or Casual Boarding, as a way of reducing the amount of travel each day while taking advantage of supervised study at night.

Advantages

Family relationships are fostered, with brothers and sisters able to live on the one campus. Friendships are forged that last a lifetime.

Delicious, nutritionally balanced food, comfortable accommodation and access to all school facilities (including library, computers, swimming pool, Sacré Cœur Centre, sporting fields and courts) allow boarding students to feel supported and nurtured as they grow and develop. Holidays, school functions (including Assemblies and Awards presentations) are all held at the same time each term. Therefore there is no need to juggle the child's programs.





Junior and Middle School Curriculum

Downlands provides a safe and stimulating learning environment that is engaging, exciting and meaningful. Learning and teaching is guided by the belief that students are individuals who develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

Junior School

Encouraging students to develop a love of learning, as well as promoting student success at learning are central to the Years 4-6 curriculum program.

The Downlands Years 4-6 curriculum is aligned to State and National developments. Our 4-6 curriculum reflects both a breadth and depth of learning and prepares students for the Middle School and beyond.

English, Mathematics and Religious Education are taught by a core classroom teacher; while specialists teach: Humanities, Science, French, Music, Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education, Digital Technology and Design Technology. An exciting initiative is a Junior School Enrichment Program that will run each Friday.

Middle School

The Downlands Middle School curriculum is innovative and exciting, challenging all students to reach a core understanding of a broad range of subjects before specialising in order to be prepared for the Senior curriculum. The Middle School curriculum program is based on the Australian Curriculum Framework. It involves units of study organised into Downlands College learning areas.

The Downlands College learning areas in Years 7 – 10 are as follows:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities including History and Geography
- Languages (French or Japanese)

- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts
- Industrial Technology
- Business Studies, Hospitality and IT
- Agricultural Education

At Downlands, the concept of success is recognised in broad terms and in such a way as to build the academic strengths of all students. Encouraging students to develop a love of learning, as well as promoting student success at learning are central to the Middle School curriculum program. In essence, our aim is to engage students in learning processes which will help them to strengthen their learning gifts, talents and abilities.

The Years 7-10 curriculum program is aligned to State and National developments in curriculum and it is therefore both relevant and current to today's adolescent learner. Our program reflects both a breadth and depth of learning and it prepares students well for study in Years 11 and 12 and beyond.

Throughout these years of secondary schooling, the Middle School curriculum program aims to:

- implement the Australian Curriculum
- infuse teaching and learning with our MSC Pedagogy of the Heart
- promote and acknowledge academic excellence
- encourage all students to achieve to the very best of their ability
- allow students to have some choice in the design of their specific curriculum program
- embed Information Communication and Technologies (ICTs) in all learning areas
- regularly monitor and report on individual student academic progress
- adequately prepare students for transition into the Senior years of schooling.

Senior Curriculum

The needs of the individual are at the centre of the Senior Curriculum. Downlands aims to help students strive for the highest level of achievement in learning of which they are capable. While excellence can be seen as an absolute, there is a relative level at which individuals should be challenged to perform excellently with their respective talents. We encourage all students to attain this level. Serious study is stressed, as well as critical thinking and openness to religious values.

The normal course for a Year 11 student includes six subjects and must include a Religious Education, Mathematics and English subject, the other three subjects are very much a matter of personal choice. Students may choose from a range of academic and vocational education subjects. Downlands offers a particularly wide range of subjects from which to choose. The list of subjects follows, please refer to the Senior Curriculum Handbook for detailed information.

List of Subjects:

Mathematics

- General: - General Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics
Applied - Essential Mathematics

English

- General - English
- Literature
Applied - Essential English

Humanities

- General - Accounting
- Ancient History
- Business
- Economics
- Geography
- Legal Studies
- Modern History
- Study of Religion
Applied - Religion & Ethics

Technologies

- General - Design
- Digital Solutions
- Engineering
- Food & Nutrition
Applied - Furnishing Skills

Health and Physical Education

- General - Health
- Physical Education
Applied - Early Childhood Studies
- Sport & Recreation

Languages

- General - French

Science

- General - Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

The Arts

- General - Dance
- Drama
- Film, TV & New Media
- Music
- Music Extension
- Visual Art
Applied - Visual Arts in Practice

List of VET Subjects: Courses by Industry Area

Agriculture

- AHC10216 Certificate I in AgriFood Operations
- AHC21216 Certificate II in Rural Operations

These qualifications are taught together and are equal to ONE subject choice.

Business

- BSB30115 Certificate III in Business

These qualifications are taught separately. Select one only which is equal to ONE subject choice.

Construction

- CPC20211 Certificate II in Construction Pathways

This qualification is taught separately and equal to ONE subject choice.

Engineering

- MEM20413 Certificate II in Engineering Pathways

This qualification is taught separately and equal to ONE subject choice.

Hospitality & Kitchen Operations

- SIT10216 Certificate II in Hospitality
- SIT20416 Certificate II in Kitchen Operations

These qualifications are taught together and equal ONE subject choice.

Sport and Fitness

- SIS30115 Certificate III in Sport and Recreation
- SIS30315 Certificate III in Fitness

These qualifications are taught separately. Select one only which is equal to ONE subject choice.

Points to Note:

- VET subject/course credits contribute towards the Queensland Certificate of Education
- Higher level Certificate III and Certificate IV VET subjects/courses can contribute to an ATAR
- A student can complete several VET subjects/courses across different industry areas



Performing Arts

Downlands enjoys a rich tradition of excellence in the Performing Arts. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of ensembles and events, all designed to bring out their natural creativity and to develop confidence.

Dance

Downlands allows students to explore the potential to use the body as an instrument of communication in a powerful and dynamic form of human expression. Students are exposed to learning experiences within the dimensions of choreography, performance and dance appreciation within the professional Dance Studio.

During the year, Dance students can be involved in:

- Interhouse Performing Arts Festival
- Biennial College Musical
- Toowoomba Eisteddfod
- Other regional Dance competitions

Drama

Students are given many opportunities both in and out of the classroom to develop their abilities in Drama. With a modern Drama Studio and the support of a committed staff, Drama continues to challenge students to explore and develop their talents.

Drama in the Curriculum

Drama is offered as an elective subject in both the Middle and Senior curricula, with students being challenged to strive for excellence in forming, presenting and responding to drama.

Students undertake practical and theoretical studies in traditional and innovative art forms ranging from the drama of ancient Greece to the wonders of the short film. With an emphasis on group work, students are given many opportunities to develop their creativity while learning skills of negotiation, teamwork and organisation. All students are encouraged to share their performances with audiences ranging from other classes through to the general public.

Co-curricular Drama

Drama at Downlands is put on show in several projects throughout the year. The biennial Musical has a well-earned reputation for excellence in the Toowoomba region. The production values and attention to detail that have become standard for Downlands musicals ensure a season of tremendous entertainment biennially. Students are encouraged to enter the Toowoomba Eisteddfod, Queensland Youth Shakespeare Festival and the Interhouse Musical and Drama Festival. For many years, they have performed very well, achieving excellent results and creating an enviable reputation. Drama presentations often form part of public concerts and build on established traditions.

Downlands has a well-established Drama Club. Providing the opportunity for Year 7 to 12 students with a passion for acting, directing and technical production to become involved in this year-long co-curricular activity working on a variety of projects, including our annual Drama Showcase evening at the Empire Theatre or showcase their work for Shakefest, each year has always been exceptional.

Debating and Public Speaking

Downlands enters teams into the Queensland Debating Union's local competition and has established an excellent record of success. Students from all year levels are encouraged to participate. The students also participate in a range of public speaking competitions such as the annual Constitutional Convention and oratory competitions for Junior, Middle and Senior students.

Year 5 Music Immersion

The Downlands Music Immersion program is a part of the academic curriculum. It is a comprehensive, whole cohort learning experience designed to enrich and strengthen students' academic performance. The students will learn a brass, woodwind, strings or percussion instrument for the duration of the year.

Music

Downlands is justifiably proud of its musicians - students who consistently prove to be hard-working, keen and multi-talented. They are generous with their individual gifts and have gained an excellent reputation within their community. Many of our past students become professional musicians and often return to the College to perform, to pass on their experience and to mentor our current students.

Music in the Classroom

Music is taught as part of the compulsory Foundation unit to all Year 7 students and is then offered as an Elective through to Year 12. In the Middle School, there are many units offered to cater for a wide range of experience and tastes in music. In the Senior School, Music is offered through two subjects, Senior Music and Senior Music Extension. In all units, students will be challenged to compose, play and analyse different music and to become familiar with music technology.

Music Technology

Music Technology is covered through the use of professional Digital Audio Workstation software, Noteflight and Sibelius as compositional tools with Musition used as a self-paced music theory and knowledge training program. This is further coupled with a wide variety of web-based resources, USB audio recording hardware, digital drum-kits and silent rock bans workstations, allowing our students to perform, compose and analyse using the latest technology and resources.

Co-curricular Music

The Music department offers the following choral and instrumental ensembles:

- Prima Voices (Junior School Choir)
- Gyphon Chorale (auditioned)
(also perform as Gryphonix - A'Capella)
- The Fortesmen - male
- Canticum Choir - female
- College Choir
- Symphonic Band and Junior Symphonic
- Concert Band and Immersion Concert Band
- Big Band
- Jazz Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Several String Ensembles (Strings, Lower Strings, Chamber Strings and Immersion String Ensembles)
- Guitar Ensemble

Co-curricular Dance

Performing Arts Dance is also available to our students, co-curricular dance groups include:

- Ballet
- Pas De Deux
- Jazz
- Acrobatics
- Hip Hop
- Contemporary

During 2019, 11 Dance Troupes catered to the many and varying interests of the Dance students at the College.

Private Tuition

Private instrumental, vocal and drama lessons are available and are held in the Graham Centre practice rooms. All tutors are highly trained specialists and all instruments are catered for by the teaching staff. The Performing Arts department has a policy of hiring instruments owned by the College to individual students who then become responsible for the care and maintenance of the instrument. A small fee is involved.

Major Events and Community Involvement

During the year, the Performing Arts department is involved in:

- Biennial College Musical
- Biennial College Play
- Grandparents Day
- Open Day
- Toowoomba and Queensland Eisteddfod
- Queensland Catholic Music Festival
- Annual Art Exhibition
- Downlands Community Dinner
- Paul Morton Memorial Choral Festival
- Take Note Music Camp
- Domestic and International Tours
- Battle of the Bands
- Various Instrumental and Choral Showcase Concerts
- State Honours Ensemble Program
- Queensland Youth Shakespeare Festival
- Drama Showcase
- Dance Showcase
- Cultural Awards Night
- Downlands Proms Concert
- and Other performances as scheduled and by invitation





Careers and Learning Pathways

There are an infinite number of career pathways for students of the 21st century. Today's workplace requires workers who view themselves as lifelong learners with ever-changing knowledge, skills and capabilities. No longer do students have only the one route to tertiary study or to further education and training. No longer do workers remain in the one workplace, or indeed in the one career, for the entirety of their working lives. Mindful of this, Downlands aims to empower students as they move through secondary school and prepare for work and study beyond school.

Career Education and Career Development

Career Education and Career Development are a valued part of the Downlands curriculum. All students in Years 10, 11 and 12 experience school activities designed to assist them to better understand the many career choices and learning pathways available to them.

In Year 10, students participate in Careers and Learning Pathways classes which focus on future work and study possibilities. All Year 10 students complete career match profiles and follow a process for developing an individual Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan. The SET Plan aims to support students in their choice of Senior subjects, their preparation for Years 11 and 12 and their completion of Years 11 and 12.

In Years 11 and 12, students participate in dedicated Careers and Learning Pathways classes. These classes highlight topics of specific relevance to students' planning for the future and are inclusive of the acquisition of career information and resources, the development of employability skills, the building of career aspirations and the preparation of career action

plans.

Year 12 students prepare school-leaver portfolios and are assisted with such things as Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) and tertiary scholarship applications and preparation for job and other selection interviews.

The Curriculum Leader - Careers and Learning Pathways is responsible for the career education and career development program of the College. In addition to the conduct of Career Education classes, the Curriculum Leader - Careers and Learning Pathways provides individual career advice and career counselling to students and parents.

Work Exposure

Industry Placement

Industry placement is available to students studying vocational education subjects at school. In some Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate courses, industry placement is a requirement of the course. If relevant, Downlands assists students to find suitable industry placements, liaising with the host organisation and obtaining feedback on students' experience and performance.

Work Experience

Work experience is actively supported for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Work experience may be undertaken during school holiday periods or during suitable school hours as agreed to by the College.

As part of their planning and preparation for Years 11 and 12, all Year 10 students undertake one week of work experience in Term Three of Year 10. This valuable activity provides students with insight into possible career and employment options for themselves.

A number of students are offered part-

time work as a result of their work experience performance and others have obtained school-based apprenticeships and traineeships as a result of this activity.

Industry and Organisation Partnership

gateway schools to
agribusiness

Opportunities

Downlands College is a member of the **Gateway to Agribusiness** Schools Program. Other involvement with Construction Skills Queensland and participation in the Food, Wine and Tourism Gateway to Industry Schools Program affords students valuable opportunities to work with, and learn from, industry leaders.

Other opportunities for students include such things as participation in the University of Queensland's *Rural Medicine* program and *Young Scholars* program.

Enhanced Studies (University Start-Up Programs)

Downlands College students may apply to commence university studies whilst in Year 11 and 12. The preferred time for this is Semester Two of Year 11 and Semester One of Year 12. Some students, however, have chosen to undertake a unit of university study over the Christmas vacation period (Semester Three). To date, a number of Downlands students have completed Enhanced Studies at various Queensland universities including USQ and Griffith University. Enhanced Studies may be undertaken on or off campus. The successful completion of a unit of university study contributes credit points towards a student's Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and in many instances assists students to gain entry into specific university courses.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) offered by Downlands College RTO 30039

Students in Years 11 and 12 have an opportunity to undertake VET subjects as a part of their QCE. The successful completion of a VET course provides students with both a nationally recognised VET certificate and credit points towards their QCE. VET courses aim to simulate the workplace and hence VET study contributes to job readiness and employability.

At Downlands both ATAR and non-ATAR students may select VET courses within their overall learning program. The VET courses offered at Downlands can be progressed to higher levels at the conclusion of secondary school if a student so desires.

Other Vocational Education and Training

In addition to the VET courses offered at school, Downlands students may access a range of VET qualifications offered by other registered training organisations including TAFE, the Australian Agricultural College and Rural Training Queensland. These AQF qualifications are mostly offered at Certificate II or III level and are able to be completed as part of a student's QCE.

Examples of vocational courses undertaken by current students include Pathways to Nursing, Certificate II in Electro-technology, Certificate III in Beauty Services and Certificate III in Design Fundamentals.

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SATs)

Downlands College is proud of its excellent SAT program. A SAT student is a student undertaking either a school-based apprenticeship or a school-based traineeship while they are still at school. SATs may be undertaken by students in Years 10, 11 and 12 and usually involve a one day per week release to work with a host employer. In addition to on the job work, SAT students undertake training related to their SAT.

In some cases an arrangement other than one day per week can be made for boarding students who obtain a traineeship or an apprenticeship in their home town.

SATs contribute credit points towards a QCE and may be undertaken by both ATAR and non-ATAR students. While a school-based traineeship can often be completed before the end of Year 12, school-based apprenticeships take longer to complete. The norm here is for a school-based apprentice to convert to being a full-time apprentice at the end of secondary school.



Sport

Downlands enjoys a rich tradition of excellence in Sport. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of sporting programs designed to cater for athletes from beginner to elite level. Downlands recognises that many skills developed by students while participating in team sport remain with them throughout life and are applicable to all areas of endeavour.

Students are encouraged to maintain healthy fitness levels, define outcomes, develop and implement strategies, assess situations and respond accordingly, actively seek or create opportunities and develop character in the form of good sportsmanship.

Training

Training is provided by qualified coaches and students are encouraged to reach the highest level of expertise at which they are comfortable. The College welcomes back past students on a regular basis to pass on their expertise in their chosen field of excellence.

Competitive Sports

Downlands participates in interschool and/or club competitions in the following sports:

Athletics: Inter-house, QCIS, TSSS, Darling Downs, Queensland State Championships.

AFL: Darling Downs and Invitational matches.

Basketball: Toowoomba Basketball Association competition, Invitational games.

Cricket: First XI - Independent Schools Cricket Festival, selected GPS schools, Invitational matches, Central Downs Competition. All other teams compete in the Toowoomba Junior Cricket competition.

Cross Country: QCIS, Darling Downs, Queensland State Championships.

Football: Bill Turner Cup, Red Lion Cup, Football Toowoomba - Junior and Senior Soccer on the

Downs, Wednesday afternoon Town Competition.

Futsal: Interschool Futsal competitions and Toowoomba Futsal competition.

Golf: Intra-school Golf competition, Club competition.

Hockey: NAB Cup.

Netball: Senior and Junior Vicki Wilson Cup, Merici-Chevalier Cup, QISSN, Toowoomba Netball Association, Invitational matches, Queensland Catholic Cup and Inter-district Carnivals.

Rugby: Selected GPS schools, Invitational matches, John Elders Cup, O'Callaghan Cup, Rugby 7s.

Swimming: Inter-house, QCIS, TSSS, Darling Downs, Queensland State Championships.

Tennis: Sacré Cœur Tennis Carnival, DPSA Social Tennis.

Touch: All Schools Touch Carnivals, Toowoomba Touch Association competition.

Volleyball: Toowoomba Volleyball Association competition, Schools Cup competitions.

Tours

Sporting tours to other venues in Queensland as well as interstate and overseas locations form part of the Downlands sporting tradition.

Junior Sport

Junior School Sport provides a variety of sports competitions. Participation in teams sports includes practice so students learn and develop fitness, coordination, ball skills, sportsmanship and what it means to be a member of a team.

Popular team sports include Netball (mixed), Touch Football, Cricket and Rugby (Under 12), in local competitions. Sport is also incorporated into the curriculum, providing opportunities for students to learn the skills and rules of other sports, such as Athletics, European Handball and Bootcamp.

Agricultural Rural Centre

The Downslands Agricultural curriculum sets high standards, continually challenging and inspiring agricultural students both in the pursuit of Agricultural Science and the Vocational educational program. The extracurricular program also provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their wide range of skills in these fields.

On-site projects include cattle handling and show preparation; beef, sheep and chicken feeding trials; beekeeping and honey extraction; vegetables and crop production; pasture management; fencing; egg production; citrus orchard; and an olive grove. Opportunities for aquaculture are also available. Downslands also regularly competes in the University of Queensland Sunflower Growing competition.

Downslands is a proud partner and a **Gateway School to Agribusiness** which aims to help young people make a successful transition from school into further education and/or employment. The project encourages partnerships between schools, training (VET), universities and industry to provide career opportunities for young people.

Downslands Cattle Show Team

The Downslands Cattle Show team attends local, regional and major Royal Agricultural Shows and specialist breeder shows, including Rockhampton Beef Week held every three years.

Downslands students prepare stud cattle across a range of breeds, along with an extensive commercial feeding and showing program to exhibit in carcass competitions. Furthermore, Downslands operates a small commercial herd to breed its own animals for hook and hoof competitions.

Opportunities exist for students of all ages to participate in Judging, Paraders and Herdsman competition at all levels. Downslands students enjoy consistent success at national and international levels. Downslands maintains its membership of breeder associate in order to provide students with a wide range of access to industry best practice and training camps. Whilst displaying the importance of upholding WH&S Standards.

gateway schools to
agribusiness

Learning Support Unit

The role of the Learning Support Unit is to provide support to all students in an effort to assist them achieve to the best of their abilities.

The Learning Support Unit is committed to:

Promoting the implementation of an inclusive education, to ensure that students with varying individual learning needs have access to a quality and holistic education. We support special needs, gifted and talented, and socially and geographically isolated students;

Meeting individual needs and to ensuring the development of every student's potential;

Providing professional educational support and training for school personnel and teachers;

Establishing collaborative partnerships with parents to ensure individualised programs meet student needs;

Participating actively in the development, implementation and evaluation of inclusive education-related policies and programs.

Who can access the Learning Support Unit?

The Learning Support Unit caters for all students, particularly those who:

- are profiled with a disability
- require learning support
- have learning or attention difficulties
- have English as a second language and/or
- demonstrate gifted and talented behaviours.

While the Learning Support Unit caters for students who have been profiled as requiring a high level of support, all students can access our facilities. We operate an 'open door' principle, meaning that the unit is accessible to students who, while otherwise coping with subject expectations, experience difficulty at one time or another. Should this

For further information, please make an appointment by contacting the College Office on 07 4690 9500.





7 September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Downlands College Board received the Finance Committee's advice about fees for 2021. In reaching a decision, the Board considered the importance of providing certainty to parents and further support our community during these unprecedented times. In line with the MSC Philosophy of Education, we aim to deliver affordable schooling, maintain and upgrade the College's existing infrastructure, and most importantly, continue to provide heart-centred learning.

The Board has decided to:

- Ensure tuition fees, levies and full-time boarding fees remain unchanged for 2021. Further noting that full-time boarding fees have not increased since 2015.
- Ensure that Sibling and Early Payment discounts remain unchanged for 2021.
- Specify a Boarding Activities and Participation Levy of \$350 per full-time boarding student to cover costs of various activities considered vital for the well-being of our boarding students. This equates to \$8.75 per week for a full-time boarding student.

Extended Payment Plan and Assisted Places

In this regard, the College has identified **Edstart** as a partner to provide extended payment plans for families who may wish to spread their fee payments to a period after their children have finished school.

The College also offers Assisted Places to families facing extenuating circumstances and/or severe financial hardship. We are thankful to the families and benefactors who donate money to the Foundation to make the provision of Assisted Places possible and help us to help those families most in need.

Total cost of education (fees including levies)

New parents recently shared their personal research on school fees. They found that Downlands College is now a least cost provider compared to schools of a similar ilk. Such a result is the culmination of strategic measures taken by the College Board in recognising parent concerns around affordability and implementing operational efficiencies. The College will continue to explore opportunities to deliver excellent educational outcomes whilst providing value for money in this very challenging and competitive environment.

On behalf of the Board and Management of Downlands College, I present the 2021 Schedule of Fees.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Julie Raitelli
Chair, Downlands College Board

A Downlander's journey involves striving for excellence in the search for truth.

MSC EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT



Schedule of Fees 2021

Approved by College Board August 2020

Document confirmed by Business Manager in August 2020

APPLICATION FEE: In order to register a student for enrolment, an Application for Enrolment form must be completed and submitted along with all supporting and required documentation and an **administration fee of \$75** per enrolment. The **Application for Enrolment fee is non-refundable** and **does not** guarantee enrolment.

ACCEPTANCE OF ENROLMENT FEE: This fee is payable within four weeks of receipt of a letter of offer and on acceptance of an offer of enrolment for each student. The Acceptance of Enrolment fee must be paid before the student starts school. **The Acceptance of Enrolment fee is \$500** per enrolment and is **non-refundable**.

SCHOOL FEES	Fortnightly Deductions (x20)	Per Term (x4)	Annual Fee	Annual Fee * less 3.5% discount
Tuition Fees				
Year 4	\$200.00	\$1 000.00	\$4 000.00	* \$3 860.00
Years 5 and 6	\$275.00	\$1 375.00	\$5 500.00	* \$5 307.50
Years 7 and 8	\$497.50	\$2 487.50	\$9 950.00	* \$9 601.75
Years 9 and 10	\$507.50	\$2 537.50	\$10 150.00	* \$9 794.75
Years 11 and 12	\$550.00	\$2 750.00	\$11 000.00	* \$10 615.00
Compulsory Levies are applied per student and must be paid with tuition fees				
General Purpose Levy: Years 5 - 12	\$23.25	\$116.25	\$465.00	* \$448.73
Capital Levy: Years 5 - 12	\$36.25	\$181.25	\$725.00	* \$699.63
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Levy: Years 7 - 12	\$57.50	\$287.50	\$1 150.00	* \$1 109.75
Boarder Activities & Participation Levy: full-time boarding students Years 5 - 12	\$17.50	\$87.50	\$350.00	* \$337.75
Boarding Fees				
Years 5 and 6	\$600.00	\$3 000.00	\$12 000.00	* \$11 580.00
Years 7, 8, 9 and 10	\$925.00	\$4 625.00	\$18 500.00	* \$17 852.50
Years 11 and 12	\$945.00	\$4 725.00	\$18 900.00	* \$18 238.50
Day Student: Tuition including applicable levies				
Year 4	\$200.00	\$1 000.00	\$4 000.00	* \$3 860.00
Years 5 and 6	\$334.50	\$1 672.50	\$6 690.00	* \$6 455.85
Years 7 and 8	\$614.50	\$3 072.50	\$12 290.00	* \$11 859.85
Years 9 and 10	\$624.50	\$3 122.50	\$12 490.00	* \$12 052.85
Years 11 and 12	\$667.00	\$3 335.00	\$13 340.00	* \$12 873.10
Boarding Student: Tuition and Boarding including applicable levies				
Years 5 and 6	\$952.00	\$4 760.00	\$19 040.00	* \$18 373.60
Years 7 and 8	\$1 557.00	\$7 785.00	\$31 140.00	* \$30 050.10
Years 9 and 10	\$1 567.00	\$7 835.00	\$31 340.00	* \$30 243.10
Years 11 and 12	\$1 629.50	\$8 147.50	\$32 590.00	* \$31 449.35
Intermittent Boarding Fees - four (4) nights or fewer per week on an irregular basis (conditions apply)				\$82.00 per night
Casual Boarding Fees - four (4) nights or fewer per week on a regular basis (conditions apply)				
Years 5 and 6				\$49.00 per night
Years 7, 8, 9 and 10				\$75.00 per night
Years 11 and 12				\$77.00 per night
Weekly Boarding Fees - five (5) nights per week (conditions apply)				
Years 5 and 6		\$2 200.00		-
Years 7, 8, 9 and 10		\$3 400.00		-
Years 11 and 12		\$3 475.00		-

*Total annual fee must be paid prior to the commencement of Term One to attract the 3.5% discount.

SCHOOL FEES 2021



Downlands College

TOOWOOMBA QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

SIBLING DISCOUNTS

Family discounts apply to tuition fees only and are available for siblings simultaneously attending the College.

- 10% reduction of fees for second child
- 35% reduction of fees for third and subsequent children

Sibling discounts are only available when no other concessions apply.

FEE GUIDELINES

Downlands College Enrolment Guidelines require fees be paid in advance. This is critical in assisting the College to maintain the excellent and comprehensive education we provide to your children.

As much as possible, this is an all inclusive fee. No levies are charged for any subjects (eg, Art, Food Technology). There are no extra charges for the Text Book Hire Scheme (except if text books or computers or calculators are lost, damaged or not returned on time and in good order), Town Buses to and from school, Annual Magazine, Diary or Gym Membership.

Downlands College has adopted the following as the only methods for payment of accounts in 2021:

- 1. Year in advance** - 3.5% discount offered when full fees are paid before **Thursday 28 January 2021**.
- 2. Term in advance** - the due dates (to be paid on or before) are:

a)	Term 1	28 January 2021
b)	Term 2	21 April 2021
c)	Term 3	14 July 2021
d)	Term 4	6 October 2021
- 3. Term paid either by direct debit, direct deposit or credit card payment.** There will be a \$25 charge for each declined transaction. All direct debit and credit card transactions must:
 - commence on **Friday 8 January 2021**, and
 - will run consecutively for **twenty (20) fortnights**.
- 4. Edstart** - please visit edstart.com.au/downlands

NOTES

The Downlands College Capital Levy contributes to a Building Fund to assist with building development programs.

Please contact Downlands College Accounts Receivable to discuss fortnightly deductions for circumstances other than those outlined, including those parents of boarding students who are eligible for Living Away from Home Allowance and/or Isolated Children Allowance.

Government Programs

Please contact the following authorities to establish eligibility -

- Living Away from Home Allowance - Education Queensland - 1800 248 997
- Assistance for Isolated Children - Centrelink - 13 23 18
- Youth Allowance - Centrelink - 13 24 90
- Abstudy - Centrelink - 1800 132 317

Non-Government Schools Transport Assistance

The Scheme is a joint initiative of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) and Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ). Applications may be submitted online at schooltransport.com.au





What is included in Downlands school fees?

Downlands school fees are, as much as possible, inclusive. There are no extra charges for:

- General classroom resources
- School-based tutoring and additional academic support
- After hours teaching tutorials
- Senior Badges
- Supervised training and sport competition
- Text book hire
- Music Immersion program Year 5
- Examination stationery
- Subject levies
- Art work materials
- Food Technology ingredients and materials
- Industrial Technology materials
- Academic Awards and Recognition program
- Performing Arts / Sports Awards medals and certificates
- Behaviour program and recognition program
- InterHouse activities
- Pastoral Care program
- Careers counselling
- Senior Education Training (SET) Planning
- Retreats and Camps
- College functions such as the Year 7 Tradition and Spirit Day
- Professional Counsellors available for students
- ATAR Handbook and ATAR Tests
- Valedictory gifts
- Annual Magazine
- Bus transport to and from College (within Toowoomba City and Highfields)
- Competition/sports nomination fees
- Compulsory academic excursions
- Bus transport for all academic excursions
- Bus transport for Toowoomba, Darling Downs, InterSchool and Saturday sport
- College gym membership and access to professional Personal Trainers
- Health Centre
- P&F Levy
- P&F Meeting Dinners
- Community Dinner
- Provision for support for Parent groups
- College Calendar
- Parent Handbooks including Boarding Supplements
- Subject Selection Handbooks

Information and Communication (ICT) levy (Middle and Senior Schools) assists in updating resources, device maintenance, and purchasing site licenses and provision of a one to one computer program including wireless internet access and IT technical support for school related laptop issues.

Capital levy is a building improvements and maintenance levy and is used for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of school buildings, and to support capital loan repayments

General Purpose levy is to cover such items as the Academic Aptitude testing, student accident insurance, some curricular and pastoral care enrichment activities along with other necessary items not included in the fees.

Boarding Activity & Participation levy is used to finance activities and outings, organised by the Boarding community for all boarding students.

Further, the investment in Boarding Fees include:

- Accommodation
- All meals and supper (GST applies)
- In House and Inter Boarding House activities
- Supervised study sessions
- Evening Tutoring and Mentoring program
- Health Centre services
- Fully staffed commercial laundry facilities including uniforms, linen and civilian clothing
- Residential and supervisory staff services
- Boarder Parent Dinner
- Boarder Parent Network Lunch
- Fully equipped common rooms
- Cleaning and catering
- Desk lamps
- Equipment and resources

Items not included:

- School uniforms
- Sports uniforms
- Industrial technology safety equipment - Years 11 & 12
- Dry cleaning
- Private music and performing arts lessons
- Hire of musical instruments
- Private tennis lessons
- Annual School Photo
- Sporting and Music tours
- Additional Annual Downlands College Magazines
- Year 12 jersey
- Valedictory tickets
- Costs associated with optional activities and non-mandatory excursions

NB: Inclusions and exclusions subject to change without notice.