



PROSPECTUS

A Landmark in Education





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If you set your mind to a goal, are determined and have a team to support you, it is possible to do anything. When we take a step, we are followed and supported by our fellow students, families and teachers – our very own green team. It’s an honour to be a girl in green and this bond will last a lifetime.

— ” —

CURRENT STUDENT



INSPIRING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

Somerville House is rich in heritage and tradition. Rightly valuing its significant historical location, the School combines challenging and innovative learning opportunities with supportive Christian pastoral care programs. When students come to Somerville House, they are embraced as valued members of our community, irrespective of their stage in education.

Our aim is to encourage all students to become the best they can be in all that they undertake. We seek to cultivate and extend student abilities within a disciplined environment, but one in which imagination and creativity are valued, and happiness and laughter are fostered. Each learner is recognised as an individual, and encouraged to produce her best in all circumstances. In this context, pursuing excellence is acknowledged as a primary goal for all.

We encourage our students to exercise their imaginations, embrace creativity, and value learning as a life-long, enriching undertaking.

Our motto, *Honour Before Honours*, is a touchstone for our students while they are in our care, and is one they carry with them into their years beyond schooling.

With the help and support of highly experienced and committed teachers, our students are given opportunities to discover and develop their unique strengths, talents and passions. We encourage them to try new ventures, to develop their intellectual curiosity and to engage with the issues of the world. We pride ourselves on preparing our students for their role as young adults in a changing world.

Academically, the School stands as one of Australia's finest. With outstanding facilities for Music, Performing Arts, Cultural pursuits and Sport, combined with one of Australia's leading technology programs, our students leave with a much broader education than can be provided by an academic curriculum alone.

Our Prospectus provides a snapshot of the vision, values, and goals that are the foundation of the Somerville House community.

DR NESS GOODWIN
PRINCIPAL



A LANDMARK IN EDUCATION

Somerville House is synonymous with excellence in education, with the School consistently performing among the top schools in Australia. The School is recognised as a landmark in education throughout Australia and internationally.

In 1899 Miss Eliza Fewings founded this very school, a school designed to educate young women and equip them to take a leading role in the creation of an emerging nation.

The strengths and wisdom of the past are retained, while preparing students to be confident and highly capable individuals of the future.

Today, Somerville House provides a comprehensive, balanced educational environment that recognises the importance of academic excellence as well as physical, spiritual and psychological wellbeing. Students are challenged and encouraged to meet their goals honourably.

Programs are academically challenging, recreationally varied, socially stimulating and spiritually rich. Our specialist teachers aim to educate students to become self-assured and independent thinkers, conscious of their strengths, responsive to the call of God in their lives, and capable and willing to contribute to the greater good of society. Each student is developed to be the best they can be, in every situation.

Renowned for its extraordinary sense of belonging and its enduring spirit of community, Somerville House is a 'home away from home'.

For decades, Somerville House has developed an enviable academic reputation with most students entering the university of their choice.

Somerville House is on the doorstep of Brisbane's CBD and the bustling South Bank precinct. This provides the School and students with access to additional world-class facilities, including the Conservatorium of Music, the Queensland Performing Arts Complex, the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA), the Queensland Museum, the State Library of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University's College of Art.

Our academic environment is described as progressive in its fusion of traditional values and contemporary ethics, technologically savvy, dynamic and challenging. The School is recognised for its innovations in the use of Information Technology.



SHAPING THE FUTURE

Shaping the future of young women – the way they think and solve problems, and the way they perceive themselves, others and the world around them – is an increasingly complex challenge. In a world that demands innovative, ethical solutions to a wide range of humanitarian, environmental and commercial challenges, Somerville House strives to ensure students leave with, not only a first-class education, but a well-rounded schooling experience.

A life-long love of learning, the pursuit of excellence, and the ability to think and creatively solve problems, are proven outcomes of the Somerville House experience.

By encouraging our students to embrace values such as honesty, integrity, compassion and Christian-based modern ethics, the School aims to provide them with a point of reference from which to navigate life's challenges, both personal and professional.

We endeavour to provide an environment where students take time to relax and to laugh together, where they might explore the world through various exchange programs, connect and make a difference through community-based activities and charitable endeavours, and to learn to appreciate and enjoy life in its fullness.

Students are encouraged to balance structure and routine with the freedom to explore and cultivate their authentic selves.

Emphasis is also given to helping develop interpersonal skills, and to promote understanding, tolerance and recognition of the worth of each individual as well as an understanding of other faiths.

Above all, Somerville House students are encouraged to set goals and to think deeply about the kind of future they want and can help create for Queensland, Australia and beyond.

A close-up photograph of two young children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both wearing bright green school uniforms. They are smiling warmly at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with yellow vertical blinds or a similar structure.

The Somerville House Pre-Prep Program is underpinned by a play-based indoor and outdoor curriculum in addition to specialist classes in Music, Visual Arts, Christian Education, Foreign Language and Physical Education.

THE JOURNEY

The Somerville House spirit will be felt the moment your child walks through the front gates. Whether a Pre-Prep, Junior, Middle or Senior School student, your child will be part of a safe, caring environment, based on Christian values, as they takes their first steps in learning to be a strong, independent person. From the very start, the School's Pastoral Care Program provides a dedicated support network for each student. The program encourages the qualities of individual initiative and personal responsibility for the development of personal and academic resilience. Students are further assisted through the School's higher-than-average teacher-student ratio and its commitment to the continual improvement of teaching methods and practices through its Professional Development Program for staff.

PRE-PREP

Setting the Foundations

In 2014, the Somerville House Early Learning Centre opened its doors to both girls and boys, catering for up to eighty-eight students. Somerville House Pre-Prep provides students turning four by 30 June, have the opportunity to experience one year in a high quality early learning program.

The early childhood years set the foundation for life, and the introduction of a Pre-Prep year completes the full educational offering at Somerville House. The Pre-Prep Program is underpinned by a play-based indoor and outdoor curriculum.

The Early Learning Centre is a purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility situated at the top of Graham Street, providing separate indoor and outdoor learning areas. The proximity of this location to the Junior School allows the youngest members of our Somerville House school community easy access to additional specialist teachers, school facilities and other resources enjoyed by Somerville House students.

The Pre-Prep Program aims to instil a love of and curiosity for learning in all students through pre-literacy and pre-numeracy development in readiness for formal schooling, while also incorporating specialist classes in Music, the Arts, Foreign Language and Physical Education.

The Somerville House Pre-Prep Program will encourage your child to LEAP as he or she *Learn, Engage, Achieve* and *Play* in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Exploratory Years

Preparatory to Year 6 are precious, critical years, which form the basis for all future learning. Somerville House Junior School students receive a flying start in life. The School establishes high standards in numeracy and literacy in a friendly, caring and supportive environment.

In addition to the strong pastoral and academic programs, our Junior School students are also provided with more creative learning opportunities, with all students experiencing the wonders of Art, Chess, Music, Information Literacy and Christian education in classes led by specialist staff. From Prep, lessons in Chess provide all students with exposure to tactical thinking, while Year 3 students are taught to play a stringed instrument, followed by a band or string instrument in Year 5. Indeed, the Junior School is well recognised for its high standards in musical achievement and its creative use of music as an integral part of the learning experience.

The Technology program allows for every student to access devices, with 1 to 1 devices from Year 3.

Using the Australian Curriculum: Technologies, Digital and Design Technologies are integrated across all year levels.

Year 5 and 6 are located in the Robinson Learning Centre, a purpose-built space for learner-centered teaching and learning. Experiences are challenging, age-appropriate and respect individual, group and gender differences.



*On the journey ahead, you'll never walk alone
Know that we'll be there holding your hand
Until the time we let you go
The lady of the lamp will light your way
And in that light you'll stay a Somerville girl.*

HONOUR BEFORE HONOURS
SOMERVILLE HOUSE SCHOOL SONG

MIDDLE SCHOOL *Strengthening the Foundations*

Whether continuing the journey from Junior School, or joining Somerville House in the Middle School – Years 7 to 9 – students find themselves in a learning environment that is both relevant and enriching.

The Middle School years are about fostering a sense of belonging, stability and happiness, while establishing the foundations of a rigorous academic program. This is an environment in which teachers are committed to developing and maintaining strong relationships with their students.

Emphasis is placed on maintaining a healthy sense of challenge through a variety of learning experiences and setting high standards.

A well-balanced curriculum emphasises literacy, numeracy, citizenship and ethics. Other features include a range of co-curricular activities (such as Debating, Music, Public Speaking, Performing Arts and Sport) and an innovative Pastoral Care Program.

By promoting a positive concept of self and an atmosphere in which students are encouraged to become more confident, staff give students opportunities to become enthusiastic and successful learners.

The regular celebration and recognition of significant efforts and achievements are an integral part of the ethos of the Middle School.

SENIOR SCHOOL *Life Lessons*

Years 10 to 12 focus on essential life skills and experience through work, study and community service. These are the years that enable the students to identify the career paths most suited to their personal interests and abilities.

Students may choose from a broad range of subjects to help complete their transition into adulthood. In addition to the academic subjects offered, there are opportunities for students to participate in research projects with other organisations, as well as a range of national and international competitions.

Somerville House's professional career guidance and training enables students to explore a variety of future pathways.

The comprehensive nature of our subject offering, coupled with organised exposure to a diverse range of industries, professions and entrepreneurial role models, ensures that our graduates continue to excel in a diverse array of professions in fields such as medicine, science, law, business, architecture, education and engineering, as well as politics, music, theatre, art, fashion and sport.

BEYOND *Forever a Somerville Girl*

There is no better expression of the Somerville House sense of community than the Somerville House Old Girls' Association (OGA). This group was originally formed in 1901 to help generations of former students maintain contact with each other and continue to be involved in school life.

When a Somerville House student leaves the School, she is able to rely on solid friendships, utilise extraordinary networks and draw on the values and life skills learned in her days as a student.



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When I first came to Somerville House, I just fell in love with it. It seemed such a friendly, happy place. Since coming here, I've become more independent, self-reliant and confident. The School is an environment where difference is celebrated and where I have the unique opportunity to develop close-knit friendships. I have a large family of sisters now and friendships that will last a lifetime.

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YEAR 12 BOARDER

BOARDING

Nowhere is the celebrated Somerville House spirit more evident than among its Boarding Community. Friendship, a sense of belonging, and the shared commitment to the fullness of life and learning make Somerville House a 'home away from home' for our Boarders.

More than one hundred students from a diverse and culturally rich range of backgrounds and nationalities call Somerville House Boarding, home. They travel from around Australia and around the world to take advantage of our renowned academic, cultural and sporting facilities.

Seventy per cent of boarding families come from regional and remote areas, which may not offer the educational opportunities and resources that are taken for granted at Somerville House.

Our *Big Sister* Program, with Senior Boarders responsible for a 'little sister', ensures new boarders experience a warm and welcoming transition into

their new environment. It has resulted in many close friendships that often stay with both students for life.

On the weekends, there are opportunities for fun and relaxation as the students are encouraged to take part in the extensive Co-Curricular Program offered by the School. Organised games and activities, along with interaction with students from other boarding schools, are also featured. Free time is for the individual to enjoy whether it be spent reading, chatting to a friend, Skyping their best friend 60 000 kilometres away, or simply lying under a tree enjoying Brisbane's sub-tropical climate.

Our central location means we have the cultural heartland of Queensland literally on our doorstep. The parklands of South Bank, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, the Queensland State Library, Museum and Art Gallery are all within walking distance from the School. A quick trip across the river takes students into Brisbane's central business district where there are health specialists and shopping facilities, restaurants, theatres and the beautiful botanical gardens.

Our students enjoy extensive academic, spiritual, sporting and cultural programs that inspire a culture of engagement, empowerment, diversity and excellence as they learn and grow into women for the future.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK



CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES AT SOMERVILLE HOUSE

Our carefully crafted Co-Curricular Program, which currently consists of two hundred and fifty teams or activity-based groups, is integral to the educational experience and provides a framework to identify, match and nurture the skills, talents and interests of every student.

Involvement

All students are encouraged to participate in the Co-Curricular Program, which offers a wide range of sporting, cultural, musical, social and personal activities. Through these activities, each student has the opportunity to develop her potential spiritually, socially, physically and culturally. Excellent facilities are utilised, and highly accredited instructors maximise the students' success and personal growth.

Cultural and Community

One of the greatest joys of becoming a member of the Somerville House community is the personal growth that is achieved through participation in the numerous cultural, social and personal development opportunities available. Some of our cultural offerings include camps in various year levels, our Chess Program, which is embedded into our Junior School Program, and then continues throughout the Middle and Senior School, our Debating Program, and Drama, with a variety of opportunities to perform throughout the year. In addition to these cultural activities are numerous social opportunities for students to become involved in service-based activities, literary pursuits, faith-based groups and exchange programs.

Music

Music at Somerville House caters for a wide range of individual interests and skill levels. The Music Program is conducted both in the classroom (Academic Music Program) and in a co-curricular capacity (Performance Music Program). Our comprehensive Co-Curricular Ensemble Program includes string ensembles, bands and vocal choirs as well as many woodwind, percussion and small string ensembles.

Sport

Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide array of sports, both in class lessons and at various competitive levels. The age of the student determines which competition may be entered. Students in the Junior School compete in the Andrews Cup competition. Students in Years 7 and 9 in the Middle School are included in the Senior School Co-Curricular Program, with their representation in interschool competition being through the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools' Sports Association (QGSSSA) competition, the Brisbane Schoolgirls' Rowing Association (BSRA) and the Brisbane Water Polo Association Inc. (BWPI).



Somerville House provides the support and encouragement for each student to become the best that she can be, and to value Honour Before Honours.

CO-CURRICULAR CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY

The Somerville House Co-Curricular Program offers a range of cultural, social and personal opportunities to suit students with a wide variety of interests. Some of these, such as camps, are built into the programs for various year groups, while others provide an opportunity to participate in statewide competitions or engage in activities with other schools and community-based organisations.

Chess

Somerville House offers opportunities for students of all levels of ability and year levels for intraschool and interschool tournaments as well as clinics and workshops.

Christian Fellowship

Somercircle in the Middle and Senior Schools and SUPA Club in the Junior School are groups that meet for Christian discussion, service and friendship. Groups meet once a week and also enjoy a variety of social activities and an annual Christian camp with other PMSA Schools outside school hours.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement is a high profile activity in the School, focussing students' attention on the needs of others. Students can be involved individually or as part of a tutor group.

Debating

The School enters as many teams as possible at all year levels in the Queensland Debating Union Competition.

Musical

Students are able to participate in a range of performing arts activities. Opportunities exist in all aspects of production, including performance, choreography, lighting, sound and set design.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Students (14 years and over) may work towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold award, without time restrictions.

Opti-MINDS Challenge

Teams in this competition may comprise students from Years 8, 9 and 10 only. Teams choose to compete in one of the five divisions: Language, Literature, Maths, Engineering or Social Science.

Publications

Some students are given the opportunity to produce the Year 12 publication *Valete*.

Robotics

Robotic members build robots for the Queensland RoboClub Junior competition held in August/September each year.

School Musical

Each year students from Somerville House team up with Church of England Grammar School students to perform in a musical held at either School.

Scribblers

Avid writers from the Middle and Senior Schools may participate in Scribblers, a creative writing group.

Tours

A variety of sports, language, music and community engagement tours is arranged each year.



CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC BANDS, CHORAL AND STRINGS

Music is very much a part of Somerville House with our choral and instrumental ensembles exemplifying the excellence for which the School is known. This standard is evident across all the many and varied choral and instrumental groups that come together across the School, each catering for students of differing ability.

Band Ensembles

The Band Program is an integral part of the Music Department as it covers a wide spectrum of disciplines such as woodwind, brass, string, vocal and percussion. These ensembles are open to players who learn an instrument outside of the School as well as those involved in the School's teaching program.

Senior Concert Band

This is the School's premier Concert Band. This ensemble is open, by audition, to students in the Middle and Senior Schools with advanced playing skills and experience. The repertoire selection is technically and musically challenging.

Intermediate Concert Band

The entry level for the Intermediate Concert Band is a minimum of Grade 2 AMEB or at least two years' learning.

Stage Band

The Stage Band is an ensemble that plays jazz and rock music styles. The instruments include bass guitar, electric guitar, keyboard, drum kit, saxophone and brass. Saxophone and brass players in this ensemble must also play in one of the Concert Bands. Vocalists are also included in certain repertoires. Membership is open to students from Years 7 to 12. The band plays a wide range of repertoires and styles.

Junior Concert Band

This group is for students who have been learning their instrument for at least one year. Membership includes students from the Junior and Middle Schools.

Year 5 Band

All Year 5 students are involved in this group. They commence their learning in tutorial groups which are included in the School's academic timetable. Students are all new to their nominated band instrument and are encouraged to continue learning in Year 6.

Junior Percussion Ensemble

Junior Percussion Ensemble provides an opportunity for students in both the Junior and Middle Schools (Years 6 and 7) to develop ensemble and percussion performance skills.

Senior Percussion Ensemble

Senior Percussion Ensemble is a versatile ensemble that caters for percussionists wishing to extend and develop their skills in all areas of percussion. The ensemble includes students from the Middle and Senior Schools (Years 8 to 12) and features more advanced percussion students, as well as other instrumentalists who have demonstrated proficient skills in percussion or piano.

Clarinet Choir

The instruments in the Clarinet Choir comprise Bb clarinets (usually divided into three parts), alto and bass clarinets. Members in this ensemble must also play in one of the Concert Bands.

Orchestra

Formed by members from the Somerville Strings and the Senior Concert Band, the orchestra meets and rehearses for special occasions.



Choral Ensembles

Choral singing is a very important and popular part of musical life at Somerville House. There are different choirs to cater for students of all vocal abilities. Occasionally, all choirs perform as a massed choir.

Cantrix Choir

This is the School's premier choir, open by audition, to students in the Senior School with advanced choral skills and experience. The repertoire selection is technically and musically challenging.

Camerata Choir

This is a choir for willing and committed students in the Senior School. The repertoire selection is varied and stimulating.

Cantamus Choir

This is a choir for Middle School students, membership of which is subject to audition. The repertoire selection is technically and musically challenging for their level of development.

Cantabile Choir

The Junior Choir is drawn from Years 5 and 6, and challenges this age group with age-appropriate repertoires involving part work and musicianship.

Poco a Poco Choir

This ensemble, drawn from students in Years 3 to 4, performs repertoires designed to encourage the development of accurate tuning and part work skills.

String Ensembles

String ensembles are open to players who learn an instrument outside of the School as well as those involved in the school teaching program. The following groups cater for all levels of playing experience.

Somerville Strings

This is the School's premier string orchestra. A minimum of Grade 8 AMEB standard is required, and members must be excellent sight-readers.

Amadeus Strings

This is a predominantly Senior School ensemble, catering for students with established skills on stringed instruments, from Grades 5 to 8 AMEB.

Stradivari Strings

This is a predominantly Middle School ensemble, catering for players from Preliminary to Grade 4 AMEB.

Junior String

This group is for more advanced players in Junior School.

Pizzicato Strings

This is a training group for Junior School students in their second year of learning their instrument.

Year 3 Strings

All students in Year 3 learn a stringed instrument in groups. Tuition and instruments are free of charge for the year. Lessons are part of the curriculum and are held in school time.

Senior Strings Consort and Quartets

Two string quartets are selected from members of the Somerville Strings orchestra. These combine to form the Senior String Consort.

Guitar Ensemble

Students who play guitar form an ensemble, which rehearses one morning per week before school.

Individual Instrumental Tuition

Individual instruction is available for all orchestral instruments as well as piano, classical organ, guitar, singing and theory of music. In some cases, the School is able to provide an instrument for the early months of tuition and, in the case of larger instruments such as bassoon, trombone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, cello and double bass, for longer periods.

Students are prepared for examinations, if desired. Fact Sheets explaining the format and cost of individual tuition are available from the Music Department and from the school website.

The Co-Curricular Music Program at Somerville House is administered by the Director of Co-Curricular Music. Further information about our Co-Curricular Music Program can be found on our website at www.somerville.qld.edu.au.



CO-CURRICULAR SPORTS

The Somerville House Co-Curricular Program is unique in nature by the sheer breadth of activities offered throughout the year, along with our commitment to provide real opportunities for student improvement. Where it is not possible to place a student in a competitive team or group, we provide dedicated development squads to assist students to improve their skills and confidence levels and to progress ultimately to a competitive level.

Athletics (Track and Field)

The Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools' Sports Association (QGSSSA) age group Track and Field competition is held in Term 4. State secondary competition is also available. Students in Years 2 to 6 are eligible to compete in the Andrews Cup competition, which is held in Term 3.

Badminton

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in QGSSSA fixtures during Term 4 in a two-day tournament format.

Basketball

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in QGSSSA round robin fixture competitions in Terms 1 and 2. State secondary competition is also available.

Cricket

QGSSSA Cricket teams compete in Term 1. Entry in school teams is offered to students in Years 7 to 12.

Cross Country

The QGSSSA Cross Country age group competition is held in Term 2. State secondary competition is also available. Students in Years 2 to 6 are eligible to compete in the Andrews Cup Cross Country, which is also held in Term 2.

Equestrian

Students who own, or have access to, a horse may represent the School in interschool competitions.

Fencing

Fencing is currently not an activity offered at Somerville House; however, it is a unit covered in the Physical Education curriculum in Year 11 Core Physical Education.

Football (Soccer)

Open, Senior and Junior teams compete in QGSSSA round robin fixture competitions in Terms 1 and 2. State secondary competition is also available.

Gymnastics – Artistic

Up to seven divisions compete in the QGSSSA competition in Term 2. Club Gymnastics is available to all interested gymnasts. The Andrews Cup competition (Years 2 to 6) is held in Term 4.

Hockey

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in QGSSSA round robin fixture competitions in Term 3. State secondary competition is also available.



Netball

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in QGSSSA round robin fixture competitions in Term 3. State secondary competition is also available. Students in Years 5 and 6 are eligible to compete in Andrews Cup Netball, which is held in Term 3.

Rowing

Somerville House participates in the Brisbane Schoolgirls' Rowing Association (BSRA) year level group competition in Term 3. State and National championship competitions are also available.

Softball

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in QGSSSA round robin fixture competitions in Term 1 (Open and Senior teams) and Term 4 (Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 teams). State secondary competition is also available. Students in Years 5 and 6 are eligible to compete in Andrews Cup Tee-ball/Softball, which is held in Term 4.

Swimming

The QGSSSA Swimming age group competition is held in Term 1. State secondary competition is available. Club membership and competition are also available, independent of the school program. Students in Years 2 to 6 are eligible to compete in Andrews Cup Swimming, which is held in Term 1.

Tennis

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in the QGSSSA competition in Term 3. State secondary competition is also available. Students in Years 5 and 6 are eligible to compete in the Andrews Cup Competition, which is held in Term 1.

Touch

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in the QGSSSA competition in Terms 1 and 2. State secondary competition is available. Students in Years 5 and 6 are eligible to compete in the Andrews Cup Competition, which is also held in Term 2.

Volleyball

Open, Senior, Year 10, Year 9 Year 8 and Year 7 teams compete in QGSSSA round robin fixture competitions in Term 3. State secondary competition is available.

Water Polo

Somerville House Water Polo teams play in the Brisbane Water Polo Association Inc. (BWPI) competition. This competition is open to all school and club players within the Brisbane area. The season is played on Saturdays, starting in Term 4 and concluding at the end of Term 1, and involves approximately 15/16 matches plus two weeks of finals.

The Co-Curricular Sport Program at Somerville House is administered by the Director of Co-Curricular Sport. Further information about our Co-Curricular Sport Program can be found on our website at www.somerville.qld.edu.au.



Our highly experienced teaching staff aim to educate students to become confident and independent thinkers, conscious of their strengths, responsive to the call of God in their lives, and capable and willing to contribute to the greater good of society.

A CARING COMMUNITY

School years are vital years when young students develop emotionally, spiritually and physically. At Somerville House, the emphasis is placed on support structures to assist them during this formative phase of their lives.

Extensive care is available through our Positive Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Program, our Christian Education Program and Chapel Services. The Dean of Students together with the Heads of Year and Homeroom Tutor teachers mentor and monitor our students' wellbeing.

As part of our care for students, registered nurses are available through our Health Centre.

As well as being cared for, the students learn about the benefit and joy of giving to others. Students are encouraged to become involved in community service activities.

As we give, so do we receive.

By being a part of these activities, students learn valuable interpersonal skills, team building and organisational skills. They also share in the unique sense of 'connectedness' that has made Somerville House a community for so many generations of families.

Current students benefit from the growing network of professional women who, as former students, are willing to help and mentor members of the next generation in their chosen careers.

Somerville House Parents' and Friends' Association, our various Support Groups, the Old Girls' Association and the Somerville House Foundation provide invaluable support, encouragement and financial assistance for the benefit of students, the School and the future.

STRONG CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

The spiritual life of the School is central to all that is done at Somerville House and the teachings and example of Jesus Christ are a template for the values by which we operate in all areas of School life, from the classroom to the boardroom, from the sporting field to the Music program, in our relationships and in our ethics.

The spiritual life of the School is in many ways invisible and difficult to measure, but it permeates all aspects of School life and provides a strong foundation for the values and ethos of the School. Sometimes it is overt when grace is said before meals and hymns are sung on Assembly, and at other times it comes through more covertly in the values of justice, compassion and equality that are modelled at the school and are upheld as part of our operational principles.

Worship is central to the life of the School and opportunities are provided for formal worship through School assemblies, Year Level Chapels, annual Sub-School Family Worship Services and weekly services for the Boarders.

The worship program is supported by Christian Education classes from Pre-Prep through to Year 12. The program covers biblical themes and contemporary issues, focussing primarily on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and their application to life in a complex and demanding world. Students also learn about other world religions and belief systems in a context of understanding and respect.

Students have the opportunity to further their understanding of and commitment to the Christian faith through voluntary Christian Fellowship groups SUPA Club in the Junior School and Somercircle in the Middle and Senior Schools where prayer, bible discussions and many diverse activities

occur. Opportunities for Christian service and leadership are also provided, as well as a strong spiritual and social program with other PMSA Schools, including Christian camps.

It is the goal of the spiritual activities within the School to develop in students an understanding and appreciation of Christian beliefs and practices based on the bible and Christians traditions. Through encouraging the whole School community to act as a community of care, modelling leadership on the servant leadership of Jesus Christ, encouraging moral responsibility and personal involvement in service to the wider community, students see the practical outworking of faith in Jesus Christ.



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My daughters have blossomed academically, and it is here that I cannot find fault. The manner in which they are learning, combined with the opportunities they have been offered, is astounding. My husband and I are very impressed. Both girls take great pride in being ‘Somerville House Girls’ and are loving their educational experience.

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CURRENT PARENT



17 Graham Street, South Brisbane Qld 4101, Australia
PO Box 3357, South Brisbane Qld 4101, Australia
P +61 7 3248 9267 | enrolments@somerville.qld.edu.au
www.somerville.qld.edu.au

*A school of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association.
The PMSA is a mission of the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches.*

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