



Ascham School

A journey  
with heart  
and soul

# Welcome

**I am absolutely delighted to be able to introduce you to Ascham. Since its foundation in 1886, Ascham has continued to be a centre of excellence for the education of girls and young women and we bear this standard proudly. An Ascham girl will be prepared both academically and personally to meet the demands of the 21st century and former students can be found the world over using this preparation to lead incredibly varied and distinctive lives.**

Ascham is a school known for outstanding academic results as well as providing an inclusive, warm, inspiring environment of day and boarding students who benefit from so much on offer, not least an exceptional academic program. This environment will provide your daughter with every means to become an independent learner and develop into a self-reliant, confident, compassionate young woman with a sense of purpose in the world. Through the Dalton Plan and with the encouragement of her teachers, her learning will be enriched, new passions discovered, she will be challenged and if she falls short, she will be supported.

Her days will be filled with interactive and challenging learning together with opportunities to develop talents within our wide range of co-curricular activities including high-level participation in a broad choice of sports, music, drama, clubs, debating and more. From international exchange programs and tours, school-based leadership and support programs, to House and Sister networks and community projects, her resilience will build as we help her develop the confidence to stretch herself and the security to stumble.

I believe passionately in the education of young women and throughout the 20 years I have been teaching at Ascham, I have had the great pleasure of seeing our staff and students alike truly epitomise our motto *vi et animo – with heart and soul* – in their teaching and development.

Combining this ethos with the commitment of our staff, parents and Ascham Old Girls creates a nurturing, exciting atmosphere in which your daughter will grow. We are united in our aim of furnishing our girls with the qualities necessary to make a significant difference in the world.

I look forward to welcoming you and your daughter to Ascham.

**Andrew Powell**

**Head of School**



# Excellence since 1886

Ascham has been providing the highest levels of education for nearly 130 years, driven by a strong and widely respected academic program for day and boarding students. At its core lies the Dalton Plan which underpins the delivery of the curriculum within a nurturing, friendly and inclusive environment.

We are independent of any religious affiliation and embrace our motto *vi et animo* – *with heart and soul* to assist in developing our girls into inquisitive, confident and compassionate young women who have a strong sense of responsibility, are resourceful, resilient and independent in their thinking and are equipped and ready to achieve their full potential in their lives.

We are a very special community, embracing a love of learning, a sense of compassion and a respect for heritage and our consistently strong academic results are evidence of the quality of teaching and the unwavering commitment to excellence since our inception.



Heads of Ascham

1886 – 1902  
Miss Marie Wallis (founder)

1902 – 1914  
Mr Herbert J Carter

1914 – 1946  
Miss Margaret Bailey

1947 – 1948  
Dr Hilda Hayward

1949 – 1961  
Miss Dorothy Whitehead

1962 – 1972  
Miss Merrilee Roberts

1973 – 2003  
Mrs Rowena Danziger

2004 – 2005  
Miss Susan Freedy

2006 – 2012  
Mrs Louise Robert-Smith

2013 – 2014  
Dr Helen Wright

2014 –  
Mr Andrew Powell

Responsible learning is preparation for life...

# The Dalton Plan

**The Dalton Plan at Ascham is a vibrant, effective and enjoyable way for students to learn and remains the cornerstone of our delivery of the curriculum. The plan develops the girls' abilities to articulate their needs and become self-directed learners. They hone research and thinking skills, learn to meet deadlines and develop a passion for lifelong learning.**

Fundamental to the Dalton Plan is the opportunity for students to learn in small groups, enhanced through one-on-one time with their teachers.

The sense of taking responsibility at school becomes fundamental to each girl's personal, professional and intellectual maturity and leads to success in subsequent study and professional lives.

#### **A solid foundation**

The key principles of the Dalton Plan are taking responsibility for one's learning, developing independence and learning to collaborate and cooperate with others. The Dalton Plan is essentially a philosophy that rests on returning responsibility to its students, in short, the more a girl is engaged in how she organises her timetable and her work for herself, the better she will learn.

This act of taking responsibility through school life develops organisational and time management skills that, coupled with the self-confidence and resourcefulness the Plan engenders, will be invaluable in adult life.

While this philosophy runs through Ascham right from Prep, the Dalton Plan is introduced in the Junior School and begins more formally in Year 7 and rests on five building blocks:

#### **1. The assignment**

Each girl receives her assignment which sets out the weekly work to be completed. This assignment generally runs for the duration of a term.

#### **2. The lesson**

Lessons at Ascham provide a way of beginning the weekly assignment.

#### **3. The study**

This is the very heart of the Dalton Plan at Ascham and each student has periods in her timetable where a lesson is not scheduled. In these periods, called studies, a girl will go to a teacher to continue her work for that week. Class sizes are small to ensure girls can access their teachers in studies.

#### **4. Corrections**

Senior students hand in work every Tuesday morning. Teachers mark the work and students do any necessary corrections. The teacher provides feedback to each student both on the assignment itself and in conversation with each girl in a study.

#### **5. Form class**

Each student is a member of a form class – a small group supervised by its Form Tutor – and spends several periods each week in this environment. She plans her work and her study attendance and discusses her work habits with her Form Tutor.

We aim to nurture a productive use of time, a sense of organisation, discipline of mind and a sense of learning as something to be practised.

#### **A plan for all**

The Dalton Plan is valuable for all our students. Studies can be used to extend knowledge and interests; provide steady consolidation of skills and also provide opportunities for students to practise key skills.

#### **Every possible combination**

In the Senior School, because fewer lessons are timetabled than in a conventional school, Ascham makes possible every combination of subjects; there are no restrictions on any choice of subject from those offered. Once the girls make their subject choice, we construct the timetable for that year: Ascham fits the timetable to the girls, not the girls to the timetable. Few schools can offer such a flexibility of subject choice.

#### **Continual care and attention**

Each girl has her Form or Class Tutor and Year Coordinator involved in her progress, helping her with any problems of organisation and liaising with parents where necessary. The genuine individual attention to girls provided in studies marks the basis for Ascham's sense of pastoral care.

# The Dalton Plan engages both learner and teacher in intellectual partnership.

## Academic excellence: our curricula

### **Our girls develop a keen interest in their subjects, the ability to question and debate ideas and exceptional time-management and organisational skills.**

Coupled with a rigorous and respected academic program, the individual and independent approach derived from the Dalton Plan not only benefits each girl but lifts the understanding and achievement of all.

Our student to staff ratio is less than 10 to 1, with senior school classes generally varying in size from 16 to 22 girls. In Years 11 and 12 these group sizes are generally between 10 and 18 girls, although in many courses the classes are smaller.

### **Preparatory School: The Hillingdon curriculum**

Our Hillingdon program employs *The Spalding Method*, a research-based, multi-sensory, structured language program, to build strong foundational skills in literacy. This approach builds strong decoding and encoding skills for reading, spelling and writing and enables students to gain an understanding of how the English language works.

All class teachers are trained in this method, so there is consistency and continuity from class to class and from year to year, and our small class sizes allow for a caring, supportive approach to teaching and learning. Girls benefit from the expertise of specialist teachers in: Music, PDHPE, Visual Arts, French, Mandarin, Library, and Learning Enhancement teachers in English and Mathematics.

### **Junior School: the Fiona curriculum**

Fostering a passion for learning, each Fiona girl is empowered to drive and manage her learning journey with individual guidance and rigorous expectations encouraging each girl to achieve her personal best.

Girls progressively take charge of their learning, carefully scaffolded by an increasing range of independent learning activities. As girls move through the Junior School, they develop strategies aligned to the Dalton Plan and are introduced to their first assignments.

Following the Australian and NSW Board of Studies curriculum, Fiona girls study: English, Mathematics, Science, Human Society and its Environment, Music, Visual Arts, PDHPE, Information Skills, French and Mandarin, with German being offered in addition in Years 5 and 6.

In English and Mathematics, girls work at their level and pace in differentiated groups. Essential questions form the basis of the girls' scientific and HSIE studies with critical enquiry linked to their work in Information Technologies.

Girls are encouraged to become global citizens through immersion in a broad range of cultural studies and each year girls analyse a different culture culminating in units of comparative religion and human rights in Year 6.

### **Senior School curriculum**

The Senior School is when the Dalton Plan begins in a formal structure and offers girls an intellectual approach to critical thinking and effective, responsible learning while focusing on developing a solid foundation of skills to assist every girl to fulfil her academic potential.

As an academically-focused school our senior school curriculum is organised around courses that we consider best prepare the girls for tertiary study. It is very much a traditional liberal curriculum and subjects are chosen from the NSW Board of Studies HSC curriculum. For Years 7 to 10 this includes: English, Mathematics, Science, Commerce, Geography, History, Mandarin, French, German, Latin, Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Technology and PDHPE.

Girls are required to study at least one foreign language until the end of Year 10.

For Years 11 and 12 all students enter a two-year course called the Higher School Certificate (HSC). At the end of this course, students sit for a public examination similar to the English A levels or International Baccalaureate. This examination takes place in October/November of Year 12 with results available in mid-December. The syllabus offered at Ascham for this two-year course consists of: English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Ancient History, Modern History, Economics, Geography, Mandarin, French, German, Latin, Drama, Music, Visual Arts and PDHPE.

**'I love music and the sounds that instruments make when you play them. Violin class is my favourite. I started when I was four years old and I like playing every day. My teacher is patient and kind and helps me to do everything correctly. I like playing with the other girls and my favourite song to play is Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.'**

Music is one of life's essential ingredients. Learning to listen to it, to appreciate it, to practise and perform it offers Ascham girls valuable skills and lifelong enjoyment.

We offer a wide variety of music lessons from Prep to Year 12 and over 600 lessons are provided each week for our girls from a large, highly experienced team of staff. Many of our music teachers are performers at the highest level who gain a great deal of personal and professional enjoyment from watching our girls making and performing music at all levels.

The following instrumental lessons are available:  
Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Percussion/ Drums and Euphonium.

In Hillingdon, Piano, Violin, Cello and Double Bass are offered – girls may take up other instruments from Year 3. Voice instruction is also offered in the Senior School.

Lauren

Kindergarten



'I was five when I started to learn Mandarin at school and I think it's important to learn a language so you can speak it when you go to that country. I am also learning to speak French. We play "stand up, sit down" when we learn to say different foods and the hardest bit is when we have to say sentences. My favourite thing to say is "han bao bao" which means hamburger in Mandarin!'

# Scarlett

Year 2

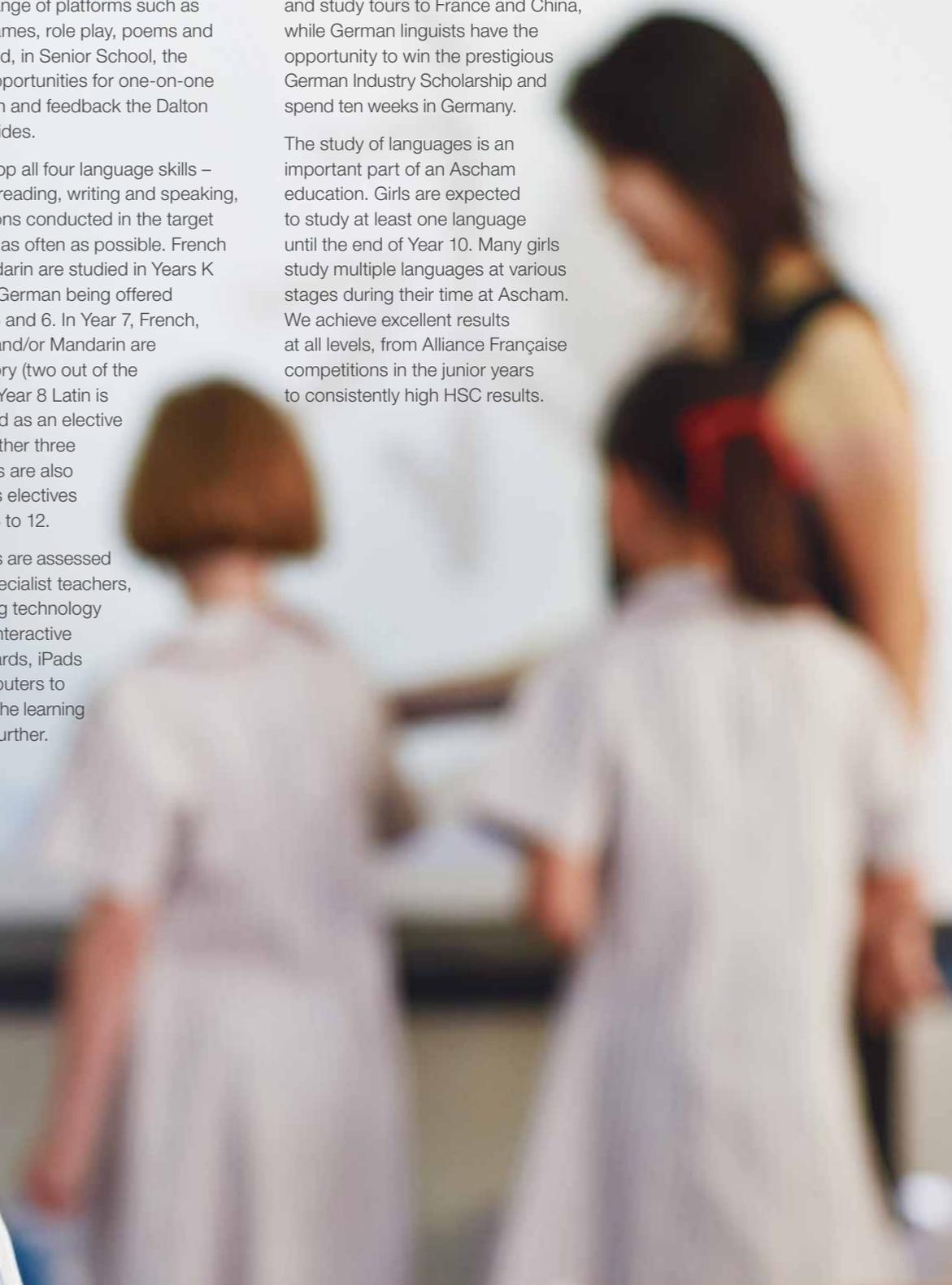
The study of languages is highly valued at Ascham and every girl has the opportunity to learn at least two, using a range of platforms such as songs, games, role play, poems and stories and, in Senior School, the unique opportunities for one-on-one interaction and feedback the Dalton Plan provides.

We develop all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking, with lessons conducted in the target language as often as possible. French and Mandarin are studied in Years K to 6 with German being offered in Years 5 and 6. In Year 7, French, German and/or Mandarin are compulsory (two out of the three). In Year 8 Latin is introduced as an elective and the other three languages are also offered as electives in Years 8 to 12.

Girls' skills are assessed by our specialist teachers, embracing technology such as Interactive Smartboards, iPads and computers to enhance the learning process further.

This immersive approach is consolidated in Senior School with competitions, languages soirées, school exchanges and study tours to France and China, while German linguists have the opportunity to win the prestigious German Industry Scholarship and spend ten weeks in Germany.

The study of languages is an important part of an Ascham education. Girls are expected to study at least one language until the end of Year 10. Many girls study multiple languages at various stages during their time at Ascham. We achieve excellent results at all levels, from Alliance Française competitions in the junior years to consistently high HSC results.



**'I have really enjoyed my Year 3 and Year 4 camps. They are great fun and challenging and the best part is I experience it all with my friends.**

**The "big swing" was quite challenging but my friends encouraged me and I was able to face my fear of heights.**

**I've learnt that if you do not give up and believe in yourself then you can achieve anything you put your mind to!**

Outdoor Education at Ascham plays a vital role in the development of each student. We provide students with opportunities to extend themselves in unfamiliar environments and challenge previously held notions of themselves and others. Students engage in activities that require determination, physical effort, problem solving and cooperation, and interact with students outside their friendship groups.

**Alisha**

**Year 4**

Our Outdoor Education program is underpinned by our wider focus on developing the unique qualities of each girl, helping them become independent and confident learners, flexible and creative thinkers, and happy, healthy individuals with a sense of responsibility and compassion.

Students participate in Outdoor Education experiences from Years 3 to 9 in a sequential program that focuses on self and social awareness, self management, relationship skills, decision making, physical and emotional safety and a healthy lifestyle.

We include trips to Ballarat in Year 5 and Canberra in Year 6.



**'I love the fact that I can walk onto the stage or into a speech room and just turn into a completely different person and experiment with my voice. Our teachers are fantastic and I am always learning new techniques.**

**I love learning the lines, and my teacher helps make it fun and interesting. When I'm rehearsing, I go over my role every night and I also perform for family and friends.**

**We performed Seussical JR. – the musical and I played the role of the Cat in the Hat. It was just the best fun of my life – it's made me want to be an actress and sing as well.'**

Mimi



Performing on stage is one of the highlights of school for many of our students and there are plenty of opportunities to participate in drama and theatre, both onstage and backstage. Our highly experienced staff includes professional directors, designers and drama teachers and they take full advantage of the professionally-equipped 700-seat Packer Theatre which includes a revolve.

Senior School musicals and theatre productions rotate biennially with Middle School productions and Junior School musicals and are often performed with neighbouring boys' schools such as Cranbrook and Sydney Grammar. Productions have included *Top Girls*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Hating Alison Ashley*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *After Magritte*,

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and musicals such as *Westside Story*, *Seussical JR.*, *The Wiz*, *Anything Goes* and *Cabaret*.

Lunchtime and after school clubs are offered for Shakespeare, improvisation and film making, with our annual Shakespeare Festival winners in movement and dance, duologues, scenes, solos and design having progressed to State level with great success.

Smaller performances, such as the annual Year 11 student production are presented in the Drama Studio. These performances provide a wonderful opportunity for students to produce one act plays under the guidance of their Drama teachers and technical staff.

Year 5



The background features a close-up of a building's roof with reddish-brown tiles. A decorative, white, multi-tiered tower or finial rises from the roof. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

Vibrant, effective  
and an enjoyable  
way for students  
to learn . . .

The Dalton Plan

# Boarding at Ascham

'Boarding is great because I am always with my friends and there's always lots to do. People are there for you whenever you need help through anything that might be tough; they are basically your sisters. I think that boarding teaches social skills and how to solve problems, and builds up resilience.'

Boarding has been part of Ascham since 1887 and it continues to forge lifelong friendships within a very special community. We are not an adjunct to the School – rather we are at the heart of it, a place where girls become confident learners, independent thinkers and caring individuals.

Boarding at Ascham enriches girls, their families and the wider School community. Boarding teaches girls to live in harmony, become independent and establish a routine of sound academic work combined with many co-curricular interests.

## Indi

Year 7



### Enriching and rewarding

A residential lifestyle involves much more than just a residence for the girls: Ascham provides a marvellous backdrop against which girls can experience school life to the fullest, enhanced by a beautiful and spacious campus.

Unlike our day girls, the boarders' day is only half over at the sound of the school bell. Both before and after school, boarders have access to the extensive educational, sporting, computing and music facilities which include a heated swimming pool, gymnasium, library, music studios and most importantly, the teaching staff. During prep times academic staff are available to offer support and tutoring to the girls in specific subject areas.

### Family and friendships

With up to 120 boarders from country New South Wales, Sydney suburbs, interstate and overseas, the varied backgrounds bring an extra dimension to the lifelong friendships they form.

Regular contact with families by phone calls, emails and visits is an important part of boarding life and parents receive a weekly school newsletter and are encouraged to discuss any concerns with boarding staff. In addition, regular school functions cater especially for boarding parents so that they can feel part of their daughter's school experience.

### Houses that are homes

We have five main boarding houses each with its own unique atmosphere but all an integral part of life at Ascham. A small number of girls per house engenders a strongly caring environment. Each house has two resident staff members and junior boarders share rooms with three or more girls. Senior boarders have their own study/bedroom and enjoy a stepping stone to university style living.

### Care and wellbeing

We place great emphasis on the care and safety of our girls and have trained nurses on duty 24 hours a day operating from our own health centre as well as permanent onsite security. Our boarders are carefully supervised and parents are kept fully informed about and involved in the school life of their daughters.

### Active and involved

Sport plays an important role in the life of an Ascham boarder and the girls enjoy Saturday sport and are regularly ferried to their venues by our day families, helping build bonds between day girls and boarders. Every weekend activities are organised for the girls. The activities are planned to suit all tastes, interests and age groups. Ice skating, ten pin bowling, rock climbing, surfing, dance classes, visits to Sydney's museums, art galleries and the Royal Botanic Gardens and social activities with other boarding schools provide much needed time for enjoyment and relaxation at the end of a busy school week. The recreation program is supplemented by theme nights which take place once a term.

'New boarders get a Year 12 buddy or "big sister" to help them cope through the first year of boarding. They are very caring and know how tough some things can be when you first start Senior School as they have been there before. Weekends are one of the most fun parts as we do sport on Saturday mornings, relax on Saturday afternoons and get out and about on Sundays.'

Gabriella Maples, Year 7



**‘Ascham introduced me to rowing in Year 7 and I love how it’s widened my circle of friends, as well as challenged me physically and mentally. Being able to draw on the School’s great coaching team and their modern equipment definitely helped in my success at the Interschool Rowing Regattas.**

**I also play basketball and netball regularly as I believe sport helps with organisation of school work and life in general.’**

Sofia



Sport is an essential and enjoyable part of school life, we ensure girls have ample opportunity to access a wide range of activities. We are proud to have an inclusive sporting program that ensures each girl who wishes to participate has a place in a team.

#### Junior School

Every girl in the Junior School participates in two hours of physical activity in PDHPE each week and girls in Fiona take part in the annual swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals. Girls have the opportunity to represent their school and progress to state and national competitions in their particular strength.

Girls can choose a different sport each term including hockey, netball, tennis, soccer, sailing, water polo, basketball and touch football.

In addition girls can join fitness, the swim squad, snowsports teams and a broad range of co-curricular sports such as diving, yoga and dance. Regular tennis and gymnastics classes are well supported.

#### Senior School

Backed by a strong team of coaches, we provide the platform to participate in a safe and enjoyable sporting environment, offering a range of competitive and non-competitive sporting opportunities. Whilst the majority of sports offered are played in the Saturday morning IGSSA competition, students can also participate in a number of local competitions and carnivals.

Students may play one Saturday morning sport each term, as well as participating in additional mid-week competitions or programs, choosing from swimming, diving, equestrian, touch football, tennis, rowing, basketball, hockey, netball, athletics/cross country, snowsports, gymnastics, sailing, water polo, football and indoor hockey.

Year 10

**'In Science I love questioning why things are the way they are and the Dalton Plan gives me a great opportunity to do this directly with my teachers. If I have trouble with a certain aspect of Mathematics, Science or any of my other subjects I know that I can discuss it with my teacher until I feel I understand it. I especially enjoy putting what we've learnt in class into practice with my friends.'**

# Julia

Year 10

The Dalton Plan provides the perfect forum for girls to enhance their understanding of scientific concepts, playing a central role in carrying out their experiments and applying the theory learnt in lessons.

General Science is taught from Prep to Year 10 and includes Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geology. In Years 11 and 12, Science is divided into Biology, Chemistry and Physics and girls can elect to study any number of these.

STEAM is incorporated in the curriculum and provides opportunities to solve real-world problems, and employ creative skills to find innovative solutions.

Years 9, 10 and 11 have the opportunity to visit Lizard Island Research Station, run by the Australian Museum. This educational tour enhances fieldwork skills and allows girls to apply classroom learning to a practical environment.

We produce strong results across all three senior Science subjects, with many girls gaining Distinctions and High Distinctions in Science competitions.



**'Visual Arts has allowed me to experiment with mixed media, exploring how I can introduce different materials into my Body of Work and improve the results. The Dalton Plan has been instrumental in the development of this process, allowing me to stick to a week-to-week plan and get so much feedback from my teacher on a daily basis, which will significantly enhance the end product of my work.'**

Visual Arts provides a unique learning environment that is contemporary and relevant. It promotes academic rigour and the freedom of creative expression, accommodating the different interests and abilities of our hard-working and talented students. Our aim is to develop critical thinking skills and intellectual autonomy in our girls through an investigation of their own and other artists' work.

Visual Arts is a mandatory course from Prep to Year 8 and is offered as an elective thereafter. Girls experience a wide range of expressive forms including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photomedia, film, video and animation. In Years 11 and 12, girls work with a specialist teacher in their chosen media area, refining their individual art-making practices.

The Visual Arts calendar is busy with excursions for junior and senior students including an overnight trip for Year 12 to visit MONA in Hobart. Every two years the Art Department undertakes an overseas tour. Year 12 artworks are on display in the HSC Art Show each year in Term 3, while the work of Years 7 to 11 is showcased in Term 4. The excellence of our senior girls is regularly rewarded with nominations and being exhibited in ARTEXPRESS.

Molly

Year 12



**'I became involved in community service after visiting the schools Ascham had established in Cambodia and expanded my role while doing my Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia. The scope of opportunity available has only made my passion greater and I hope to inspire other Ascham girls to become involved in all kinds of service activities. I feel I have really grown as a person, developed my skills in leadership, initiative and communication and learnt to embrace diversity.'**

Ascham girls are active and involved members of their community and our Community Service Committee is a thriving and respected element of the School. We provide genuine opportunities for service to others with girls encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities that exist throughout the year.

Such real-life experiences improve self assurance and give the girls insight into various community operations.

Across the School, students are provided opportunity both within the curriculum and their co-curricular activities to participate in a wide range of initiatives.

**Easy PC:** a seniors' PC course where students work one-on-one with a local senior citizen to teach them how to use computers weekly over a six-week period each term.

**Juanita Nielsen Community Centre:** spending time interacting with primary age children at an after-hours program.

**Ascham Schools in Cambodia:** annual fundraising to assist in teachers' salaries and building facilities. Regular tours to Cambodia to support the teachers and raise awareness.

The Year 10 compulsory Community Service Program has students participate for two hours weekly for a whole term.

The various groups and individuals we work with include: Lulworth House and Elizabeth Lodge Aged Care Centres, St Mark's Preschool, Our Big Kitchen at Bondi, Plunkett Street Primary School in the inner city, Wairoa School for students with intellectual and multiple disabilities and the Holdsworth Community, assisting with Easy PC skills and participating in an inter-generational discussion group.

In the Junior School the students support various charities in order to develop an understanding and to raise awareness of assisting others. Our Year 6 classes visit Our Big Kitchen in Bondi to help prepare and serve food to those in need.

Isabel

Year 12



**'My leadership role at Ascham has presented me with a wealth of opportunities to develop my skills, as well as to do my best in inspiring the School community with passion and enthusiasm. It is an enriching experience to be able to lead such a passionate and innovative group of young women. The learnings from my role will be invaluable in any leadership position that I take up in the future, and the qualities of collaboration, innovation and compromise are attributes that I will integrate into all my future endeavours.'**

Gabi

At Ascham, leadership means developing girls who are confident, independent, willing to stand up for what they believe is right and able to marshal support from others to get things done.

While leadership opportunities are given to the girls from an early age, they operate slightly differently as the girls mature. In the Junior School, roles are distributed equally.

A Service Learning Program operates from Year 7, through which girls explore different dimensions of leading by commitment to a cause. From Year 9 girls can participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia.

There are then increasing opportunities, including camps and workshops, until the end of Year 11, when girls stand for election to the School Committee. Girls are also encouraged to take on informal leadership roles in areas where they have passion and purpose.

At Ascham, leadership is not an added extra, experienced only by a minority of girls, it is an integral part of the education that each girl receives throughout her time at the School.

Year 12



# A solid bond

**Ascham Old Girls are bound by a love of their school and shared experiences of their time together.**

Whenever and wherever they meet, this bond is evident from the laughter that echoes from events held in the spirit of reconnecting, networking and raising money for scholarships. The historic buildings and the fig tree, the school song and the unique educational experience that the Dalton Plan provides are just some of the memories that Old Girls share.

Ascham Old Girls are a vibrant and inclusive community, supporting the School through regular reunions, fundraising events and networking functions.

These events are organised by the Ascham Old Girls' Union Committee whose presence serves to reunite past students, forge connections, maintain friendships and advance the welfare of Ascham through the support of scholarships.

Our history is rich with Old Girls who have excelled across so many fields and we are proud to boast among them university medallists, Rhodes Scholars, film producers, archaeologists, fashion designers, actresses, sportswomen, award-winning journalists, radiologists, environmental scientists, veterinarians, a philanthropist, endocrinologist, singer and comedienne.

Ascham girls never really leave Ascham: despite their wide range of pursuits and the varied lives they lead across the globe, they remain bonded to the school with heart and soul.



**Susan Wyndham, 1975**

**Sydney Morning Herald  
Literary Editor**

I have been a journalist all my career: as a news reporter, feature writer, Good Weekend magazine editor, New York correspondent for The Australian and now Literary Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald.

I have many happy memories of my life at Ascham: listening to the Apollo 11 moon walk on a little radio in the Fiona playground, choir practice with Mr Robbins and an English class spent under the fig tree writing a poem, which made me want to write more.

Ascham taught me so much and helped me develop my self-discipline and independence, learn how to meet deadlines, write creative essays, read widely, speak French and deal with other people with respect, courtesy, curiosity and confidence.

If I could offer any advice it would be to take every opportunity the school offers. Try everything and follow your passions and talents. I didn't know my love of reading and writing would have any practical use, but I have been able to build a career around it.

I am always very proud to say I went to Ascham – a name that stands for an outstanding education and outstanding women. I feel very privileged to have been an Ascham girl and it is still very much a part of my identity.



**Shemara Wikramanayake, 1979**

**Head of Macquarie Funds  
Management Group**

It is thanks in large part to Ascham, which gave me excellent academic grounding in languages, mathematics, scientific thinking and a particular skill in learning, that I could embark on a career which has taken me on a global journey, and I have loved every minute.

Ascham instilled in me many positive attributes and to any girl I would say don't be afraid to try things and fail as you find your way. Disappointments are at worst, opportunities to learn and at best, ones to grow.

I have fond recollections right from my earliest days, in particular being invited to Bondi Beach during my first week at Ascham. I struggled to understand why people enjoyed lying on the sand in the burning sun trying to get a tan when some people from my native country tried to keep their skin as fair as possible! However, I really appreciated the warm welcome extended to a girl joining late from a different cultural and ethnic background.

I remain in close contact with other Old Girls, some of whom studied Commerce/Law at UNSW and worked in the legal and finance professions with me and it's great that we can be working together 35 years on from school despite the diversity of our interests and careers.



**Lavinia Chrystal, 2006**

**Elite alpine skier**

I'm a five-time Australian National Champion having represented Australia at the World Championships and recently at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, competing in the Slalom and Giant Slalom. I'm also a full time student, studying a Master's in International Business Management.

I'm so proud to be an Ascham Old Girl and I have the school and the Dalton Plan to thank for the skills I developed – time management being the most critical for me! Balancing my studies and sport is a demanding challenge and as I never want to sacrifice one for the other I have to manage my time very effectively.

Ascham offered me so much: I remember feeling very honoured representing the school in Tildesley Tennis and playing in such a close-knit team with girls from Years 7 to 12. I also loved music camp – something I looked forward to every year!

As I travel so much with my sport, I'm always catching up with old classmates all over the world. One thing we all believe is never to give up on your dreams! You might not reach your goals exactly how you'd planned, but with hard work, self-belief and determination you will get there, and learn so much in the process.

# Be a part of our heart and soul

The choice of school for your daughter will be one of the most important decisions you make and we are happy to assist you in whatever way we can.

Girls from all religions and cultures are welcome to apply for a place at Ascham where there is no church or religious affiliation. Service and social justice initiatives encourage girls to broaden their views of the world and learn to be tolerant and global in their outlook.

## Location and facilities

After significant property acquisitions and development over the decades, the School currently occupies 4.4 hectares in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, only a few kilometres from the CBD and coastal beaches – including world-famous Bondi Beach. A wealth of facilities are offered including gracious Victorian mansions, an oval and playing fields, tennis courts, swimming pool and gymnasium, the Packer Theatre, Science laboratories, Music, Visual Arts, Design and Drama studios, boarding houses and staff residences.

## When to enrol

We encourage parents to enrol their daughters as early as possible – we accept applications any time after birth. We recommend that you contact the Registrar's Office in the case of applications submitted less than three years before the required entry year.

## Enrolment

The School's entry points are Prep, Kindergarten, Year 5 and Year 7. The School may accept students at other Year levels at the discretion of the Head of School and if places are available.



Designed, written, art directed and produced by Scribble & Think.  
Image of Susan Wyndham, credit: James Brickwood/Good Weekend.

*Vi et animo - with heart and soul*



**Ascham School**

**Find out more**

Tel: +61 2 8356 7000, Fax: +61 2 8356 7230  
registrar@ascham.nsw.edu.au, [www.ascham.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ascham.nsw.edu.au)

188 New South Head Road, Edgecliff NSW 2027 Australia

ABN: 69 180 683 767  
CRICOS provider number: 00380E

The information provided in this prospectus is correct at the time of printing (December 2016) but is subject to change. For the latest information about Ascham please contact the Registrar or visit our website.