



FINTONA
— Girls' School —





great things come from a small package



The origami crane is a work of art. It is a beautiful, individual and creative transformation and also an enduring symbol of hope and goodwill. From a piece of crisp, colourful paper, the crane takes shape through artful and skilled folding. With painstaking attention, care and diligence, the paper takes on a new form, a new life. The origami crane remains a strong symbol of success and endeavour at Fintona.

Just like the crane, over time, our girls experience an assured and positive transformation as their individuality unfolds. In an intimate, small school environment, our girls work hard to achieve their goals. They are flexible, yet strong. They have the confidence to soar.

Every year, our VCE students enter their final exam rooms to discover 1000 origami cranes suspended from the ceiling.

These gifts, hand-made by our younger girls, are a wish for success and happiness. It is a simple gesture that has become a popular tradition reflecting how much we, as a school community, care for each other..... a small package that represents the promise of future possibilities.





YASMIN
[STUDENT]



RACHAEL FALLOON
[SCHOOL PRINCIPAL]



LAURA BARKER
[JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER]



DR BRONWYN KING
RADIATION ONCOLOGIST
[CLASS OF 1992]



GRACE
[STUDENT]

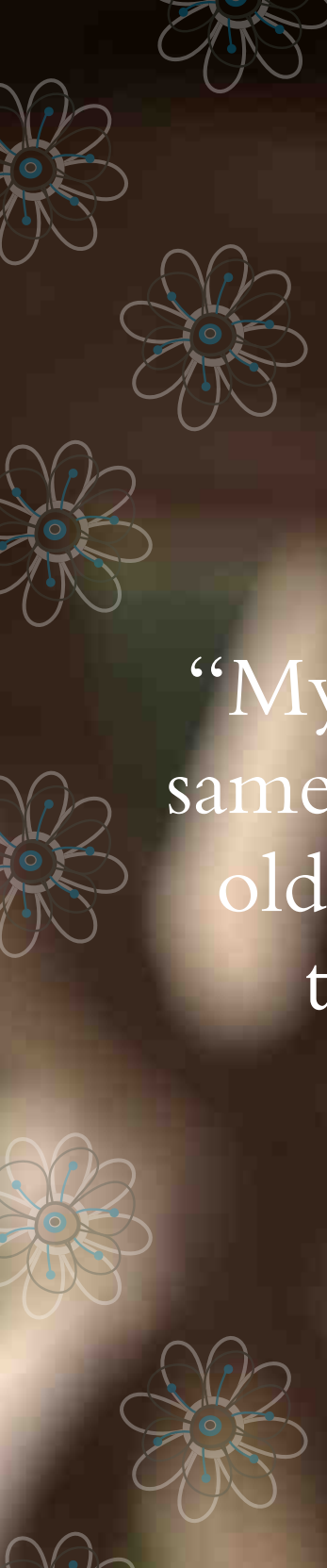


MARGARET CUNNINGHAM
[FORMER HEADMISTRESS]



“A Fintona student can be recognised as one who faces her life with the simple belief that to live is to learn. In every endeavour, she aspires to do the very best she can.”

[OUR ETHOS]

The image features a dark, blurred background with a bokeh effect of light spots. In the top-left and bottom-left corners, there are decorative floral patterns. Each pattern consists of a central blue circle with a white dot, surrounded by several white, petal-like shapes that resemble stylized flowers or atomic orbits. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

“My attitude to education is the same whether it be for a five year old or a fifteen year old – only the best is good enough.”

MARGARET CUNNINGHAM [FINTONA HEADMISTRESS 1936 – 1962]

FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

With a rich history dating back to 1896, we are always mindful of the contribution of those who have gone before us. Miss Annie Hughston, our founding Headmistress, and Miss Margaret Cunningham, our second Headmistress, more than anyone else, positioned Fintona for the modern era.

These remarkable women left a legacy that still endures – the unwavering commitment to outstanding education for girls in a small school environment.

Today, we honour the commitment and passion of all who have helped shape Fintona. We still pride ourselves on being a small school. We continue to understand and nurture every girl so that her talents may flourish.

Our school motto maintains its driving force today:

Age Quod Agis – Do what you do well.

Because we are a small school

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR IS HIGHLY VALUED

“Working closely with staff and parents, my goal is to develop young women who are agile learners – capable, confident and curious; young women who know themselves deeply, embrace opportunity and contribute positively to the world.” RACHAEL FALLOON [PRINCIPAL]

Fintona is an independent, non-denominational day school renowned for high academic and personal achievement.

Situated in the inner eastern suburb of Balwyn, we cater for girls from Prep to Year 12 and offer a co-educational early learning program for girls and boys. The International Baccalaureate is taught from ELC to Year 4.

Fintona girls enjoy broad-based, rigorous education programs, the empowerment of independent thinking and the support of a caring community. A Fintona girl will find the confidence to achieve her highest academic and personal aspirations.

With the extra attention we provide in a small school environment, our senior girls consistently achieve among the highest VCE and NAPLAN results in Victoria.

Surrounded by beautiful buildings, both modern and old, as well as magnificent, manicured grounds, our girls are happy; they feel connected to and proud of their school.

Fintona has a long-standing history and strong vision for girls' education. With inspirational leadership and teaching staff, Fintona girls look to the future with confidence and optimism.





“At the conclusion of their studies, our Year 12 students achieve successful entry into the university and course of their choice.” [FINTONA'S CAREERS CO-ORDINATOR]



Because we are a small school

SMALL MEANS MORE

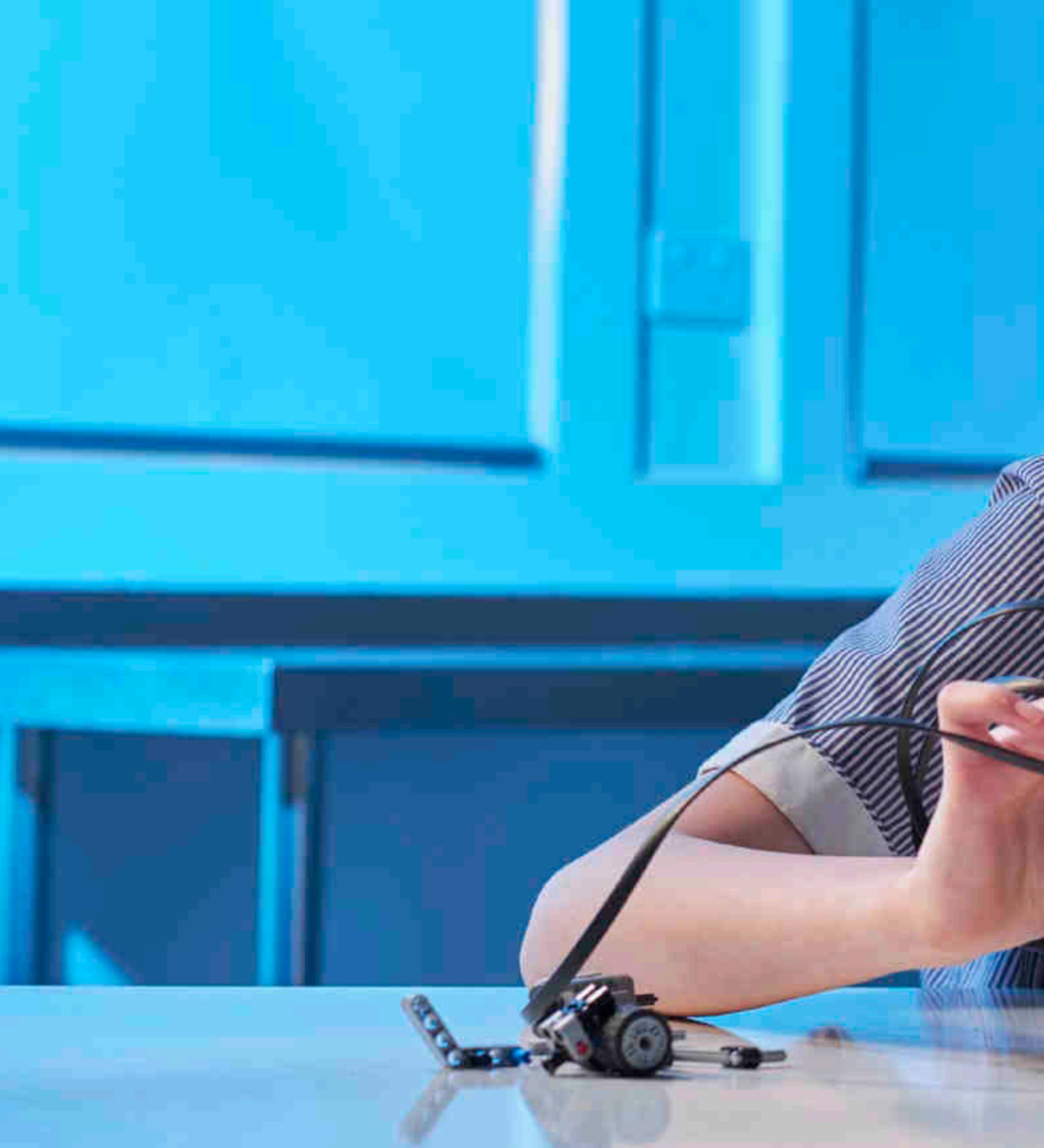
We might be small, but our curriculum is diverse and challenging. At each developmental age and stage of learning, we encourage critical thinking, exploration and the celebration of discovery.

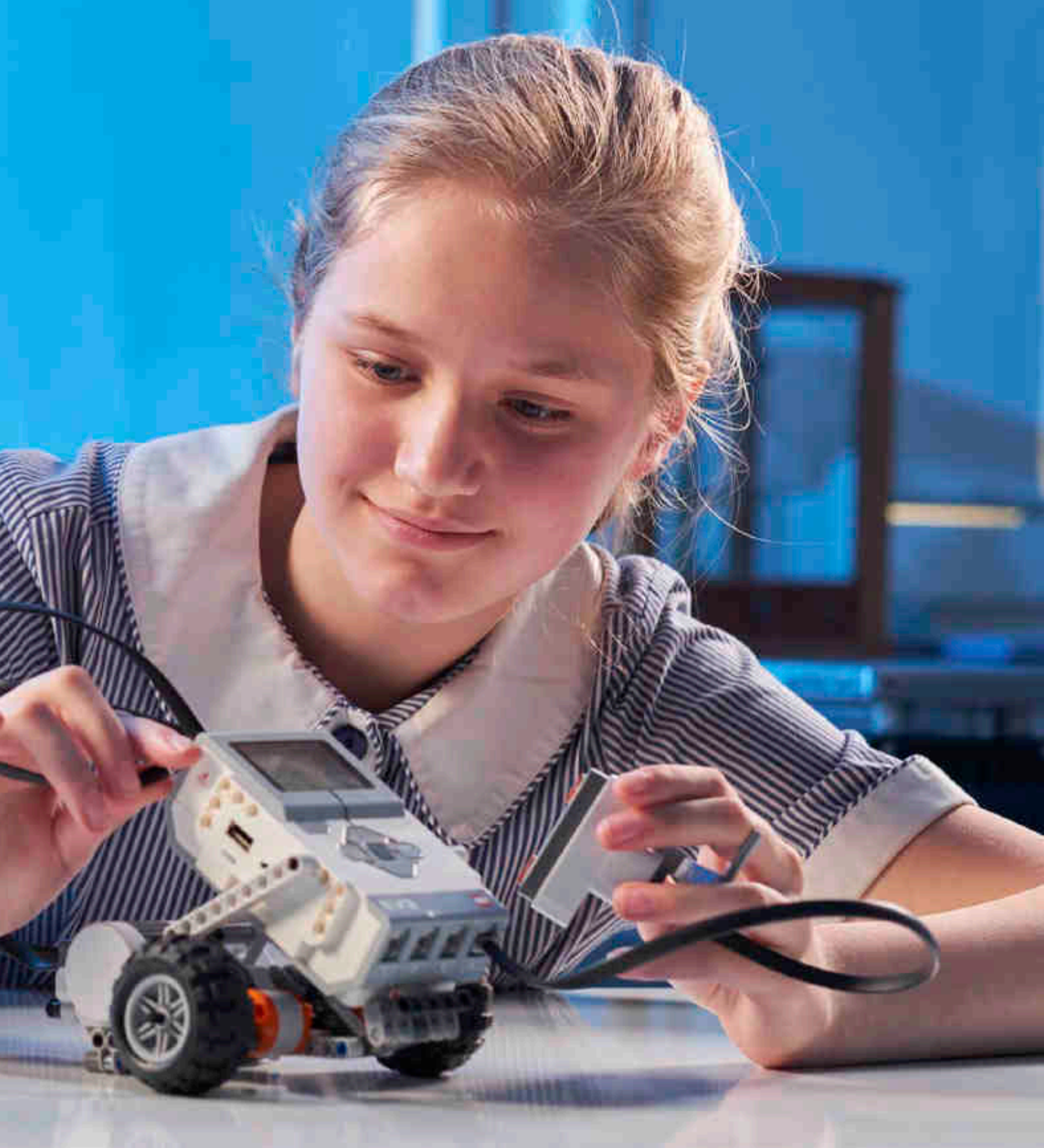
Whether it is learning about the powers of persuasive language, planting vegetables in the garden or exploring Australian Aboriginal cultural heritage in Central Australia, a Fintona girl is stimulated by the variety of learning experiences. She is excited by opportunities to see the wider world and celebrate its diversity through the leadership program, overseas trips and exchanges as well as rich programs of social justice and cultural celebrations. In conjunction with on-going House activities, these programs promote self-esteem, responsibility and good team-work.

To facilitate an optimal educational setting for our students, Fintona is divided into four smaller 'schools'.

1. In our **Early Learning Centre** (ELC), children from years three to five are immersed in kindergarten programs based on the world renowned Reggio Emilia philosophy and the Primary Years Programme (PYP), part of the International Baccalaureate.
2. In **Junior School** (Prep to Year 4), the Primary Years Program (PYP) frames the learning for students based on an in-depth, inquiry based approach.
3. In **Middle School** (Years 5 to 8), our teaching gives priority to developing skills such as analytical thinking, problem solving and establishing good study and research habits.
4. In **Senior School** (Years 9 to 12), our teachers prepare each girl for VCE success. At each year level, including VCE, students select from a broad range of subjects based on their personal interests.



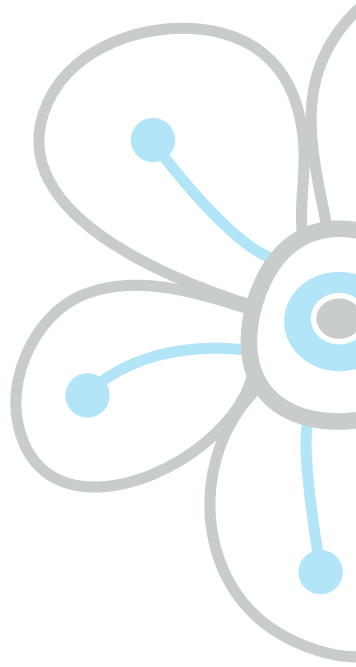




Because we are a small school

GIRLS DO NOT GET LOST

WE VALUE
SMALL
CLASS SIZES



Your daughter will quickly feel at home at Fintona. With smaller class sizes, the girls feel welcome, secure, safe and confident.

It is a bit like being among extended family. The girls enjoy close-knit relationships and the social environment is supportive, respectful and caring. Bullying is rarely encountered and most definitely not tolerated.

Each year our survey of students confirms the harmony and productivity within our classrooms. The girls say they feel valued, that their opinion counts and they feel very happy coming to school.

This is because the wellbeing of each of our students is always at the forefront of our thinking. A Fintona girl is not just another face but an individual with a unique personality.

Our pastoral care program pervades every aspect of our curriculum and is delivered by Tutors, House Teachers, Heads of School and the School Counsellor. Formal aspects of the program include:

- Acceleration and support programs that recognise the different learning needs of our students.
- Monitoring of social and emotional development.
- A Study Skills program, taught from Year 7 to Year 12, which teaches girls the importance of good work habits.
- A Life Skills program that begins in the Junior School and is taught through to Year 12, covering issues such as health, safety, physical fitness, nutrition, social interaction, cyber issues, drugs, safe parties and transition from school to university.
- Transition programs at key levels to help new girls integrate quickly and existing students to make a smooth transition between the sub-schools.

Our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our students is another 'size' factor that sets Fintona apart from other schools – a factor that is a powerful element in successful learning.





Because we are a small school

EACH GIRL CAN HAVE A GO



Some of the best lessons are learned outside the classroom. We like our girls to get out and about, to find their strengths, to grapple with new challenges and enjoy the exhilaration of achievement!

Co-curricular opportunities at Fintona are vast. All of our girls are encouraged to have a go and have fun.

If a girl wants to tread the boards, play in a team, or join an ensemble, she'll have the chance at Fintona. Whether she's a beginner or accomplished, there's always room for her to have a go and make her mark. A Fintona girl will seize whatever opportunity comes her way with enthusiasm. So often, it is these types of experiences that foster in our students a lifelong interest.

Our House system provides another exciting avenue for co-curricular involvement. The House program promotes healthy competition and strong connections between girls of different year levels. The physical and intellectual aspects of the program are rewarding and complementary to the academic program.







Because we are a small school

OUR TEACHERS ARE ONE OF OUR GREATEST ASSETS

Fintona's teachers are motivated and enthusiastic, model respect and work tirelessly to produce outstanding outcomes for their students.

It is important to remember that Fintona is not a select-entry school. We don't pick and choose students on their academic ability. This highlights the significance of our record of achievement. Year after year, our NAPLAN test results for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are outstanding and our Year 12 results consistently rank among the highest in Victoria as well as Australia. In fact, Fintona is recognised as one of the top performing schools in Australia.

How do we achieve this?

We ensure our teaching team is committed to nurturing the individual. With encouragement and dedication, our teachers will support your daughter on her educational journey. Our teachers model the behaviour, respect and tolerance they instil in the girls. They create a non-threatening, inclusive environment where every girl has a voice and the opportunity to participate.

They foster curiosity and inquiry and they develop self-esteem and confidence so the girls can set high expectations for themselves.

How do we do it?

We remain true to our small school philosophy and believe that with the right support and inspiration, our girls can do anything.



Because we are a small school

YOU CAN BE A LEADER IN SOME WAY



“With a long and proud history of female leadership at Fintona, the girls are instilled with the confidence and skills to lead others.”

From the early years, we encourage our girls to take on positions of leadership. From our Very Important Person (VIP) initiative in Prep through to the School Senators and Consuls in Year 12, we teach our students about the qualities and characteristics of capable leaders. With a long and proud history of female leadership at Fintona, the girls are instilled with the confidence and skills to lead others.

Every girl has the opportunity to experience and enjoy a position of responsibility. Leaders in areas such as debating, public speaking, community service, the environment, art, music and House activities learn valuable life skills.

Our girls can organise community involvement, plan House activities, lead assemblies and organise special events. Leadership roles strengthen the girls' relationships with their teachers and peers and provide a rewarding sense of contribution to school life.

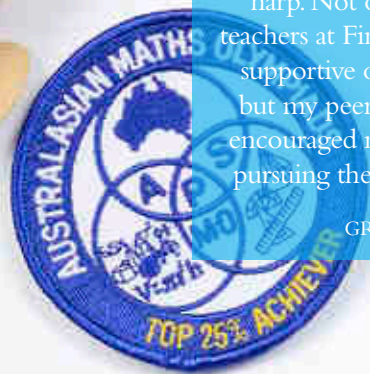


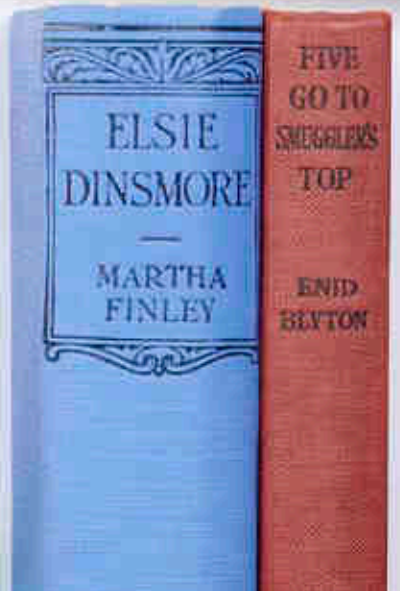




“I have many hobbies and interests which include science, dance, maths, languages and playing the harp. Not only have the teachers at Fintona been very supportive of my interests but my peers too. This has encouraged me to continue pursuing the things I love.”

GRACE





“Sue Wilson and I have been close friends ever since we met in Year 7 in 1975. We were part of a larger friendship group, and always had a strong connection, particularly through our love of music. We meet regularly for dinner at a local Thai restaurant, and still enjoy going to see bands together – it makes us feel like we are 18 again. Fintona was the beginning of many close friendships for me. Sue and I have helped each other through ups and downs over the years and I value her friendship very much.”

DEBBIE ASHBOLT ['80]



Because we are a small school

LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS BEGIN HERE

Friendships at Fintona are very important to the girls. More than anything else, it is their happy and supportive friendships that make school life fun and enjoyable.

If one girl wins an award or gets special credit for something, her friends rally around her and delight in her success. Within the warm atmosphere of Fintona, the girls make friends easily. Their support for one another is demonstrated across all year levels. With our active House system, the buddy program and the Fintona culture of respect, girls have countless opportunities to develop strong bonds.

It is true that life-long friendships are formed at Fintona. The alumni who attend our reunions tell us they still maintain strong friendships with women whom they first met at school. Our welcoming environment at Fintona makes school a great place to be. Research shows that happy students make successful learners.

SUE WILSON AND
DEBBIE ASHBOLT
[CLASS OF 1980]



“For me, Connections really helped to open my mind and understand the world we live in as a whole, not just the ‘nice’ side. From the Melbourne City Mission or the Big Issue, to the United Nations Day or Fareshare, every excursion was unique and enjoyable, and each one has given me invaluable insights.” SAMEENA [REFLECTING ON THE YEAR 9 CONNECTIONS PROGRAM]



Because we are a small school

OUR ETHOS GUIDES US STRONGLY



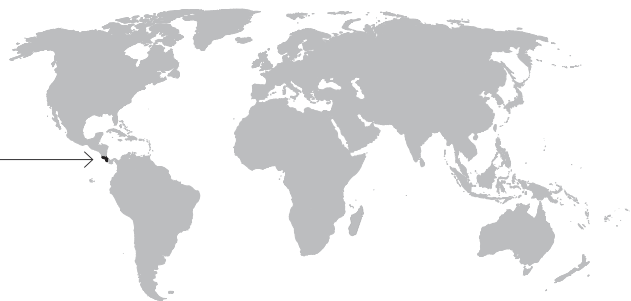
At Fintona, we believe that making a difference begins with the individual. Fintona girls are educated in an environment of respect and tolerance. They are also keenly aware of their responsibility to help others and contribute to their community as well as their environment.

The girls participate in our Community Service program throughout their education. They choose their service depending on their interests and strengths. They might make regular visits to residents of local aged-care facilities, fundraise for a worthy charity, or get involved in environmental projects.

Senior School students visit the Danila Dilba (Indigenous) Health Service in Darwin and learn about aboriginal culture, health and the issues facing our first Australians. They participate in NAIDOC week and visit Kakadu National Park.

They also have the opportunity to join the World Challenge expedition and volunteer in a third-world country. We encourage the girls to develop a culture of community service that continues to guide them in later life.

Costa Rica





“At Fintona, I was never invisible. I felt part of a community and one which I still feel part of some 35 years later. Fintona gave me the confidence to get involved and believe in myself.

The teachers at Fintona knew us individually and I believe that this positive interaction made learning a more encouraging experience. I'll always have a sense of pride in being part of the Fintona family. If I was to judge a school by the friendships made, by a career loved, by a need to contribute to society, by a positive sense of the value of education, then Fintona fulfilled its role.”

JENNY MCLEISH [78]
FORENSIC CRIME SCENE
DRAFTSPERSON



“I was a Fintona girl from Prep all the way to Year 12, although I think most of us end up being ‘Fintona girls’ for life. Fintona was like a family for me – constantly being surrounded by friends who have become lifelong companions and dedicated teachers who were determined to see all of us shine.

I was offered all sorts of interesting opportunities and my teachers provided a level of support that would be hard to beat anywhere, I imagine. I am so grateful for their enthusiasm and guidance. They inspired me to aim high, give anything a go, be thankful and give back to the community.”

DR BRONWYN KING [92]
RADIATION ONCOLOGIST
FOUNDER/CEO OF
TOBACCO FREE PORTFOLIOS



“An education at Fintona for me was not just about academic excellence, but also about expanding outside interests and pushing personal boundaries. Sports, the arts, music, languages and leadership – we were supported and encouraged to experience all of these.

From my time at Fintona, I’ve also absorbed many essential values that can’t be taught in the classroom. Respect, teamwork, excellence, integrity and a healthy curiosity to learn; all these things reflect the environment and ethos of both the school and the teachers. Above all, I value the lifelong friendships made. We’ve all followed our own different paths and yet are still just as close as we were back then.”

LOUISE CATO [’05]
SPORTS DIETICIAN



“I was privileged to attend Fintona for my secondary education. My early impressions were of a dedicated group of teachers committed to the education of girls, and a very caring and friendly environment.

I was encouraged in many ways: academically, in sport and in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including social services. I have a very strong memory of social service. This encouraged my future professional direction in medicine and paediatrics. I also valued knowing many girls of all ages in a small school with a strong house system.”

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
JILL SEWELL AM** [’65]
PAEDIATRICIAN



“When I reflect on my time at Fintona, I feel incredibly lucky to have had the breadth and depth of opportunities to grow that only a small school can provide. Whatever I wanted to try, I could and did, sometimes with success – School Captain (Consul), and sometimes with spectacular failure – B Grade Hockey team result for the year was one goal!

In all these endeavours, I was encouraged by the most extraordinarily supportive teachers who gave me the confidence to try, and perhaps more importantly, persist. I have no doubt that the experiences I had at Fintona have given me the strength and resilience that have stood me in such good stead in my career and life.”

DANA FLEMING [’88]
ATO ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER – SMSF
SEGMENT AND FINTONA
BOARD CHAIR

Because we are a small school

FINTONA WOMEN MAKE THEIR MARK IN THE WORLD



“I have always loved singing and at Fintona was an active member of the music community, singing in school choirs, taking voice lessons and became Music Captain in Year 12. Fintona taught me to have the confidence to pursue my dreams and helped foster a love of music. Performing in assembly, Shakespeare Day and acting in Drama productions, really gave me a taste for my future opera career.”

OLIVIA CRANWELL [’05], OPERA SINGER

Even in the very beginning, more than a century ago, Fintona girls were taught to aim high. To do what they do well. This is still the case today. Our graduates leave us with a strong sense of self, an engaged and articulate view of the world and the capacity to make a valuable contribution to society. Today’s graduates join the network of Fintona alumni that is spread across the globe.

We know from experience they will remain connected to the place where their ambitions blossomed. Some will return and share their experiences with current girls through our Careers and Work Experience program. Our alumni continue to excel beyond the school gates. Across a diverse range of professional fields, they work hard, set themselves challenging goals and achieve great personal and career success. We are immensely proud of our Old Fintonians!



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DISCOVER FINTONA FOR YOURSELF

The best way to learn about the special attributes of Fintona is to visit us. We invite you and your daughter to attend one of our scheduled tours throughout the year, meet our accomplished Principal, take a tour and chat with our students and staff. You will find enrolment information and an Application for Admission form with this Prospectus. More information on our tour dates, fees and charges and curriculum can be found as part of this Prospectus, on our website, or by contacting our Registrar on [03] 9830 1388.



Fintona Girls' School is located at 79 Balwyn Road (Senior Campus), in the eastern suburb of Balwyn (Melways Map 46 Ref D8), less than 100 metres from the corner of Whitehorse and Balwyn Roads.

Our school is only 11 kilometres from the city and is easily accessible by bus, tram or train from the eastern, northern and north-eastern suburbs.

Our Junior Campus is located at 80 Balwyn Road, Balwyn opposite the Senior Campus.

For the convenience of our students, there is a school bus that services the north-eastern suburbs and travels from Eltham through Templestowe to the Balwyn/Camberwell area.



SENIOR CAMPUS

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A CONSISTENTLY HIGH ACHIEVING INDEPENDENT GIRLS' SCHOOL