

# Hawthorn Secondary College

**Building Foundations for Your  
Child's Educational Success**



**Hawthorn Secondary College**

Diversity | Aspiration | Responsibility | Endeavour

Burgess Street, Hawthorn East (03) 9822 3247

[www.hawthornsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.hawthornsc.vic.edu.au)

# Principal's Message

Welcome to the Hawthorn Secondary College community.

The past 3 years have seen a range of significant improvements to the facilities and learning programs at the College, many of which are highlighted throughout this brochure. Education Department data on the College shows that what happens in our classrooms - and beyond - are making significant differences to our student outcomes.

We have the right climate in place to foster strong educational performance, which is one of the reasons why our tertiary access rate for the past two years has been 25% higher than the state average. It is particularly pleasing to see that 98% of our students continue their educational studies at either University or TAFE.

Additionally, growth in student learning (based on the annual NAPLAN testing results) is now consistently exceeding the state mean.

In recent research studies conducted amongst Hawthorn Secondary College students and parents, the College was rated significantly higher above the mean scores of all schools in Victoria with Year 7 to Year 12 students in all 11 of the categories measured. In fact, in the student survey Hawthorn Secondary College ranked in the top 25% of all schools in every category.

Additionally, Hawthorn Secondary College was ranked in the top 25% category by parents on the following criteria:

- school improvement
- approachability
- teacher morale
- parent input
- stimulating learning
- behaviour management
- homework
- student motivation
- social connectedness



These outstanding results are a testament that our Personalised Learning approach and school values resonate with students and parents.

We thank you for your interest in Hawthorn Secondary College and look forward to having the opportunity to build a solid foundation for your child's educational success.

Virginia Murray  
Acting Principal  
Hawthorn Secondary College

# Fostering Strong Educational Performance

**Stellar VCE results....**with a tertiary access rate 25% higher than the state average and almost half (42%) of last year's VCE students placing in the top 30% of all Victorian students.

**Students rank Hawthorn Secondary College high....**with feedback from students in Year 7 to Year 12 placing the College in the top 25% of all Victorian schools in every category surveyed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.



**Parents score Hawthorn Secondary College in the top 25%....**on 9 key criteria measured in the annual Parent Survey, including school improvement, stimulating learning environment, student motivation and teacher morale.

**Proactive, school-wide bullying prevention program....**obtains student commitments to refrain from physical, verbal and cyber bullying.

**Individual learning plans....**for all students results in highly engaged students, increased work ethic, higher academic performance and greater success rates.

# Modern Facilities

New facilities, combined with an Individualised Learning approach, have created the right climate at Hawthorn Secondary College to foster strong educational performance.

Recent improvements to facilities and infrastructure at the College have created a completely new school designed to enhance learning, featuring:

A modern Science Discovery Centre



An Applied Design Education Centre equipped with leading-edge computer technology to enable students to construct Arts, Media and Technology projects



A Middle Years Learning Centre with flexible learning spaces specifically designed for Year 7-9 students



An innovative Year 10 Learning Area



A tertiary-style VCE Learning Common Area with personal study and tutorial spaces



First-class Information Resource Centre



A tiered, multi-purpose Lecture Theatre



An open and comfortable indoor dining room adjoining the canteen



These purpose-built, state-of-the-art educational facilities create a vibrant learning environment in which students can flourish.



## Educating and Caring for the Total Child



Hawthorn Secondary College challenges students to become curious learners who are literate, numerate and creative.

The College's Individualised Learning approach and school values resonate with both students and parents, creating high levels of school connectedness and performance.

The teachers, students and parents of the College are part of a community, teaming together to ensure that all students are given opportunities to achieve success.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and develop confidence in their abilities to become life-long learners.

In addition, the College provides a range of pastoral and support programs for students as they experience the educational, health and developmental transitions from pre-teens and teenagers into young adults.

The results and achievements of the College's alumni are a testament to the school's programs and pathways, which provide each student with individual assistance as they transition from school to further education, training or employment.

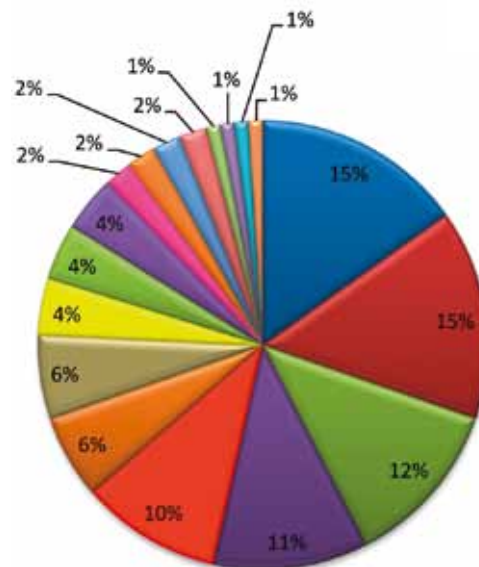
## Stellar VCE Results and High Tertiary Access Rates

Hawthorn Secondary College students have consistently achieved some of the best VCE results in Victoria, resulting in a 25% higher tertiary access rate than the state average.

Approximately 70% of graduating students carry on their education at University, while an additional 28% continue at TAFE.

Recent students of the College are now studying the following courses at a tertiary level:

- Actuarial Studies
- Arts
- Biomedicine
- Business
- Commerce
- Engineering
- Graphic Design
- Hospitality
- Human Resource Management
- Information Technology
- International Business
- Medicine
- Multimedia and Communication
- Nursing
- Science



**Tertiary Destinations 2011**



# The Middle Years – An Exciting Time of Development and Learning

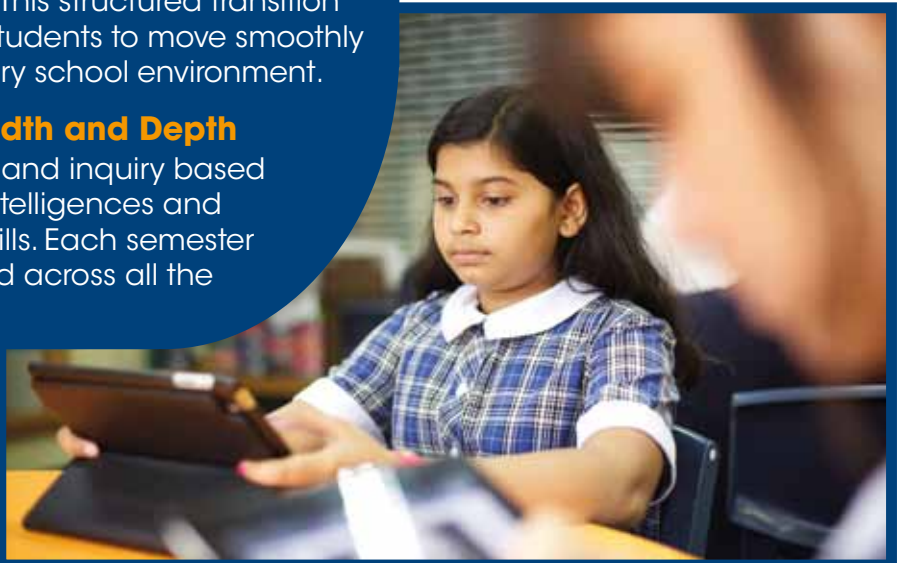
The Middle Years Learning Centre is home to dynamic and innovative programs, with students working in flexible, open-plan space and accessing the very best in Information and Communications technology.

## Year 7 Transition Program

All Year 7 students are supported with a comprehensive transition program comprising a Peer Support Program, an Orientation Camp and a specially designed pastoral program. With an emphasis on self discovery and building friendships, the program includes activities, learning experiences and guest speakers. This structured transition and orientation program assists students to move smoothly and confidently into the secondary school environment.

## Years 7 and 8 – Building Breadth and Depth

Students work with an integrated and inquiry based curriculum that values multiple intelligences and develops higher order thinking skills. Each semester a different inquiry topic is explored across all the key learning areas.



## Years 9 and 10 – Developing Pathways

Civics and Citizenship beyond the classroom and into the community is an integral part of the learning experience in Years 9 and 10.

This includes a hands-on approach where students spend time with local elderly citizens through a Community Awareness program. These experiences are then told and presented through the medium of Digital Storytelling.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Victorian Arts Centre, Soundhouse, Year 9 students undertake a City Project in which they complete city-based fieldwork to produce a digital film that responds to a contemporary issue.

Year 10 students attend a one-week Civics focused tour of Canberra's historical and political institutions. They may also complete a structured work experience placement during the year and receive personalised careers counselling and services from the College Careers Manager.

Students in Year 10 are encouraged to take a VCE Unit 1 & 2 subject as an accelerated learning approach, which then lessens their course load in Year 12 and contributes to their ATAR.

# Years 11-12 – Preparing for the Future



The College provides a diverse range of programs and pathways that recognise and meet the different needs and aspirations of students in the final two years of secondary school education.

Students can select from an array of different study options, including:

- a broad selection of VCE subjects
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) studies
- TAFE experiences and visits
- School Based Apprenticeships
- University Enhancement Subjects

## **Mentoring Approach**

Year 11 and 12 students are given personalised support with the aim of maximising their performance and outcomes. Beginning with the negotiated development of Individual Learning Plans, this support includes study support, pastoral care, homework and planner checks, self organisation and goal setting, as well as a structured study schedule during term breaks.

A Year 12 Study Camp and guest speakers are features of the senior program.

## **Purpose Built Facilities**

The tertiary-style VCE Learning Common area and adjacent classrooms have been designed to replicate the learning environment students will encounter at University and TAFE institutions.



# Curriculum Overview

Yr 7 and 8 "Me, Me, Me!"	Year 9 'The Power of Persuasion' Core	Year 10 'Preparation for VCE' Core
English Mathematics Modern Greek Cultural Studies PE Health Humanities Science Literacy/Numeracy Support <b>Creative Arts</b> Drama Music Materials Technology Art Food Technology	English Maths Science Humanities Greek Health PE Literacy/Numeracy Support	English/ESL Mathematics Humanities Science Health PE Careers & Pathway Planning
		<b>9 &amp; 10 Electives</b> Materials & Technology (Foods & Wood) VCE Media (Accelerated) VET Studies (Accelerated) Art (2D & 3D) Visual Communication & Design Photography Vision Sound & Movement Product Design & Technology
VCE 'Preparing for Tertiary Entrance'		
English/ESL Geography Psychology Health & Human Development Business Management Biology Legal Studies History Literature Accounting	Maths (Specialist) Maths (Methods CAS) Maths (Further) Maths (General - Standard & Advanced) Physics Chemistry Information Technology ( Software, Information Processing) Product Design & Technology	Theatre Studies Art Studio Art Visual Communication & Design Chinese (First Language) Vietnamese PE Food Technology



## Acceleration

Students enrolled in Year 10 are encouraged to undertake a VCE unit 1 & 2 and students in Year 11 a VCE unit 3 & 4. Studies offered: Literature, Media, Legal Studies, Maths Methods, Biology and VET.

## Pathways

Over 70% of our students go on to university studies. Hawthorn Secondary College has a 25% higher tertiary access rate than the state average. A comprehensive range of courses covering Vocational Education Training, School Based Apprenticeships and Technical and Further Education can also be part of a Year 10 and VCE course.



# Enhancing Classroom Lessons



## Anywhere, Anytime Learning

All Year 7-8 students receive an Apple iPad as part of the College's innovative iPads for iDeas program.

Students in Years 9-12 each receive a fully loaded Netbook with Wi-Fi functionality, facilitating anywhere, anytime access to curriculum materials and class assignments.

These technology tools make learning at Hawthorn Secondary College highly interactive, engaging, personalised and well suited for today's technology literate students.

## Life Skills Programs

Numerous Well Being Programs are in place at the College to help students deal with the complexities of transitioning into young adults. Some of these programs are:

### "Keys Please"

As part of the schools' commitment to improving the road safety of young road users, the Keys Please information evening is run annually for students and their parents. The information sessions assist learner drivers and parents to improve their driving experience. Representatives from VicRoads and the Victorian Police speak to parents and students who are about to or have just gained their Learners Permit.

### Reach Youth Day

Each year, students in Year 9 attend the Reach Youth Day. This is a day of self-discovery where participants are encouraged to realise their full potential. Around 500 young people from neighbouring schools are drawn together and guided through a day of interactive, experiential learning, drawing on powerful interactive experiences, real life heroes and popular culture.

### Boroondara Young Leaders Program

Year 10 students are invited to participate in the Young Leaders Program conducted by the Boroondara Young People's Resource Centre. This week-long program involves young people from neighbouring schools and focuses on developing good leadership skills. The program culminates with an evening where students showcase what they have learnt to parents, friends and teachers. A certificate of participation is presented to students by the Mayor of Boroondara.



# Beyond the Classroom

Hawthorn Secondary College aims to make a significant difference in the development of students by providing them with a range of opportunities to extend themselves in and beyond the classroom environment.

As such, the College provides a range of co-curriculum activities, including:



## Student Leadership

- School Captaincy
- House Captaincy
- VCE and Year 10 Peer Support
- Student Representative Council
- Boroondara Youth Leadership Program
- Student Ambassadors

## Cultural Experiences

- Photography Exhibitions
- Junior School Choir
- Ensemble Groups
- Art Exhibitions
- Drama Performances
- Interschool Chess Competitions

## Personal Enrichment

- Interstate Student Exchange
- Camps and Excursions
- Lunchtime Activities
- Girls' Club
- Breakfast Club
- Sandwich Club

## Academic Achievement

- National Youth Science Forum
- ICT High Achievers Program
- National Competitions in Maths, Science and English
- Writing Competitions
- Robotics Competition
- Debating Opportunities



## House and Sports Events

- Cross Country
- Athletics Carnival
- Interschool Sports
- Chess

## Community Experiences

- Freehills Law Firm Year 9 and 11 Mentoring Program
- Community Awareness Program
- Peer Support
- Hawthorn Rotary
- Positive Ageing Digital Storytelling Intergenerational Project (PADSIP)



# Community Partner Programs

Hawthorn Secondary College partners with major organisations in both the business and academic fields to provide unique learning and development opportunities for students. These include:

## Monash University

The College has a strong partnership with Monash University, which raises the awareness of tertiary education options for students. Year 10, 11 and 12 students spend time at Monash University campuses, an experience that compliments the tertiary style learning environment of the VCE Learning Centre. This in turn assists in the transition from secondary to tertiary study, leaving students well placed to succeed.

## Freehills Law Firm Mentoring Program

The long established partnership with Freehills Law Firm provides a unique mentoring initiative which has proven very successful in motivating and inspiring Year 9 students. Students travel fortnightly to Freehills city offices to meet their assigned mentor for lunch and an activity session which relates to the topic of that week.

Parents have an opportunity to meet their child's mentor at the beginning of the program and attend a graduation ceremony at the end of the twelve month experience.

The program aims to assist students in developing self-confidence, goal-setting and interpersonal skills, whilst promoting community involvement.

## Freehills Connects @ 11

In this fortnightly program, Year 11 students are offered the opportunity to participate in a series of physical exercise sessions with Freehills mentors, designed to promote a healthy balance between lifestyle and study.

## PADSIP

The Positive Ageing Digital Storytelling Intergenerational Project is part of the Year 9 curriculum and is supported by The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). This program won a \$50,000 Schools First Impact Award for its innovative community partnership.

Details on these and the other Hawthorn Secondary College Community Partner programs can be found on the College website at [www.hawthornsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.hawthornsc.vic.edu.au).



## Sebastian & Calida Howarth

**Calida** - Hawthorn Secondary College Class of 2003

Completed her undergraduate studies at Deakin University, where she was awarded the Alfred Deakin Medal. She is currently studying Medicine at Melbourne University.

Calida remembers her experience at Hawthorn warmly, particularly the friendships she formed during her VCE years and the satisfaction of perseverance and hard work. "I like learning. I want to keep learning."

**Sebastian** - Hawthorn Secondary College Class of 2008

Currently studying Commerce at Monash University, Sebastian is pursuing his ambition of a career in property.

He remembers always feeling supported by his teachers at Hawthorn and having teachers who were engaging and passionate. He feels his experience taught him a lot about working with others, particularly working with people from different backgrounds and with different values and beliefs. Sebastian has a deep interest in other cultures; has studied Spanish and has volunteered with World Vision. "Hawthorn fosters an openness to other cultures."



## Shelley Farthing-Dawe

Hawthorn Secondary College Class of 2006  
Attended Richmond Primary School

After completing his studies in Film and Television at Swinburne University, Shelley is now a freelance cinematographer.

He remembers: "By Year 10, it felt more like university than school.

Teachers were always there to support me, but there was a lot of independence. I had the sense of mutual respect between students and teachers, a more personal relationship that came from it being a smaller school."

# Hawthorn Secondary College

Hawthorn Secondary College is a co-educational school for students from Years 7 to 12.

The College serves the municipalities of Boroondara, Stonnington and Yarra, but has an open zone designation.

With modern facilities, an innovative Individualised Learning approach, and a relevant curriculum, the College attracts students from all parts of metropolitan Melbourne, the inner Eastern suburbs, regional Victoria and overseas.

The diversity of the student cohort and parent community is celebrated within the classroom, co-curricular activities, events and presentation evenings.

Students can readily access the school by train, tram and bus from Prahran, Malvern, South Yarra, Richmond, Camberwell, Southbank, South Melbourne and the Melbourne Central Business District. There is also bicycle access along the Gardiner Creek pathways.



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