



Sunbury Downs College
'Confidence to Achieve'

Sunbury Downs College



'Confidence to Achieve'

The beliefs that
guide our actions:

Community

Optimism

iNspiration

Future

Innovation

Dedication

Expectations

iNclusion

aChievement

Excellence

College Vision:

The Sunbury Downs College motto is **'Confidence to Achieve'**. In order to realise this Motto, our College has developed an agreed "Mission Statement": 'The ongoing development of a learning community of students, staff and parents committed to a culture of participation and excellence based on mutual respect. Our College culture promotes personal growth leading to meaningful citizenship and successful pathways to further studies and employment through students' academic success.'

College Priorities:

The College Motto **'Confidence to Achieve'** and Vision are realised through attention to the Principal's four pillars, which have become the College's four key priorities for continuous College improvement.

1. Enhancing student culture
2. Growing pride and achievement
3. Valuing staff and building capacity (treating staff as professionals, with high expectations & high levels of support)
4. Increasing positive parental and community involvement.

Sunbury Downs College's FOUR Respects:

1. Respect for teachers
2. Respect for students
3. Respect for our College
4. Self respect.

Mr Brett Moore
Principal



Community

‘One of our College’s four key priorities for continuous school improvement is increasing positive parental and community involvement.’

Our College community thrives on the following guiding principles and key elements:

- traditional values of respect, trust and honesty
- a welcoming and positive College culture in which students feel valued
- cooperative partnerships in which parents are encouraged to take part in College life and the progress of their child
- increasing positive parental participation through the ‘Family & Friends’ of Sunbury Downs College
- the selection and regular professional development of passionate, caring and quality teaching staff
- an extensive inter-school sporting program
- a vibrant house program with sports and arts based activities
- collaborative learning in classrooms
- an outstanding Year 7 transitions program including pastoral care and peer support
- a College Chaplain shaping social and emotional awareness and maturity
- an ethos of building an awareness of community that extends beyond the College
- a strong commitment of service to our local community, including partnerships.

International Student Program – An Extension of Community

“Sunbury Downs College – Citizens of the World”

At Sunbury Downs College we recognise and appreciate diversity. We are implementing a program to promote opportunities for International Students to study at Sunbury Downs College. Our International Student Program is connected to our educational philosophy and our commitment to building community and ‘creating positive, adaptable and socially aware citizens of the world.’ Our College offers international students the educational tuition, support and facilities to work towards their VCE by providing:

- an extensive range of VCE subjects
- highly qualified, experienced and caring teachers
- EAL / ESL specialist teachers
- a fully coordinated program provided by a helpful team of staff
- wellbeing support and counselling for VCE subject selections and tertiary applications
- the support of an International Student Co-ordinator and ‘buddy’ program
- assistance with arranging ‘home-stay’ accommodation
- a social group with a calendar of activities and excursions.



Optimism

'We value the whole person, and are committed to developing positive, adaptable and multi-faceted young people. Growing pride and achievement, another key priority of the College fosters self-confidence and academic success.'

Our students create a positive image for themselves and their College by show-casing their talents through the:

- College magazine – 'Nexus'
- College sports program
- house competition program
- instrumental music performance program and choir
- annual College musical production
- leadership of students in the technical production of formal College assemblies and annual College musical production
- art and design exhibition in our College gallery – 'Muse'
- debating & public speaking
- debutante ball.



iNspiration

'Inspired leadership starts at the top and is demonstrated at every level of our College community. Teaching staff are active learners who work closely with students to enhance our student culture of participation and excellence based on mutual respect.'

Our student leadership program produces outstanding role models through:

- student-led College assemblies
- student representative council (SRC)
- middle years captains
- College captains
- house team captains for sports and arts competitions
- student led conferences focusing on 'student voice'
- an extensive visual and performing arts program
- outstanding outdoor education and camps program developing resilience, confidence and independence
- biennial Italian language and cultural studies international field trip.



'Confidence to Achieve'

Future

'At Sunbury Downs we create critically aware, reflective, resilient, confident and independent learners for life.'

Our College is committed to quality educational provision:

- our students are taught to use an Inquiry approach to their learning; research supports this approach as the best way to equip students for success in a fast-changing world
- students actively participate in goal-setting and pathways planning to ensure academic success
- a phased careers program with a work experience program at Year 10
- access to alternative pathways program: VET / VCE, Australian School Based Apprenticeships and an exclusive VCAL course
- over 30 VCE subjects offered providing choice and direction for students
- tertiary based studies at Year 12
- the partnership between Sunbury Downs College and Victoria University College of Education for site-based teacher training to produce quality teachers for the future
- the Teach for Australia program attracting high-achieving graduates into the College to share their knowledge, expertise, high expectations and aspirations
- a Master of Education program at Sunbury Downs College recognising teachers for their action research and learning.



Innovation

'Sunbury Downs College is committed to providing innovative teaching and learning strategies which are informed by research evidence and data.'

Our College facilities allow for provision of the latest teaching and learning practices including:

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs):
 - one specialist computer room, one cross-curricular computer room and two dual purpose computer rooms
 - modern ICT facilities in the Educational Resource Centre
 - wireless ICT facilities for student use
 - iPad program (DEECD selected school)
 - a Netbook program commencing at Year 7
 - a multimedia suite for VCE students
- the Flexible Learning Centre allows for a differentiated teaching approach using individual learning plans to middle years (Years 7, 8 and 9) students
- 'hands-on' experiential learning program exploring creative design and systems engineering in our outstanding Technology Centre
- properly designed and considered outdoor learning spaces
- gymnasium mezzanine with purpose-built dance studio
- active involvement of staff in professional learning, playing a critical role in inspiring student engagement, learning and life choices.



Dedication

'We believe deep learning is facilitated by outstanding teaching. This occurs when all learners are actively engaged in a variety of differentiated and challenging learning tasks that are academically rigorous.'

Our College works for continuous improvement in its key role as a provider of outstanding teaching and learning programs through:

- highly dedicated staff who know both their students and their subject specialist areas
- differentiated mathematics program that offers student support and acceleration
- middle years targeted literacy and numeracy support
- providing a broad selection of subjects, elective studies and co-curricular activities to enrich student interest:
 - instrumental music
 - debating and public speaking
 - inter-school sports
 - camps and excursions across every year level
 - principal's awards and College Colours in a diverse range of endeavours
 - weekly homework club providing support and supervision
 - annual college musical production
 - a range of interesting clubs – book, chess, maths and science
 - lunch-time activities.



Expectations

'We have an established community which provides a safe, secure, welcoming and orderly learning environment. Authentic relationships are built upon clear guidelines for both staff and student conduct.'

Based on the four respects practised at Sunbury Downs College (teachers, students, school and self):

- all members of our College community are treated with fairness and courtesy
- discipline is consistent – 'firm but fair'
- a clearly understood and consistently applied student engagement and wellbeing policy
- student mentoring in responsible behaviour, personal goal setting and achievement
- our College values staff and builds their capacity; staff are treated as professionals, with high expectations and high levels of support
- safe and clean student amenities – 'state of the art' student toilets and locker facilities
- high expectations reflected in our maintenance of clean, modern College buildings and grounds.



'Confidence to Achieve'

iNclusion

'We foster a culture of collaboration and cooperation to form socially and environmentally responsible citizens of the world.'

Our teachers offer the following range of co-curricular programs, to broaden students' skills and knowledge:

- best practice orientation programs to assist with each student's transition from primary to secondary school
- Sunbury Downs College Environmental Recycling Initiative
- Clean Up Australia / Sunbury Downs College Day
- the Duke of Edinburgh award
- student leadership and advocacy programs
- Australian Defence Force programs to encourage a sense of volunteerism and global connectedness
- enrichment and extension programs for academically advanced students
- International Student Program.

aChievement

'We are dedicated to establishing supportive and authentic relationships to ensure our students enjoy learning and achieve their full potential.'

Our College provides for the full range of student learning needs exemplified by:

- excellent VCE results exceeding those of 'like' schools
- outstanding post school destination data including a high proportion of VCE students progressing to further studies
- Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment (ACE) program for high performing students (only school in the district to offer this program)
- literacy and numeracy support
- after-school study program
- extensive course counselling to enable personalised learning
- student leadership programs enabling students to reflect on their achievements
- VCE study skills – timetabled after school and holiday program classes
- VCE enrichment program – '*Magnus Opus*'.



Excellence

'The dynamic partnership between parents, staff and students at our College combines to create critically aware, reflective, resilient and independent learners who are capable of achieving outstanding results in their chosen fields.'

A number of events on our College calendar provide the opportunity to celebrate outstanding student achievements:

- Principal's Awards ceremonies – recognising student academic achievement, academic endeavour, citizenship and leadership
- 'College Colours' awards, recognising student excellence in service, arts, sport, music, house and academic pursuits
- College Presentation Evening
- Sunbury Downs College 'Discovery Night' enabling opportunities for students and staff to showcase their brilliance
- Year 12 Valedictory Dinner
- a proud tradition of College 'Dux'
- debating and public speaking awards
- national and College subject competitions
- annual VCE art and design exhibition – 'Muse'
- Principal's Art Acquisition Prize
- The University of Melbourne – 'Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship'
- College Magazine – 'Nexus'
- College newsletters
- curated artworks, photographs, student leadership and honour boards.



'Confidence to Achieve'

Educational Philosophy:

The College Motto and Vision are augmented through an agreed educational philosophy which underpins classroom practices and teaching actions across the College.

Our Educational Philosophy is:

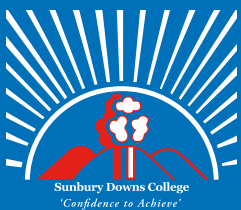
"At Sunbury Downs College we create critically aware, reflective, resilient, confident and independent learners for life. We have an established community which provides a safe, secure, welcoming and orderly learning environment.

We believe deep learning is facilitated by outstanding teaching. This occurs when all learners are actively engaged in a variety of differentiated and challenging learning tasks that are academically rigorous.

We value the whole person, and are committed to creating positive, adaptable and socially aware citizens of the world.

We encourage our students to develop responsibility for their own learning, progress and behaviour. We foster collaboration and cooperation with shared expectations of success.

Sunbury Downs College is committed to providing innovative teaching and learning strategies. We are dedicated to establishing supportive and authentic relationships to ensure our students enjoy learning and achieve their full potential."



Sunbury Downs College

Mr Brett Moore

Principal

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