

Education
for Life



Bacchus Marsh
Grammar



An education that
is challenging,
enriching
and develops
confidence.



An Education for Life

Bacchus Marsh Grammar seeks to meet the desire of the community for an independent education that is comprehensive, challenging and enriching.

The school aims to be a safe and caring environment which, through its programs, encourages students to be confident, self-aware, able to contribute to their personal growth and who are willing to be active and positive members of society.

Within our students, we wish to encourage a strong sense of service, which sees that a commitment to inclusion and a willingness to assist others is a vital component of developing a positive character and a strong society.

The school seeks to develop a culture of achievement, which encourages staff and students to strive toward achieving their personal best.

In short, we offer an...
"Education for Life".

Who We Are

Bacchus Marsh Grammar was established in 1988 and quickly established itself as a school with a strong reputation for catering for individual differences, personal development, academic growth and pastoral care.

We are committed to providing an independent education that is accessible for as many families as possible. Through careful management and a sensible use of resources, the school provides a high quality education at an affordable price.

The school's basic philosophy is based upon a modern ecumenical understanding of Christian beliefs. The school actively encourages diversity and sees that a proper education for life exposes students to a variety of beliefs and ideas. It also gives time for individuals to reflect upon and develop their own views and values.

The school is located on a sixteen acre elevated site to the south of Bacchus Marsh, which affords excellent views across the nearby Pentland Hills and Lerderderg State Forest.

A Calm and Structured School

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we have a very clear idea of the kind of environment that fosters the best education.

The school believes that learning best occurs when there is a clear structure and a clarity of expectations for students. This approach is seen at both a whole school level and of equal importance in a clear and consistent approach to individual teaching and classroom management issues.

We also believe that learning best occurs in a calm environment. We look to provide an environment that is both friendly and purposeful.

In a settled environment, students are able to concentrate on their learning and the equally important development of positive social skills. A sense of calm is enhanced by a staff who are concerned, clear in their teaching methods and dedicated to developing the individual.

The school's expectations of students are clear:

- We want all students to work toward achieving their personal best and developing their individual talents.
- We will not accept behaviour that interferes with the learning or well-being of others.



Learning best occurs in a friendly, purposeful and calm environment.



The key to a successful education is concentration on the individual.

A School that Values the Individual

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we believe that the key for a successful education is concentration on the individual.

We all have different strengths that need to be developed and weaknesses that can be enhanced. We strive to develop a clear understanding of the needs of each child and the particular ways in which we can foster their growth and development.

The school provides a wide range of activities to both extend children beyond the normal curriculum and provide additional assistance to individuals working toward mastering new skills, knowledge and values.

Leadership

The development of leadership skills within students is one of the most important aspects of any school.

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we foster leadership in a variety of ways. We believe that it is important that students are exposed to the concept of leadership from a young age and develop a strong understanding of the responsibilities and trust that comes with leadership roles.

The school makes available a wide range of leadership roles in the Junior, Middle and Senior years. This involves responsibilities at both House and school levels.

The school believes strongly that achievement should be recognised. We operate an extensive system of recognition, which rewards both involvement and excellence in all areas of school life.

A key component of the school is its involvement in the prestigious 'Duke of Edinburgh' scheme, which encourages and recognises student leadership.



Communication is Vital

For us, educating a student requires a bond between school, parents and students.

To enable us to provide the best possible education, all three parties must be clear and committed to common goals and have a clear understanding of how students are developing both academically and socially.

The key to developing and enhancing the bond between parties is clear and consistent communication. We believe that parents need to be aware of how their children are achieving in a way that is understandable and helpful for development. We also believe that any issues are best resolved by early discussion between all parties. In turn, we ask that parents keep the school fully informed of issues that may be affecting the well-being of students and support the goals and ethos of the school.

Pastoral Care

One of the strengths of Bacchus Marsh Grammar is the depth and quality of its pastoral care program. The school looks to provide a range of curriculum programs and co-curricular resources, which assist children to develop as healthy and happy individuals.

The school is particularly mindful of the need to develop within students methods to build resilience and an ability to cope with the normal ups and downs of life.

The school's Student Services Department provides a range of counselling and professional services to assist students with any particular difficulties during their time at school. The Student Services team also maintains extensive links with outside agencies for specialised requirements.

The school also maintains both a strong year level system and House system to provide day to day advice, assistance and a sense of belonging to students.

Enjoyment and Enthusiasm

We strongly believe that school should be a place that students can enjoy. We look to provide students with opportunities to develop new skills and experience new ideas and activities, which will excite and challenge them.

We also want our students to develop an enthusiasm for learning and a curiosity about the world. We achieve this by having staff who are able to draw upon a wide range of skills and experiences and who are enthusiastic about the chance to help young people develop their potential.



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Students need access to a range of pathways to meet their talents and ambitions.



Our Curriculum; An Overview

Curriculum and its effective delivery is the cornerstone of the school's program. Our curriculum, at all levels, is based on a belief that all students need to have a good grounding in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. We believe that this needs to be supplemented by exposure to a wide range of activities that cover the sciences, humanities and arts.

At more senior levels, we believe that students need access to a diversity of subject choice and a range of pathways to meet their talents and ambitions.

To help ensure that the school's curriculum is delivering the best outcomes, the school invests in a considerable program of internal and external review of all areas of its curriculum.

The key to effective curriculum delivery is staff. The school has a highly motivated staff who bring a wide range of skills and a rich diversity of experience.

The school invests heavily in staff development through in-service training, encouraging the gaining of further academic qualifications and participation in professional organisations. This investment directly benefits our ability to continue to provide for student needs.



The Junior Years

Our Junior School program is designed around several core concepts. We believe that it is vital that students are explicitly taught the basic skills of Reading, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics. This is achieved through directed programs in these areas and frequent monitoring of progress and planning for individual development.

The school introduces students to the teaching of specialist programs by specialist teachers from their earliest days at school. This gives the students the advantage of being taught subjects by specialists who have a knowledge and passion for their particular subjects.

The Junior School has an extremely strong Music and Performing Arts program, which is not only fun but builds students' confidence and ability to work as a team.

The Junior School program provides opportunities for Sport and Outdoor Education. Another feature is the strong leadership program in Years Five and Six.

Junior students are taught by specialists with a knowledge and passion for their subjects.





We want students to have ideas about how they can lead a purposeful and rewarding life.

The Senior Years

Our Senior School program is built around several key objectives:

- We aim to develop students who have a confidence in their own abilities and who are comfortable with who they are.
- We hope, by providing a wide range of options and opportunities, to develop within students areas of interest and passion and assist them in finding "their niche".
- We want to assist students in developing a clear set of goals and ambitions. These not only relate to vocational aspects of life. We also want students to have ideas and ambitions that relate to life in general. In short, we want them to have ideas about how they are going to lead a purposeful and rewarding life.

- We want to ensure that students have the academic and social skills required to pursue their goals and thrive within an increasingly complex world.
- We want to give students a love of learning and a desire to continue learning throughout life. The commitment to life-long learning is central to individuals meeting their goals and adding meaning to their lives.

There is no one pathway to success in Senior School. For that reason, Bacchus Marsh Grammar looks to provide students in their later years of schooling with a large range of options in terms of academic and co-curricular programs.

With choice often comes confusion. The school places a heavy emphasis on career development, vocational guidance and student support. This process is integral to the structure of the Senior School from the earliest days of Year Seven. It has become an explicit part of the curriculum from Year Nine onwards.



Developing a Global View

If students are to develop as effective citizens in modern Australia, they need a strong understanding of the processes of globalisation and an understanding and empathy for cultural diversity.

The school looks to foster a global outlook in its program through both class-based activities and an extensive overseas experience program.

The school offers studies in Japanese and French through to the VCE level.

Its staff also has a particular strength in Asian Studies. This includes national policy development, curriculum design and in-country experience. Asian Studies is an integral part of subject areas from the Junior School level.

The school has a long established exchange program with schools in Japan and, more recently, with a school in France. Students have also been involved with more expedition-style experiences in Vietnam and other South East Asian destinations.

The school sees the further development of programs, which give students direct experience of other cultural environments, as a particular priority.

Adventure, Challenge and Environment

Schools should challenge their students through new experiences and develop a sense of understanding of their environment by giving them access to a wide range of outdoor experiences.

Bacchus Marsh Grammar, with its proximity to many areas of environmental significance, is a perfect location for the development of a range of field programs, which foster both education and adventure.

The school also operates an extensive Outdoor Education program, which exposes students to a variety of environments during their time at school.

For students with a particular interest in this area, the school offers both Outdoor and Environmental Studies and Geography as VCE subjects in Years Eleven and Twelve.

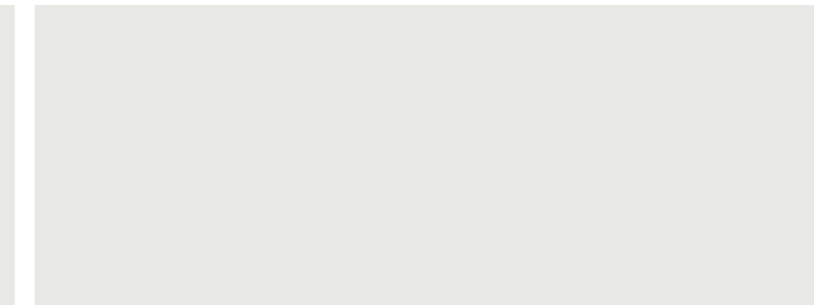
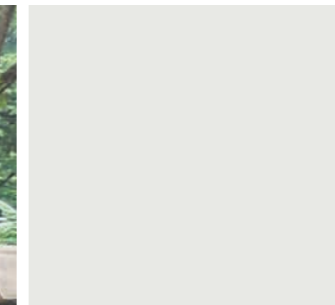
Health and Physical Activity

In our modern society, the development of a healthy lifestyle is one of great importance. The school places a great emphasis on developing students' understanding of all aspects of healthy development. It recognises the role of physical activity as an integral part of that process. To that end, the school promotes the involvement of all students in its sporting program. This can be from developing a social interest in exercise and physical activity through to representing the school in a wide range of interschool sporting competitions.

Music and Drama

The school believes that Music and Drama are vital parts of any school curriculum. Involvement in these areas encourages team work, concentration and the tenacity required to master new skills. There is extensive evidence that confirms that involvement in these areas assists students in social and academic development. The school operates a wide range of music and choral groups, which supplements an extensive instrumental program. The school program has an emphasis on contemporary music and jazz.

Dance and drama also feature strongly in the school, and the school has a strong commitment to 'Junior Rock' and the 'Rock Eisteddfod' programs. It is also committed to providing a range of drama and theatre opportunities for students.

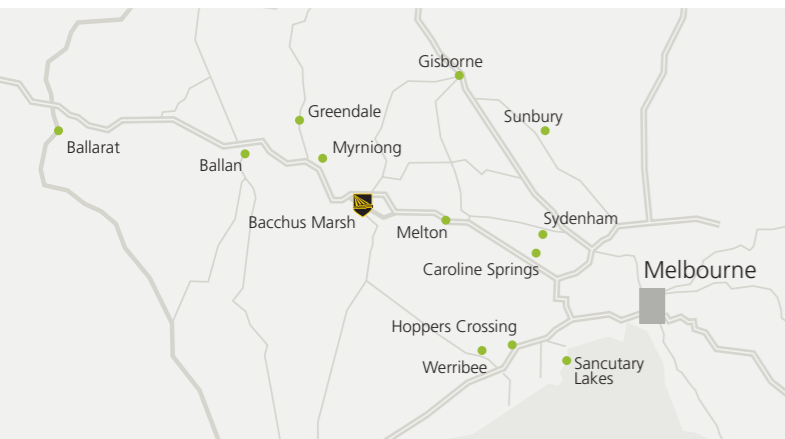


A School that Serves Bacchus Marsh and Beyond

Bacchus Marsh Grammar's location makes it a convenient location for many communities. The school runs extensive bus routes across the outer western part of Melbourne and to rural areas to the south and west.

In particular, the school has a strong presence in Bacchus Marsh, Werribee, Hoppers Crossing, Melton and Caroline Springs/Burnside.

In line with the school's commitment to diversity, it looks to encourage students from a wide geographical area, as it believes it adds greatly to the range of experiences and backgrounds available to the community.



The school has a commitment to diversity and encourages students from a wide geographical area.



Bacchus Marsh Grammar

An Independent Ecumenical
School for Girls and Boys

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