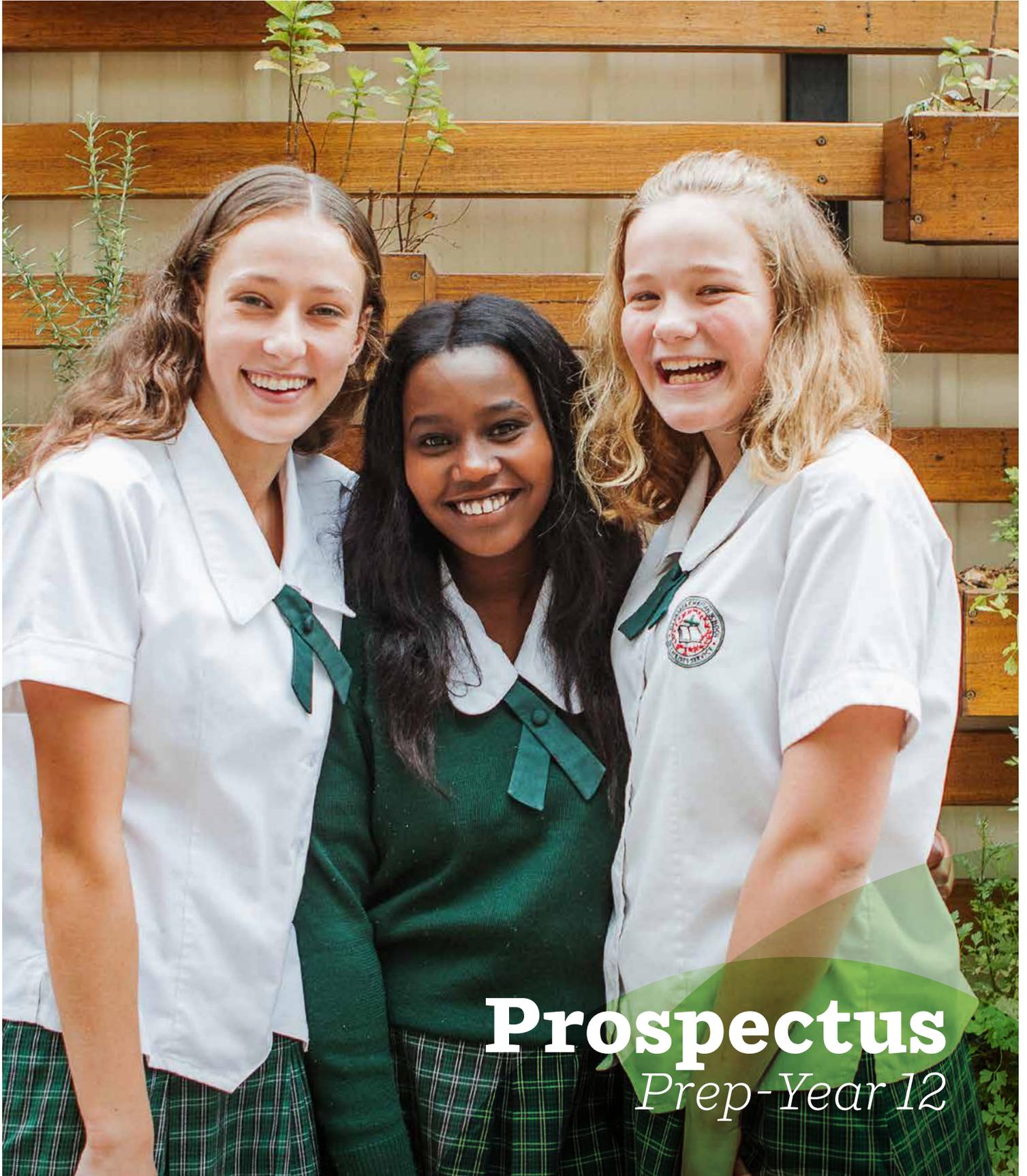




ILLAWARRA  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL



# Prospectus

*Prep-Year 12*



# Welcome *to our school*

Welcome to Illawarra Christian School. As both Principal and a parent, I commend our school to you and look forward to welcoming you to our community.

Illawarra Christian School is committed to providing quality Christian education. Our desire is to partner with parents in the education of their children.

Our school has a strong focus on effective teaching and learning, and the pursuit of excellence for the glory of God. Our experienced and dedicated Christian staff are committed to providing quality education where the word of God is taught faithfully, a biblical worldview is integrated into all aspects of school life, and students are thoroughly equipped to serve Christ. We actively encourage students to embrace challenge and to value growth in all areas of life.

Illawarra Christian School, with an educational heritage of over 35 years, nurtures students to reach their God-given potential and provides options for their future ministries, study and employment. We are known for the genuine care we extend to all students and have an outstanding record of academic achievement. The school caters for over 600 students from Prep to Year 12 in a safe, secure and positive learning environment. We are conveniently located six kilometres from the centre of Wollongong.

At Illawarra Christian School we celebrate learning, enjoy community, and strive to serve Christ as we bring honour to him.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Lainson".

Simon Lainson  
Principal

## **Biblical** *worldview*

Our fundamental purpose is to provide an education informed by God's word as we lead our students to understand themselves and their world in the light of God's sovereignty. All curriculum and policy materials are founded on a biblical worldview, and Christian values and principles are woven through every dimension of learning at Illawarra Christian School. We aim to instruct our students' minds, shape their hearts and equip their hands so that they might be prepared for a life of service and honour to God.





## **Striving** *for excellence*

Students at Illawarra Christian School are encouraged to honour God and to contribute to their school community by pursuing excellence in all domains. Achieving personal excellence has the most meaning and brings the deepest fulfilment when it is done for the glory of God. We encourage our students to embrace challenge and to have a mindset for constant growth and refinement in their academic studies, character development, spiritual life and co-curricular activities.

## **Learning &** *caring together*

Our school is a dynamic community of partnership between parents, staff and students, fostered through open communication and active parent involvement. The school is an extension of the Christian home with staff and parents working together to educate and care for our students. Nurturing relationships between staff and students enrich our learning experiences and contribute to a positive and vibrant learning environment. Each child is valued as a precious member of our community.



## **Innovative teachers** *committed to growth*

Quality teaching is the key to student learning, so we focus on the professional learning of our teachers.

- **Yearly whole-school professional learning focus.** Regular in-school sessions focus on particular goals from the Australian Professional Standards.
- **Lesson observation.** Teachers work as partners to critically review each other's lessons and to identify opportunities for growth.
- **Regular reflection on teaching practice.** Filming lessons enables teachers to determine what works in their classrooms and to try new strategies.
- **Student surveys.** Student feedback helps teachers understand their strengths and areas for growth.
- **Data analysis from HSC results, NAPLAN and other testing.** Accurate information allows teachers to target areas for growth in specific students and individual subjects, as well as across classes and stages.



PREP

*playing*  
& *learning*

With an accreditation rating exceeding the national quality standard, Prep at Illawarra Christian School is the perfect place to start your child's schooling adventure.

Our teachers work alongside families, infants staff, learning support staff, school counsellors and external support staff with a holistic approach that supports every child. A balance between structured group times and free play provides children with fun-filled learning opportunities in these early years.

The Prep experience readies students for a seamless transition to our Kindergarten, secure in their relationships with peers, teachers and the school environment.

With exciting indoor and outdoor learning spaces, our newly renovated Prep facility provides opportunities for young children to learn as they play, explore and discover.





K  
2

**exploring**  
& *discovering*

In these early school years, our students enjoy discovering God's world as they are guided in their exploration through exciting learning experiences. This is a time for building confidence and growing independence. Learning in K-2 is fun.

We understand that starting school well is a crucial step in a child's development. Our small class sizes and caring community mean children are known and cared for in an individual and personal way, with teachers adapting expectations, content and processes to optimise the learning experience for each child.

K-2 at Illawarra Christian School provides a safe place for children to explore their world, to challenge themselves, to learn from their mistakes and to think critically.

- Strong foundations in literacy and numeracy
- Family involvement welcomed in the classroom and in the wider day-to-day life of the school
- Learning support and enrichment teams work hand-in-hand with classroom teachers
- Opportunities for learning through excursions, sport, arts and cultural events

**"I love the class sizes. That was a big plus for us when choosing the school." Hayley Buckley *parent***



**engaging**  
& *growing*

With a Christ-centred curriculum, dedicated teachers and parent partnership, we focus on catering for each student's individual needs and abilities.

Our learning community thrives on a differentiated curriculum, positive relationships and encouragement. Dynamic and passionate teachers foster a love for learning, sparking curiosity and wonder in our students with authentic experiences that delve into a wide range of disciplines.

- Continued fundamental focus on literacy and numeracy skills
- Specialist programs in STEM, Japanese, creative arts and focus groups
- Individual support and extension for students where they need it
- Nurturing resilience and a positive attitude towards learning through development of a growth mindset
- Leadership opportunities
- Global and local community engagement including involvement in charities both at home and abroad



**“Great education, meaningful care and excellent stretching of advanced students. A move we have never regretted.”** Jo Brain *parent*

Our teachers are passionate about nurturing our students through this exciting time of personal change. Students are engaged in a diverse range of learning opportunities that allow us to care for their emotional, social, physical, spiritual and intellectual development as they grow in their understanding of who they are in God's world. They are encouraged to develop resilience when they face challenges and to embrace disappointments as opportunities to learn.

Critical thinking, collaborative learning and technology are prioritised as essential elements in preparing our students for their futures. We celebrate each individual's pursuit of personal excellence in academic learning.

- Elective subjects catering for a wide range of abilities and interests
- Cumulative seminar program teaches students effective study skills
- Individual student extension and support available where needed
- Wide range of co-curricular opportunities
- School-wide camping program each year



**enriching**  
& equipping





11  
12

## **challenging** & empowering

Our senior students are challenged to be genuine in their faith and positive in their engagement with the school community. We foster a love for learning, encourage mutual support, and value respect for each other. We encourage the achievement of personal excellence for all students.

We aim to develop in our senior students the resilience, organisation and perseverance needed to succeed in the specific challenges of the HSC as well as the broader challenges that lie ahead.

This is an exciting stage where students are prepared to reflect on our world in an intelligent and thoughtful way. We strive to challenge and inspire our students so that they leave our community secure in their value and purpose, excited about bringing God's truth and hope, and sufficiently humble and confident to engage meaningfully with the world God has made.

- Small classes allowing for close individual attention and building confidence
- Mentoring program ensures individual care during the challenges of senior study
- All Extension 1 and 2 subjects are offered, as well as a wide range of electives
- Study days provide opportunities to consolidate effective study habits
- Continued opportunities for leadership, sport, camps and excursions

## Leadership & service

Leadership opportunities, global awareness and fundraising for charities empower our students to develop servant-hearted attitudes. Community engagement is key, and global involvement is encouraged as students develop an outward-focused, biblical perspective of the world.

Our school leadership team includes secondary school captains and house captains, as well as primary student leaders. Between them, they represent the school at official functions, take on public and organisational roles at school assemblies and co-ordinate fundraising for House charities and other organisations. In addition, our peer support and buddy programs give students throughout the school opportunities to serve and mentor younger peers.





## **A nurturing** *environment*

We are committed to the provision of a safe, secure and well-managed learning environment where every student has the opportunity to develop their interests, skills and knowledge.

A school counsellor and a full-time registered psychologist provide a range of services to the school community, including counselling, student assessments and advocacy, and liaising with specialists. Our school psychologist also assists with the development of whole-school policies and practices (e.g. anti-bullying practices, encouraging proactive student behaviours), and teacher training in mental health.

## **A caring** *community*

Programs focusing on resilience, self-esteem, teamwork, leadership, organisation and positive peer interactions form the basis of our age-appropriate Pastoral Care curriculum, which is delivered by teachers from K-12.

In addition, dedicated Pastoral Care coordinators oversee our secondary school, communicating with staff and parents as needs arise. They take primary responsibility for ensuring that students are happy and thriving, and that relationships between students are positive.

Our Pastoral Care program works hand-in-hand with our peer support networks across the school.

Buddy programs in K-6 promote community and help students make a smooth transition to school. From 7-12, our peer support groups assist primary school students in their transition to secondary school.

Older students build their own confidence and leadership skills when leading younger peers.

## Support & *enrichment*

Students have different strengths, weaknesses, passions and interests. Our close knowledge of each student—combined with objective information from a range of testing tools—assists us to identify learning needs and opportunities and determine appropriate measures of support and enrichment.

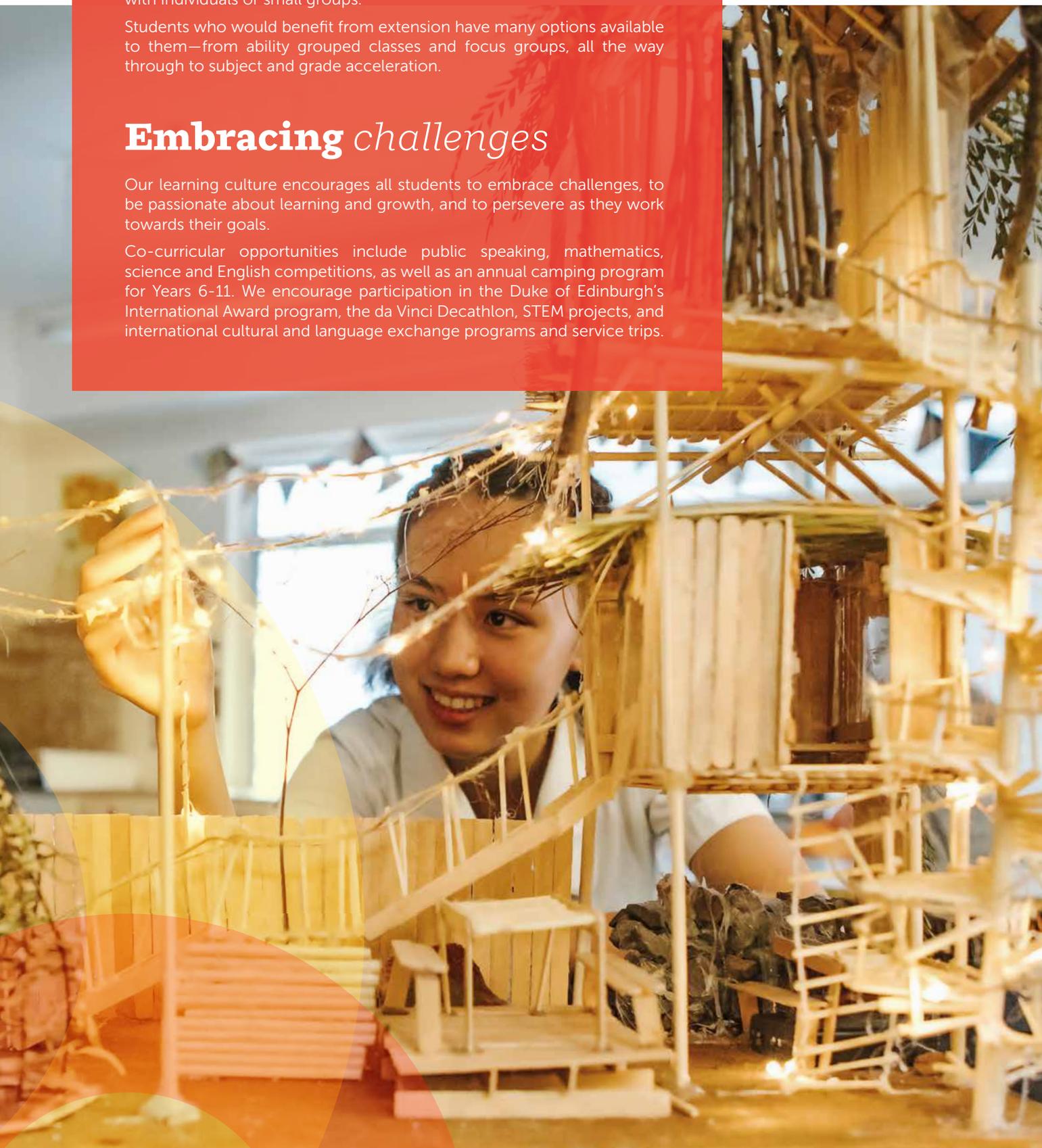
The high level of communication with parents and the stable learning environment benefit students who face challenging circumstances. Teacher aides support students' learning in the classroom as they work with individuals or small groups.

Students who would benefit from extension have many options available to them—from ability grouped classes and focus groups, all the way through to subject and grade acceleration.

## Embracing *challenges*

Our learning culture encourages all students to embrace challenges, to be passionate about learning and growth, and to persevere as they work towards their goals.

Co-curricular opportunities include public speaking, mathematics, science and English competitions, as well as an annual camping program for Years 6-11. We encourage participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program, the da Vinci Decathlon, STEM projects, and international cultural and language exchange programs and service trips.





## **Flexibility & consultation** *in the senior years*

We work in partnership with students and parents to design our senior timetables according to the interests of each year group. External providers (like TAFE, Sydney Distance Education and more) enable us to accommodate an even wider range of senior subjects for the HSC while allowing students to retain the benefits of a school environment.

Students benefit from personal consultation with senior staff as we work together in subject selection to design the best pattern of study for each individual.

## **Innovative STEM** *program from K-12*

With experience in coding from Kindergarten through to elective iSTEM and Engineering Studies in Stages 5 and 6, we are preparing our students for future employment opportunities even before we can know what they will look like.

Our innovative STEM program encourages the development of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creative skills.

Along with whole-school STEM days, robotics clubs, camps, competitions and focus enrichment groups, our teachers work closely across faculties to ensure that all technological learning is relevant, authentic and cohesive.



## **Creative & performing arts**

Our Creative and Performing Arts facilities include a performance area and classroom for Drama, a vibrant learning and practical space for Visual Arts, and junior and senior Music classrooms with practice rooms.

Students have many opportunities to develop their creative skills and to showcase their talents in the school community, including participation in our choirs and bands, and performing in school musicals.

Classroom music lessons are taught by specialist music teachers, beginning in Kindergarten. A peripatetic music tuition program means students may receive their regular music tuition during school hours.

Our HSC Showcase and Stage 5 Performing Arts Night are opportunities each year to celebrate the achievements and effort of our creative and performing arts students.



## Sporting *opportunities*

We offer a broad range of sporting activities catering for the different needs and strengths of individual students. We encourage genuine effort and enthusiastic participation, with a focus on sportsmanship, respect for others and fair play—all essential aspects in competition as students honour God by striving to do their best.

Our weekly sport program begins in Kindergarten and continues through to senior secondary school. In the early years, the focus is on developing coordination and gross and fine motor skills, and learning to swim.

Students in primary and secondary school compete in swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals, with opportunities to represent the school at zone and state level.

Primary students engage with both school-based activities and local CSSA competitions. External providers conduct programs for swimming, tennis and gymnastics. Secondary students enjoy interschool sport, gala days and a wide range of sport electives, including non-traditional options like dragon boating, futsal and biathlon.

All compulsory sport is conducted during school hours.



## **Dynamic** *learning spaces*

Our air-conditioned classrooms and learning spaces are flexible and dynamic—designed to encourage students to engage in active and collaborative learning.

The school enjoys specialist facilities for industrial technology, design and technology, computers, food technology, and textiles—as well as science laboratories, spaces for creative and performing arts, and dedicated junior and senior libraries.

The multipurpose hall is used for sport and PE, school assemblies, special functions and school performances. It also provides an extension of the playground during break times.

A wide number of indoor and outdoor spaces give students choice and variety in their play. All students have access to the oval, tennis court, COLA and quiet areas. Senior students enjoy the use of two outdoor kitchens.

## **All-inclusive** *school fees*

School fees cover everything required for your child to participate in normal school life, including excursions, transport, sport, stationery, text books and technology.

Families with more than one student attending the school (K-12) are entitled to discounted tuition rates for their younger children.

Fees may be paid either in full or with a periodic payment plan.



# Getting here

Two bus companies serve the school community with routes for students travelling from as far as Thirroul in the north, and Shellharbour and Albion Park in the south.



- 36 Mt Kembla
- S010 Thirroul, East Corrimal, Towradgi, Fairy Meadow
- S119 Woonona, Balgownie, Wollongong, Mt St Thomas
- S120 West Wollongong, Figtree, Unanderra
- S122 Shellharbour, Albion Park, Dapto
- S169 Farmborough Heights (S123 returning home)
- S121 Berkeley, Unanderra



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