



School Vision and Strategic Directions

We will provide high quality and innovative education in a dynamic and caring environment. Our school will provide:

- Opportunities for all students to develop their talents and explore their potential in a nurturing environment
- State of the art facilities to engage students in their learning
- Highly experienced, dedicated and caring staff
- Opportunities for young people to become responsible and caring community members
- Ongoing links to universities and learning institutions to prepare students for lifelong learning
- A welcoming and friendly school where parents are valued partners in their child's education

**High performing
teachers,
collaborative
lifelong learners**

**Independent
inspired lifelong
learners,
engaged and
challenged,
resilient and
resourceful**

**A high
performing
school,
informed and
inclusive,
organisational
excellence**

Quality Teaching



The learning and achievement of our students is supported by highly skilled teachers with pedagogical knowledge and practice appropriate for gifted and talented students.

- Dedicated team of highly skilled teachers to design and implement curricular and extra-curricular programs
- Research-based school-wide pedagogical approach to best meet the needs of young gifted and talented adolescent learners
- Seamless transitions from primary schools through ongoing consultation and cooperation with primary colleagues to ensure continuity
- Seamless transitions to senior secondary school and beyond
- Targeted, individualised teaching and learning with goal-setting, monitoring, extension programs and learning support
- Literacy and numeracy skill development is a key focus for learning
- Full complement of secondary school subjects
- Specialist teachers for all subjects
- Access to specialist learning facilities - laboratories, workshops, technology suites and creative arts spaces

High Potential & GIFTed



Our education of gifted & talented learners is underpinned by the three dimensions of Quality Teaching: Intellectual Quality, Quality Learning Environment and Significance. All staff recognise the value of sharing teaching and learning strategies in order to provide a differentiated curriculum and all students have access to appropriately challenging programs and activities.

We cater for gifted & talented learners through:

- Curriculum differentiation
- Leadership opportunities
- *Academics Plus* program including seminars, author talks, homework and study support, resources and research help from specialist staff
- Study skills program
- Acceleration
- Enrichment, extension and extra-curricular programs
- A learning environment which enables students to connect, succeed and thrive.

Student Wellbeing



A whole school approach to student wellbeing ensuring a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment where student connect, thrive and succeed.

This transition is achieved through:

- Visits to primary schools to support transition into Year 7
- Thoughtful placement of students into Year 7 classes
- Effective transition programs and activities
- Effective transition for students with specific needs
- Ongoing monitoring and guidance of all students by the Learning and Wellbeing Team
- Targeted monitoring, guidance and support for students with specific needs
- Highly professional and trained Learning and Wellbeing Team
- Regular Learning and Wellbeing Team meetings and effective communication processes between team members, the school executive and teachers
- Transparent and timely communication between the Learning and Wellbeing teachers and parents/caregivers
- Strong peer support and mentoring programs in Year 7
- Targeting of Year cohort programs to accommodate the specific learning and wellbeing needs of that year
- Regular student led Year meetings
- Sensitive monitoring of attendance and lateness by the Learning and Wellbeing Team to flag potential student wellbeing concerns
- Student led and teacher supervision of social justice groups
- Student access to school counsellors, school psychologist and specialist support programs
- Extended hours for learning and wellbeing support in the library
- Transition camps to facilitate collaborative peer relationships

Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for all students.

Leadership



- Focus on developing leadership skills with students rotating through leadership roles at junctures throughout the year
- Student Representative Council representatives and committees
- Duke of Edinburgh development program
- Seamless transitions through shadowing of staff in key positions to ensure effective succession
- Professional Development for all teaching staff on leadership skills
- Leadership opportunities for students in a wide range of co-curricular programs

Parent and Community Involvement



There is a range of avenues to build the active and authentic involvement of parents and community.

- Parent volunteers to support a variety of programs
- Parents and Citizens Association Involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Attendance at celebration events and showcases of student work, presentations, and sporting events
- Email account for queries, suggestions and feedback
- Ongoing communication with parents – reporting, Parent/Teacher interviews, 'Meet & Greet' night, information evenings, established 'points of contact' etc.
- Reciprocal partnerships with parents, Primary schools, community organisations and other educational institutions
- Ongoing consultation and cooperation to ensure the needs of our students and families are addressed
- Music support group
- Consultation through survey and focus groups

Consultation Processes



Our school has consulted widely to develop our school vision and strategic directions. Along the way we have built stronger school relationships, remodelled our transition processes and strengthened our capacity to respond to the needs of our students. These processes have also enabled our school to explain our approach and listen and respond to parent feedback and priorities.

- Learning Support ensures collaboration in student learning
- Surveyed students, teachers and parents
- Consulted and collaboratively planned with Caringbah High executive and teachers
- Supported school leaders and teachers to attend professional development
- Collaborated with other schools
- Undertaken research into characteristics and effective strategies for gifted & talented students
- Released secondary teachers to work on producing quality teaching and learning programs

