



FAIRHILLS
HIGH SCHOOL
KNOX



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Multiple Learning Pathways

Engaging Curriculum

Positive and Secure Learning Environment

Extensive Extracurricular Activities

Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL)

A SEAMLESS AND ENJOYABLE TRANSITION



Helping our new Year 7 students to feel happy and secure as they adjust to the greater complexity of secondary school begins with our Primary School Secondary Sampler Program. Year 5 and 6 students visit the school for cultural, sporting, science and technology experiences and, of course, Orientation Day in December.

These positive experiences help primary students to quickly form new friendships at the school, broaden their horizons, meet future teachers and build the confidence they will need to feel welcome on commencement at Fairhills.

A CONFIDENT START

Year 7 students experience the personal care of a form teacher who takes them for at least two subjects.

A compact team of subject teachers, an orientation camp and the peer support of older children enable our juniors to quickly develop positive relations with teaching staff and each other.

This process is markedly assisted by a specialist pastoral support team consisting of a student wellbeing coordinator, year level coordinators, a social worker, a youth worker, a psychologist and a Student Services Coordinator. Fairhills has an effective anti-bullying policy and provides Year 7 students with their own designated locker room, toilet block and courtyard to foster a feeling of security and a sense of belonging.

Parent focus groups and feedback from feeder primary schools have indicated six important expectations parents have of their chosen Secondary School.

- *Effective teaching and learning*
- *A caring supportive environment*
- *Pleasant and helpful staff*
- *A wide variety of subject choices*
- *Effective student wellbeing and discipline procedures*
- *Attractive and well maintained facilities*

At Fairhills we value and take pride in our achievements in each of these six areas.

Expectations for our students are high at Fairhills. We firmly believe that every girl and boy can experience success and go on to graduate as a responsible, resilient and confident young adult, well prepared to take charge of their future and to become a productive member of the community.

Our programs at Fairhills are stimulating, rewarding and forward looking. They focus on holistic student development by embracing academic progress, the building of character, self determination, social skills and leadership ability.

A rich array of co curricular activities provides many opportunities for personal growth.

The School is committed to excellence in all things. We have a strong code of conduct, firm structures and clear expectations. We foster and develop exemplary values of self discipline, initiative, trust, tolerance and respect for self and others.

We are proud of our students at Fairhills High School – they graduate well prepared for the world beyond school, tertiary study, vocational training and direct employment.

Fairhills High School, Knox.

By retaining 'High School' in our name and choosing the motto 'Achieving Excellence', Fairhills is demonstrating its commitment to the academic goals and traditions of the prestigious State High Schools which developed in Victoria in the first half of the twentieth century.

As a twenty first century High School we are also forward thinking, creative, community focussed and dedicated to providing our students with a modern, enriching education to ensure that they remain life-long learners and valued citizens and leaders of tomorrow.



Professional Pride

Fairhills is fortunate to have an outstanding teaching staff, many of whom have outside professional responsibilities and have received awards. The School Principal is Vice President of the Principals' Association and a Fellow of the Australian College of Education.

Fairhills has teachers who have been finalists in the National Excellence in Teaching Awards, written educational articles for the Age, leaders in the Science Teachers Association, Subject Reviewers for VCAA and have won awards for Outstanding Achievements in Sport and the Rock Eisteddfod.

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT FAIRHILLS

YEARS 7 – 9



ENGAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS

Fairhills has been most pro-active in developing a range of up-to-date and effective strategies for enhancing teaching and learning in the Middle Years. These strategies build on the 'middle schooling' approaches being progressively introduced to Years 5 & 6 in our feeder primaries and are based on the educational research which underpins the various Education Blueprint strategies including: the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PoLT), Innovation and Excellence (I&E) and the new Essential Learning Standards (ELS).

Fairhills emphasise the fundamental skills of literacy and numeracy enhanced by the use of learning technologies and higher order thinking approaches across all subjects in the curriculum. Teachers employ engagement strategies which actively involve students in their own learning, provide them with more responsibility and more closely relate their learning to real life experiences. Good study habits, regular homework and pride in achievement are encouraged, expected, rewarded and celebrated.

EXTENSIVE ELECTIVE PROGRAM

An exciting and extensive elective program is offered to year 9 students to cater for their individual interests, abilities and emerging career pathways.

An innovative year 9 Community Classroom program, including weekly excursions that are cultural, historical and scientific in nature, help forge strong student links with the local community. It receives special Department funding to cover excursion costs and is very effective in increasing the engagement of students in their learning.

All students are encouraged to undertake enrichment and extension programs. Support programs are available for those with individual needs.

LEARNING, ACCELERATION & ENHANCEMENT

Students who are faster learners can undertake an Acceleration Program and complete the curriculum for Years 7, 8 and 9 in two years. They then go into Senior School to complete a normal Year 10 VCE preparation year before commencing an enhanced three year VCE. This enables them to study a wider range of VCE subjects, participate in Career Development Options and University Enhancement Studies as well as obtaining higher ENTER scores.

Two levels of Acceleration are available:

SEAL PROGRAM. SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING

Fairhills is the only Department nominated SEAL school for the Knox Area.

The Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program is a state wide program enabling gifted and talented students to accelerate and enhance their learning. Prospective students are required to undertake an entrance examination, provide references from their primary school and participate in a panel interview. A faster paced curriculum is offered which provides greater depth and encourages the study of more abstract concepts.

ENHANCED PROGRAM

This is a similar program to SEAL which caters for students who are faster learners but do not quite meet the requirements for entry to SEAL. Students also study at an accelerated rate but in somewhat less depth.

An International Perspective

Fairhills is one of the few schools that provide opportunity for some students to study two languages, Japanese and German, throughout their studies from years 7 to 12. Other students can choose to study one or the other.

Innovation & Excellence

At Fairhills the innovation and Excellence initiative has developed an excellent Values Education program entitled '6Q'. This personal and social development course is initially taught and practised in year 7, but then reinforced across all subjects in later years.



SENIOR SCHOOL AT FAIRHILLS

YEARS 10 - 12

Leadership

Student leadership is an integral part of our school culture. An active leadership program includes a junior and senior Student Representative Council, a team of 10 School Leaders, Peer Support, Cross Age Tutoring, student representatives on Council, public speaking opportunities, sports captains and coaches and student participation in Assemblies.

Fairhills is proud to participate successfully in public speaking programs, Inter-school Debating and Australian subject competitions including English, Mathematics and Science.



Academic rigour, initiative and self discipline are central to life in senior school. A strong work ethic and a focus on our motto of 'Achieving Excellence' brings students, teachers and parents together as teams which work to maintain and further enhance our consistent VCE and VCAL successes and our high levels of placement in University, TAFE and Apprenticeship courses.

YEAR 10 VCE PLANNING

Year 10 is approached as a VCE preparation year. Students select curriculum units each semester from an extensive range of electives as they will continue to do in VCE.

Fairhills has been most pro-active and a leader in implementing the Managed Individual Pathways Strategy (MIPS). Students are introduced to the concept of Career Pathways in Year 9 where they are helped to develop a first draft of their own Individual Pathway. In Year 10 each student is involved in more detailed self assessment and research which enables them to update and refine their first draft into a detailed Pathways Plan for years 11 and 12.

YEAR 11 – 12 VCE SUCCESS

Year 11 & 12 students complete their VCE by choosing subjects that coincide with their Career Pathway Plan. At Fairhills we provide a Career Development Program which provides 3 optional pathways:

Professional Workplace Learning (PWL)

This traditional academic VCE option caters for students planning to go to university or TAFE. It provides one day per week of work placement that is appropriate to their career path. Students systematically develop the government's seven Generic Work Competencies (which are relevant to any career), complete the VCE subject Industry & Enterprise and gain valuable experience in their anticipated career.

Vocational Education & Training (VET)

Students planning to commence TAFE can go off-campus to complete Certificate II (with VCE credit) in any one of over 20 TAFE courses. The VET courses are fully accredited as part of the VCE.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

This is a two year program, with the opportunity to achieve a certificate at the end of each year. Students undertake a VET course or alternatively begin a traineeship. As they complete school students have the opportunity to experience a range of work placements to assist them in making informed decisions about their careers.

CULTURAL & PERFORMING ARTS



Fairhills is a designated Specialist Performing Arts School within the Knox Network of schools. The School has, for over a decade, consistently performed at the highest level in the Rock Eisteddfod winning a number of awards. The school was ranked in either first or second place for the Victorian division in the 3 years up to 2006.

Fairhills has an extensive instrumental music program which includes 9 musical ensembles, several of which perform publicly. Each year Fairhills presents a Performing Arts Festival, a Solo Performance Drama evening and a School Musical to encourage student participation and develop their performing talents. To further foster the arts area Fairhills, and a number of other schools, organises a Knox VCE Art Exhibition and a Regional Interscholar Dance Competition each year.

As the first government school in Victoria to teach Japanese, the Fairhills curriculum includes a three week exchange to Japan exclusively organised for the School by the Japanese Government Youth Agency KSJK. The development of skill in language and cultural enrichment has ensured that LOTE (both Japanese and German) is an integral part of the Curriculum.

Our cultural enrichment is further enhanced by our accreditation to accept overseas students from a variety of countries including Japan, Germany, South America, USA, Vietnam and China.

Fairhills participates in a wide range of sports, frequently achieving excellent results at zone, regional, state and national levels. Summer Sports include Cricket, Volleyball, Tennis, Softball, Baseball, and Athletics. Winter Sports include Football, Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Table Tennis, Athletics, Cross Country and Indoor Soccer.

We have won State and National awards in Baseball, Volleyball, Tae Kwon Do, Athletics, girls Soccer and girls Football. The School has an outstanding Outdoor Education program and participates in bicycle tours, kayaking, surfing, caving, rock climbing, life saving and wind surfing.

Our Basketball Academy due to commence operations following the construction of a new double court Stadium in 2007 has been developed in conjunction with Knox Basketball Association. This school/community cooperative offers students a unique opportunity to combine academic studies with specialised sports training and skills development under the direction of an outstanding team of teachers and coaches, both local and overseas.



Sport and PE are core subjects in Years 7 – 10 providing a wide range of sporting and recreational options which engender positive peer relations, self esteem, team work, school spirit and unity.

SPORT & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

OUR SCHOOL

Built on the site of an apple orchard, Fairhills High School has an attractive campus adjacent to an Agricultural Research Station to the south, pleasant waterways to the west and views of the Dandenongs to the east. The buildings are attractive, functional and well maintained, surrounded by pleasant garden courtyards, a Japanese garden, extensive playing fields and sealed courts and some open woodland affectionately known as 'Snake Gully'.

Located in Scoresby Road near Burwood Highway we are serviced by several bus routes and are in close proximity to the Commercial and Civic centres of the City of Knox.

Specialist Facilities

At Fairhills we have four Learning Technology laboratories and nine computer mini-labs, a well-equipped Visual Arts and Technology centre, a music complex, a specialist science facility with 5 laboratories, a computerised Library Resource Centre, a Learning Resource Centre for special programs, a Gymnasium, sports ovals and courts and a Performing Arts Centre.

Science and Technology

Fairhills has been designated a specialist Science and Technology School within the Knox Network of Schools. Our goal over several years is to develop an integrated approach to the teaching and learning of Science within a technological context. We believe that this is the way of the future, bringing into the curriculum real life relevance, hands on activity and career focused curriculum options including nanotechnology, medicine, materials, systems, environmental sustainability, electronics, climatology and ICT. Within the 'Building Futures' strategy, we are currently developing plans for a purpose built new Science /Technology Centre.



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