INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM
Welcome to Fairhills High School

Fairhills High School is a medium-sized, co-educational school of approximately 870 students, situated in a safe, caring environment near the picturesque Dandenong Ranges in Melbourne, Victoria.

At Fairhills we are committed to excellence in all things. The school has a strong code of conduct and fosters and develops the exemplary values of integrity, responsibility, respect, persistence and inclusion.

As a result of our students’ commitment to their studies and the outstanding quality of the teachers, students are able to achieve their potential with most proceeding on to University or TAFE study.

Fairhills High School is a school with a strong focus on quality teaching and learning.

The school is close to the commercial and civic centres of the City of Knox — a vibrant, culturally diverse municipality 25 km from the centre of Melbourne. Knox enjoys excellent facilities including a large shopping and entertainment complex with cafes, theatres, pharmacies, medical centres, an extensive library and a fitness centre.

There are also a multitude of bushland reserves, sport and recreation facilities.

Fairhills High School is serviced by several bus routes, and is approximately 45 minutes from the City of Melbourne by train.

The teachers at Fairhills High School are professional, caring and motivated. Innovative teaching and staff commitment enable the school to deliver an exceptional and rewarding educational experience.

The school offers a comprehensive curriculum which includes an extensive VCE program, offering a full range of core subjects such as Mathematics, Sciences, Accounting, Business, Legal Studies, History, Geography and Information Technology. This is complemented by a range of elective subjects including Outdoor and Physical Education, Music, Drama, Dance, Visual Communication and Studio Arts. The breadth of this program provides students with the opportunity to perform in bands, concerts, theatre, interschool debating, subject competitions and musical productions.

Fairhills High School has a proven commitment to internationalism recognizing that it is important for students to see themselves as global citizens. As one of the first government schools in Victoria to teach Japanese, our school has enjoyed a long established and mutually beneficial annual exchange program with KSKK – the International Youth Association of Japan. Fairhills High School has recently formed a sister school relationship with Bashu Middle School in Chongqing, China. The school is further culturally enriched by our accreditation to accept overseas students from a variety of countries which include Japan, China, South America, Germany, Vietnam and France. These mutually rewarding programs encourage global understanding between a rich diversity of cultures.

Supportive networks, which have developed within the school and wider community, assist our international students to feel comfortable and safe and immerse themselves in Australian life.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

The Fairhills International Student program is available to International Students who wish to explore the opportunity to live in Australia and study Years 7–12 under the Australian curriculum.

CARING FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Fairhills provides a safe, supportive, and caring learning environment for our international students. The number of international students is limited to ensure that all students receive the individual support and assistance they need. This enables the school to provide high quality home stay families. Our families respect cultural differences and provide a great deal of care and attention for each student both at school and in their home stay environment. There is regular contact with international students’ families in their home countries.

Upon arrival in Australia, our international students are greeted at the airport by the International Student Coordinator and transported to their carefully screened and experienced host families. International students are provided with an Orientation Booklet which contains advice about money matters, bank usage, medical and dental concerns, public transport, current information about visas as well as touring information about Melbourne and the local attractions. Students are provided assistance with the acquisition of the school uniform and books, and they are given free internet access thus enabling them to keep in close contact with home.

Our international students are well supported by excellent staff who speak a range of languages including Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese and German.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Extensive ESL support in small groups is provided on site at all year levels at Fairhills High School. The School Learning Resource Centre offers our ESL students a very supportive environment with excellent resources and fully qualified, caring staff. The international students are systematically integrated into the mainstream subjects with a strong focus on improving their efficiency in English and equipping them for tertiary entrance.

Students with limited English can spend up to two terms in a nearby ESL Centre. During this period, the International Student Coordinator is in regular contact with the centre and provides ongoing support. The students are invited to participate in host school events during that time.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The International Student Co-ordinator, ESL staff, Careers Counsellor, Student Wellbeing Coordinator and other specialist staff, provide our international students with ongoing counselling and advice regarding academic, personal and social issues. Each student’s progress is monitored through small group and individual sessions on a regular basis.

We maximise academic potential by providing:

- Extensive ESL support in small groups at all levels
- Interim reports each term and semester reports with detailed comments in the required language
- Specialist tutors every Wednesday at no extra cost
- Class mentors, usually local students, who ensure that students are aware of organisational matters such as deadlines regarding submission of work.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In Year 12 an international student is elected to play an important leadership role within the team of school leaders. This role involves assisting in the organisation of major school events such as the International Food Festival, representing the international student group by speaking at assemblies and assisting new international students with their integration into Australian high school life.

The school provides excellent preparation for university entrance. Shortly after arrival at Fairhills High School, a Careers Coordinator meets the international students to discuss their aspirations for the future and then guides them through the process of University or TAFE selection. In the students’ final year of schooling, international and local students attend an intensive study camp at a regional university, where they are provided with the opportunity to experience university life, meet lecturers and receive valuable advice concerning time management skills and study techniques.

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CULTURAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Fairhills is designated a Specialist Performing Arts School within the Knox Network of schools. For over a decade, the school has consistently performed at the highest level in the Rock Eisteddfod, a National Dance Competition, winning a number of awards.

Fairhills has an extensive instrumental music program, which includes nine 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 an appreciation of the Arts, Fairhills, in conjunction with a number of other local schools, organises the Knox VCE Art Exhibition and a Regional Interschool Dance Competition each year.

SPORT & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

As well as a strong commitment to academic excellence, students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of sporting, outdoor education, and cultural and recreational activities. Our students regularly achieve excellent results, receiving awards at Zone, Regional, State and National levels and consequently Fairhills has been recognised as one of the top Physical Education and Sport schools for our region.

In association with the Knox Basketball Association, Fairhills High School has recently completed a $2 million, state-of-the-art Sports Stadium located within the school grounds. In the local area, we are known as the school specialising in basketball and volleyball and whilst this is undoubtedly true, in reality, Fairhills offers an exceptional array of sporting opportunities. Our summer sports program includes cricket, volleyball, tennis, softball, baseball and athletics, while our winter sports program includes football, soccer, netball, basketball, hockey, table tennis, athletics, cross country and indoor soccer.

SCIENCE & 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 this is the way of the future, bringing into the curriculum career focused options including nanotechnology, medicine, materials, systems, environmental sustainability, electronics, climatology and ICT.

SPECIALIST FACILITIES

The facilities at Fairhills High School are attractive, functional and well maintained. They are surrounded by pleasant garden courtyards, a Japanese garden, extensive playing fields and sealed courts and some open woodland areas.

There are 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 VCE Centre, a Sports Stadium, sports ovals and courts and a Performing Arts Centre.
Applications for enrolment at Fairhills High School are through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria.

Website: www.study.vic.gov.au

Prospective international students are encouraged to download the application form or email the International Student Coordinator who will forward the necessary form and answer any queries.

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Registered Provider:
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Cricos Provider Code: 00861K