

# Prospectus



HEALESVILLE  
HIGH SCHOOL



Healesville High School  
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# This is Healesville High

## Principal's welcome

Welcome to Healesville High School, a school with a long and proud history of serving the local community.

Since its inception, the school has established an excellent reputation as an inclusive and caring educational community with a strong focus on academic performance and personal development. As a school community we understand and know our students, their strengths and their areas for improvement. We work to develop students into well rounded individuals, ready to be successful on a local, national and global scale.

Healesville High School has outstanding specialist facilities including; a fully equipped performing arts centre, Mac and PC computer laboratories, a purpose-built art exhibition space, a permanent examination centre, modern science laboratories and library, extensive sporting facilities and a student-friendly cafeteria. The state-of-the-art Trade Training Centre complements extensive senior school facilities and allows the delivery on-site of vocational courses in Building and Construction, Automotive and Panel Beating.

I am proud to be the principal of a school that provides students with an abundance of varied experiences. We have an outstanding instrumental music program, an annual production, a recently introduced yearly art exhibition, interstate and international camps, and leadership programs to develop our students. In addition, students have access to an exceptional Outdoor Education program and the opportunity to compete in a range of sports at district level.

Our focus remains firmly upon providing our students with consistent and authentic opportunities for development. We really know our students and provide personalised experiences for each of them.

We offer a number of individual pathways at the senior level. Students may access a wide range of Victorian Certificate of Education classes and the newly introduced Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major (VCE VM), allowing the personal development of each student to be supported. Students may also select from a broad range of Vocational Education and Training subjects, enabling engagement in industry-based learning and a further expansion of the educational experience.

We are confident that a whole-school focus on literacy and numeracy, a commitment to offering a wide range of VCE subject choices, with resultant small class sizes, and an emphasis upon identifying each child's learning will continue to contribute to academic achievement for all students.

As the principal of Healesville High School, I believe that all students entering our school are given every opportunity to improve and to develop into well-rounded young adults. I have great confidence in my staff to challenge all students, to expect students to give their best and to provide students with the experiences they need to enthusiastically engage in their education.

I look forward to meeting and speaking with prospective students and parents at our upcoming Open Night. We have so much to offer and I hope to discuss this with you in the near future.

Allan Rennick  
Principal

# Who We Are

## School values



### Respect

Care for self, others and the environment  
Accept and embrace diversity  
Tolerate different opinions



### Responsibility

Be accountable for your actions  
Make a commitment to all that you do  
Act in a fair and reasonable manner



### Teamwork

Be trustworthy and honest  
Get along with others  
Be sensitive to the feelings of others



### Relationships

Cooperate and share  
Learn together in a supportive way  
Persist and make genuine effort



# The Beginning

## Starting secondary life

The transition from primary to secondary school is an exciting time for students and parents. Healesville High School's transition program is carefully designed to make this a smooth and comfortable process and our small size enables this to occur easily.

We strive to make everyday life as simple as possible for our new students. Our teachers work closely with local primary schools, familiarising themselves with individual students to provide engaging and challenging programs. We are well prepared to welcome your child into Year 7.

Upon arrival at Healesville High students are comforted to discover that they have been placed in Form Groups constructed to include some friends from primary school. We also limit the number of class teachers and room changes for our new students.

A team of teachers plan the learning program of each Year 7 Form Group, placing considerable focus on the curriculum of the Junior Years, including literacy and numeracy testing on arrival to identify the need for either extension or extra assistance.

In addition, Year 7 students are placed in vertical Home Groups constructed of small groups of students from each year level. This provides each student with role modelling and support as they transition to high school.

We purposely keep our Year 7 classes small so students not only have a greater opportunity to connect with their peers and teachers, but so they are provided with more personalised instruction. This is a key strength of our Year 7 program and it allows teaching staff to effectively cater for the needs of all students.

In relation to student wellbeing, we are exceptionally well resourced and amongst other things, students have access to a dedicated student wellbeing leader, a psychologist, an adolescent specialist social worker, a school nurse and the Doctor's in Schools program. Of course, many students may not need specialised care, however parents can have peace of mind knowing that Healesville High School is well resourced to manage all sorts of unexpected issues. In addition to dealing with individual concerns, these professionals also work to proactively manage and deal with a range of concerns that are pertinent to young people in our modern world.



# Your School

## Building a sense of belonging

Students at Healesville High School start each day with their Home Group. Home Group is comprised of a small group of students from each year level that meet with their assigned Home Group teachers each morning. These groups of students and staff remain the same each year with the only changes being the introduction of new Year 7 students and the departure of the graduating Year 12s.

Home Groups ensure that students at Healesville High have a strong sense of belonging to their school and their house. They offer the opportunity to form strong connections between students and with staff and they present a great opportunity for older students to act as role models and mentors for those younger than them.

Within Home Group each day, students complete selected activities which promote opportunities to share and get to know each other, work collaboratively with other students, and explore values and concepts of gratitude. The Home Group system is an integral structure within Healesville High School that enables members of our community to connect and further support the pastoral care provided to each of our students.



# Just a Local School?

## Opportunities at Healesville High

Our students have access to a wide variety of opportunities, all aimed at enriching their experiences of secondary school. Students can participate in sport at school and interschool level and when they enter the Senior School, they have access to a well-resourced and engaging Outdoor Education program.

We run an annual school production and for many students, this is the highlight of their school year. Our Instrumental Music program is exceptional and we are regarded as having one of the strongest programs in the eastern suburbs. Under the expert guidance of our art department, students can join the 'Art Factory' and this program allows students to explore and develop their artistic pursuits and passions and to exhibit their work.

Students have the option of attending school camps and a range of excursions to develop their connectedness to school and to each other. Leadership qualities are fostered and students are encouraged to be part of our Junior Leadership team and the Student Voice program. We also work with outside providers to broaden our students' perceptions of strong leadership.

A key strength of this school is that we really know our students. This helps us to create an environment where your child feels like they belong.

We offer a range of VCE, VCE VM and VET subjects and students benefit from small classes and ample teacher attention- something that certainly helps students to achieve academic excellence.



Some specific examples of the opportunities our students can engage with include:

Biennial World Challenge experience that involves students fundraising and planning a four week international trip to a developing country. During this trip students volunteer in a local community and in the process they develop their capacity to work with others, their perseverance and most importantly, their understanding and appreciation of a different culture.

Biennial trip to visit students at our Japanese sister school, Osaka Business Frontier High School. This experience supports students in their study of Japanese, develops their global perspective and creates lasting friendships with their host families.

The opportunity to perform in or act as a support for the annual school production. We always put on a great show and students involved in this experience not only develop a sense of belonging, but through the expert guidance of staff members, they are able to explore and develop their artistic talents.

These are examples of the numerous opportunities we offer our students. We are committed to providing students with the experiences and opportunities they need to enable them to be well-rounded and engaged members of the community. We routinely consider the specific interests of students and introduce new experiences that are consistent with these interests.





## The Next Generation

### Student leadership

Developing students to be leaders within the school and the wider community is important to us. Students have the opportunity to apply for a range of leadership positions and those successful become part of a formal leadership structure. These positions include; School Captains, Year Level Captains, Sport Leaders, House Captains, Music Leaders and Arts Leaders. Students occupying these roles make important contributions to the school; they organise events to promote student connectedness, they consider ways the school may be improved and they provide important feedback to our staff leadership team.

Additionally, they are involved in events such as student leadership conferences aimed at developing a young person's capacity to lead others and school leadership camps aimed at fostering collaboration amongst leaders.

The Leo Club provides an important partnership between school and the Healesville Lions Club. The Leos are supported by members of the Healesville Lions Club to plan and implement a range of projects to make a difference to the local and broader community.

Students involved in this program benefit from the connection with local people who have experience and passion for supporting their local community. All students can opt to be involved with this club.

In addition to these formal leadership roles, we consistently look for opportunities to develop a students' leadership capacity. We actively encourage and expect senior students to act as leaders and role models for junior students and they consistently impress by their willingness and capacity to do this.

Student leadership is of the utmost importance to us and to recognise this and to foster this program we appoint one of our leading teachers to guide the program.



## Strength in Numbers

### 2022 VCE results

Staff at Healesville High School have a long history of supporting students to achieve exceptional results and to plan their pathway beyond secondary school. Students from the graduating class of 2022 excelled in many ways. The school community is proud of the resilience they demonstrated through their school lives and their determination to be successful.

Students in Year 7-12 benefit from the support and guidance of two careers practitioners. These practitioners provide individual and group support to students and parents, helping identify areas of interest, future aspirations and planning to get where they want to go. In particular, Year 11 and 12 students are well supported to finish their secondary schooling with a clear direction and goals in place for their future.

The students at Healesville High School consistently achieve VCE results far above those predicted by the General Achievement Test (GAT). Their results are also regularly far better than what may be predicted by the use of the Index for Community and Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) measure.

**100%** **100%**

VCE completion - 2022

VCE students received first round university offers

**24.0** **25.6** **27.8**

Predicted VCE Study Score

Median study score of schools closest to HHS

HHS actual VCE Study Score

The ICSEA for the years 2019 - 2021 predicted a median study score for HHS of 24.0. The median actually achieved over those years was 27.8.



## Creative Growth

### Art

The facilities at Healesville High School provide opportunities for students to work in fine art studio areas such as printmaking, textiles, sculpture, ceramics, painting, drawing, darkroom photography and public art.

We have a state of the art media lab featuring Apple Computers, cameras, lighting and sound equipment that is used for our digital technology and media studies. This space allows students to work with industry standard equipment and software.

Students have the option to join lunch time programs to socialise and extend their skills in film making, animation, coding or art. There are regular excursions for classes and clubs to attend art exhibitions across Victoria.

We are also proud of the Art Factory. Students have the chance to study a range of art subjects as part of their regular program and they can also opt to engage in additional art-based activities outside of their regular schedule. We have a designated exhibition space and students work throughout the year to develop unique and engaging exhibits, culminating in an annual art show. Students are guided by enthusiastic and talented art teachers and they learn how to work with others and to develop their ability to express themselves through artistic endeavours

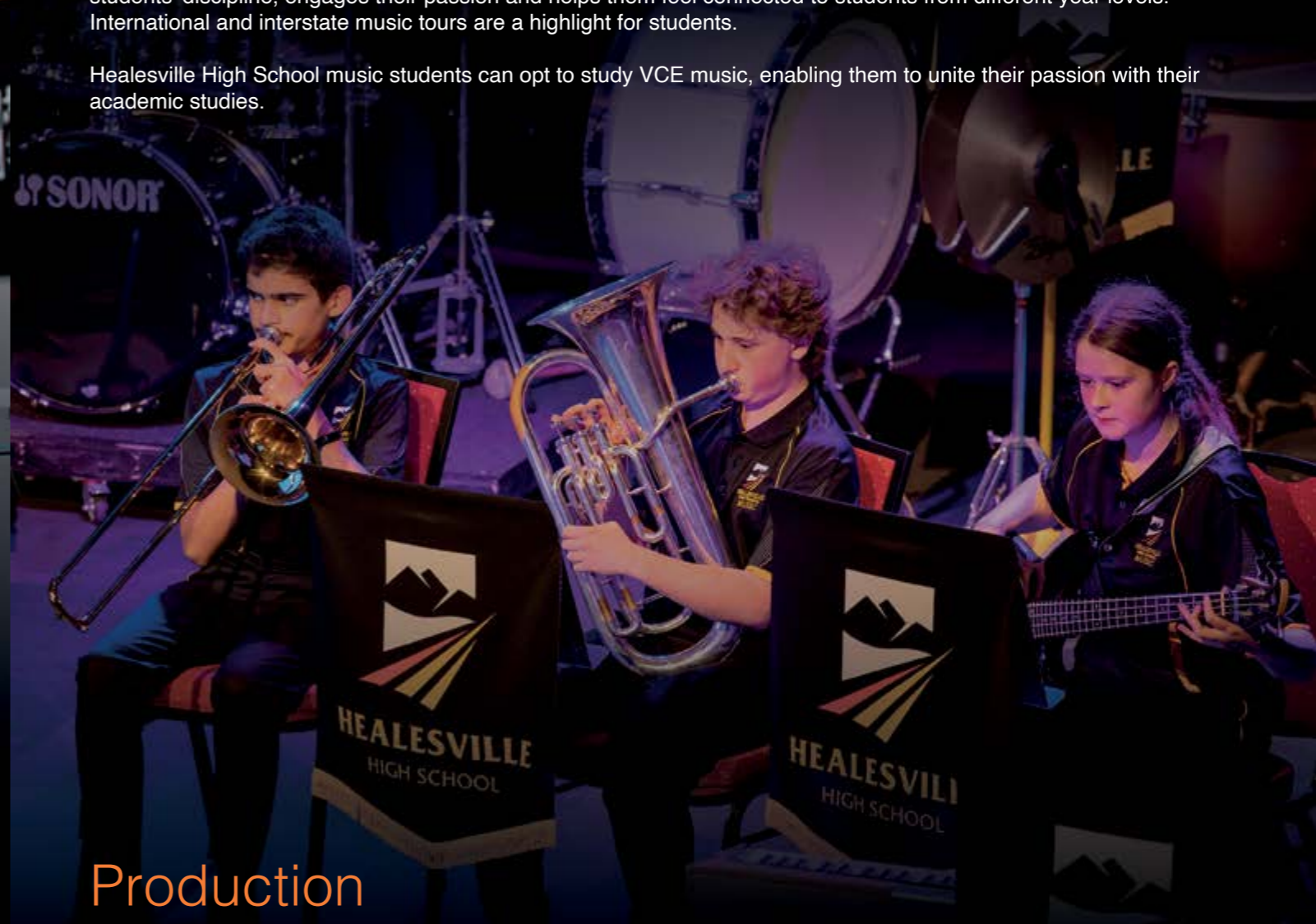
## Music

Students at Healesville High School are able to involve themselves broadly in artistic endeavours. We are extremely proud of the music program and the success students have achieved in this area.

Our students have the opportunity to learn an instrument and to be a valued member of one of the many bands and ensembles, including the Rookie Band, Rising Stars Band, Legends' Band, Talbot Room Ensemble and various other small ensembles. Lessons are provided by the passionate and capable music department, led by the Music Coordinator, Ms Amanda Morrison.

As part of this program students participate in a range of in-school and community based performances. In the past we were awarded a Gold Medal at the Victorian School Bands Festival and on an annual basis many students are selected to perform at the North Eastern Victoria Regional Concert at Hamer Hall. The music program develops students' discipline, engages their passion and helps them feel connected to students from different year levels. International and interstate music tours are a highlight for students.

Healesville High School music students can opt to study VCE music, enabling them to unite their passion with their academic studies.



### Production

Stage-of-the-art and purpose built, the Ion Whykes Performing Arts Centre is the home of our annual school production.

We offer every student the opportunity to be involved when it comes to production time. From lead roles, ensemble or backstage crew, every student can take part.

Through the production students are given the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of sold-out crowds of friends, family, peers and the wider community. A large number of staff also volunteer their time to support and take part in the production. The strong connections built between staff and students prove to be particularly valuable, both at the time and into the future. The ongoing support provided to students by these strong connections aids academically and emotionally and further enhances the strong sense of community which exists at this school.

Examples of previous shows we have staged include Back to the 80s, Grease, The Wizard of Oz, Aladdin, Hairspray, Alice in Wonderland, Legally Blonde, Little Shop of Horrors, Rock of Ages, The Wedding Singer and School of Rock.



# Designed for Excellence

## Small class sizes

Class sizes at Healesville High School are small, allowing staff to focus on individual needs and creating orderly and high-functioning classroom environments.

Senior school students benefit from small class sizes and this enables them to reach their potential and to feel well supported in the final years of their schooling. The average class size at Year 12 is eight and our Senior VCE VM class is also small. The benefits of this are substantial and students enjoy ample teacher attention and more detailed feedback to aid improvement and continued progress.

Small class sizes not only allow teachers to develop strong relationships with students, but they also enable students to build positive connections with each other. In particular, our Year 12 students are especially close and they work together in a supportive and collaborative manner.

## Adaptability

Staff and school leaders are adaptable and make changes to suit the needs of any student, class or cohort. This was evidenced by our considerable success during the remote learning period of 2020 - 2021. Curriculum adaptations were made quickly and efficiently and staff consistently made changes to suit their students' needs. We connected with students daily and each student was assigned a mentor to support them during the remote learning time. Additionally, student wellbeing was a key focus and supported in a number of ways, including motivational home delivered surprises for all students and weekly online connection activities for all students.

Staff can cope and adapt to suit any situation, including a global pandemic. This is partially due to strong leadership and staff dedication, but mostly, it is a testament to the close nature of our school community and the teamwork that exists.



# A School Rebuilt

## Multi-million dollar upgrades

The school community have access to exceptional facilities in an absolutely beautiful environment. These facilities include, but are not limited to;

Modern classrooms

Well-resourced library

Permanent examination centre

25 metre indoor pool

Modern Performing Arts Centre

Two indoor and two outdoor basketball courts

Fitness centre

Permanent art exhibition space

Purpose built Trade Training Centre.

Students, staff and parents are justifiably proud of the outstanding facilities at our disposal.



# Giving Something Back

## Community connections

We pride ourselves on our local connections and we consistently look for opportunities to support local organisations and businesses. Students are encouraged to see themselves as members of the local community and to be proud of where they live and their role within this community.

Learning often moves beyond the Healesville High School classrooms and students enjoy excursions to a range of local venues. This encourages students to connect with their local community and to align this connection with their learning.

In addition to fostering an appreciation of their local area, we also encourage students and our school community to support local businesses. We make a concerted effort to use local businesses for maintenance work, catering for events and 'surprises' when we feel the need to treat our school community.

We are proud of the way we are connected to the Healesville and surrounding communities and a key priority is the continuation and strengthening of this connection.



# A Parent's Perspective

## From our School Council President

My name is Kylie Short and I am the mother of two current Healesville High School students and two past students.

Tayah is currently in Year 11 and Kailee is in Year 9. My eldest daughter, Mikayla, graduated in 2020 and Jade graduated in 2021. I am delighted to be a part of this school community.

I have really enjoyed watching my daughters' sense of confidence grow during their time at Healesville High School. I believe this is largely due to the support they have received from their teachers and the way they have been made to feel like they belong.

I really appreciate the opportunities and experiences my children have been offered. Jade and Mikayla participated in the World Challenge trip to India at the end of 2019 and this was an exceptional learning experience. They were challenged and inspired in the best possible way and I am pleased they had an opportunity to engage with a different culture. My children are all different and Healesville High School has programs to suit and inspire each of them.

Healesville High School is an inviting place where everyone can belong. Staff members are extremely approachable and if I ever do need to raise a concern, I am listened to and staff work with me to find a solution. Class sizes are small and this has helped my children build connections with their peers and their teachers. Staff really know my children - they take the time to have individual conversations and to provide encouragement.

This school is an excellent choice! I haven't had any second thoughts about sending my daughters to Healesville High School.

I encourage all local families to attend the upcoming Open Night and to see what is on offer.



**HEALESVILLE**  
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