



FAIRHILLS  
HIGH SCHOOL  
KNOX



INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT PROGRAM  
ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE





## OUR SCHOOL

Fairhills High School is an Australian Government secondary school located in picturesque Knoxfield at the foothill of Mount Dandenong. Located in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Knoxfield is just 25 kms from the vibrant city centre. The suburb is well serviced by a sophisticated network of trains and buses. Visitors from Melbourne City can reach our school in under 45 minutes by train. The school is located in close proximity to Westfield Knox City Shopping Centre which offers a wide variety of shopping and international dining options.

### FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL - A VALUES-BASED EDUCATION

Fairhills High School offers a values-based education. Our school community follows five core values as we believe that the students who display these values are most likely to achieve their full potential.

These values include:

- RESPECT** Showing care and concern for other people and property. Developing a sense of pride, self-esteem and personal identity.
- PERSISTENCE** Seeing each challenge as an opportunity to keep going to succeed.
- INCLUSION** Recognising diversity and individual differences by showing understanding and acceptance of all individuals.
- INTEGRITY** Being honest, sincere, truthful and trustworthy and supporting the school's values.
- RESPONSIBILITY** Being consistent in our words and actions as we contribute to society's expectations.

## STRUCTURED FOR SUCCESS

Fairhills High School is structured to best support students and facilitate their educational success. All students experience the personal care of a Home Group Tutor who instructs them for at least one subject. With a dedicated team of subject teachers and the peer support program, all our students are able to quickly develop positive relationships with teaching staff and their peers.

This structure is assisted by a specialist Pastoral Support Team consisting of a Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Year Level Coordinators, a Chaplain, a Social Worker, a Psychologist and a Sub-School Manager.

Feedback from our parents and students has highlighted their expectations of Fairhills High School include:

- Personalised and effective teaching and learning
- A safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment
- Pleasant, respectful and helpful relationships
- A wide variety of subject choices and co-curricular activities
- 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.



## A GLOBAL EDUCATION

For many years, Fairhills High School has been at the forefront of recognising the value of our students being connected to the wonderful opportunities that exist through the establishment of relationships with schools overseas and the global community. For this reason, Fairhills established sister schools in:

- Chongqing, China.
- Ludwigshafen, Germany
- Fukuyama Hiroshima, Japan

The school offers regular reciprocal exchange trips to Japan and Germany and low-cost individual overseas study opportunities (short and long-term) to any of the sister schools. Students are encouraged to participate in annual and bi-annual organised trips run to the USA and South-Eastern Asian countries.

To support the sister school program, Fairhills High School provides opportunities for students to study two languages, Japanese and German, from Year 7 to 12. Language is a core subject in Year 10. Students are strongly encouraged to continue studying a language in Year 11 and 12 to become eligible for the VCE Baccalaureate, a program that was designed to encourage more students to include languages and higher level mathematics in their senior study.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Our cultural enrichment is further enhanced by Department accreditation to accept international students from a variety of countries including China, Japan, Europe, South America, USA and Vietnam. Fairhills has a thriving and growing international student population of 21 students from China, the UK, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, Germany. These students enrich the lives of our local students by introducing them to cultures, beliefs, traditions, languages and even foods from around the world and this cultural exchange is reciprocal.



# CARING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Our school adheres to strict enrolment guidelines for all our international students and we ensure our students are suitably cared for with an appropriate level of personal support.

## HOMESTAY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Homestay living is an important and highly valued component of life in Australia for international students as the home-stay families provided a glimpse into an authentic Australian lifestyle.

Homestay hosts are familiar with students from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. They see international students as an important part of their family. Consequently, they not only care for our students, they maintain contact with the international student's parents on a regular basis.

Our homestay families are hand-picked from the school and local community and all homestay hosts and members of their family over the age of 18, are required by law to undergo a statutory check to ensure the welfare and safety of our international students.



## ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) PROGRAM

Learning a new language is one of the most valued benefits to families of the International Student Program and therefore Fairhills High School provides excellent and extensive English as a Second Language (EAL) support to all international students across all year levels.

## ON-CAMPUS SUPPORT

Fairhills High School has a team of highly trained and experienced staff who support our international students, including an Associate Principal, a full-time International Student Coordinator, as well as additional language tutors and office staff for administration support. Members of staff are fluent in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese and German.

The International Student Coordinator is experienced in student welfare support and services that are available to support international students include:

- Meet and greet and welcome reception at Melbourne airport and on-campus orientation support.
- Homestay placement for the student and then the ongoing liaison between the school, parents and student.
- Ongoing monitoring of students academic progress and support to students and parents who are welcomed and encouraged to contact the International Student Coordinator about any topic that they would like to discuss within the school business hours. A translated and English progress report is sent to the parents twice a year. Parents can also access online student information via COMPASS.
- Welfare and mental health support via both the International Student Coordinator and the Fairhills High School onsite Student Welfare Coordinator. The Coordinator works closely with a specialist pastoral support team to ensure the ongoing welfare and mental health support for international students. This team consists of a Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Associate Principal, Guidance Officer, Chaplain, Social Worker, and a Psychologist. Should the need arise, the International Student Coordinator will report back to the parent.
- Around the clock, emergency access to the International Student Coordinator and the Associate Principal should - in an unlikely event - a critical incident occur.

The schools Learning Resource Centre offers our international students a very supportive environment with excellent resources and fully qualified, caring staff. Our English as an Additional Language (EAL) students are systematically integrated into the mainstream subjects with a strong focus on improving their efficiency in English. The school ensures that our EAL students are suitably prepared for tertiary entrance into some of Melbourne's best universities.

## A RICH CURRICULUM

Fairhills High School offers a wide range of subjects in Mathematics, Science, Technology, Business, Humanities, Languages and the Arts. Students at Fairhills complete the internationally recognised Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), which can include the following career-related options:

- Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses are studied at off-campus institutions. There is a range of courses that students can elect to study including multimedia and robotics.
- Structured Work Place Learning (SWL)
- University Enhancement Studies (UES) while still at school.

As well as a strong commitment to excellence in academic areas, students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of sporting, outdoor education, cultural and recreational activities. Sports and Physical Education are core subjects in Years 7-10 providing students the opportunity to develop positive peer relations, self-esteem, teamwork, school spirit and unity.

Fairhills participates in a wide range of sports, frequently achieving excellent results at zone, regional, state and national levels. Our school has won State and National awards in Baseball, Volleyball, Tae Kwon Do, Athletics, Girls' Soccer and Girls' Football. In the past, Fairhills was nominated the top Physical Education and Sports school for the region.

Summer Sports offered include Cricket, Volleyball, Tennis, Softball, Baseball, and Athletics.

Winter Sports offered include Football, Soccer, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Table Tennis, Athletics, Cross Country and Indoor Soccer.

The school also has an outstanding Outdoor Education program and participates in bicycle tours, kayaking surfing, caving, rock climbing, lifesaving and windsurfing.

Fairhills High School offers an extensive instrumental music program and presents a Performing Arts Festival and a school musical production each year. As well, students at Fairhills are offered the opportunity to participate in regional dance, singing competitions, debating and chess competitions.

To support the learning needs of individual students, Fairhills offers an after-school homework club and one-on-one tutorial support with subject experts.

## ACCELERATED LEARNING

Students who are faster learners can undertake an acceleration program and complete the curriculum for Years 7, 8 and 9 in two years. These students then proceed into senior school to complete a normal Year 10 VCE preparation year before commencing an enhanced three-year VCE.

This program enables students to study a wider range of VCE subjects, participate in career development options and University Enhancement Studies as well as obtaining higher ATAR scores

### SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING (SEAL) PROGRAM

The SEAL 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. Fairhills is the only Department accredited SEAL school in the Knox Area.





# ACADEMY PROGRAMS

## PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

Fairhills is a designated specialist Performing Arts Academy within the Knox Network of schools. For over a decade, Fairhills consistently performed at the highest level in the Rock Eisteddfod winning the first place five times. The school is committed to holding an annual musical production for members of our local community.

In Year 7, students are introduced to Theatre Studies, Drama, Dance and Music and they can continue these studies through to Year 12.

Fairhills has an extensive instrumental music program which includes various musical ensembles, several of which perform publicly. Each year, Fairhills presents a range of performances, including semester concerts, primary school visits, a Performing Arts Festival, a Solo Performance Drama evening and DanceFair (an interschool dance competition) to encourage student participation and develop their performing talents.

Within the Performing Arts Academy, we offer a wide range of opportunities for students to discover and enhance their love of the Performing Arts. With a focus on dance, theatre studies and music, students have many opportunities to be involved in our curriculum and extra curriculum-based activities. Our teachers are industry professionals who each have extensive experience in their respective areas.



## BASKETBALL ACADEMY

Fairhills High School offers students wishing to pursue a career in sport the opportunity to join our Basketball Academy at the beginning of Year 7. The Basketball Academy is run in conjunction with a normal academic Year 7 program but offers students an additional two sessions a week of intense training and skills development in basketball.

The Basketball Academy is located in our state-of-the-art double court stadium developed in conjunction with the Knox Basketball Association. This school and 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.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) ACADEMY

Fairhills has a rich science, technology and mathematics curriculum which all students actively participate in. Fairhills offers a designated specialist Science, Technology, Engineering And Mathematics (STEM) Academy within the Knox Network of Schools. Over several years, it has been our goal to develop an integrated approach to the teaching and learning of science within a technological context.

We offer a broad range of interesting subjects and activities that are tailored to support and enhance the STEM disciplines within the National and Victorian Curriculum through research, practical application and experimentation.

STEM is the way of the future and the program brings into the curriculum real-life relevance, hands-on activities and career-focused curriculum options including nano-technology, medicine, materials, systems, environmental sustainability, electronics, climatology and Information and communication technologies (ICT).

Fairhills shares with the other Knox secondary schools an \$11 Million state-of-the-art Technology Training Complex as a second campus in the grounds of Swinburne University in Wantirna. Students from Years 7 to 12 visit the campus to undertake specialist programs using facilities and equipment not normally available in schools. Students use state-of-the-art technologies such as robotics, 3D design and printing, virtual reality oculus experience and the latest laboratory equipment.



# CAREERS AND PATHWAYS

The staff at Fairhills recognise that all students are different and that they require an individually tailored academic and career pathway, including VET and VCAL study options. We have an experienced Careers Manager who is available to help international and local students to achieve the best outcomes for their academic and career pathways.

The support of students commences in Year 10 as this is viewed as a preparatory year before students begin their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Students select curriculum units each semester from an extensive range of electives and they are introduced to the concept of Career

Pathways where they are helped to develop the first draft of their own Individual Pathway. This involves research and a detailed self-assessment which enables students to update and refine their first draft into a detailed Managed Individual Pathways (MIPS) plan for Years 11 and 12 and beyond.

Year 11 and 12 students complete their senior studies by choosing subjects that coincide with their Career Pathway Plan. Students at Fairhills have access to a career development component with three alternatives:

### 1. Professional Workplace Learning (PWL)

This academic VCE option caters for students planning to go to University degrees and includes extended work placement opportunities that are 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 and Enterprise and gain valuable experience in their anticipated career.

### 2. Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Students planning to commence TAFE can go off-campus to complete Certificate II (with VCE credits) in any one of over 30 TAFE courses. These VET courses are fully accredited as part of the VCE.

### 3. 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 include a Vocational Education Training course of their choice, several work placement and the four core VCAL units.

This individualised and personalised approach to developing a career pathway has proven to be a very successful tool to assist students to find their way in the world.



## MELBOURNE - OUR CITY, OUR HOME

Melbourne is one of the largest cities in Australia with a population of five million people. For the past seven years, Melbourne has been voted, the world's most liveable city.

Melbourne is renowned as the sports capital of Australia. Sporting events in Melbourne are world-famous and include The Australian Tennis Open, Formula 1 Grand Prix, and The Melbourne Cup.

Home to some of the world's best art galleries, museums, national parks, shopping centres and world-class theatres and restaurants, Melbourne is also considered the cultural, culinary and fashion capital of Australia.



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## THE EDUCATION STATE

Melbourne is home to a wide range of quality tertiary institutions including Australian Catholic University, Deakin University, Federation University, La Trobe University, University of Melbourne, Monash University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University), Swinburne University of Technology and Victorian University.

Each university is renowned for their own expertise in various academic disciplines. In addition, most universities offer exchange programs with other world-famous universities. Studying in Melbourne, therefore, is sure to be a great Australian educational experience and an important stepping-stone into the global academic community.



## ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES

Further enrolment information can be obtained from the International Education Division (IED) of the Department of Education and Training:

**The International Education Division  
Department of Education and Training**

41 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne VIC 3002 AUSTRALIA

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