



Woonona High School

EXCELLENCE INNOVATION SUCCESS

2022 PROSPECTUS

Welcome



Caroline David
Principal

Woonona High School is a comprehensive co-educational school serving the community of northern Illawarra. Every student is provided opportunities to develop skills that will carry them beyond their school years. Our students thrive in an environment that promotes independent, confident learners.

Students have on offer a diverse curriculum that is taught by expert teachers who are passionate about their subjects. Students have the opportunity to undertake the study of traditional academic subjects as well as an extensive Vocational Education and Training program and alternative patterns of study. Our school offers specialised elective subjects throughout the junior school. Year 8 students have the opportunity to select 2 electives and students in Years 9 and 10, 3 electives.

Woonona High School has a strong commitment to quality teaching and quality assessment with a focus upon high expectations. HSC results are consistently impressive, with a large number of students enrolling in university and TAFE courses of their choice.

Our co-curricular program is designed to enrich students' experience at Woonona High School and develop essential life skills. Students can participate in a variety of activities including music, dance, drama, academic competitions, sport, public speaking, debating and international exchange with our sister school in Japan. We foster the idea of being part of and giving to the community and encourage students to complete a Premier's Volunteering Award. Our students consistently receive State recognition for their outstanding contributions to volunteering.

Providing student leadership opportunities is a priority for the school, with students at all levels encouraged to take on leadership roles. We have a strong, active Student Representative Council, with students elected from all years to represent the interests of their peers.

Woonona High has a proud history of high-level sporting achievement across a variety of sports. The promotion of a healthy, active lifestyle is a priority of the school and the local community.

A strong student welfare ethos and productive partnerships with parents and the wider community enhances our goal of providing opportunities for all students to succeed.

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School Executive



Principal:
Ms Caroline David



Deputy Principal:
Mr Shane Rayner



Deputy Principal:
Mrs Merrideth McGregor

HEAD TEACHERS



English:
Ms Amy Peace



Mathematics:
Mr Peter Holliday



Science:
Ms Diana Jarrah



**Technology and Applied
Studies (TAS):**
Ms Amy Turner



**Human Society and its
Environment (HSIE):**
Ms Jillian Jones



PDHPE:
Mr James Muir



**Creative and Performing
Arts (CAPA):**
Ms Rhiannon Sharp



Administration:
Ms Carla McCarthy



Wellbeing:
Mr Simon Radford



Learning Support:
Mrs Angie Taylor

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Enrichment Opportunities

Our students enjoy learning with teachers who are experts in their subject, many of whom have been involved in HSC marking. Our teachers have highly developed skills in teaching students of all ability levels, providing each student with the opportunity to excel in a rich, challenging and welcoming learning environment.



Academic Enrichment Students 7-10

Students at Woonona High School have diverse talents. As a school, we believe it is our duty to harness these talents and challenge students to reach their true potential. We offer a range of enrichment and extension programs throughout the school. In Year 7 students can apply to be placed in our Enrichment class by submitting an application whilst in Year 6. Students in this class are taught an extended curriculum designed to challenge and develop high-achieving students. Since 2014, Woonona High School has embedded Enrichment classes for students in Years 8-10 across the breadth of the curriculum. This class structure is specifically designed to maximise the academic potential of high-achieving students by engaging them in rigorous study based on Gifted and Talented principles. Entry into all enrichment classes is by invitation only, with class placements based on academic results, attitude and overall application. In 2021 Woonona HS has implemented the new NSW 'High Potential and Gifted Education Policy.' This will involve extensive professional learning as well as increased collaboration and communication with parents focused on the learning needs of students with high potential.

All students are encouraged to enter academic competitions throughout their time at Woonona High School. This includes English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography competitions, as well as Creative Arts competitions. The Tournament of Minds, creative writing and poetry competitions, public speaking and debating will create further opportunities for able students to apply their talents.

Students also have the opportunity to attend a range of excursions throughout the year, including visits to universities and enrichment days in specific subject areas. Our NAPLAN and HSC results demonstrate excellent 'Value Added' success and above the state mean average, reflecting our ability to support students to achieve their personal best.

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Enrichment Opportunities

Year 7 Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Enrichment Class Program

The CAPA Enrichment Class is designed for students with an interest and talent in the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA). The goal being to provide students with a holistic CAPA experience that fosters their abilities, creativity and collaboration within and across each discipline of the arts. Whilst this program provides students with all the core subjects needed to fulfill the requirements of Year 7 at high school, they benefit from additional teaching time in the Creative and Performing Arts encompassing the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts syllabus content. As part of the learning philosophy around this program, it is expected that all students will also participate in the extra curricular activities offered by the school including:

- Dance Ensembles
- Band Program
- Vocal Ensemble
- School Production
- Art Workshops
- Drama Club
- Circus Training



After Year 7, students can choose to study a wide variety of CAPA electives from Year 8-12 including HSC Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts. All students at Woonona High School are offered a large range of extra and co-curricular opportunities in the Creative and Performing Arts, regardless of whether they study CAPA subjects. Please note that although all electives are offered each year, courses will only run if there is enough interest from that cohort.



Excellence Innovation Success

Achieving academic success

At Woonona High School we have a proud history of students achieving high levels of academic success. Our students are encouraged to become independent, confident and successful learners who go on to use their skills and knowledge in a variety of ways including tertiary study and alternative pathways.

We offer a diverse curriculum in traditional and innovative disciplines, giving every student the greatest opportunity to study subjects they enjoy and that will lead to a fulfilling career.

Literacy and numeracy

Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st Century will read and write more than in any other time in human history. Today's students will need proficient literacy skills to cope with the flood of information they will find wherever they turn. Furthermore, proficiency in numeracy underpins the ability to thrive in society and assists students to acquire more complex skills.

From 2020, all students in New South Wales must demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to be eligible for the award of a Higher School Certificate.

Students must demonstrate the minimum standard in each domain of reading, writing and numeracy. Students in Years 10 to 12 may demonstrate the HSC minimum standard by achieving Level 3 or above in the NESA minimum standard online reading, writing and numeracy tests.

Woonona High School supports students to achieve this standard in a number of ways. We have implemented an innovative, evidence-based reading program for all Year 7 and 8 Students. Students complete the STAR Reader Test which gives a baseline of students' reading performance and, combined with the Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading (PAT-R) allows their teacher to set attainable goals and chart each students' path toward reading success. This success is fostered by the students engagement in reading groups in the library twice a fortnight.

Teachers at Woonona High School use 'Super Six' comprehension strategies that explicitly teach students how to read (cognitive strategies) as well as teaching students how to assess and monitor their own process of reading (metacognition strategies). Additionally, teachers focus on student's writing from their entry into year 7. In Stage 4 students are taught the PEEL (Point, Expand/Explain, Example, Link) method of structuring paragraphs and progress to ALARM in later stages.

Numeracy skills are integrated across the curriculum, with a particular focus in the Mathematics faculty. In addition, in Science students develop numeracy capability as they engage in the scientific inquiry process and learn how to organise and interpret data gathered during the study of scientific phenomena. In HSIE They apply numeracy skills in geographical analysis by counting and measuring, constructing and interpreting tables and graphs, calculating and interpreting statistics and using statistical analysis to test relationships between variables. In constructing and interpreting maps, students work with numerical concepts of grids, scale, distance, area and projections.



Achieving academic success

English

Students have many opportunities to experience depth, breadth and choice in their individualised learning. In Year 7, students complete a transition program from Year 6 which allows for a seamless transition of skills and understanding from Stage 3 to Stage 4. This unit of work, called “Through My Window”, examines how texts create and represent identity and engage students in a variety of fiction, non fiction and multi-media texts. Students participate in “Play Day”, create their own poetry anthology and create digital stories as part of their introduction to high school. This rigorous and exciting English program allows students to develop a wide range of skills and deepen their understanding of themselves and others in the world around them.

For example Year 8 classes create original picture books as part of their English curriculum. They write reflection statements in which they analyse their own choice of language and visual techniques. Students then have the opportunity to go to Woonona Public School to read their picture books to an infants class. In Year 9, students analyse protest poetry and song lyrics and discuss how songs use literary and visual techniques to communicate meaning. Their assessment task for this unit is a Multimodal Presentation. Students also study a unit on 'Real Life' Biographies, Autobiographies and Documentary texts. They complete a task with an authentic connection to the wider community in which they interview a person from their own life and write up their 'life story'.

In Year 10, students participate in a cross curricular Project Based Learning program with the HSIE Faculty. They choose a Country to research and engage in a range of writing and speaking tasks. In groups they dress up, decorate their stall, to share information about that chosen Country with the rest of the school on 'International Day'.

These are just a few examples of the innovative, quality teaching that occurs at Woonona High School.



Excellence Innovation Success

Achieving academic success

Mathematics



At Woonona High School we believe that all students are able to make progress in Mathematics. Our focus is to promote higher order thinking and establish authentic connections between classroom experiences and the real world. We continually place high expectations on our students and challenge them to reach their potential in all areas of Mathematics.

We have structured our programs and assessment tasks to engage and motivate students through a range of teaching approaches. Students discover how maths is applied in everyday situations through investigation and project work, inquiry based learning in groups and more traditional independent learning activities. We understand that maths skills are important in a range of workplaces, the community, at home and for those able to base a professional career in fields such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine, Architecture and Finance.

All students attending Woonona High School receive support throughout their learning experiences. Our highly popular computer tutor facility 'Mathsonline' provides support to students and parents as it offers an alternative to traditional home study by providing instructional videos, worked examples and revision activities. We also offer lessons where students work collaboratively with their peers within innovative learning contexts such as formative assessment, whiteboard challenges and Project based learning.

The students in the Mathematics Enrichment Classes at Woonona High School are provided with a wide range of challenging experiences to deepen their knowledge and understanding. Our strong relationship with the University of Wollongong allows many of our enrichment students to attend University functions that cater for high achieving students. The University is very keen to monitor the most talented individuals as they progress through high school. Enrichment students are encouraged to challenge themselves in the International Mathematics Competition.

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Achieving academic success

Science

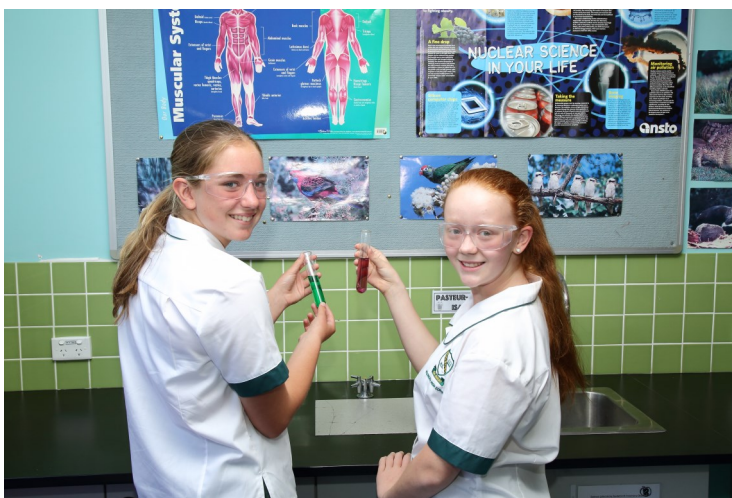


The Science faculty at Woonona High School is committed to providing an engaging and rigorous curriculum in a supportive, collaborative atmosphere of high expectations. Innovative pedagogies feature in our classrooms, ranging from problem-based learning units and student interest projects to student-led formative feedback strategies. The Science faculty aims to enhance the curiosity and wonder that students have for the natural world, to facilitate their development as critical thinkers and problem solvers, and to engender global awareness of the issues that affect their world, now and into the future.

An important focus of the Science faculty is cross-curricular collaboration, underscored by our STEM electives that focus on finding innovative solutions to authentic local global issues. The Science faculty also works to enable students to transfer skills practiced in Science, including evaluative and analytical data skills, to other areas of study.

In addition to our regular curriculum the Science faculty at Woonona High School offers electives catering to the interests of our students. These range from “Crime Scene Investigations” to “Marine and Aquaculture Technology.”

In developing our junior scientists, lessons in risk-taking and resilience are as important as lessons in the scientific method.



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Achieving academic success

Human Society in its Environment (HSIE)



Human Society in its Environment involves the study of people, cultures, societies and environments in different places and times. In the junior years this includes the mandatory study of Geography and History. At Woonona High School we offer a range of engaging additional electives including Forensic Archaeology, Commerce, Murders and Mysteries, Film in History and Psychology. In the senior years our students have the choice of studying Ancient History, Modern History, History Extension, Geography, Business Studies, Society and Culture, Legal Studies, Economics and work Studies.

The HSIE faculty has dedicated and expert teachers who are able to deliver interesting, challenging and innovative teaching programs tailored to the interests of students of all ages. We encourage students to develop a strong understanding of the society in which they live to enable them to become active citizens.

We have incorporated a range of practical activities/assessments into all HSIE subjects including excursions, model making and field work. We also run a highly engaging and relevant Central Australia excursion every two years that is open to students in Years 9—11.

Enrichment

The HSIE faculty provides quality teaching and learning and is responsive to the needs of enrichment students. Teachers utilise a range of identification tools and provide enrichment students with tasks that develop their individual and research skills, higher order thinking, reasoning, analysis and evaluative skills. Creativity is also highly valued and nurtured, with students offered opportunities to utilise technology and Project Based Learning initiatives to challenge and engage themselves in authentic learning experiences.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The HSIE faculty provides a range of activities that allow Enrichment students to extend their knowledge and skills outside of the classroom environment. These include:

- Creating and presenting the ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies
- The Simpson Award
- Mock Trial
- History and Geography competitions
- Enrichment Course competitions



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Achieving academic success

Technology and Applied Studies



The Technological and Applied Studies faculty offers a number of subjects across Stages 4,5 and 6 that cater for students with a range of interests. In Stage 4 students will study the new Technology Mandatory curriculum where they will experience Coding, Food and Agriculture, Engineered Products and Material Technologies. Along with these areas students can choose to extend their experience through a range of electives.

In Stage 5 we offer a number of electives that encourage students to achieve their best in a variety of environments. These include both 100 and 200 hour courses including Industrial Technology Timber, Industrial Technology Metal, Food Technology, Design and Technology, Building Studies, Engineering, Masterchef and Textiles and Design.

Across Stage 6 the Technology and Applied Science faculty offers a range of ATAR and non ATAR subjects for students to work towards their future career paths. These include Engineering Studies, Design & Technology, Industrial Technology Timber and Food Technology. A number of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses are on offer including Construction Pathways, Retail and Hospitality.



The Technological and Applied Studies faculty has a strong focus in promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) within the school. The faculty collaborates with the Mathematics and Science faculties to deliver innovative cross curricular Project Based Learning opportunities that encourage students to develop skills in problem solving, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

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Achieving academic success

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Students are encouraged to pursue their creative side in the fields of circus, dance, drama, music and visual arts. Our students develop confidence, critical thinking and valuable communication skills as they learn to collaborate and express themselves in a wide variety of performing and visual media. Students have the opportunity to showcase their skills through numerous authentic experiences each year, including CAPA Showcase, assembly performances and the annual Variety Night Showcase. The CAPA faculty offer a large range of courses that enable students to challenge and explore their interests and talents further, including the innovative Year 7 CAPA Enrichment Class Program and NESA Stage 5 and HSC Courses in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts. All courses include a practical and theoretical component, including written responses, analysis and appreciation.. Our Visual Arts Acceleration Program allows talented students to complete the HSC in Year 11. Please note that although all elective subjects are offered each year, courses will only run if there is enough interest from within that cohort.

Aerial Foundations

Ceramics

Circus Skills

Dance

Drama

Film

Music

Photography and Digital Media

Visual Arts

Visual Arts Extension

Visual Arts HSC Acceleration

Visual Design



Excellence Innovation Success

Achieving academic success



Languages

At Woonona High School all Year 7 students study Japanese. Japanese can also be studied as an elective in Years 8 – 10 as well as at the HSC level. Students may study other languages in Years 11 and 12 via Distance Education.

The study of Japanese provides access to the language and culture of one of the world's most technologically advanced societies and economies. It also introduces students to an important part of the rich cultural tradition of East Asia. Students engage in a range of learning experiences that exposes them to the Japanese language system and cultural history. Through this study they gain valuable perspectives on art, music, customs, beliefs and the ways of thinking of Japanese people.

The use of online and internet resources is an integral part of the teaching and learning of languages. Students will develop communication skills and gain insights into the relationships between language and culture, leading to lifelong personal educational and vocational benefits. Due to Japan's global position, Japanese has been identified as a priority language to be taught in Australian schools. At Woonona High School students will develop knowledge and understanding of the Japanese language as well as the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary for effective interaction in Japanese.

Woonona High School also has a sister school agreement with a school in Japan which provides our students with the opportunity to host Japanese students and to visit and study in Japan.

Information Software & Technology



Information Technology is integrated across all subjects. For students wishing to further their skills and knowledge, they can choose to study Information Software and Technology in years 9 -10 and Software Design and Development and Information Processes and Technology in the senior years.

Robotics (EV3 Mindstorm) was introduced several years ago and has proven to be successful. All students who select IST in Years 9 and 10 will have the opportunity to construct and learn to program various robots. Also Python programming has been introduced to engage students in the area of problem solving and critical computational thinking.

Excellence Innovation Success

Achieving academic success

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)



All students study Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) in Years 7-10 at Woonona High School. PDHPE contributes significantly to the overall health of students.

It provides opportunities for students to learn about and practice ways of adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active lifestyle. It also involves students learning through movement experiences that are both challenging, enjoyable and promotes the value of physical activity in their lives now and in the future. Students actively take part in a variety

of team and individual sports, team building exercises and various excursions.

The PDHPE Faculty offers a wide range of elective courses, which are designed to extend students who have a particular interest or talent in health and physical activity.

Electives for Year 8 students include Sports Academy and Outdoor Education and for Year 9 and 10 students Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS), child studies & Be Fit Be Healthy. These electives aim to extend students knowledge and understanding of physical activity concepts and to build upon their skills within a variety of sporting contexts. Both electives encourage community partnerships, volunteering and provide students with the opportunity to achieve coaching accreditations.

In Years 11 and 12 students can choose from a range of subjects including Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE), Community and Family Studies (CAFS) and Sports, Lifestyle and Recreation (SLR).



Stage 6 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) aims to develop in each student a capacity to think critically about key issues related to health and physical activity in order to make informed decisions that support and contribute to healthy, active lifestyles and communities.

Community and Family Studies (CAFS) Stage 6 aims to develop in each student an ability to manage resources and take action to support the needs of individuals, groups, families and communities in Australian society.

Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation (SLR) enables Stage 6 students to build upon their learning in Years K–10 Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. Specifically, it focuses on those aspects of the learning area that relate most closely to participation in sport and physical activity. It aims to develop in each student the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to adopt active and health-promoting lifestyles.

Excellence Innovation Success

Alternative Pathways to Success



Learning and Support Faculty

The Learning and Support Faculty was established at Woonona High School in 2018. It encompasses two Autism classes, a Mental Health class, as well as, providing support to mainstream students requiring adjustments to their learning.

The support classes provide the opportunity for students to access the curriculum in all key learning areas including English, Mathematics, Science, HSIE, PDHPE, CAPA, LOTE and Technology. Adjustments and accommodations are made for all student's dependant on their needs to maximise the opportunity for integration and inclusion.

New students participate in appropriate transition programs and peer support activities. Also, on offer are school and community sport programs, band and other performance related activities. Students are also offered the opportunity to choose elective courses in Years 8, 9 and 10.

The Learning and Support staff work in collaboration with all other faculties within the school to ensure the effectiveness of teaching and learning programs and assessments, as well as extra-curricular opportunities for all students. High expectations provide the foundation to develop communication, social interaction, creativity and problem-solving skills within the students' education. Moving forward the faculty will see the introduction of suitable transition plans that will include work experience and alternate pathways to enhance the skills and abilities of students to enter the workforce and/or progress onto further studies.

The Learning and Support Teacher and School Learning Support Officers provide students in mainstream with a suitable level of intervention to access the curriculum and provide learning environments that are appropriate for each student. Through the collaborative planning process individual education plans may be required to ensure each student's individual needs are met and educational goals are achieved.



Excellence Innovation Success

Alternative Pathways to Success

Work Related Alternative Pathway (WRAP)

The WRAP program began in 2011 with 22 Year 11 students. So far, more than 50 students have completed the program or left school to enter employment or a training program such as a pre-apprenticeship at TAFE. There are currently 40 students across Stage 6 enrolled in WRAP.

The Stage 6 program was created in response to legislation that mandated an increase in the school leaving age to 17. It is tailored for HSC students that do not wish to pursue an ATAR and are looking to gain entry into the world of work. All students spend one day per week at Work Experience and are enrolled in two Board Endorsed courses that make up the rest of their timetable. This pattern of enrolment ensures that at the end of Year 12 they will complete an HSC.

The WRAP program has built partnerships with a wide range of employers in the local area and feedback from these employers has informed our delivery of curriculum and career advice.

Students were identified for WRAP by Year 10 teachers through consultation with the Careers Adviser and Year Adviser.

WRAP students explore future pathways through the organising of sample senior school lessons, TAFE excursions, the Trades Pathway TASTER program and a Trades Road Show excursion. They develop team work and enterprise skills, communication skills and acquire a strong understanding of the qualities deemed desirable by future employers. Practical and real-life tasks feature prominently throughout the course and engage students in a meaningful and purposeful manner.



Excellence Innovation Success

Learning in an Innovative Environment

Future Focus

The OECD “The Future of Education and Skills” report (2018) states that:

“The children entering education in 2018 will be young adults in 2030. Schools can prepare them for jobs that have not yet been created, for technologies that have not yet been invented, to solve problems that have not yet been anticipated. It will be a shared responsibility to seize opportunities and find solutions.”

Woonona High School is deeply committed to preparing our students for the world of the future. To develop the “curiosity, imagination, resilience and self regulation” needed to thrive.

Over the past few years Woonona High School, in partnership with ‘Schools Plus,’ has developed an exciting new program called ‘Learn to Learn’. This focuses on teaching students how to develop the skills to become effective life-long learners.

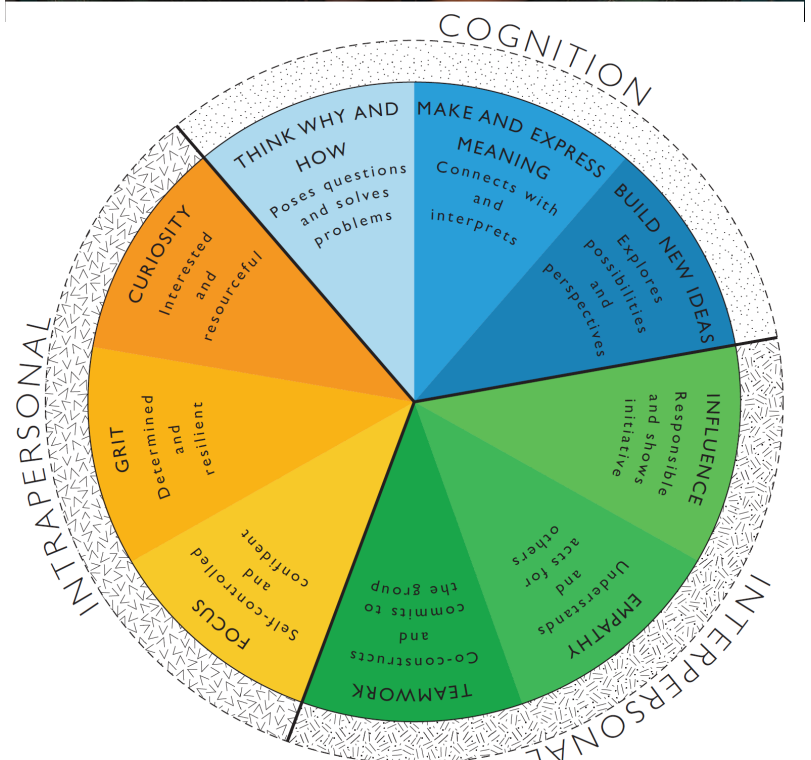
From 2019 the skills from this program are being embedded into Key Learning Areas so that students can more effectively make links between areas of their learning. These skills focus on critical thinking, communication, creativity and design.

Students will be explicitly taught using C21st pedagogy such as project-based-learning, collaboration and creativity. The school will be encouraging our students to explore and pursue possibilities as 21st Century learners and active global citizens.

Students learn key concepts around metacognition and brain science, as part of their English and Science syllabus. Teachers help students to set goals and facilitate regular reflection and collection of evidence in line with their goals.

Students will need to develop social and emotional skills (e.g. empathy, self-efficacy and collaboration); and practical and physical skills (e.g. using new information and communication technology devices) to prepare them for this world of the future.

In 2019-2021 teachers will be engaged in deep professional learning around “4Cs” education: Building our capacity to explicitly teach Communication, Collaboration, Critical Reflection and Creativity as well as building resilience in our students. The results of this have been implemented across the curriculum.



Excellence Innovation Success

Learning in an Innovative Environment

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

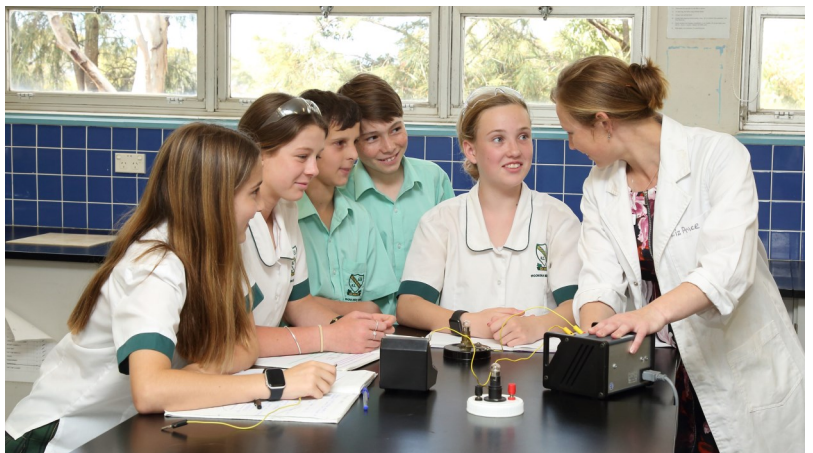
The Technology, Science, Engineering and Mathematics faculties at Woonona High School are committed to promoting STEM within the school and encouraging students to pursue STEM based occupations as future career pathways. This is done through the faculties collaborating to provide cross curricular project based learning opportunities that encourage skills in critical thinking, problem solving, design and creativity and collaborative teamwork skills.

Through these programs we have been able to develop strong links with the University of Wollongong. These links provide our students with authentic learning opportunities as well as equipment and technical support to help maintain these programs and ensure they remain innovative and engaging for all students.

Currently our Stage 4 students experience a range of projects that offer opportunity to utilise technologies such as laser cutting, 3D printing. The projects they encounter support them in developing problem solving skills and the ability work effectively within a team context.

Stage 5 students may choose our STEM elective to further explore their interests and abilities in blending Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This is delivered through a number of projects with 'real world problems' to explore and solve. A cross faculty approach ensures our students are supported by a range of teachers with highly developed specific technical skills. Our newly developed Digital Fabrication Space provides a world class prototyping facility allowing students to realise their proposals.

Our students have the opportunity to take part in a number of excursions and competitions such as the Girls in STEM day, University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge, University of Wollongong, High School Technology competitions and the STEM Travelling Road Show.



Excellence Innovation Success

Effective Transition Programs: Year 6—7

Transition Programs

At Woonona High School our Community of Schools CoS transition program enables students to move seamlessly from primary school into high school. Our program of transition days ensures that students entering into Woonona High School are already familiar with our school, our teachers and many of our students. In fact, Year 6 students are “buddied up” with Year 7 volunteers for the duration of the Transition Program, so have ready-made friends by the time they pass through our gates as fully fledged Woonona High School students.



At Woonona High School our transition program incorporates three days of learning time spent in specialist classrooms across the school including laboratories, workshops, theatre spaces and visual arts rooms. These ‘CoS Days’ are held in the first three terms of the year. In 2022, our program begins at the end of Term 1. Year 6 students will be working with student leaders from Year 7, specialist high school teachers and their own Year 6 teachers in a range of activities. The activities include a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) investigation, a Humanities project where students will participate in a number of activities and games exploring Egyptian history and a Creative and Performing Arts mini production where students will participate in activities to design and create props and develop their dramatic capacities.



The final phase of their transition period is attending an orientation day at the end of Term Four.

The Woonona High School transition program is unique in the Illawarra and demonstrates the strength of the links between Woonona High School and the community.



Excellence Innovation Success

Effective Transition Programs: Year 6—7

Orientation Day

Orientation Day at Woonona High School is designed to further familiarise Year 6 students with the structure and features of high school life, with additional sample lessons and tours of the school. Structured peer support lessons run by senior student mentors will also take place, with prospective students given opportunities to mix with fellow class mates and make connections with the existing student body. Information relating to orientation will be distributed to all local schools and can also be accessed on the Woonona High School website.



A Parent Information Session is held prior to Orientation Day for parents and carers of Year 6 students enrolling at Woonona High School. Parents will have the opportunity to meet and hear from a variety of school personnel. The School Locker will be available for uniform fittings, stationary packs and a range of other school merchandise that you may require.

In 2022, specialised transition days will be delivered at Woonona High School. These days will be advertised at your local primary school and are open to all students in Year 6.

An additional transition opportunity will be available to all Year 5 students in Term 4, 2022.



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Effective Transition Programs: Senior Students



Woonona High School has developed and embedded a comprehensive senior transition program that begins in Year 10 and moves through to the end of Year 12 with a clear focus on the best post school destinations. Throughout 2022 staff will be working with parents and Year 10 students to create an individual student learning plan with a career focus in mind. Students undertake mandatory work experience placements at different points throughout the year to give them an insight into their chosen fields and help them make effective subject choices for Year 11 and 12.

In addition, Year 10 students will engage in a series of curriculum and career-based workshops that will enable them to interact with local businesses and representatives from the University of Wollongong and various employment agencies and complete career-aptitude assessments to assist students in making appropriate subject choices. Workshops on stress management, effective study habits, essay writing, note-taking, learning preferences are also offered in order to best prepare students for the academic demands of senior schooling.

Results of these programs have been overwhelmingly positive. Student and staff surveys reveal students in their final years are more focused on obtaining the best possible HSC result, are very supportive of each other when studying and are prepared to take up the opportunities offered to support them.

Significantly, the number of students attaining Bands 5 and 6 results, in addition to students receiving early University of Wollongong placements, has clearly increased. These students are ideal role models for our junior and middle school students, who are observing the positive culture and high standards set by our hard working senior students.

Excellence Innovation Success

Effective Transition Programs: Senior Students

For the last five years Woonona High School has provided a program of intensive monitoring and mentoring for Preliminary and HSC students. This Raising Achievement program is coordinated by Mrs Abrahams and includes:

Year 12

- Workshop evenings each term for parents and students to outline the skills and levels of academic rigour required to maximise achievement levels for all students
- Voluntary mentoring program facilitated by Woonona High School staff
- Study skills programs
- Individual student and study support
- Student information and planning guides, complete with study timetables, assessment tracking sheets, ALARM scaffolds, critical reflection scaffolds and goal setting strategies and assessment planners
- Holiday revision and tuition workshops/seminars run by subject teachers and access to Woonona High School library during holidays to complete supervised study
- Supervision of study periods in the library and afternoon study facilities in the library
- Targeted student monitoring program with senior student coordinator



Year 11

- Individual student and study support on Wednesday during Sport
- Student information and planning guides, complete with study timetables, assessment tracking sheets, writing scaffolds, goal setting strategies and assessment planners

Library Access

All students: Tuesday afternoons 2:50—4:30pm (afternoon tea provided)

Year 11 and 12: Wednesday afternoons 12:30—2:30pm (lunch provided)

Students can come and receive advice from Mrs Abrahams (Year 12), other staff and senior students to understand class work, complete homework, work on assignments and/or study.

Excellence Innovation Success

Creating Opportunities to Engage, Lead and Play

Creative and Performing Arts: Extra and Co-Curricular Enrichment Programs

Woonona High School is proud to offer a wide range of extra and co-curricular programs to engage, extend and enrich our students with an interest in the Creative and Performing Arts. Students are given the opportunity to experience a vast array of CAPA activities including:

Aboriginal Dance Ensemble and Art Workshops

Aerial Circus Ensemble

Annual Variety Night Showcase

Annual Creative and Performing Arts Camp

Art Extension Classes and Exhibitions

Art, Photography and Digital Media Workshops

The Arts Unit Boys Vocal Workshop

Battle of the Bands Competitions

Choir and Vocal Ensemble

Community of Schools Primary Band Program

Community Performances: Thirroul Seaside Festival, IRT

Dance Ensembles

Drama Club

Excursions - Art, Circus, Dance, Drama, Music

Groovin' the Woo - Fundraiser Music Festival

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Program

Junior Band and Stage Band Program

Kool Skools Recording Project

Merrigong Theatre Shows and Work Experience

Music Count Us In Songwriting Competition

Musical Theatre and Drama Productions

Illawarra Regional Performing Ensemble

Secondary Schools Choral Festival

Schools Spectacular

SongMakers Song Writing and Recording Project

South Coast Dance and Drama Festivals

Southern Stars

Unplugged Concerts

WotOpera



Excellence Innovation Success

Creating Opportunities to Engage, Lead and Play

Public speaking and debating

Woonona High School offers a wide range of opportunities in public speaking and debating. Some of the highlights demonstrating the depth of talent and skills in our students include one of our Year 12 leaders winning the Woonona Lions Club 'Youth of the Year Quest,' students competing in the Zonta Youth Leadership awards, as well as the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), including our Regional title winning team who went on to compete at the MUNA National final in Canberra.

Students have the opportunity to enter local debating competitions run by the University of Wollongong Debating Society as well as compete at state-level competitions. Past achievements include the Year 7 Debating team winning the Zone final of the Premier's Debating Challenge and Woonona High School hosting and winning the annual NAIDOC debating challenge. Our debaters have also worked with local primary schools in Community of Schools 'Debating Gala Days' to mentor and support younger students.

Speaking and listening are essential real-life skills and crucial tools for students to clarify their own thinking and reflect upon learning. At Woonona High School all students engage in public speaking before their peers from Year 7. Students also have the opportunity to present their speeches at local primary schools under the 'Community of Schools' concept.

Woonona High School speakers have had success and been placed at the South Coast Public Speaking Competition, Plain English Speaking Awards, Legacy Public Speaking Awards and United Nations 'Voice of Youth' competitions. They also enter the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) and debate in NSW Parliament House.



Writing Competitions

Enrichment opportunities are implemented into English programs to give students an authentic audience for their writing. These have shown the depth of talent in the Woonona High School Community, with students competing in the 'What Matters?' Whitlam Institute Competition and the Woonona Bowling Club Essay Competition. Students have also achieved success in the 'Endeavour' Creative Writing Competition and the Illawarra Mercury 'Design an Ad' Competition.



Excellence Innovation Success

Creating Opportunities to Engage, Lead and Play

Sport

Students participate in grade sport on Wednesday afternoons. These whole school sport programs are designed to give students the opportunity to improve their physical fitness, have fun and work as a team.

Throughout terms 2 and 3 students have the opportunity to participate in an inter-school sport competition with other high schools in the Northern Illawarra. Sport choices include:



- Soccer
- Basketball
- Netball
- Softball
- Oz-Tag
- Volleyball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Capture the Flag

Throughout the year all students have the opportunity to be selected in zone, area and Australian state teams in many sports. In terms 1 and 4 students participate in summer sports designed to make the most out of the beautiful weather and natural features we have available to us in the Illawarra. Summer sport choices include:



- Beach games/ swimming
- Learn to surf
- Dance
- Drama
- Art
- Walking
- Ten-pin bowling
- Surfing
- Fitness
- Aerial (Circus Skills)
- School Team Sports
- 360 Skate
- Stand up paddle boarding



Excellence Innovation Success

Creating Opportunities to Engage, Lead and Play

Student Representative Council

A Student Representative Council is set up by the students in the school. Every student has the right to approach his or her council representative with suggestions for the SRC's consideration.



**From left: School Captain: Billy Sargent-Wilson, School Captain: Madeleine Saxby
Vice Captain: Finlay Smart, Vice Captain: Summer Scarra, Prefect: Nabaa Abed**

The SRC holds many events throughout the year to support our students and the community. Events to raise funds and awareness include Saving Chloe Saxby, Shave, World's Greatest Shave, Jeans for Genes Day, Biggest Morning Tea, National Bandanna Day, Harmony Day, Christmas Giving Tree and Wear It Purple Day.

The SRC also plans fun activities for students such as Valentines Day roses, Soccer Day, outdoor Chess, and other surprises during the year. Elections for Years 7-11 are held at the commencement of the school year, with elections of captains and prefects for the following year at the end of Term 2.

Elections for Years 7-11 are held at the commencement of the school year, with elections of captains for the following year in term 3.



Excellence Innovation Success

Belonging to and Serving our Community

Woonona Learning Community



Woonona High School is part of a vibrant Learning Community with an excellent community reputation. Our partner schools are Woonona Public School, Woonona East Public School and Russell Vale Public School.

The four Principals and staff of each school are committed to the comprehensive transition program that has been developed over many years. A current focus is the expansion of the Learning Community beyond a Year 6 to Year 7 transition program into a genuine Learning Community that has as its priority a continuum of teaching and learning from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The current focus is to expand and improve the existing transition program, strengthen teaching and learning ties between the four schools, enhance and develop current enrichment and special interest programs and introduce initiatives to consolidate and promote our Learning Community, particularly after the highly successful launch of our Learning Community.



All school management plans reflect this commitment; Woonona High School has consolidated this commitment by creating a Transition Coordinators position to ensure that all programs, projects and events are innovative, successful and promoted within our wider community.

In 2022, Woonona High School will again host the Woonona Learning Community cross-curricular transition expo, designed to ensure a successful continuum of learning for students from K-12.

Excellence Innovation Success

Belonging to and Serving our Community

Peer Support



At Woonona High School we have an effective peer support program that operates throughout Term 1 for all Year 7 students and Year 10 peer-support leaders. This program has been devised to assist Year 7 students to settle into high school life and provide students with a supportive learning environment in which they develop the skills, understandings, attitudes and strategies to make healthy life decisions.

Volunteering

Woonona High School has a proud history of volunteering in the local community. Every year the school participates in the Premier's Student Volunteer Recognition program. This program encourages students in all year groups to undertake volunteering in their local community.



Currently students have the opportunity to volunteer for four programs:

- **Russell Vale Primary School Infant's Reading program:** Every Tuesday morning students assist teachers at the primary school teach Kindergarten and Year 1 children how to read.
- **Russell Vale Primary School Sports Coaching program:** Students are involved in coaching students in various sports and athletic activities every Friday.
- **Illawarra Retirement Trust Aged Care:** During Wednesday afternoons students join the elderly in an afternoon of fun and games.
- **Woonona Community of Schools Primary Band Program:** On Wednesday mornings senior music students assist staff with instrumental tuition, learning to read music notation and band rehearsals with Year 5 and 6 students from Woonona, Woonona East and Russell Vale Primary Schools participating in this initiative.



Excellence Innovation Success

Careers

At Woonona High School the transition from school to work and tertiary education is given a high priority. Students are supported through several programs administered in a school wide delivery.

Senior Students are assisted in defining and realising their dreams through regular updates about tertiary education and apprenticeship opportunities. Every year all year twelve students on a university pathway are encouraged to attend the *University of Wollongong's Discovery Day* where they experience the life of university student. Year twelve students also attended the *Illawarra Career Expo* where they were able to meet major employers and providers of tertiary education and training. All Year Twelve students are assisted in applying to universities, TAFE, private colleges and employers.

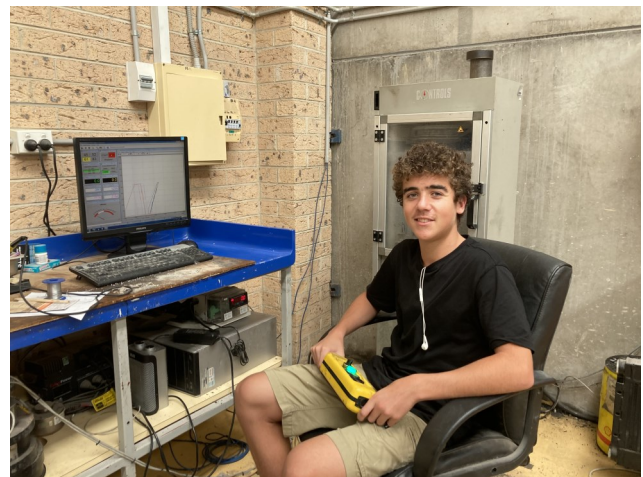
Year Ten is the most active year in careers education. All year ten students partake in a careers inventory through woononahighcareers.com This is in order that they can make informed career choices as they ponder the options that completing the HSC open for them. Every Year Ten student is interviewed prior to subject selection where academic results and career interests are considered and appropriate subjects are considered. Parents are informed of the results of these discussions at the annual 'Subject Selection and Pathways Forum' evening where students are given the opportunity to hear from past students regarding their career pathway.

In past seven years nearly every Year Ten student (over 98%) participated in Work Experience. However, due to COVID this number dropped to about 85%, still an impressive ratio. For many this is their first real experience of the working world. In order to prepare students for this exciting opportunity they were prepared through a unit delivered during Work Experience prepared by the Careers Adviser.

Year Ten students also attend the *Illawarra Schools Careers Expo* as well as *Readiness Week at the UOW Future Finder*. Visitors such as recruitment officers from the Armed Forces, the NSW Police and TAFE NSW to help ensure that our Woonona High students are being prepared for life beyond school.

All students are kept abreast of training and opportunities through newsletters and regular contact with the Career's Office. An open door policy at the Career's Office ensures that students are comfortable in approaching the Careers Adviser with any query they may have.

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Excellence Innovation Success

Library

Woonona High School has a modern library, central to implementing, enriching and supporting the vision and the teaching and learning programme of the school. Library staff proactively assist students to develop into information literate and independent lifelong learners with a love of reading. The library offers an array of excellent resources. From children's books to databases, our library provides an extensive range of print and electronic resources. Users can also borrow e-books for learning and recreational reading.

There is also a variety of stimulating spaces to work in, both collaboratively and individually. Students are encouraged to come and use the facilities, services and

Extra and co-curricular activities include a Book Club and a Manga/Anime club, displays and competitions, which offer students the opportunity to extend their leadership potential and showcase their literary talents.

Book Club

The library runs a Book Club for students who enjoy reading, every Tuesday fortnight at lunchtime. Activities include guest speakers, book trailers and book reviews.

Manga / Anime Club

The library runs a club for those students who love to read Manga and watch Anime every Monday fortnight.

Seniors

Senior students have a modern and comfortable private study area with an extensive range of HSC resources both print and digital. Senior students are taught a wide range of skills to improve their researching ability. In addition students also learn about databases and other high quality academic resources which they are able to use for their assignments.

Woonona High School Library is a changing and dynamic place, at the forefront of the information age aiming to stimulate interest in literature and independence in literacy.



Learning Centre

At Woonona High School, we understand the need for students to feel supported when they are completing homework, working on assignments and studying.

To address this need, the school library is open each Tuesday afternoon from the end of Period 5 until 4.30pm. Students can come and receive advice from staff to understand class work, complete homework, work on assignments and/or study. Afternoon tea is provided.



Excellence Innovation Success

Uniform

Woonona High School uniforms are available for purchase online at theschoollocker.com.au or alternatively the uniform shop on school premises is open Thursday mornings from 7:30am till 11:00am where students can purchase, try on and order uniforms. For more information email <https://theschoollocker.com.au/contact-us>

Junior boys

Collared green shirt with school emblem with tailored grey shorts or trousers with school logo.



Junior girls

White blouse with green sleeve band and school emblem with pleated dark green check skirt or dress or tailored shorts with school logo, black opaque stockings in winter.



Sport/PE

Official school gold and bottle green polo shirt and shorts.



Senior boys Years 10-12

Collared white shirt with school emblem with tailored grey shorts or trousers with school logo.

Senior girls Years 10-12

White blouse with green piping band and school emblem with pleated dark green check skirt or dress or tailored shorts with school logo.

All students

FOOTWEAR: Covered shoes are to be worn at all times. These must be all black, leather and fully enclosed shoes. Plain white socks must be worn.

SCHOOL HAT: The school hat is available at the uniform shop. It must be worn during PE and sports lessons, especially in terms 1 and 4 for sun safety reasons.

JEWELLERY: Jewellery is to be restricted and for safety reasons, there must not be any large hanging earrings and no nose jewellery/ facial piercings.



Excellence Innovation Success



Woonona High School is proud of its dedication to students:

We offer:

- ◆ An extensive transition program for students from primary to secondary school and from junior to senior high school
- ◆ Peer Support and effective welfare programs
- ◆ Innovative learning environments

We instil:

- ◆ Confidence and trust
- ◆ Familiarity and self worth

We foster:

- ◆ Peer friendships
- ◆ Student / Teacher relationships

We provide:

- ◆ Every student with the opportunity to excel in a rich, challenging and welcoming environment

We Deliver:

- ◆ Excellence, Innovation and Success

Excellence Innovation Success