GISBORNE
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Victoria, Australia
Established in 1981, Gisborne Secondary College provides a safe, expansive and future focused learning environment for over 1000 students in Years 7 to 12.

In Year 7 and 8 our students work from well-structured and well-led learning centres. In the learning centres, students participate in core curriculum including English, mathematics, languages, humanities and visual arts.

This means students have significant learning, pastoral, well-being and transition support as they embark on this stage of their learning journey. The importance of a smooth and well-supported transition at these year levels can not be under-estimated. Students working in the learning centres have the opportunity to develop deep and meaningful relationships with their teachers and with each other. Our parents speak at length about how connected their children feel in these learning centres, and how strong the family-school communication is.

We have brand new library, food technology and science learning areas. Gisborne Secondary College continues to offer a wide range of senior courses. There are 65 different VCE courses on offer in 2014, and we offer the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) at both Year 11 and Year 12.

Over half of our Year 10 students participate in the Senior Accelerated Learning Pathway (SALP), which means they can select multiple VCE or Vocational Education Training (VET) subjects to begin their qualifications journey.

In valuing the right of every student to reach their full potential, the college creates a positive, friendly and safe environment, which engenders in students self-confidence, self-efficacy and a sense of pride and direction. Our students are well-behaved, polite, courteous and happy. We are proud of their significant achievements in science and technology, English literature, performing and visual arts and sport.

I think this recent testimonial from one of our parents speaks volumes about the support and opportunities available at our college.

"Hi Andrew,

I would like to publicly acknowledge the fantastic work John Horley has done with my son, to keep him educated and busy this year. He started VCE, but then realised that he would rather do a trade or work, which did not work out easily in Feb as most people have planned their workers.

Tenille gave me a call, which was pro-active and great, then recommended a meeting with John which turned into a positive outcome.

Kushum and David have also gone out of their way to help and accompany his needs.

Your school could have easily let him drift into the work force on his own merits, but the sincerity and effort from all of these teachers is very professional.

Thank you very much... Phil"

At Gisborne Secondary College we are preparing young men and woman for living and learning.

Andrew Robertson
Principal
GETTING STARTED

Years 7, 8 and 9

Transition into the College spans Years 5, 6 & 7 and is conducted in close consultation with our Partner Primary Schools throughout the year to ensure that the process is as smooth as possible. Aspects of the program include:

- Visits to the College by Grade 5 & 6 students
- An information evening during Term 2 for prospective parents and students
- Visits to the Primary Schools by the Transition Coordinator
- An Orientation Day in December for Grade 6 students who will be attending the following year
- A Grade 5 Experience Day in December which builds familiarity and confidence about secondary schooling.

Our new Year 7 students are welcomed into a Learning Centre with a team of teachers who carefully monitor your child’s wellbeing in the crucial first few weeks of school and throughout the next 2 years. A feature of term one is our Orientation Program. There is also a Year 7 Camp during the year.

YEAR 7 & 8 LEARNING CENTRES

Our learning centres provide a broad curriculum based on the Victorian and Australian Curriculums, with an emphasis on the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy development - more time for English and Mathematics.

Our learning centres are effective because they ensure close monitoring of academic progress, and provide the support for students to develop socially and emotionally. Each learning centre is staffed by a team of core teachers - they know your child and their needs. There is lots of contact with parents and families during these years.

Students study English, Mathematics, Science, SOSE, Languages (Indonesian & Japanese) a range of Technology subjects, Health & Physical Education and Visual and Performing Arts. We also run Community & Values Education, within an integrated studies program.

YEAR 9 LEARNING PROGRAM

Gisborne Secondary College has an innovative re-designed Year 9 Program specifically developed for the needs of students in this Year Level. The program will build and promote:

- Greater challenge for learners in Year 9
- Student responsibility for own learning
- Broad elective choice, including technology, the arts, sports, humanities, science and literature
- Close links with family and home
- Unique learning opportunities
- Excitement from staff about teaching in Year 9
- A growth in engagement, mirrored by a drop in absence
- Student leadership
- Increased Flexible Learning Options where appropriate
- Community access and interchange
- Legitimate qualifications at Year 9

One day a fortnight our Year 9 Program holds a "RAID" day. RAID reflects the college’s values of Respect, Achievement, Innovation and Diversity.

During this time students will be provided with the opportunity to learn through:

- Community-based projects;
- Camps/Excursions/Incursions
- Project-based Learning and Significant Inquiry & Research

However, the Year 9 Learning Program is not a "Learning Centre", students undertake a secondary college program that reflects the development and growing maturity of young adults. Students ready themselves for the Senior School with learning across core English, Math, Science, Health & PE, and Humanities, as well as undertaking electives in Technologies, The Arts and Careers and Pathways.
SENIOR SCHOOL

Years 10 to 12

Gisborne Secondary College offers a stimulating and diverse range of subjects. We encourage our students to aim high while selecting subjects that reflect their interests, aptitudes, goals and post-school aspirations.

The Senior School Program is supported with high-level course and careers advice. This helps us to personalise learning for all senior students.

Each year Gisborne Secondary College produces a consistently outstanding graduation rate across VCE, VCE VET, VCAL and School-based Apprenticeships.

From 2015, Year 10 will operate as part of the senior school. For many learners this will support and assist with:

• Improved VCE results
• Developing and continuing a culture of mature behaviours in students
• Building and continuing an ethos of high performance
• Maintaining a culture of study
• Improving the commitment and resilience of students to their studies
• More flexibility for students to accelerate learning
• Providing greater scope for staff teaching opportunities and professional growth
• Lifting expectations in performance regarding attendance, achievement and work completion
• More opportunities to gain qualifications
• Greater challenge for senior learners

The Senior School curriculum is structured vertically and based on a unit system that allows students to choose from a wide range of subjects and study at their own pace and ability level rather than age group. Many students in Year 10 begin their VCE or VET learning journeys early. In many cases students will gain more than just one valid qualification while studying in Gisborne Secondary’s Senior School.

Semester electives such as the Living & Learning or Electronics and Robotics allow students to experience a range of subjects before making their final selection for their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) in Years 11 and 12. Through flexible timetabling students also have the opportunity to take further studies in those areas which interest them.

At VCE level Senior School offers a diverse range of subjects and Gisborne Secondary College students consistently achieve outstanding academic results. Eighty per cent of students proceed to tertiary education, or on to their apprenticeship or traineeship of choice.

Exceptionally able students are offered a number of extension and accelerated programs including the opportunity to study first year university subjects.
Gisborne Secondary College is proud to be the school of choice for some of the finest secondary teachers in the state of Victoria.

Our teaching staff are highly knowledgeable in their specialist subjects.

Being a large school we attract staff because they know they will get to teach in their area of specialism. This in turn results in top-level student outcomes.

Our teaching pedagogy is based on meta-research from highly-respected international educational thinkers and practitioners, including; Professor David Hopkins, Professor John Hattie, Professor Richard Elmore, Professor Richard Fullan and Professor Doug Reeves.

- Purposeful Learning
- Effective Teaching
- Quality Work

Students learn over a variety of programs, in a range of settings. This includes traditional purpose-built classrooms, where sound quality is considered, and the concentration of students critical, through to large outdoor spaces when participating in Physical Education, Sport and Outdoor Education Studies.

At Gisborne Secondary College we acknowledge that is critical to tailor the environment for the most optimal learning.

We are extremely proud of our facilities which include

- A brand new double-court indoor sports complex
- A large oval
- Large outdoor courts
- Refurbished and purpose-built performing arts centre, which includes a 250 seat theatre
- Multi-functional Science Rooms
- Dedicated IT Labs
- Wood material design room
- An automotive workshop
- Engineering and Fabrication Workshop
- Electrical and robotics workshop
- New expansive library and information centre

Our Year 7 to 10 program closely follows the Victorian Curriculum and includes critical attention to the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science and History.

We believe that Literacy - the essential ability to fluently read and write, and to understand what is read, and have others understand what you mean by what you write - to be the engine room of learning.

English and Mathematics are given more time in the first years than other subjects. By the time students reach the senior school, all subjects have an equal time allocation across the college timetable.
Our College is a caring school, and we work hard to ensure that all students feel that they receive the individual support and attention they need.

At Year 7 and 8 Learning Centre Leaders, and Mentor Teachers are responsibility for overseeing the well-being and pastoral care of students. The teams are supported by senior members of staff, counselors and other members of our well-being team.

In the Senior School, Mentor Teachers and Heads of House provide care, support and guidance through a vertical mentor group arrangement. Students are with the same mentor for the final three years of their schooling.

Heads of House and Mentor Teachers play both a pastoral and academic mentoring role, ensuring that the whole person is cared for.

A student will remain a part of this House for his or her time at the College.

As students move from Year 9 to 12 they are be expected to take on a greater leadership role within the house and the college, by acting as a positive role model, looking after younger students and participating in and occasionally leading the weekly discussion and activity sessions. Where the seriousness of an incident, either disciplinary or welfare, goes beyond the expertise or authority of the mentor, the matter is passed to the Head of House or Learning Centre Leader for further action, but the mentor will be kept informed.

Our Student Well-being Leader oversees and coordinates student services in the College, including student counseling, well-being programs, integration, chaplaincy, liaising with relevant personnel and with external agencies.

Our College Chaplain - while secular in her work at the college - provides the College community with further well-being services.

Our Careers program is widely regarded, and provides a wide variety of information, support and resources for all students including dates of tertiary institution open days, assistance with further education applications, job applications and resumes, course selection and general advice useful for seeking employment or deciding on pathways.

The Careers Coordinator also arranges Work Experience placements for Year 10 students in many different areas of employment.
Active Minds

Through the varied sports on offer, your sons and daughters will learn the value of competition and achievement. Sport and physical activity allows young men and woman at Gisborne Secondary to push themselves to be the very best they can be.

Gisborne Secondary College enjoys both wonderful sporting facilities as well as some outstanding sports results.

Facilities include a Double-Court Sports Centre with change rooms, newly resealed outdoor courts for Netball and Basketball, an Aussie Rule Oval with new goalposts and access to local gym and swimming pool facilities.

We are an outstanding participant in inter-school sporting competitions and have a significant record of top places. Recent results in 2013 and 2014 include:

• 2nd place in Senior Boys Football - State of Victoria
• Intermediate Boys Football - Regional Finalist
• Intermediate Boys Soccer - Regional Finalist
• 1st Place in Team's Cross Country - Division Finals

Sports at Gisborne SC include:

Basketball
Australian Rules Football
Soccer
Netball
Badminton
Cross Country
Athletics
Tennis
Cycling
Equestrian
Swimming
Volleyball
Our performing arts program is designed to allow all students who are passionate about Music, Dance and Drama to have multiple opportunities to perform and excel.

All Year 7 & 8 Students take Music, Drama and Art as a course of study. From Year 9 these programs - and Dance - are elective subjects, with each of them offered through to VCE level in Years 11 and 12.

The college has achieved success in performing arts across Victoria in recent years, including prizes for the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge:

- First Place - 2011 - Melbourne Raw Division grand final results
- Second Place - 2007 - Open Division
- Third Place - 2004 - Melbourne Grand Final, Premier Division
- First Place - 2002 - Melbourne Grand Final, Open Division

The college also achieved five awards for the 2013 Wakakirri Secondary School Story Dance Challenge (Victoria), including:

- Best Overall Costume Design
- Best Individual Piece Of Set
- Best Lighting Design
- Best Singing Performance
- Best Individual Costume Design (Nomination)

In 2014 we again performed in the Wakakirri Secondary School Story Dance Challenge, and received nominations in:

- Soundtrack
- Projection Artwork
- Choreography
- Solo Dance
- Amazing Moment
- Staging

In 2015 we completed our new Performing Arts Centre. This $1.3 million dollar project created a new 250 seat theatre with a full lighting and curtain rig - plus an industry standard audio-visual / PA set-up, two music classrooms, practice rooms for instrumental music and a dance and drama workshop room.
© 2014. Gisborne SC students at the Alpine School for Student Leadership - Gnurad Gundidj - head for the surf.