Welcome to Williamstown High School. We are a school that celebrates with our wonderful students, works continuously to develop and enhance our dynamic learning culture and observes the vibrancy and strength of our wider school community. Our school values promote the ideals of integrity, innovation and the individual. We value:

- **Excellence** and **creativity** in our achievement and ambitions.
- **Integrity** and **honesty** in our actions and relationships.
- **Diversity** in our curriculum, in each other and in our community.
- **Strong and open communication** between our school and our homes, and between our teachers, students and our families.
- **Commitment** to social justice and a passion to protect and improve our environment and our community.

Our focus on individual growth and success, together with our emphasis on support and connection, encourages students to “Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner”. Williamstown High School is set on two campuses that are within a ten minute walking distance from one another. Each campus upholds our strong tradition and reputation, and features exciting programs and unique settings. Our students are provided with many opportunities to excel in a range of different areas including universal academic excellence, sport, visual and performing arts, debating, leadership, environmental issues and instrumental music. Our students are able to showcase their talents to both the local and broader school community in numerous ways. These events are a fantastic opportunity to bring the school community together to celebrate student achievement.

We enjoy a strong sense of community, working together to develop supportive and strong home to school partnerships, depth in our extra curricular activities, a flourishing student leadership program and outstanding performances in arts and culture, debating, sporting and artistic achievement. We encourage the highest standards of our students in their diverse pursuits for personal excellence. We believe that high expectations will empower students to be responsible for their own learning. Our outstanding academic results and focus on the development of the whole person makes Williamstown High School the school of choice. Our students are on an extraordinary journey. They arrive full of nervous energy on day one and leave proud and prepared for the challenges that lie ahead when their time to leave our community finally arrives.

The school’s rich history, the achievements of the present, and the anticipation for future generations’ accomplishments inspires our work. I am very proud to be the Principal of Williamstown High School. It is an absolute privilege to work alongside our committed, caring and professional educators who make a difference to every child, every classroom, everyday.

I welcome and invite you to attend one of our school tours that run until the end of May or visit and discover more about our school through our website at www.willihigh.vic.edu.au

Gino Catalano
College Principal
ROLLOUT THE RED CARPET

Welcome to Year 7

At Williamstown High School, we understand that starting Year 7 can sometimes seem like a daunting prospect. That’s why we meet students at their point of need. Our pastoral care framework is carefully designed to support the wellbeing of all students and to ensure an inclusive approach to the learning experience of every child.

Our positive and supportive school culture is pivotal to our stimulating learning environment where each student develops a sense of their own abilities, achievements and self-worth. From the moment a student joins our school community they are connected to a homeroom and a number of middle years’ research principles are applied to support their seamless transition to secondary school. Year 7 students also have their homeroom teacher as a subject teacher for two or more classes, this ensures regular contact and a comfortable familiarity during their transitional first year.

We’re committed to strengthening the partnership between a student’s home and their school. In order to do so, we provide students with an exciting and comprehensive orientation program which includes an event specifically designed to welcome new families into our school community.

Our Year 7 students begin the year with a transition program called ‘Rolling Out the Red Carpet’ which allows students to spend time building relationships with their classmates and teachers to become familiar with the campus and routine of secondary school. Early in term one, students enjoy a wonderful week-long camp at Kangarooie in Port Campbell. This camp is well loved by students and plays an important role in building and fostering healthy relationships, strengthening the sense of belonging and reinforcing positive teacher-student relationships.

Since 1980, Victorian Government secondary schools have been operating specific programs at authorised schools for gifted students – Williamstown High School is one of those selected schools. The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools (TAASS) was established to enable like-minded students to develop academically, socially and emotionally.

Our middle years’ curriculum philosophy aims to captivate young minds while simultaneously optimising diverse and fundamental skills that are essential for lifelong learning. The outcomes of which can be seen in our above state average literacy and numeracy results.

The depth and breadth of our core curriculum is matched impeccably by our wide ranging elective program at Years 8 and 9. Our Year 9 students take part in the Immersion Program which provides a vibrant student-centred curriculum where they are encouraged to be 21st Century thinkers, develop creative solutions to local and global issues, learn through experience and cultivate individual growth by engaging exploration, collaboration and practical application.

Our Bayview Campus is purposefully built on the Williamstown waterfront and lies adjacent to the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary. The spacious surroundings and close proximity to the Bay provides a special and unique home for our Year 7 to 9 students to experience a sustainable, marine-centred, environmentally-rich curriculum. We are so lucky to enjoy a wonderful facility and location that provides a unique breadth of learning opportunity for every student.

As a school community, we pride ourselves on our ability to recognise young people as individual learners while also ensuring an individualised educational experience that empowers achievement and growth for all. We have a dynamic learning culture, driven by our dedicated and professional teachers, which is underpinned by best practice research and supported through the consistent use of our instructional model “SIMPLE” and the use of data to keep our teachers well informed.

We offer three unique and highly sought-after enrolment pathways. They include: General Entry Coeducational, Girls Only Homegroup and the Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEALP) for students who have exceptional academic ability.
Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

In 2002 the state government of Victoria declared to permanently preserve some of Victoria’s finest habitats by announcing 13 Marine National Parks and 11 Marine Sanctuaries. Fortunately for Williamstown High School, the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary is located directly behind the school and it plays a pivotal role in the Marine Education Centre.

The sanctuary supports temperate habitats including rocky basalt reef, sea grass beds, sandy beaches, inter-tidal mudflats, salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, coastal vegetation and the largest population of mangroves in Port Phillip. We infuse our academic program with environmental themes and issues.

The curriculum develops our appreciation for, and awareness of, designed and natural environments.

The college is heavily involved in community-based environmental projects which provide our students with hands-on environmental experience.
PASCO CAMPUS

Years 10 - 12

Our Pasco Campus has a long history as a secondary school in the City of Hobsons Bay. The rich tradition of the Pasco Campus is reflected in its beautiful and historic architecture, the oldest building dates from 1867, which creates a visually interesting space for students and allows us to create a mature learning environment which is more like a university than a traditional high school.

This is a campus where students have a significant voice, where they take the lead in assemblies, organise musical performances at lunchtime, listen to visiting speakers and organise fundraising events for their chosen charities. Leadership opportunities abound in all areas of school life and all of our students are encouraged to participate in a plethora of enriching extra curricular activities.

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS

A student’s senior schooling years are some of the most important in their life. At Williamstown High School, we develop a variety of individual learning pathways for our students.

Our Year 10 curriculum provides a strong foundation for the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) through a balanced, individually tailored academic program. Students are encouraged to study six subjects in preparation for the study habits required for the VCE. In recognition that there are many paths to a successful future, the College offers a wide variety of individual learning pathways for our students which include:

- a full range of VCE units and accelerated university studies
- Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS)
- Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) which is a school-based apprenticeship and an alternative pathway to VCE.

PERSONALISED LEARNING

We acknowledge that students will learn from a teacher they respect and like. At Williamstown High School, we are dedicated to building strong, respectful and positive relationships between our students and their teachers. Our dedicated team of educators promote positive relationships with their students inside and outside of the classroom.

Our teachers have a deliberate and targeted approach to promoting learning in all subjects, for all students. In particular, we focus on meeting each student at their point of need and develop a differentiated strategy to the education of every child. Our Home Group program is designed to build confidence, resilience, awareness of personal development, career planning, and organised around the theme of making the right choices.
ENRICHING LIVES

Extra curricular opportunities

Research has revealed that students who are happy and engaged in their schooling have increased focus across the curriculum. For this reason, extra curricular activities are exceptionally important in the Williamstown High School community and we strongly encourage our students to pursue their passions and interests.

Through the commitment and dedication of our student leaders and staff, students have the opportunity to explore their interests through a stimulating extra curricular program.

Our program offers a wide selection of activities including Art Club, Breakfast Club, Homework Club, Young Researchers Program, Drama Lab, Schoolaerobics, French Club, Environmental Crusaders, History Club, Marine Club, Writers Club, Debating Club, Chess Club, Book Club and Gamers Club just to name a few.

Activities and clubs usually run weekly during lunchtime periods, while some activities take place after school or during all-day excursions.

PERFORMING ARTS

At Williamstown High School, we have a rich and wonderful history of cherishing the performing arts. After concluding celebrations for our centenary year, the school council commissioned the Centre of Excellence for the Performing and Creative Arts building. This 300 seat theatre will be used by music and drama students as a space to rehearse and perform; it also includes an art gallery to showcase student performance pieces!

We’re focused on our performing arts program to ensure that every student from Year 7 and onwards has a meaningful experience that excites and motivates them to extend their creative passions and talents. Our curriculum and multitude of extra curricular programs provide students with creative outlets in which to explore new ideas and express feelings through dance, song, music and drama, while also engaging with other students in a dynamic and exciting learning environment.

Participation in performing arts allows students to develop self-confidence and poise, while also teaching them how to problem solve. Due to the social nature of performing arts, students learn to cooperate and collaborate with others and often make lifelong friends with those who share the same passion.

Annual Production

Each year, Williamstown High School develops a school production involving students from Years 9 to 12. Within the production, our students are able to get involved by singing, acting or playing music in the ensemble. Other available roles include working front of house and backstage or assisting with make-up and costuming.

The excitement, energy, dedication and level of professionalism displayed each year is always a source of great pride for the Williamstown School Community.
INTERSCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM

Our Interschool Sport Program provides opportunities for students to develop skills through training and competitive experiences. This program also connects students to the wider community and promotes constructive teamwork and good sportsmanship. Although success in competitive sport is important to us, our fundamental objective is to promote participation within the school and instill an interest in, and enjoyment of, practices that support a healthy lifestyle.

Williamstown High School is well known for the success of our interschool sporting teams. We have a strong record of successful achievement at local, regional, state and national levels in swimming, athletics, cross country and a range of individual and team sports.

Our school enjoys the healthy competition of the generational inter-house swimming and athletics carnivals. Most of all, we enjoy how these events bring our school community together by encouraging participation, a lively atmosphere, and an overall sense of fun and enjoyment for our staff and students.

ACCELERATED SPORTS PROGRAM

The Accelerated Sports Program is an opportunity for young athletes with excellent sporting abilities to advance their established skills while also providing a challenging environment that encourages them to reach their full potential. This specialised program runs in conjunction with the mainstream curriculum, allowing students to experience academic and athletic success.

Sports and Coaches

All of our sport coaches are professionals who have represented their sport at a high level and are linked to the wider sporting community. Our coaches offer unique programs to Williamstown High School, in particular, elite coaching in netball, basketball, cricket and triathlon.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Williamstown High School provides students with an Instrumental Music Program that has been developed over many years. The study of music fosters intellectual, physical and emotional development. In addition to teaching students to play their instruments, our Instrumental Music Program teaches students to develop their teamwork, commitment and study skills.

Our program empowers students to develop skills and proficiency across a range of fields; providing a valuable cocurricular and whole school experience.

The Instrumental Music Program includes music lessons, master classes, bands and ensembles, performances, fundraisers and competitions, and music camps and tours.

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student leadership is an essential part of school life at Williamstown High School. The student leadership body is led by school captains at both the Pasco and Bayview Campuses. Our student leadership program is flexible, energetic and adaptable to the needs of our ever-changing student body. Our student leaders receive leadership training to develop important skills in public speaking, peer support, communication and problem solving – all which will help them succeed in the school environment and beyond.

Our student leadership teams seek to highlight new and existing opportunities for students to foster a sense of ownership in the school; increase student participation and engagement in the classroom and the wider community; and renew focus on house competition to foster a sense of school pride and spirit.

Students can make a meaningful contribution to our school community as leaders via School Captains, Student Representative Council (SRC), House Captains, Sports Captains, Ambassadors, Curriculum Based Captains, Environment Captains, Social Justice Captains, Performing Arts Captains and School for Student Leadership.

DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Williamstown High School provides students from every year level with the opportunity to enhance their self-confidence and public speaking skills through regular training and competitive inter-school debates. Students at the Bayview Campus elect to participate in the DAV Junior Schools Program which provides training and structured support to prepare and present a speech persuasively. We encourage teamwork, build self-confidence and develop research skills in a low-risk and fun environment.

The intermediate and senior students enter in the DAV Inter-school Debating Competition, which is the largest English speaking debating competition in the world. Students work together in teams to build up a case debating controversial topics relevant to today’s society. We guide and coach them to develop their communication skills, as well as their ability to think critically and analytically.

Our students have a long-standing tradition of participating successfully in both DAV’s Junior Schools Program and Inter-school State Competition. In addition to gaining knowledge and building skills, the debating program is a whole lot of fun! We’ve often found that students get a thrill from standing before an audience with something interesting to say. They also thrive on the collegiality of the teamwork involved and gain a significant sense of achievement.
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Our Sister Schools

As global educators, Williamstown High School are proud of the strong relationships with our two international sister schools: Lycée Sainte Marie du Port in Les Sables d’Olonne in France and SMP Lbschool Kebayoran in Indonesia. Our sister school partnerships provide meaningful, shared and unforgettable learning opportunities for our students studying language.

Every two years our senior language students embark on an overseas trip to visit our sister schools. During this trip students connect with international students, stay with local families, become immersed in a foreign language, attend school classes and visit famous sites.

Every alternate year, we host our sister school partners and provide a similar, unique learning opportunity. The lessons and lifelong friendships that are formed from our sister school partnerships are priceless. Our students develop competencies and confidence in language learning, diplomacy skills and a deeper understanding of international issues. Most importantly, they develop lifelong international friendships.

International Student Program

Williamstown High School has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence and our International Student Program continues to attract high quality learners from around the world who are eager to enhance their opportunity for success.

Our international students originate from many different countries with a diversity of traditions and cultural values that Williamstown High School celebrates and embraces. So far we’ve connected with international students from China, Germany, Vietnam, Norway and America. The international student population is located at the Pasco Campus and they typically live with families of current students and enrich the wider student body with an international perspective.

We have a committed International Student Program Co-ordinator who leads a dedicated team in supporting international students with enrolment, accommodation, homestay placements, course or pathways support and, most importantly, with their transition and pastoral care. As with all students at Williamstown High School, we encourage and embrace the opportunity for all students to participate in all aspects of school life, especially our international students.

THE WORLD CHALLENGE EXPEDITION

The World Challenge Expedition runs every two years and is an opportunity available to students from Years 10 to 12. So far, students have travelled to the Galapagos Islands, Central America, Cambodia and Malaysia.

The World Challenge expedition teaches life skills, enriches global awareness and offers a learning experience outside the classroom. This is a life-changing experience for students as they are presented with an expedition where they must manage a project helping a local school or orphanage, complete treks and immerse themselves in a foreign culture.

Students are also expected to be entirely self-sufficient by conducting their own research, cooking their own food and organising transport. To complete the two years of fundraising and preparation is a fantastic achievement and the trip provides valuable experience and personal growth. Our students and teachers benefit from a high level of expedition safety and service. The World Challenge Expedition is an amazing, life-changing opportunity.