

GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE Penshurst Girls Campus



Welcome to our school. My name is Noeline Ross, the Principal of this excellent school for girls. The campus motto '*Aspire to Wisdom*' was created by Miss Shorter the earliest Principal of this school who encouraged the girls to set high standards in everything they do from the auditorium, the playing fields and the classrooms. Historically the girls have excelled in the arts, sports, technology and academic performance. Most importantly, girls were encouraged to achieve the highest standards and their personal best in the classroom. This tradition has continued through the 60 year history of the school.

So why choose Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus?

The school supports all students to reach their academic potential in a well-resourced learning community. The school has implemented a Gifted and Talented selective class in Year 7 over the past five years. Students who select this school for enrolment have an opportunity to apply for this class placement in 2015. Talented classes are available in English, Maths, Science, History and Geography in Years 8 to 10. We focus on the individual academic development of each student. Our Homework Centre in the library supports student learning, especially with assignments, assessment tasks, technology and research. The learning support team work with individuals and small groups to further encourage academic achievement.

We consistently monitor student performance across all years to recognise and celebrate academic excellence and improvement. To achieve an A in any subject indicates you are outstanding. To be awarded 5 'A's across multiple subjects means you are exceptional. In 2014, 99 students and their parents in Years 7 to 10 were invited to the school to celebrate their achievement of 5 'A's or more in their school report and 84 students and parents from Years 7, 8 and 9 were also invited to school to celebrate their improved results.

This school prioritises the values of respect and responsibility as we believe that students and staff work best in an ordered and secure environment. The school's student welfare policy and discipline procedures support staff as they help students make better decisions about their behaviour, treat others with respect to achieve quality work and quality relationships. We also have strong policies in uniform, attendance, mobile phones, anti-bullying, recognition of achievement, assessment and reporting.

This is a happy and safe school. Students learn best in an environment where they feel safe. Our welfare system is based on the development of the whole student. Our Head Teacher Welfare, Year Advisers, School Counsellor and Year 10 Peer Support leaders ensures that each girl feels at home and happy.

This school is a very harmonious environment, which is tolerant of difference and where the girls genuinely care for each other. We are inclusive of all students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

This school is well served with a range of excellent facilities. We have fully equipped kitchens, art rooms, English, Mathematics and Science classrooms as well as an Agriculture plot with chickens; we have dynamic and engaging classrooms. We have a Flexible Learning Space which was designed by Year 10 students to accommodate 21st century learning practice and thinking skills in a modern and modular space. Student learning is fully supported with technology which is spread throughout the school from classrooms with interactive whiteboards to specialised labs, and mobile devices in the library.

The final key element to your daughter's education is the staff at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus. We have a mix of young and experienced staff that are all dedicated and passionate about the subjects they teach and the extracurricular programs they offer. Each teacher is well equipped through extensive professional development to be skilled in knowing each student and be understanding of any challenges they have to support and nurture their development as well as being able to identify their strengths and talents to enrich and extend their learning.

Our vision statement says it all:

We are a learning community committed to the development of resilient, independent and respectful girls who aim for excellence in all that they do. Our vision is to create a nurturing, collaborative and inclusive environment that prepares our girls to be responsible global citizens with the skills to succeed in the 21st Century.

**Ms Noeline Ross
Principal**



GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

Penshurst Girls Campus provides academic and co-curricular programs to challenge all students to realise their full potential. Academic and co-curricular programs aim to enrich all students. However, some students will participate in extension programs and others may accelerate. Thus the gifts and talents of each student are nurtured and developed. GRC Penshurst Girls Campus is committed to developing and resourcing programs for the gifted and talented and to providing within its structures opportunities for such programs to operate.

GRC Penshurst Girls Campus is committed to ensuring all girls reach their academic potential. Our school caters for the full range of learners including the gifted and talented. Whilst every learner is unique, some types of learners need particular attention. Gifted students are those whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability: intellectual, creative, social and physical. Talented students are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human performance. Gifted and talented students vary in terms of the nature and level of their abilities. Gifted and talented students benefit from a number of opportunities, programs and strategies that recognise their abilities (gifts) and enhance their performance (talents).

Our structured programs are based on the latest research in gifted development. Our school provides a Gifted and Talented selective class for incoming Year 7 students.

The procedure for selection involved:

- an application
- testing in literacy, numeracy and creative writing (the ACER AGAT test)
- a panel considering each individual application

Gifted and Talented student achievement is recognised in the school newsletter, school website, at school assemblies, year meetings, at our Gifted and Talented morning tea, reporting to parents, parent/teacher evenings and at our annual Presentation Evening.

Year 7 will study electives throughout the year which will create further variety and enrichment in the curriculum for all students. Even if your daughter does not gain a place in our selective class, she will have opportunities to extend her learning in all her classes. Our teachers cater for the individual learning needs of all our students, including differentiating the curriculum for students who are particularly gifted and/ or talented.

Enrichment Programs

Enrichment tasks and opportunities exist throughout the school curriculum. Every faculty has a GAT facilitator who has worked to differentiate teaching and learning programs as well as assessment tasks in their faculty. Further opportunities exist in each faculty around extension and enrichment.

- **Competitions** Students are encouraged to participate in a range of external competitions and events including:

Australian Schools English competition Australian Schools Writing competition

Australian Schools Science competition Westpac Mathematics competition

Maths Olympiad Operation Art

Australian Schools Computer competition The Premier's Reading Challenge

Mock Trial Debating and Public Speaking

Knockout Sport competitions Minister's Young Designers Award

- **Leadership Opportunities** There are a wide variety of leadership opportunities for our students. The school has a committed Student Representative Council that is active within the school and in the wider community. Initiatives have focussed on volunteering, the environment, mentoring, student advocacy and student voice. The Social Justice committee specifically focuses on fund raising and raising awareness amongst our school community of issues that affect our local and global community. Our Peer Tutoring program involves Year 10 students completing a training course to assist Year 7 and 8 students with an individualised reading program. This program has demonstrated improved reading outcomes for students as well as an increase in self-esteem for all students.

- **Elite Sports Program** Gifted and Talented students are identified from Year 7 during the fundamental movement skills program. Students perform fundamental movement skills in a variety of sports and activities. Based on their performance outcomes the PDHPE faculty identify talented sports athletes. Year 7 students audition for grade teams for Wednesday afternoon sport. Students that excel in PDHPE can choose the Physical Activity & Sport Studies elective in Year 9 and 10 which gives them an opportunity to be involved in coaching clinics to extend their talent.

- **The Arts**

Music: Gifted and Talented students have an opportunity to join the Georges River College Concert Band, Stage Band or the Penshurst Girls Rock Band. The school also offers a music Tuition Program with professional musicians in violin, guitar, drums and saxophone. Performances are regular occurrences both within the school, across the College and in the community.

Drama and Dance: Our school promotes Dance and Drama both within the curriculum and in co-curricula activities, especially in our school musicals. Recent stage events include A Midsummer Night's Dream, the musicals 'Annie' and 'Man of Steel'.

Visual Arts: Gifted and Talented artists have numerous opportunities to exhibit their body of work in the School Art Gallery Foyer, Hall and corridors. Students are also invited to enter competitions such as the Operation Art exhibition at the the Hurstville City Art Gallery and Museum, Oatley Senior Campus Gallery and at the St George Hospital School.