

Academic Program

As a co-educational pre-K to 12 school on one campus, Hills Grammar has a unique opportunity to provide smooth transitions from one traditional section of schooling to the next.



While each stage of learning and teaching has its unique qualities, teachers meet together as a whole faculty to share ideas and experiences to achieve a longer-term view of education. In tandem with the Student Wellbeing and Co-curricular programs, the Academic Program is driven by the School Vision: a place of extraordinary education, a place of inspiration and innovation.

Hills Grammar offers a broad and rich academic curriculum, with our ECEC, Infants and Primary programs going beyond National and State requirements through the adoption of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. Our Senior School (Years 7 to 12) operates within the New South Wales Board of Studies curriculum requirements, leading to an excellent range of Higher School Certificate (HSC) courses in Years 11 and 12. The curriculum at Hills Grammar draws

on the best of academic traditions, including the discipline of learning, while also looking for ways to be innovative and forward-thinking as we prepare our students for the future.

Hills Grammar prides itself on its excellent Professional Development of our teachers, with a focus in recent years on our Whole School Pedagogy (our core principles of teaching and learning). The School aims to be a culture of thinking, and our work with the Harvard Zero Project Zero consultant, Mark Church, has greatly enhanced school-based programs to this end. Fellow Harvard researcher Ron Ritchhart writes, "culture is the hidden tool in transforming our schools and offering our students the best learning possible ... culture is foundational. It will determine how any curriculum comes to life".

The Academic Program is therefore best understood as comprising of not

only the curriculum (what is taught) but the approach to learning and teaching of that curriculum (how it is taught). Innovation in the classroom means drawing out the best of academic traditions and looking for deep connections across traditional subjects, supported by our comprehensive 1:1 iPad/Tablet PC program, K to 12. The following page summarises the 'Pathways of Excellence' in terms of the curriculum and some of the academically-related co-curricular offerings. The day-to-day experience in the classroom is where the curriculum comes to life, and where we believe our uniqueness lies, fostering each student's potential for greatness.

Further information about our Academic Program can be found on the School's website and within the Stage Handbooks.

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Inquiry Learning through International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program	ECEC - 2	Literacy & Literature Differentiated transdisciplinary learning around Central Ideas; Digital Literacy	Mathematics Learning In Early Numeracy Program	Inquiry-Based Learning Outcomes in Science and Technology and Human Society and Its Environment are learned through Units of Inquiry; Student-centred inquiry into Central Ideas; Workshops; History	Languages French; Specialist French teachers; AIM method - Accelerated Integrated Method; Performances in French	Music Specialist Curricular/ Private Tuition teachers; Kindergarten singing; Grade Choirs; Year Two violin program; Private tuition (K-12); Music Showcase (K-12); Performances	Performing Dramatic Arts Drama; Music; Reader's theatre; Imaginative and creative play; Performances; Workshops; Co-curricular Drama for 1-2	Technology Transdisciplinary learning; ICT integration; Years One and Two iPads and Laptops; Kindergarten Iii iPads; Emerging technologies applied in learning; Multimedia; Digital storytelling ECEC iPads; Smartboard Computers	Visual Arts Specialist Art teachers Art classrooms	PDHPE Specialist PDHPE teachers; Specialised sports eg Rugby; Year Two Swimming Program; K-2 Outdoor Education Program
	3-4	Differentiated transdisciplinary learning around Central Ideas; Accelerated Reader Program; Digital Literacy; ICAS English Competition; Workshops	Learning In Early Numeracy program; Workshops ICAS Mathematics Competition	Outcomes in Science and Human Society and Its Environment are learned through Units of Inquiry; Student-centred inquiry into Central Ideas; ICAS Science Competition; Workshops	Specialist French teachers; AIM method- Accelerated Integrated Method; Performances in French	Specialist Curricular/ Private Tuition teachers; Grade Choirs; Year Three viola, cello and double bass program; Year Four brass/woodwind program; Private tuition (K-12); Music Showcase (K-12); Visiting Artists: Oz Opera, Musica Viva, Young Australia Workshop	Drama; Music; Reader's theatre; Improvisation and script writing; Performances; Workshops; Co-curricular Drama	Transdisciplinary learning; ICT integration; Emerging technologies applied in learning; Multimedia; Digital storytelling; ICAS Computer Competition	Specialist Art teachers Art classrooms	Specialist PDHPE teachers; Specialised sports eg Rugby; Lifesaving Program; Sports Clinics/Gala Days; Hills Zone Sporting Association interschool competitions
	5-6	Differentiated transdisciplinary learning around Central Ideas; Accelerated Reader Program; Digital Literacy; Debate/Discussion forums; Workshops; ICAS English competition	Learning in Numeracy program ICAS Mathematics competition; AIS Mathematics Challenge Camp; Mathematics Olympiad; Workshops	Outcomes in Science and Human Society and Its Environment are learned through Units of Inquiry; Student-centred inquiry into Central Ideas; ICAS Science Competition; Workshops; Year 6 Exhibition	Specialist French teachers; AIM method- Accelerated Integrated Method; Performances in French	Specialist Curricular/ Private Tuition teachers; Year Five guitar program; Private Tuition (K-12); Music Showcase (K-12); Performances; Musicianship (5-11); Visiting Artists: Oz Opera, Musica Viva, Young Australia Workshop	Drama; Music; Reader's theatre; Improvisation and script writing; Performances; Workshops	Transdisciplinary learning; ICT integration; Emerging technologies applied in learning; Multimedia; Digital storytelling; Video editing, Stop motion animation; Collaborative technologies; Game based learning; ICAS Computer Competition	Specialist Art teachers Art classrooms Excursions Exhibitions	Specialist PDHPE teachers; Specialised sports eg Rugby; Lifesaving Program; Sports Clinics/Gala Days; Hills Zone Sporting Association interschool competitions; Surf safety day (Year Six)
Gifted & Talented Camp \ da Vinci Decathlon \ Mindquest Gifted and Talented Networks and Associations - IPSHA, HICES, Hillside Gifted and Talented Network, Northside Gifted and Talented Network										

7-8	Pathways to Excellence, including integrated Humanities, Honours, English, History, Latin	Pathways to Excellence including Mathematics Honours Enrichment and Extension Mathematics Olympiad HICES Mathematics Competition Australian Mathematics Competition AMT Mathematics Enrichment Program	Pathways to Excellence including Science and Geography Honours; Science and Geography Science week; UNSW Science Competition Chemistry Competition	French Japanese Latin (continues into Year 8 for Humanities Hons only and includes Year 8 Classics Camp)	Year Performance Evenings Musicianship (5-11) Streamed classes based on musical ability & experience Visiting Artists: Musica Viva Sydney Sinfonia Schools Program Music Showcase	Experiential Drama Theatre Sports Junior Drama Ensemble 'Take 2' Drama for Beginners	Technology (Mandatory) Project Based Learning Minister's Young Designers Awards Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge; Robocup Junior; GROK Learning Programming Challenge;	Visual Arts Differentiated curriculum Specialist Art Teacher Excursions	PD/H/PE PDHPE Curriculum Recreational Activities Life Saving program	
	da Vinci Decathlon									
9-10	English and English Honours Independent Research Skills; Comparative study of literary texts; Classic and contemporary poetry, drama, novels, non-fiction; Advanced literary analysis and essay writing skills; Advanced narrative composition	Mathematics Pathways and Mathematics Honours Enrichment and Extension AMT Mathematics Enrichment Program Australian Mathematics Competition	Science and Science Honours Enrichment and Extension Science week UNSW Science Competition STANSW Young Scientist Chemistry Competition Brain Bee Challenge (Year 10) Science Gifted and Talented Discovery Program (University of Sydney) STEM Programs	French; Japanese; Latin	Elective Music Year Performance Evenings Musicianship Music Café Sydney Symphony 'Meet the Music' (Elective Year 10) Music Showcase	Elective Drama Snr Drama Ensemble Year 10 Fast & Fresh Short Play Competition	Food Technology Event Catering / Event Service	Elective Visual Arts Extension Tasks Cultural Studies Excursions	PD/H/PE Physical Activity & Sports Studies elective PASS Rock Climbing Scuba Diving Course Fitness Centre Surf life saving award qualification Road Trauma Forum Recreational Activities eg: Surfing	
	History and History Honours Geography and Geography Honours IST research-based multi-media tools Comparative studies / analysis			Student Exchange & Homestay Japan Tour Yrs 8-11 France Tour Yrs 8-11 Classics Tour Yrs 9-11						
	da Vinci Decathlon			Macquarie University Ancient Languages Winter & Summer Schools University of Sydney Latin Summer School			IT / IST GROK Learning Programming Challenge; UNSW Programming Comp; Powerhouse Museum Hackathons; Robocup Junior	Design & Technology Design Challenges Archibull Challenge		
11-12	English Standard, Advanced + Ext 1, Ext 2 Modern History Ancient History History Extension Latin + Extension	Mathematics General Mathematics Adv & Ext 1 in Year 11 Mathematics Ext 1 & Ext 2 for HSC Australian Mathematics Competition	Science Physics Chemistry Biology	French + Ext Japanese + Ext Latin + Ext	Music 1, Music 2, HSC Music Extension Year Performance Evenings Music Café Music Showcase	Elective Drama Snr Drama Ensemble	Hospitality NCSS Summer School University of Sydney; GROK Learning Programming Challenge; UTS IT Big Day In; Australian Information Comp; UNSW Programming Comp	Elective Visual Arts Year 11 & 12 Excursions / Incursions; Exhibitions	PD/H/PE 2 unit PDHPE First Aid Certificate	
	Co-curricular Debating / Public Speaking Mock Trial		HSIE Geography Economics Business Studies Legal Studies	Student Exchange O/S Trips & Homestay						
	Hills Grammar Pathways Of Excellence			University of Sydney Latin Summer School	HSC University Pathways Available for eligible accelerants		Information Processes & Technology U.SYD Programming Challenge, UNSW Programming Comp, U.SYD National Computer Science School Additional Work Placement CISCO IT	Design and Technology		