

# SENIOR YEARS HANDBOOK



**MELBOURNE  
GIRLS GRAMMAR**  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL





# OUR VISION

## A LEADING GIRLS' SCHOOL FOR OVER 125 YEARS

### VISION

Melbourne Girls Grammar aspires to develop ethical women of action. Through a focus on learning, research and innovation we will be recognised by our own community, the national and international community as a leading school in girls' education.

### MISSION

In the pursuit of our vision, Melbourne Girls Grammar is committed to the provision of an exceptional education for girls, with an emphasis on strong Christian values, high expectations, creativity and academic challenge.

Within a supportive and optimistic culture we provide opportunities for students to discover their passions and build their capacities for action and influence within their many life contexts.

### VALUES

In support of our mission, Melbourne Girls Grammar values are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Courage
- Self-discipline

## VISIT MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR

For further information or to request a tour of the Senior Years facilities, please contact the Melbourne Girls Grammar Enrolments Office on 03 9862 9200 or [enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au)

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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

To educate is to make an intervention into the lives of others. When we intervene, we do so with certain assumptions about the value of what we are doing and why. Building students' capacity for future readiness is a moral-ethical learning endeavour and one that cannot be left to chance.

To achieve this, Melbourne Girls Grammar promotes a progressive, contemporary community of practice committed to providing personalised high quality curriculum, wellbeing and co-curricular programs that enable lifelong learning for every student. We are future focused and committed to inspiring our Grammarians and equipping them with the values, knowledge and skills to be ready to make their mark on the world.

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Melbourne Girls Grammar.

Dr Toni Meath  
Principal





# SENIOR YEARS

## PHILOSOPHY

### The Senior Years Program is designed in response to three fundamental drivers:

- 1 The culminating experience of the Senior Years Program, the VCE, which requires a high degree of initiative, perseverance, self-belief and independence
- 2 The world of post school studies and the modern workplace, which require critical thinking skills, flexibility, high levels of digital literacy, and confidence in challenging contexts
- 3 The wellbeing needs of young women, best supported and maintained through the acquisition of understanding, skills, and strategies for life-long habits for positive mental health and physical fitness.

We believe that to flourish in the highly complex, accelerating world in which they will live and learn, our students must emerge from school confident in their identity, equipped with strategies to expand their capacity to apply themselves in challenging contexts, and optimistic that they can influence their future opportunities.

### A new approach for a new future

All elements of the Senior Years Program are designed with choice, challenge and student autonomy as the anchoring mantra.

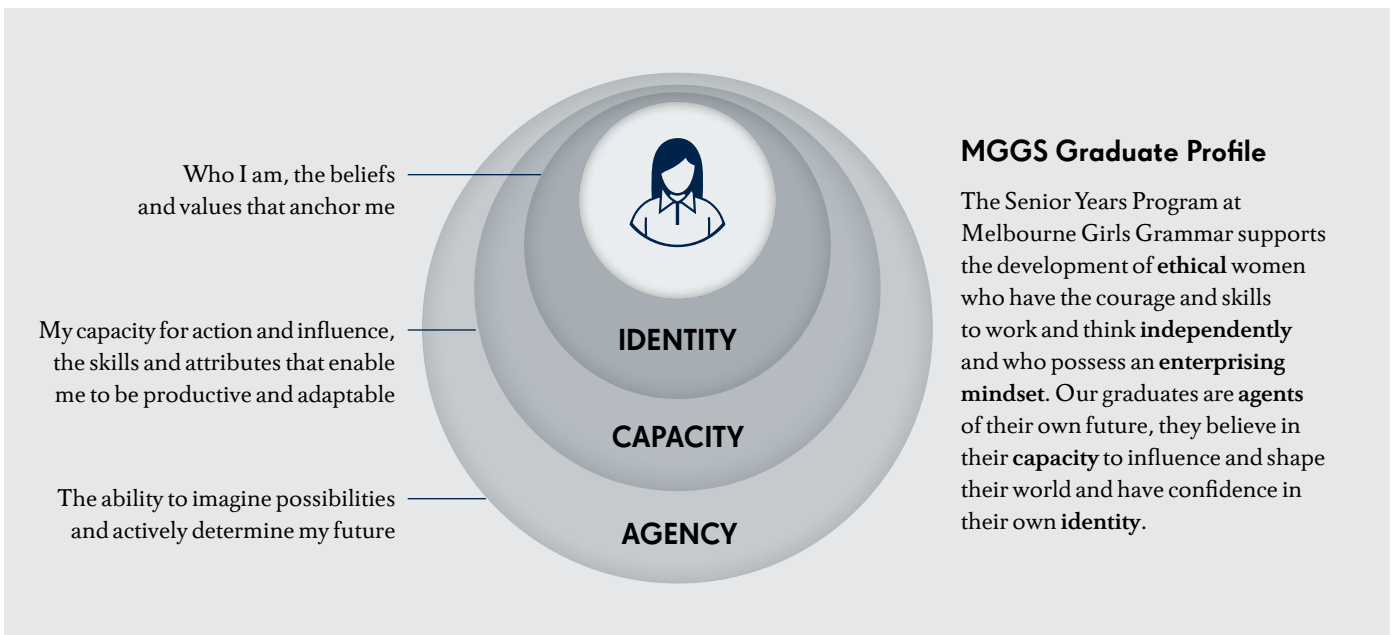
Our Senior Years Program is focused on the holistic importance of the social, emotional, physical and academic wellbeing of our girls. We understand that when our

girls feel well and in control of the many aspects of their lives, they confront obstacles and challenges with confidence and a belief in their capacity to solve problems. As such, the holistic design of the Senior Years experience provides time and exceptional levels of support for the girls to set and realise their individual goals.

Extending on the academic, physical and wellbeing domains is the unique provision of our *Student Enterprise Program*. We aim to develop well balanced, all-round graduates with a global outlook, ready for the diverse opportunities beyond school. They are young women of substance, ready to make a difference in their world.

### MGGS Graduate Profile

The Senior Years Program at Melbourne Girls Grammar supports the development of **ethical** women who have the courage and skills to work and think **independently** and who possess an **enterprising mindset**. Our graduates are **agents** of their own future, they believe in their **capacity** to influence and shape their world and have confidence in their own **identity**.









# SENIOR YEARS

## ACADEMICS

**The Senior Years is a four year learning continuum framed by two phases: Years 9 – 10 and Years 11 – 12.**

As the girls move into the Senior Years, they exercise full control over the structure and elements of their learning plan. In Years 9 and 10 they choose from standard, advanced and accelerated courses as they develop a pathway that aligns with their passions, talents and aspirations. In the VCE (Years 11 and 12), girls choose from over 30 course options and work diligently towards optimising their post-school opportunities.

Students move through these phases of learning at a pace and on the learning pathway that best meets their needs.



### **Standard, Advanced and Accelerated Learning Opportunities in the Senior Years**

Courses within the Years 9 – 10 Program are designed to provide differing levels of conceptual and literacy challenge. It is our philosophy that when challenged, our girls will experience success in meeting and exceeding expectations. Girls have the opportunity to choose advanced courses in all learning pathways and it is an expectation that all girls will undertake at least one advanced course by the completion of Year 10.

Accelerated courses are designed to support pathways to the early completion of VCE Units. Such pathways are carefully constructed and are closely monitored by subject teachers and the Director of Senior Years.

Girls are able to customise their learning by selecting a suite of courses from the following broad learning pathways:

- English
- Geography & Social Sciences
- History and Classical Studies
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Science
- Visual Arts

\*Across Years 9 – 10 girls choose from over 60 different elective courses.

\*In VCE the girls have access to over 30 VCE course pathways.



# SENIOR YEARS

## SUPPORTING PERSONALISED LEARNING

**The organising structure of the Senior Years Program is a student's personal learning goals. We aim to know and understand a student's goals and provide the level of support and feedback and the structural flexibility that will enable her to achieve her personal best.**

We achieve this by providing:

- Exceptional teachers working in a model that allows for whole group, small group and personalised instruction
- A learning team that extends and diversifies the traditional resources within a school setting
- Course design that allows for self pacing
- Online infrastructure enabling students to visualise their course progress
- Online resources that extend the learning beyond the classroom experience

The Senior Years is a time of increased student autonomy within a defined structure and with clear expectations. Girls in the Senior Years have both fixed and flexible components to their week and have the capacity to shape their day according to the goals and priorities they have established with their teachers, wellbeing coaches and fitness coaches.

### Supporting Student Learning

Along with expert teachers, our Senior Years girls also have access to a team of Academic Coaches.

Academic Coaches are available to students in each learning pathway, to assist them with review, practice and application of learning. The Academic Coaches help girls with time management and organisation and, in the lead up to exams, support the girls by hosting exam preparation workshops and assisting in the creation of study schedules.

### Learning Environments

Diverse and well designed learning environments support purposeful learning and encourage positive relationships between peers and teachers.

There are several unique and dedicated environments in which our Senior Years girls live and learn:

#### eVI

This is the online platform for student learning, where all key documentation pertaining to students' course progression are curated. Each course page is designed to support a learning narrative with stated learning outcomes and associated learning resources. Girls are also able to use the eVI platform to monitor their progression through the course, set and adjust timelines and access stored teacher feedback.

*What I really like about this way of learning is the flexibility it gives me to manage my own time. Because I'm very involved in showjumping, I really like that I can access my work online — it's very helpful when I travel to competitions.*

~ Rhianna

*The Senior Years Program has helped me gain more independence. I have learnt how to be responsible, how to look out for myself, how to motivate myself and how to stay on task.*

~ Harriet

*I'm in control of absolutely everything I do in School time. There's a lot of work but I can decide how to manage it.*

~ Sophie

*This program is helping me use my time more wisely because I can do my homework and course work during School time, rather than after School when I have lots of extra-curricular activities.*

~ Elita





### Learning Commons

Within the Learning Commons, students have designated environments in which academic coaches and teachers are available to support their learning and peer-to-peer learning is facilitated. The environment is contemporary in design and effectively supports one to one and small group coaching, guest speakers, lectures, seminars, independent learning and student displays.



### Artemis Centre

The Artemis Centre is our latest and most exciting community centre in which girls access a range of recreational, coaching, and community activities. The special Me Zones are used for advisory sessions and are designed to encourage individual and small group reflection and relaxation. Senior students have the privilege to access the Artemis Centre throughout the day, participating in physical activities that meet their personalised fitness goals and using the Artemis Learning Commons for independent and peer supported learning.





# SENIOR YEARS

## WELLBEING

**At Melbourne Girls Grammar, we believe an exceptional education for life not only focuses on academic skills, but emotional and physical wellbeing as well.**

### The Wellbeing Model

Melbourne Girls Grammar has developed a Senior Years Wellbeing Model that responds to the challenges girls are faced with today in the areas of social connectedness, mental health and physical health.

Our approach ensures the social, personal and environmental factors in each of our girl's lives work together to maximise her learning and develop her as an independent, self-aware and resilient young woman. The approach is holistic and focuses on proactive care strategies. Positive relationships between staff, students and parents are central for success.

### What it means for our girls

Our overarching objective is to empower our girls to understand what underpins good health, such that they set and pursue goals to ensure their wellbeing is a priority. Our girls will learn to take responsibility for their wellbeing. They track and manage the physical, emotional, psychological and social aspects of their lives. Our girls experience the independence to exercise and develop:

- Self-determination
- Self-advocacy
- Proactive goal setting and self-review
- Personal resilience.



### Wellbeing Coaches

The role of the Wellbeing Coach is unique within the MGS framework, as it is designed to benefit the student in a personalised, collaborative and confidential manner. Students are invited to direct the course of their Wellbeing pathway with the guidance of their coach.

Through active listening and collaboration, coaches come together to design and implement small and full cohort group activities and programs that are directly responsive to the needs of each cohort. Experiential learning is a vital component of group work and complements one-to-one coaching sessions.

### Wellbeing Co-ordinators

The Senior Years Wellbeing Co-ordinators are responsible for the stewardship and administration of their students. Their role involves establishing a relationship of mutual respect and understanding with students and a supportive and guiding relationship with parents and guardians.

They also play a crucial role in monitoring each student and her progress through the Senior Years. They analyse academic, wellbeing and physical engagement data and support the girls through one-to-one sessions targeting the development of strategies that support their learning, motivation and connectedness.

Wellbeing Co-ordinators are the first point of contact for parents.





# SENIOR YEARS

## STUDENT ENTERPRISE

**Building on a long history of nurturing young women who have the confidence to shape their own lives, our focus is on developing an entrepreneurial mindset.**

### DOMAINS OF STUDENT ENTERPRISE



LEARNING BEYOND SCHOOL



CAREER INSPIRATION



PHILANTHROPY



LEADERSHIP

We craft learning and co-curricular experiences to encourage our girls to be creative, resourceful, adaptable, team oriented, and independent. Our girls develop their identity as emerging global citizens, ready to explore opportunities for personal and community growth and development.

At the outset of Year 9, each girl meets with the Student Enterprise Manager to develop her Enterprise Profile. The Student Enterprise Manager is responsible for the provision of opportunities that extend learning into local and global contexts. This is a unique offering by Melbourne Girls Grammar, under the auspices of our Centre for Educational Enterprise (CEE).

This remains an active experience throughout the four years of the Senior Years Program, building experiences and learning within four domains:

- **Learning beyond MGGS** – local and global opportunities, incorporating trips, exchanges, humanitarian initiatives, and passion focused opportunities
- **Careers Inspiration** – An expansive domain, with a particular focus on internships that supplement and inform learning experiences beyond the academic domain
- **Student Philanthropy** – volunteer work is a highly valued component of our girls' experiences, informing their understanding of active citizenship
- **Leadership** – this can be individual or team based, demonstrated through participation in enterprise opportunities and the broader co-curricular program

### Student Enterprise Opportunities

Girls are encouraged to develop broad understandings of their place in the world and grow their intercultural understanding through a global experience of their choice at some time throughout the Senior Years. Global experiences on offer include Language Immersion exchange in Italy, Spain or France; the Senior Years Science and Enterprise Tour; Service Learning and Physical Challenge Projects in Asia; Leadership Summits in the UK; Science and Geography fieldwork expeditions in Africa; and School exchanges to partner schools in the USA, Canada and the UK.

Girls are encouraged to complete one additional accreditation, most likely offered online, during their four years of Senior Years studies. Opportunities include: First Aid Certification; Design Thinking Course; LinkedIn or personal branding and resume building.

As part of the Career Inspiration domain, students undertake internships that embed them with companies and businesses that may be of interest. The internships may be short term or continuous experiences, depending on the goals of the student. Internships help students to understand the types of fields of work they might be interested in and the types of knowledge, skills, and attributes they will need to acquire if they wish to pursue the pathway. Internships may include experiences such as NAB Girls in IT, Engineers Australia and a South Africa Research Expedition. The Student Enterprise Manager works closely with each girl to craft personal experiences.



Global experiences in 2017 included social service work in Sri Lanka and Nepal while the Science and Enterprise Tour headed to CERN in Switzerland, Euro Space Centre in Belgium and Volkswagen and NoTOSH Design Thinking in Germany.



# SENIOR YEARS

## ACTIVE GIRLS

**A physically active culture is the cornerstone to positive wellbeing.**



A key feature of the Senior Years Program is the Fit for Life Program. The basis of the Program is to personalise the sport and physical activity experience by developing personal wellbeing plans that consider a girl's interests, motivations and goals.

The Fit for Life Program aims to:

- Promote regular exercise and movement as a foundation of healthy development and wellbeing
- Foster a culture of physical activity and exercise as part of the education experience at MGGS which sets the platform for girls to be active for life
- Improve the physical fitness and athletic development qualities of all students
- Cater to and support the needs and interests of all girls, from those aspiring to optimise their physical and health potential to the emerging and elite athlete
- Equip our students with the tools, skills, confidence and knowledge to be active for life, to make healthy and informed decisions relating to their physical wellbeing, and to try new things in an ever-changing environment

The MGGS Fitness Hub in the Artemis Centre is central to the Fit for Life Program. The space has been designed to cater to the needs and interests of all girls, with a clear vision to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages persistence in physical activity.

The Fitness Hub is open to Senior Years students for use before and after school, as well as during Independent Learning Time. Fitness Coaches, who are qualified Exercise Physiologists and Strength and Conditioning Coaches, work with the girls to develop their personal plans and to teach them safe and effective techniques in optimising their physical literacy.

Our Sports Program offers an extensive array of opportunities. As a founding member of Girls Sport Victoria (GSV), MGGS has always encouraged girls to enjoy and value the many benefits of participating in sport.

Swimming, Athletics, Rowing, Snowsports, Netball are just some of the 20 sports on offer. We support girls from recreational access through to elite sports performance. Our world-class Artemis Centre, synthetic sports courts and rowing facility on the Yarra River enable us to provide the highest quality sports experience for girls.



# THE ARTEMIS PROJECT

NURTURING STRONG, CAPABLE GIRLS



**The Artemis Centre, opened in 2017, is a community centre in which girls can be physically active and pursue all-round wellbeing skills.**

The way the spaces work and the features, such as 'me zones', have been designed in response to how we know girls like to live and learn together. We want every girl to feel confident in an environment in which she can be physically active.

The Artemis Centre includes a 25-metre swimming pool, basketball and netball courts, yoga and fitness studios, as well as learning, study and consultation spaces.

We aim to nurture confident and capable girls who strive to maintain a healthy balance of academic, co-curricular and wellbeing activities.

A key feature of the Senior Years Program is the Fit for Life Program. This program aims to personalise the sport and physical activity experience, by creating development plans that consider each girl's interests, motivation and goals.



# SENIOR YEARS HANDBOOK

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