



YARRA VALLEY
GRAMMAR



Teaching and Learning Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020



Governance

THE BOARD OF YARRA VALLEY GRAMMAR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL GOVERNANCE OF THE SCHOOL. KEY ISSUES INCLUDE:

- Strategic Stewardship
- Risk, Governance and appointments
- Finance
- Board and Director reviews.



Vision

YARRA VALLEY GRAMMAR OFFERS A QUALITY CO-EDUCATIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT BASED ON CHRISTIAN VALUES, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF EACH STUDENT. AT YARRA VALLEY GRAMMAR WE ENCOURAGE AND ACKNOWLEDGE:

- The pursuit of excellence
- Student success
- Academic, cultural and sporting achievements
- Spiritual development
- Creativity
- Concern for the environment
- Care and tolerance
- Service to School and community.

Mission

THE SCHOOL EXISTS TO:

- provide the community with a place of sound education and learning, dedicated to the attainment of excellence and having the freedom to evolve its own character and spirit
- educate young people within the framework of the Christian Faith and the Anglican tradition
- encourage each student to discover, and to develop to the utmost extent, his or her individual capabilities
- offer that kind of inspiration and idealism which the young crave and need for full development.

Values

- Personal Excellence
- Achieving Personal Best with Confidence
- Community Engagement, Connection and Relevance
- Teamwork and Team Involvement
- Internationalism
- Christian Values
- An open-entry school
- To be the school of first choice in Melbourne's east.

Teaching and Learning Plan

OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATION WHICH MEETS THE NEEDS OF A DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATION WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE, RESILIENCE, ENGAGEMENT AND THE CONFIDENCE TO ACHIEVE.

KEY STRATEGIC INTENTIONS FOR 2015 – 2020 INCLUDE TEN IMPORTANT ELEMENTS:

An ongoing commitment to improve

REVIEW OUR CORE OPERATIONS TO:

- Provide an education that meets the needs of a diverse student population with a particular emphasis on academic excellence
- Promote independence, confidence, resilience, engagement and the pursuit of excellence in the approach our students take to their learning
- Reinforce the expectation that all students will succeed in their studies
- Encourage students to develop a lifelong commitment to learning
- Personalise learning, deep thinking, authentic tasks, self-reflection and self-assessment
- Encourage student contribution to their own instruction
- Promote the use of digital learning.



Use data as a tool for improvement

DEVISE AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE DATA PLAN TO:

- Use data effectively to individualise the learning for students
- Devise a teaching and learning process which is flexible and caters for different learning styles, abilities and aspirations
- Source and use current evidence to promote best practice
- Prescribe student requirements to ensure best possible results
- Develop a rigorous process for promotion to the next year level and/or the approval process to study a subject in the next level
- Continue to provide staff with access to professional learning in the effective use of data to influence learning and teaching
- Establish minimum expectations for staff with the application of data for their learning and teaching programs
- Audit teachers planning and procedures relating to the use of data for teaching and learning.

A culture of learning

DEVISE AND IMPLEMENT NEW TARGETED PROGRAMS TO:

- Establish an integrated approach to *value adding* to build student capacity as they progress through the School
- Enhance enrichment and extension programs
- Create opportunities to fully extend students in the Senior School
- Engage high performing and motivated Old Grammarians as tutors for our Year 12 students
- Enhance our subject offerings in VCE to develop tailored courses to ensure appropriate post-secondary pathways
- Focus on Junior School Literacy and Numeracy
- Expand after School *tutorials /support* for students in Terms 3 and 4 (Math/English)
- Create opportunities for cross age groups to work through activities based on choice (using a theme) these would target Reading/Authors, Writing, Math Problem solving, Drama/Arts, Sport.

Effective use of School resources

PLAN TO IMPROVE RESOURCES AND FACILITIES TO:

- Create a *learning heart* of the School which is an attractive place for students to gather to work
- Commence planning to expand the physical and pedagogical resources of the current resource centres to create learning commons that cater for the various disciplines and for both individual and group work. This philosophy to be extended to the Carter Centre
- Create *digital learning hubs* around the School to promote a culture of *incidental learning*
- Develop subject specific zones in the Secondary School to allow for cross age learning and the development of a discipline specific culture
- Continue to improve existing learning areas to enhance the learning experience
- Plan for the renovation of the Art and Design areas and the provision of Food Studies facilities
- Renovate Junior Primary classrooms
- Investigate the establishment of an ICT based multimedia suite in the IT Faculty Area
- Provide a facility which is dedicated specifically to student support.

Teaching excellence

ESTABLISH A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF AN *EXEMPLAR TEACHER* TO:

- Source and use current evidence and best practice in determining the best recruitment processes
- Promote the professional and personal benefits of working at Yarra Valley Grammar during the recruitment process
- Ensure that the induction and mentoring program meets the needs of new staff
- Embed *Academic Rigor*
- Set and achieve high expectations
- Create a productive and challenging learning environment
- Assist all students to reach acceptable standards in literacy and numeracy
- Collaborate in teaching and learning
- Make performance more measurable and accountable to the goals of the School
- Investigate strategies for rewarding staff who demonstrate excellent practice
- Closely monitor expectations and develop consistent processes for the follow up of staff who may not be complying or achieving required levels
- Devise an effective approach to performance management
- Build the leadership capacity of those who lead our teams.

A coherent curriculum

CONDUCT A CURRICULUM REVIEW TO:

- Devise a coherent, integrated and progressive program to develop motivational, organisational, technological and learning skills to be embedded in the curriculum to ensure that appropriate thought, time and resources are devoted to the *how* of learning
- Move beyond *motivational engagement* to *engaged learning*
- Audit all subjects to ensure that they are meeting the School's goals in the provision of an outstanding education
- Investigate the extension of Food Studies and Hospitality as subject offerings in the Secondary School
- Ensure that international students have appropriate pathways into tertiary education.

Differentiation as a School priority

DEVELOP A SCHOOL WIDE DIFFERENTIATION PLAN TO:

- Direct formalised differentiation for all classes
- Complete a learning profile on each student that is available to all staff
- Continue the Literacy and Numeracy focus with an emphasis on staff planning for differentiation in all of their classes
- Create opportunities for individual and group learning outside of scheduled class time.



Effective teaching practices

ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER TO:

- Effectively appraise middle leaders
- Ensure a personalised learning program for staff which caters for their individual growth in the profession
- Source and use current evidence and best practice in determining the best processes for the development of personalised learning
- Review the role of tutors and teachers in monitoring personalised learning for students.

Strong community partnerships

GIVE PRIORITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO:

- Foster greater engagement in the broader community
- Benefit our students through community partnerships
- Contribute to the broader community in terms of personnel, resources and programs to engage with alumni, community and Foundation
- Strengthen and develop partnerships with tertiary institutions.

Good citizenship

CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE VARIOUS FORMATION, COMMUNITY LINKS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO:

- Foster the intellectual, physical, social and spiritual growth of our students
- Prepare our students for life after School to contribute in a meaningful way to society
- Create a safe, supportive and affirming environment where individuals are known and acknowledged for their unique contributions to our School community
- Promote resilient and healthy young people whose experience of School is a positive one and where they develop a sense of belonging and affiliation with the School community
- Provide a meaningful religious education experience for students in the School.





From the Chairman

The Board of Yarra Valley Grammar is the custodian of the mission of the School. The Board seeks to ensure that we remain a leader in education in Melbourne's east and the school of first choice for parents wanting a quality education for their children.

Yarra Valley Grammar is committed to excellence in education. An education predicated upon the principles of an open entry, coeducational experience where all students are challenged and supported to give their best. The School's curricular and co-curricular program provide wonderful opportunities for students in a supportive and caring environment.

The School itself is blessed with a beautiful natural environment and world class facilities, but it is the people here who truly make the schooling experience so memorable. Our teachers are committed to the young people in their care and seek to provide them with an experience of school which will help them grow in intellect and character to contribute to the society in which they live.

This document provides us with a road map of where we are going in the next five years and how we intend to get there. I commend the Teaching and Learning Plan 2015-2020 to you.

Mrs Sarah Tipping



From the Principal

The schooling experience is a formative and powerful time in each of our lives. It is for this reason that we at Yarra Valley Grammar are committed to providing great opportunities for young people.

Success does not just happen. We need to plan for success, and the Teaching and Learning Plan 2015-2020 is our design to have great teachers working with the young people in our care to achieve their best.

The plan provides us with a coherent approach to improvements in teaching and improvements in the learning environment. Later in life we remember those teachers who really cared about us, the ones who showed a genuine interest in us as individuals and had a passion for their work.

The Teaching and Learning Plan places great importance upon teaching excellence so that students at YVG grow in the kind of supportive and positive environment where children learn best. The plan recognizes high expectations for each member of our community as the key to success. This coupled with the building strategy means that the learning environment at YVG, both cultural and physical will remain at the forefront of education in Melbourne's east.

The plan focuses our energies for the next five years and I commend the work of our teachers and the Teaching and Learning Plan to you.

Dr Mark Merry

Supporting Structures for Governance

THE MONITORING OF RISK, COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL CONTROLS INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUMBER OF SUPPORTIVE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL INCLUDING:

The Finance Plan

The Building Programme

The ICT Plan

Community Engagement

Marketing and Enrolments

Alternative Resource Streams



YARRA VALLEY
G R A M M A R

confidence to achieve

Kalinda Road Ringwood Victoria 3134 Australia
Telephone +61 3 9262 7700
Email admissions@yvg.vic.edu.au www.yvg.vic.edu.au

ABN 44 004 584 552 CRICOS NO. 00356E