



STUDENT INFORMATION

BIRDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



LABOR OMNIA VINCIT - HARD WORK CONQUERS ALL



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Our School

Birdwood High School (BHS) is set on 15 hectares of picturesque land in the Torrens Valley region of the Adelaide Hills. We provide a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment where all students are prepared for academic success and are empowered with the knowledge, skills, values, and mindset needed to become active, compassionate and independent learners. We set high standards for both our students and ourselves encouraging everyone to think critically, solve problems creatively and engage deeply with learning.

Working together, we are relentless in the pursuit of equity and excellence, supporting all students at Birdwood High School to learn and thrive.

Our Vision, Values and Motto

We pride ourselves on delivering high quality teaching and learning that is personalised and tailored for all students. Respect, Resilience and Empathy are the core values which underpin our school motto '*Labor Omnia Vincit*' meaning '*hard work conquers all*'.

Our motto encapsulates the belief that dedicated and persistent effort is the key to overcoming challenges and achieving success. It emphasises the values of resilience, perseverance, determination in the face of obstacles.

We encourage students to approach their academic, personal and professional endeavours with a strong work ethic, reinforcing the idea that through hard work, all can strive for personal excellence.

"Driven by a dynamic and inclusive learning environment, we will empower and inspire students to be resilient, empathetic and adaptive learners, who strive for personal excellence in a rapidly changing world."



Transition to High School

At Birdwood High School, we understand the transition from primary to secondary school is an exciting time for students and their parents. It is the next stage in a lifelong educational journey leading to new experiences and challenges.

We aim for all students moving as seamlessly as possible to their new setting. All students are supported in their transition to Birdwood High School by providing appropriate personal, social and academic supports to promote student engagement and wellbeing.

Our transition program focusses on

- Developing a sense of belonging
- Good relationships
- Meaningful participation of students and families
- Collaborative partnerships with local primary schools

Positive transitions occur when students feel prepared for their move and have a sense of belonging and familiarity in their new learning community

Middle School

Our Middle School program and structure is designed to engage and guide our young adolescents through the transition from primary to secondary schooling. We foster positive relationships with students to enhance connectedness and create a sense of belonging to our school.

Throughout the middle years, students develop a strong sense of self-efficacy and self-regulation enabling them to meet their academic, personal, social and emotional wellbeing needs. Students are expected to demonstrate the core school values of respect, resilience and empathy and learn to become positive contributors to society.



Senior School

At Birdwood High School, the senior years of schooling are imperative drivers to careers and tertiary learning. We will foster an environment in which students want to learn, grow and succeed based on their interests and future career aspirations. The Senior School has high expectations for students to achieve their personal best within their SACE pathway. Our teachers deliver learning using 21st-century practices.

Vocational learning pathways provide students with options to engage in learning for future careers while still at school and continuing on their SACE pathway. Students are expected to demonstrate the core school values of Respect, Resilience, and Empathy and become positive contributors to society when they graduate.

Student Life and Leadership

Students at Birdwood High School are supported to build positive relationships, be collaborative, resilient and adaptive lifelong learners who embrace change.

Every student in every class takes on the role of being a leader of their own learning. The skills developed through our student leadership program empowers students to use their voice in respectful and meaningful ways to share their thoughts, ideas and beliefs. Our students are encouraged to engage in leadership roles, enjoy a broad range of cultural, sporting and community learning experiences to achieve their personal best.

We promote a range of leadership opportunities to develop personal growth, self-efficacy and team work. Leadership roles are available to students across all year levels, providing opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. These experiences are invaluable in the development of our students as confident leaders.



Wellbeing



Wellbeing for all members of the school community is supported and purposely developed through intentional learning activities and practices. We focus on the holistic development of students, emphasising not only academic success but also on emotional and mental health. This fosters a sense of community and resilience, enabling students to thrive.

The Advisory Program is at the heart of student wellbeing, engagement and personal growth. Teachers focus on mentoring, guiding and supporting each student to build their confidence and capabilities with their studies, enabling them to become active contributors in the wider community.

Teaching and Learning

Focussing on curriculum, pedagogy and assessment, our teachers plan for and deliver meaningful, challenging, rigorous and relevant learning experiences that build on student prior knowledge. Having high expectations for every students learning, our teachers have clarity about what students are expected to know and be able to do.

We use the Australian curriculum to meet the learning needs of all our students and operate within a multi-tiered system of support where all resources are available to all students.

We explicitly teach skills and content utilising current and emerging technologies and continually monitor learning to determine the impact of teaching

Curriculum

Year 7 and 8

The curriculum for students in year 7 and 8 is broad, balanced and challenging, ensuring all our students experience a diverse range of subjects as they prepare for year 9.

The year 7 and 8 curriculum will consist of: A full year of English, Maths, Science, HASS and exposure to the Agriculture, Arts, Health and Physical Education, Japanese and Technologies

Assessment and Reporting

We design ongoing formative and summative assessments allowing teachers and students to assess where they are in learning, where they need to go next and how to get there.

Birdwood High School has a consistent and formalised approach to providing students with opportunities to demonstrate their achievement, ensuring constructive feedback and reporting student progress. Students are provided with an assessment plan for each subject and assessment tasks that are accessible through our learner management system, Daymap.

Assessment practices involve making considered judgements about student progress and achievement as well as informing the next steps in learning. Teachers will use universal design principles to plan and enact assessment tasks that are age-appropriate and meet the learning needs of the diverse range of students in their classes.

Year 9

Our curriculum at year 9 allows students the chance to shape their curriculum by allowing them to focus on areas of interest as they start to explore their future interests and prepare themselves for the senior school and SACE. The curriculum provides a wide range of stimulating courses that allow students to have a deep learning experience which will prepare them well for future studies. The year 9 curriculum will consist of a full year of English, Maths, Science, HASS. Students will choose five semester subjects from the range of electives.

Digital Delivery

We know that when the effective use of technology is coupled with quality teaching and learning, the opportunity for students to be successful is greater. We are committed to using current, new and emerging technologies to improve the learning experiences for all students. We use a blended digital delivery method utilising the Microsoft Education Suite and Daymap enabling students to experience immersive learning experiences.

We value and encourage open communication with our families. We will utilise the Daymap Connect – Parent Portal as our primary source of communication with families.

Birdwood High School supports a 'Bring Your Own Device' policy through connecting to an extensive ICT support structure, reliable network connections and access to the internet. Suitable devices can be purchased via the school portal on our website.

Specialist Programs

Agriculture

The Specialist Agriculture program is an exciting program that connects student learning to future pathways in a range of agricultural industries.

Students have the opportunity to build agricultural knowledge as well as business and entrepreneurial mindsets. Our program includes the following learning activities

- Native flora and fauna conservation including rare marsupials in our Conservation Park.
- Paddock to Plate, interconnected cross curricular learning program for middle years
- Production of wine
- Working and caring for our farm animals such as steers, chickens, sheep and alpacas
- Compete for local and state titles in fields such as Junior and Senior Wool Classing and Sheep judging, Sheep and Alpaca handling and Animal Showing.



VET programs

Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses provide relevant industry standards training that are SACE accredited and can lead students into traineeships and apprenticeships. Students have access to VET courses within the Adelaide Hills Region.

Birdwood High School offers a Certificate II in Bakery in our state of the art Industrial kitchen in partnership with TAEF SA as well as a Certificate II in Engineering in partnership with PEER.



Australian Rules Football Academy (ARFA)

Our specialist Australian Rules Football Academy is run across year levels for both female and male students. Students are selected as part of an application, interview and trial process.

The Academy is designed to develop and strengthen student skills, knowledge and characteristics as an individual and a team member.

Students are coached by our skilled specialist sporting team who are committed to delivering a high quality focussed football curriculum. Tournaments and competitions at school, interschool, club and state level are an integral part of this course.

We are working in partnership with the South Australian National Football League to support the future development and talent of our Football Academy students.



Birdwood High School

For more information please visit our school website <https://www.birdwoodhs.sa.edu.au/>

A virtual tour of the school is also available to view at <https://advancedpromo.com.au/tours/birdwoodhs/>

If you have any further questions please contact the school on 8568 5100

Transition day for year 6 students is Thursday December 5th 2024

More information will be provided closer to this date.



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