Buckley Park College
Essendon’s 7-12 co-educational secondary school
Buckley Park College prepares its students to be the creators, discoverers and inventors of the future, participating as responsible and productive citizens committed to the achievement of a just and sustainable world.
There are two lasting bequests we can give our children. One is roots. The other is wings.

Buckley Park College has provided exceptional learning opportunities to students from Essendon and surrounding suburbs since 1963. "Build Your Wings", the school motto, symbolises the important role the school plays in nurturing the academic and personal development that prepares young people for successful and happy futures. Many former students have gone on to become leaders within industry, the professions and the community.

Buckley Park College is a medium sized, single campus, co-educational school for students from years 7 to 12. Large enough to offer a challenging and diverse curriculum, the school is small enough to foster individual development.

High expectations, well structured courses and sound teaching lead to successful learning

At Buckley Park College students have a comprehensive and cohesive learning experience. The knowledge, skills and understandings they require to successfully progress and go on to further study are systematically developed over the course of their secondary education. At every step, highly qualified and committed teachers challenge, encourage and support students to achieve high academic results in both core and co-curricular programs while fostering their growth into adulthood and citizenship.

At this age variety is important. Students are keen to engage with the world beyond school and progressively take more personal and leadership responsibility. Off-campus programs engage students in powerful, real-life learning which enhances self esteem.

Years 11 & 12
At this stage in their development students become more focused on their future. Detailed, individual course counselling ensures that students make sound plans that will lead to the best possible outcomes. Students are able to take studies leading to award of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) while including Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects.

Teachers understand the significance of the final years of schooling in setting students on course for the next stage of their lives. As individual responsibilities and academic rigour are heightened so is the individual feedback, support and close monitoring.

Our senior students achieve outstanding success; their results a reflection of their perseverance and the quality teaching they receive. Most move on to their course of choice for further study at a university or TAFE institute.

Years 7 & 8
Emphasis is placed on participation and connecting with the school community. Students study a full range of subjects structured to make the transition from primary school engaging while developing the intellectual skills that form the basis for future learning. The junior school area is designed to provide a secure, nurturing environment in which students develop close links with their form teacher and peers.

Years 9 & 10
Further developing the skills and essential knowledge required for success in their VCE studies, the core and elective program at years 9 & 10 requires students to participate in a broad range of studies while pursuing particular interests.
The strong sense of community among students and teachers is based on the values of trust, respect, tolerance, honesty, responsibility, creativity and determination.

Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program
This program, which is accredited by the Department of Education, commences from year 7 and provides specially for students with high academic ability. Students are selected through a series of tests, an interview and parent and teacher reports. They complete studies faster and in more depth leading to enhanced opportunities in the later years.

Co-curricular Program
Students are encouraged to pursue their talents and interests in a diverse range of co-curricular activities. These enrich the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of each student.

The strong camps program combines compulsory year level camps with camps related to specific elective subjects and local and international tours.

Sport
Buckley Park College recognises the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between the intellectual and physical development of young people. There are many opportunities for students to participate in individual and team activities across a broad range of winter and summer sports. The school is regularly represented with distinction at inter-school competitions.

Music & The Arts
There is a strong emphasis on performance and exhibition of student work in all the arts.

Through the rigorous Instrumental Music Program students can undertake tuition on a range of instruments and perform with various bands, ensembles and choirs.

The extensive Student Theatre Program builds on learning in drama classes while students with talent in the visual arts participate in making house banners and exhibit in the annual Art Show. Many students take interest and show talent in the media program which emphasises film making skills.

Respectful and responsible relationships
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All members of the school community are expected to accept responsibility for treating each other respectfully. As part of their development, it is normal for young people to occasionally make errors of judgement about what is appropriate behavior. When this occurs the clearly documented code of conduct determines both the consequences for the student and the responsibilities of teachers and parents in working together to assist the student to learn and grow.

The school prides itself on the relationships built between members of its community and the care and support it provides for students and their families. The Student Welfare Coordinator, Educational Psychologist and Chaplain advise students on personal, health and school matters. They also assist parents in accessing support agencies in the broader community.

The Peer Support Program links young students with older students who become their friend and mentor; developing a sense of confidence and belonging in the younger student while older students learn leadership skills and develop an understanding of the responsibilities and commitment of adulthood.
Accepting responsibility and taking leadership

Students progressively develop the leadership skills which will be so useful in their future professional and social lives. At all levels students are selected as form captains and roll monitors and students from years 10 to 12 can participate in a formal leadership program which sees students taking leadership roles in a range of school activities.

The active Student Representative Council has elected members from every class and is represented on the School Council.

Senior students coach junior sports teams and act as mentors and role-models in many co-curricular programs.

As a single campus 7 - 12 school, there are daily opportunities for students of all ages to share and learn from each other.
A strong partnership between home and school

We value the partnership with parents and encourage their involvement.

The Form Teacher is the parents’ link with the teaching staff and can be expected to know your child well, supporting their learning, well being and social development. A small group of core teachers works intensively with each form group thus developing the necessary relationships with both the students and their parents. Year Level Coordinators play an important role in overseeing the provision of appropriate personal and academic care.

Regular contact between parents and teachers about student learning and development is very important. Parents can expect regular newsletters, phone calls, notes, progress reports, meetings with teachers, information evenings, formal semester reports and parent teacher interviews. There are also many opportunities for parents to come to the school to see and celebrate their child’s learning.

Parents are elected to the School Council and the Friends of Buckley Park provides a forum for parent participation in social activities, fundraising and issues related to the education and development of young people.

International Students

Buckley Park College has Government accreditation to enrol international students. We believe that forming strong and lasting friendships with peers from other countries enriches the education and future opportunities of our resident students. Our own multi-cultural community embraces a rich diversity of traditions and so it is easy for our international students, who come from many different countries and cultures, to take their place within the school. International students participate in the full range of programs and activities offered by the school.

The International Programs Coordinator takes particular care for the well-being of our international and exchange students and is available to assist them with any personal or school related matters.

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Further information and tours
To experience life at Buckley Park College we invite you to visit and see our students at work. Call for information about tour times and our annual Open Day. A booklet which gives more details about the school’s programs is available on request. We appreciate your interest and are excited at the prospect of showing you our school where young people’s futures take wing.

The school is well served by train, bus and tram services connecting it to surrounding suburbs and the centre of Melbourne which is only fifteen minutes away. 

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