

EASING THE TRANSITION

Transition from primary school to secondary school is a major change in a student's life. At Forest Hill College we understand this and have developed an integrated approach to assisting students and families through this new and exciting phase. The transition program for students and their families for the following year begins during Grade 6 and continues into term one of the next year. Students only get one *first day at secondary school* and with this in mind we aim to ensure that it is a positive and memorable experience.

With a focus that is clearly on the teaching and learning that occurs in the classroom, Forest Hill College has a Leading Teacher who works exclusively with staff & students at Year 7 and 8. In doing so the College ensures a vibrant and up to date curriculum that meets the diverse needs of 21st Century learners. This leader co-ordinates an enthusiastic and experienced team of teachers focussed on ensuring that all students are challenged to achieve their best.

Key events in the transition program include our Literacy and Numeracy testing, Connections Night and Orientation Day. In addition to this, Forest Hill College will introduce the S.T.E.M Program for talented students in 2010. S.T.E.M is a program offered as enhancement in the areas of Science, Digital Learning Technologies, English and Mathematics. Emphasis will be placed on inquiry based learning, higher order thinking and problem solving

Features of the Transition Program at Forest Hill College:

- An experienced and enthusiastic team of core teachers that oversee the academic and social development of each student in their class.
- A dedicated Year Level Manager that oversees the wellbeing of your student and liaises with key stakeholders as your student progresses.
- A Student Wellbeing Team that develops and runs programs to meet the needs of young adolescents as they begin to find their way in the world.
- Early in first term families are invited to attend a BBQ and have the opportunity to see the teaching and learning program in action and meet other parents/guardians.
- A Year 7 camp focussed on getting to know other students and teachers, learning about group cooperation, team building and leadership, and understanding how the school runs, in a supportive, enjoyable, educational setting.
- Swimming and Athletics Carnivals introduce the Year 7 students to Tribal rivalry and see Year 7 students form stronger links with students in other year levels.
- The Peer Support program has Year 10 Leaders working with small groups of students to ensure that they are settling into to learning at Forest Hill College.
- Year 7 students are provided with opportunities to develop their leadership skills by applying to be a Home Group Leader or IMPACT member (Student Representative Council).
- Designated classrooms that are tailored to the learning needs of Year 7 students.



THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM

The Curriculum opportunities at Forest Hill College are developed to meet the unique needs of students. They are planned using information from staff to develop depth and breadth in what is taught and how it is delivered in a collaborative and integrated way. Strategies are incorporated into the planning of curriculum that take into account the diverse range of learning needs for each student in every classroom.

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards identify three core and interrelated strands for the Prep to Year 10 curriculum. Each strand has a number of domains which describe the essential knowledge, skills and behaviours students need to prepare for further education, work and life. At Forest Hill College these standards form the basis of the teaching and learning that occurs in the classrooms.

Students undertake specific studies in English, Humanities, Science, The Arts, Health and PE, Technology, Mathematics and LOTE.

The core nature of this program is designed to give all students a range of experiences and to build foundational skills to allow them to make informed choices in their subject selections later in their schooling. All classes at Year 7 and 8 are conducted with students in a home or core group in order to allow them to develop strong sustainable relationships with their peers.

Core Learning Experiences 2010	Year 7	Year 8
English	English ESL <i>English enhancement (STEM)</i>	English ESL <i>Enrichment program for identified students</i>
Mathematics	Mathematics <i>Mathematics enhancement (STEM)</i>	Mathematics <i>Enrichment program for identified students</i>
Arts	Visual Arts - Art Performing Arts - Music	Visual Arts - Visual Communication Performing Arts - Drama
LOTE	French or Chinese (Mandarin)	French or German (2010 only)
Health and PE	Health, Physical and Sport Education	Health, Physical and Sport Education
Science	General Science <i>Science Enhancement (STEM)</i>	General Science
Humanities	People In Communities	Influences On Social Organisation and People in their Environments
Technology	- Textiles - Materials and Systems	- Timbers - Foods
Digital Learning Technologies	Information Technology <i>Information Technology enhancement (STEM)</i>	Information Technology