MAKING SURE YOU HAVE A GREAT START TO SECONDARY SCHOOLING

Girls Grammar girls manage the transition to Secondary schooling with the support of a team of caring professionals. The Director of Student Wellbeing, James Lye, oversees our Care Program through which 30 minutes each day is dedicated to personal development and emotional and physical safety. The Director of Learning, Dr John Fry, ensures that academic programs are well balanced and mapped against the National curriculum and achievement benchmarks. The Director of Technology and Innovation, Ryan Cheers, ensures that the latest technological learning tools are available in classrooms for students to access and that safety measures are in place.

The team of Middle Years teachers is carefully selected and exemplify the dedication and professionalism of the Girls Grammar teaching staff.

GIRLS ONLY - STRENGTH THROUGH SISTERHOOD

Adolescence can be challenging enough and is often characterised by self-consciousness and self-doubt for both boys and girls. A girls' only education allows young women the opportunity to explore, grow their maturity and take risks without a constant male gaze, real or imagined. This provides girls with the freedoms of self-expression, leadership, self-determination and success. There are no barriers, no glass ceiling, no gender critique, no lowering of expectations for Girls Grammar girls. The bonds forged between Girls Grammar girls last their lifetimes.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The focus of the Primary Virtues Program is sustained in Middle School through a strong culture of both mutual and self-respect. Alongside developing awareness of cyber safety and strategies for forging strong friendships and teamwork capacity, students develop personal strength through extending resilience, promoting persistence and deepening empathy for others.

The Care Mentor, is the most important point of contact for students and parents.

Each Care Group also has an extended Care session on Thursdays 11.15am-12.35pm which leads into lunch time. This provides opportunities for the class to invite guest speakers or to leave campus for excursions related to personal development.

JUST THE RIGHT SIZE FOR PERSONALISED LEARNING

You are in the wonderful position of being in a small class where personalised attention is easily achieved. Secondary classes are never larger than 25 girls, but the average class size in Secondary is 16 students.

SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday each week we have a Secondary Assembly at 11.15am-12.05pm. Students wear their formal uniform with their blazer every Wednesday. These Assemblies provide the opportunity to celebrate every student’s talent and achievements and to share information and ideas. Parents are welcome to attend.
A DYNAMIC AND ENGAGING LEARNING PROGRAM

As you join the Middle School you will have even greater opportunities to explore new ideas and challenging studies. In Middle School at Girls Grammar we ensure that you have access to a full and rich curriculum.

Core studies at Year 7 and 8 include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS)
- Science
- LOTE (Japanese and Spanish)
- Physical Activity
- Visual Art
- Dance
- Music
- Home Economics
- Drama

Core studies at Year 9 include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS)
- Science
- Physical Activity

Electives at Year 9 include:

- Business
- Design and Technology
- Agricultural Science
- Physical Education
- Japanese
- Spanish
- Latin
- Dance
- Drama
- Visual Art
- Music
- Home Economics/Hospitality
GIRLS GRAMMAR ACADEMIC RIGOR

It is our determined intention to maximise the achievement of every student attending Girls Grammar. The National curriculum is fully embedded into the Middle School Program and students undertake NAPLAN testing in Year 7 and Year 9. All Secondary teachers run tutorials to which all Secondary students are welcome. A Senior Mathematics teacher runs After School Mathematics sessions in the library three afternoons a week where students can seek assistance with Mathematics revision or extension. Parents and students are encouraged to contact teachers by email or by making a mutually convenient time to meet.

ACADEMIC EXTENSION

In the Middle School, Mathematics and English are taught in small groups with specialist teachers, providing Extension and Foundation support, as appropriate to student confidence and capability. This allows every student to progress more confidently in literacy and numeracy. Students are extended within the differentiated learning program.

In addition, each year, students are able to participate in the International Competition & Assessment for Schools (ICAS) tests: Computer Skills, English, Writing, Spelling, Mathematics and Science. These tests provide detailed feedback and provide high achievers with opportunities to develop strategies for exam readiness.

In Secondary schooling, a range of extension activities are available to students including, but not limited to: QMAT Maths, Year 8 Maths Quiz, Maths Team Challenge, Mooting (Legal Studies), Law Court Visits, Titration Competition (Chemistry), UQ Young Scholars, SHEP (State Honours Ensemble Program), SUN (Start Uni Now), Lions Public Speaking, Youth Parliament.

In Senior School we run the full range of elite academic subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics C, Extension English, Extension Music, Latin and Japanese.

TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED LEARNING

Every student entering Year 7 will receive a new personal computer with all the software required for study. Students in Years 8 and 9 already have computers. These devices will be in your care until you commence Senior School in Year 10. At that time, they will be replaced with state-of-the-art hardware and software to support student learning.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Classroom learning is enriched through authentic extension opportunities which include: Gallery Excursions, Guest Speakers, Drama and Music Performances.

STUDENT VOICE – LOUD AND EFFECTIVE

Every student in Years 4-12 is a member of a Student Council or Committee, which is led by a Year 12 Prefect. Student Leaders are elected at each year level at the start of the academic year. These leaders will represent their peers through the 2016 year as part of the Middle School Council.

There are five Student Councils:

- ATSI Council
- Boarding Council
- Primary School Council
- Middle School Council
- Senior School Council
There are 7 Student Committees:

- Agricultural Science Committee
- Creative Arts Committee
- English, Library and Mathematics (ELM) Committee
- History Committee
- IT Media Committee
- Music Committee
- Science Committee

FOUR HOUSE SYSTEM

Every member of the Girls Grammar family belongs to a House. There are four Houses at Girls Grammar, each of which is led by a Year 12 Prefect:

- Downs – Green
- Paterson – Red
- Smith – Blue
- Williams – Yellow

The competition between Houses is fierce but friendly and participation gains points for each House. Students and staff wear House colours on carnival days and cheer their House war cries throughout the competition. House Spirit winners and House Champions are declared at the end of each Carnival.

The House system provides further opportunities for cross age activities. House Competitions include:

- 5-12 Swimming Carnival – Term 1
- P-6 Athletics Carnival - Term 2
- 7-12 Athletics Carnival - Term 2
- P-12 Cross Country Carnival - Term 3
- 4-12 House Music Competition - Term 3
- P-6 Ballgames Carnival - Term 3
- P-5 Swimming Carnival - Term 4

Parents are encouraged to attend House Carnival days and join in the fun.
COCURRICULAR SMORGASBORD
From Year 7 you also have access to a broader range of cocurricular activities which include: music ensembles, dance and aerobics groups, sporting teams, community service activities such as Red Shield Appeal, Riding for the Disabled, and clubs such as Kung Fu. Cocurricular calendars are updated and published each term.

SCHOOL CAMP EXPERIENCES
Camps are an important part of the Personal Development Program. Through these experiences each student is challenged to extend her capacity for resourcefulness, courage, teamwork, leadership and empathy.

- Year 3/4 Sleepover
- Year 5 Camp – Coolwaters
- Year 6 Camp – The Capricorn Caves
- Year 7 Camp – North Keppel Island Environment Centre
- Year 8 Camp – Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre
- Year 9 Camp – Noosa North Shore Retreat
- Year 10 – Work Experience
- Year 11 – YLead Student Leadership Training
- Year 12 – YLead Student Leadership Training

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURS
Aside from Middle School Camps, we also offer enrichment experiences during term breaks. Offerings vary from year to year. Below is a sample of recent trips:

- Brisbane Art/History Tour to galleries and Medieval Fair
- National Dance/ School Aerobics Competition
- QISSN Netball competition
- All School Touch competition
- Queensland and Interstate Rowing Regattas
- Skiing Trip
- Japan Tour
- USA Dance & Drama Tour
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Girls Grammar students are characteristically generous and energetic in extending our long-standing tradition of serving the community. We actively support Riding for the Disabled, Red Shield Appeal, Rocky River Run, Breast Cancer fundraising, Blood donations, Light the Night, Relay for Life, Daniel Morcombe Day, Crazy Hair Day (for Leukaemia), Jason Rich Foundation (safe driving), White Balloon Day (Child safety), International Women’s Day, Harmony Day (inclusiveness), NAIDOC Week (celebrating indigenous culture) and the RSPCA. Through these activities young women, not only empathise with and assist others, but they also develop a balanced perspective in relation to their personal circumstances.

LOOKING TOWARDS YOUR FUTURE

Girls Grammar has a 124 year history of educating young women. We are delighted that you are choosing to pursue your learning pathway with us. We will assist you in Middle School to begin to look beyond school, to work and further study. Students are mentored to develop understanding of themselves as learners, their strengths, their interests and where they need to focus to achieve their desired outcomes. Every student sets goals for her learning and regularly explores future pathways of interest.

PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

We value close relationships with parents and invite parents to be involved in their daughter’s learning experiences. We invite students to join their parents in meetings with their teachers. Communication is encouraged by teachers and the School Executive. Parents should feel comfortable contacting any staff at any time.
BOARDING CONNECTIONS

Boarders have a network of carers with a key Dorm Supervisor in each House. Boarding staff can be contacted at any time on the dorm phone. The boarding staff and day staff openly communicate the needs of boarders as appropriate and as required.

THE GIRLS GRAMMAR FAMILY – HISTORY AND CONNECTEDNESS

Girls Grammar has an ‘Old Girls’ alumni which was formed in 1894, two years after the School opened. There are active Old Girls Chapters in London, New Zealand, USA, Melbourne, Brisbane, Mackay, Townsville, Biloela, and Gladstone. Our graduates are never far from a friend of Girls Grammar. This network provides for our current students, a strong understanding that we are all part of a bigger story. The girls respect the traditions and history of the School and celebrate the women who have previously forged the way for them to shine.

We look forward to the privilege of working with your daughter to ensure that she has a safe, affirming and respectful learning experience as she explores and extends her talents and aspirations.