



# Wirreanda Secondary School

## Student Information Brochure 2023

**Learning for Life**



### Our Shared Vision

Our vision for Wirreanda Secondary School is one of a caring and inclusive environment that values and embraces family and community partnerships.

We are a school that prides itself in developing creative, vibrant and resilient learners, guided by knowledgeable, innovative and passionate staff.

### Our Shared Values

Respect

Responsibility

Honesty

Achievement

### Wirreanda Secondary School fosters:

- high expectations with high support
- the pursuit of excellence and growth for all learners
- a caring and supportive learning environment
- genuine student voice within the classroom and in the broader community
- a focus on literacy and numeracy development
- local, national and international perspectives
- the continual development of challenging and engaging curriculum
- innovative and collaborative approaches to learning
- cross curricular priorities, critical and creative thinking and teamwork skills
- student roles in decision making and provision of meaningful feedback about teaching and learning, the school environment, and other aspects of running the school
- a range of teaching methodologies and technologies to support learning
- a focus on digital pedagogies and opportunities for students to be responsible digital citizens

## Middle School

Our Middle School program is designed to provide opportunities and structures for young people to develop future-proof skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, empathy, self-awareness, and the ability to give and receive feedback for improvement.

This involves:

- a flexible interdisciplinary curriculum that encourages active and personalised learning to meet the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards
- acknowledging the developmental needs of young adolescents, and in particular their neurological, social, emotional, and metacognitive growth
- providing a safe school environment, where friendships and relationships are nurtured and developed
- offering and embedding student-initiated opportunities through students co-designing learning and assessment

- establishing learning communities where each student has one teacher who serves as an advisor, to help them feel a sense of safety, confidence, and purpose in their learning and time at school
- connections with older peers who can model, inspire and mentor.

## Senior School

Our Senior School provides students with:

- greater choice and more individual responsibility
- career pathway planning with access to academic and vocational pathways
- Year 10 -11 work experience programs
- experiences that empower informed decisions about future training, education and employment
- opportunities to pursue advanced science, maths and English
- opportunities to pursue VET training and school based apprenticeships.

## Facilities



### STEM Space

Our STEM Space includes areas for:

- creative, critical & design thinking
- collaboration across ages and disciplines
- technology to seamlessly integrate learning and learners
- learners to become problem finders and problem solvers.

This supports more dynamic learning experiences and also provides a variety of technologies to support students to demonstrate their understanding in a range of meaningful ways, including designing and prototyping solutions to identified problems.



### The Atrium

The Atrium has been specifically established as a senior school study environment. The ultimate intention is to create an environment where learning is maximised for all senior students. The Atrium offers flexible furniture arrangements that allow students to work individually or in a cooperative manner in a range of ways. Every endeavour is made to promote a positive, caring and cooperative atmosphere, in which the rights and responsibilities of all members of the senior school community are acknowledged and upheld.



### The Theatre

The Theatre is an exciting development that contributes to the significant learning experiences of our school community. Holding a capacity of 500 and matching Hopgood Theatre, students will be immersed in an industry level space providing backstage preparation areas, cutting edge theatre technology, green room facilities, music practice rooms and a multi-use studio with dance and drama specific spaces. The Theatre provides a professional and authentic industry connection for students and formal school events.

# Specialised Programs

## Aboriginal Education

The Aboriginal Education Team provides holistic education and support for a growing number of Aboriginal students. Strategies and support are provided to assist students in a dynamic and culturally appropriate manner. Support includes monitoring student progress, facilitating tutoring, cultural and community activities, excursions and specialised programs, supporting career pathways and helping students apply for scholarships. We work inclusively with Workabout Centre, SAASTA/SAASTA Connect and the CLONTARF programs. The team is committed to ensuring that all Aboriginal Students have the skills and resources for their future pathways and to ensure they are set up for long term success.

## Inclusive Learning

Our aim is to provide opportunities for all students to succeed in their learning. Wirreanda Secondary School has a number of structures and programs that support students with One Plans, both in and outside of the classroom, including:

- MacqLit Literacy Intervention
- QuickSmart Numeracy Intervention
- Social and Emotional Skill development
- In-class support from Ancillary Staff and Specialised Lead teachers
- Teacher support to adjust/modify learning programs
- Onsite speech pathologist and occupational therapist
- Use of adaptive technologies
- Connections with external service providers and support networks.

## Vocational Pathways

Wirreanda Secondary School has a long tradition of providing vocational pathways for students and has expanded the number of offerings in recent years both on and off campus. The school offers the following courses on campus: Hospitality, Construction, Early Childhood Education and Care and Engineering.

## International Student Program

Wirreanda Secondary School has a long-standing International Student Program. International students can attend for short-term or long-term studies. The school also hosts students from Japan for a two-week study tour program each year.

## Specialist Sports Course (SSC)

The SSC program has been established to assist talented athletes to achieve at the highest level of performance in their chosen sport and support them with their personal, educational and career development. This includes the creation of Individual Athlete Plans - including goal setting and accountability, training in strength and conditioning, specific and transferable skill development, and a sport psychology program specific to each student athlete.

Students that wish to be involved in the Specialist Sports Course will need to make a separate application and meet a set of criteria based around interest, talent and commitment to sport.

The Specialist Sports Course application form is available via the school website.

## Wirreanda Adaptive Vocational Education Program (WAVE)

The WAVE program is an alternative pathways program for students have disengaged from mainstream schooling for a number of reasons. WAVE engages students through an individualised approach, which includes specialised case management allowing identification of students' goals and interests and highlighting any barriers. Students are able to achieve SACE, enrol in VET courses and short courses like white card through WAVE.





# Additional Information

## Parent Involvement

Wirreanda Secondary School encourages and values parent, caregiver and family involvement. Community views are represented by Governing Council which comprises parents, staff and local community representatives.

## Learning Conversations

Learning Conversations provide families with opportunities to meet face-to-face with Home Group Teachers and other key staff. These nights for parents and families are held mid-semester and reports are distributed at the end of each semester. The school places importance on communication via phone, email and social media whenever the need arises. Regular communication between families and teachers supports student learning and achievement.

## Learner Wellbeing Centre

The Learner Wellbeing Centre (LWC) is based on a holistic and integrated view of learning and wellbeing. We are strongly committed to creating a school environment in which students further develop their identity and confidence, as well as their capacity to relate and connect with other people. The LWC provides a range of services and support to enhance this development, and incorporates two Learning and Culture leaders, three youth workers, an occupational therapist and psychologist.

**Principal:** Karla Pobke

*Parents/Caregivers are invited to contact the school for additional information or to arrange an appointment with the Principal or a member of staff to discuss any queries.*

## Student Voice and Student Leadership

Student voice is a critical driving aspect of our school vision and purpose at Wirreanda Secondary School. We make student voice a priority and work to empower students to actively and proudly participate in school life and decision-making. Student voice acknowledges that students have unique perspectives on learning, teaching, and schooling, and should have the opportunity to actively shape their own education. Student voice and student leadership at Wirreanda Secondary School provides opportunity for students to lead and influence outcomes by putting forward their views, concerns and ideas and engage in opportunities to drive change and design and implement actions.

## Extra-Curricular and Student Participation

Students are encouraged to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities including:

- Leadership opportunities
- The Smith Family Homework Club
- Community Garden
- The S.H.E.D (Strength, Health, Education and Development)
- Exposure Day excursions
- Australian Army Cadets
- Lunchtime clubs
- Vocal ensemble



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education



Specialist Sports Course



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