



# SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION WITH A DIFFERENT  
APPROACH TO EDUCATION WITH RESULTS BEYOND  
THE MINIMUM STANDARDS.

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# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

## ANDREA PARSONS Principal

Mooroolbark Grammar's approach to teaching is caring for the individual, where we work closely with our children, to give them the tools they need to develop a lifelong passion for learning. We desire them to be able to develop their own unique skills and talents and help them on their way to being effective and confident learners.

With smaller class sizes we are able to tailor the learning to the individual, their needs and goals. Our Quality Assurance department works with the classroom teachers, with the aim to ensure that each student progresses, with their learning and not falling behind. Our students are involved in various excursions to let them make connections between what they are learning about in class to the real world around them.

We understand that our children are our future leaders and we wish to help them on their individual journeys to reach their full potential.





# MISSION AND VALUES

To develop responsible and engaged learners through the utilisation of our distinct learning tools. To provide a curriculum that is rich and relevant and allows all students to succeed. To foster tolerance, respect and acceptance of others and to build each students' resilience and self-esteem.

Raising the cultural, aesthetic, physical, social and survival levels of the students to enable them to flourish and prosper as effective members of society.



## BETTER EDUCATION

We live in a world where illiteracy is taking over, where students are "graduating" school and yet are unable to even use what they were "taught" in school. School drop out rate is rising and children are getting lost in classrooms too big to give them any attention.

We take a different approach to ensure that every student makes it. Our smaller size classes ensure students are not left behind. We emphasize application of what is being taught and where application cannot be shown we find out why and handle it.

Our approach gives us successful graduates who graduate beyond the norm and with the potential they need to reach their goals.



# VALUES IN OUR TEACHING METHOD

We take a different approach to teaching our students. With over 30 years of experience teaching we have adopted a system that works. We know that every student is not the same as the other and that each student progress at their own rate. Using our tools known as the "Study Technology" \* (a system for ensuring that each student understands what they are studying and can actually apply it - see Page 9) our students graduate beyond the normal standards and with the ability to apply what they have learned. We don't want students who can chant back to us what they have learned but ones that can actually apply the information, extrapolate new information and succeed.



## A CURRICULUM THAT SURPASES STANDARDS

While our curriculum follows the standards of the Australian Curriculum we take it a little further. We set high goals for our students and utilising our tools and teachers' expertise we take them to these standards and beyond.





# BETTER CLASS ROOM SIZES

A classroom full of more than 20 students makes it difficult for those students to get the attention that they need. In fact it is now a known fact that if a student has fallen behind by the time they are in Grade 2, in the current system, they won't make it. We aim to not exceed 18 students per class, allowing each one to get the attention that they need and to ensure that none are left behind.

We have found and proven that this is a workable set up and viable for the student and our graduates are proof that it works.



## STUDENT PARTICIPATION

We believe in student participation in their learning, and we encourage their contributions. Some of the activities we do are ones the children vote in.



# OUR APPROACH TO READING



## SHATTERING ILLITERACY

Learning to read is an important part of our curriculum. That's why we have developed a program that can teach anyone to read. Starting in Prep and Grade 1 a lot of emphasis is put on phonics while at the same time reading is begun. The amount of easily read materials is the key to the students success. A careful selection of books have been made to ensure that they are appropriate for the reading level that they are at, with a gradient approach to increasing vocabulary.

As a child advances through their Grades, each level represents a carefully selected array of reading books. These books span pleasure readers, to educational books, so that they are continuously learning. The selection of books comes from over 30 years of research and trials to ensure the end result.



**“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary.” - Jim Cohn**





# THE SCHOOL DAY

Monday - Friday

School starts - 9:00am

First period - 9:00am - 11:00am

Break - 11:00am - 11:30am

Second period - 11:30am - 1:00pm

Lunch & Break - 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Third Period - 1:45pm - 3:15pm





# FEES

Tuition Fees Ex Levies Instalments Per Term

## Prep - Year 7

Yearly - \$4800

Monthly Instalments - \$1200

# APPLICATION PROCESS

When enquiring about enrolment in Mooroolbark Grammar we follow a very specific process to ensure the best outcomes for both involved.

Following are the basic sequences of steps.

- a) Enrolment Enquiry is placed
- b) A copy of our Prospectus is Sent in response to the enquiry and a time is booked in for a tour/meeting
- c) A tour/meeting is held which covers what our school has to offer and your needs.
- d) We do require a series of academic tests to be done to establish where the child is at academically.
- e) Upon completion of the above we take all the information and will respond within 24-48 hours in regards to placement availability.

As our structure requires, for optimum results for all, that our classrooms do not exceed 18 students we need to ensure that a place is available.





# OUR CURRICULUM

## HOW WE DO IT RIGHT

Not every curriculum is created equal.

The Australian Department of Education lays out the basic curriculum for a school indicating the levels that need to be achieved by year level.

The exact implementation of that curriculum lies in the hands of the teachers and their ability to create engaging activities and deliver it to the students so they understand it. This is where it can break down.

Not only can this pose a problem but what about the children that can't keep up or need a little extra help on a particular area? They usually get left behind.

Taking all of these factors into consideration we have structured the delivery of our curriculum to ensure that not only is it delivered to the children in its most interesting form, but that the children understand it and can apply it, and no one gets left behind.

**“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” Malcom X**

## ENSURING FULL COMPREHENSION

At Mooroolbark Grammar we have found that students fail to learn because they have never been taught how to learn. We use a method of study which allows a person to successfully learn any subject. This Study Technology (Study Tech) was developed by American author and educator L. Ron Hubbard.

Study Tech does not involve minor things like study tips or memory tricks. It is an applied understanding of the learning process itself. By understanding how to learn, and what specific barriers prevent understanding, Mooroolbark Grammar students discover that any lack of success in learning can be traced back to causes they can control.

Study Tech explains why some students are motivated and some aren't. It teaches the early-warning signs which result in an inability to understand, apply and recall a subject they studied.

Once mastered, Study Tech enables students to take genuine control over their education and, ultimately, their futures. Empowering students with an ability to study is an investment that pays off for a lifetime. This ability allows our graduates to learn what they want and need to learn to go anywhere they want to go in life.

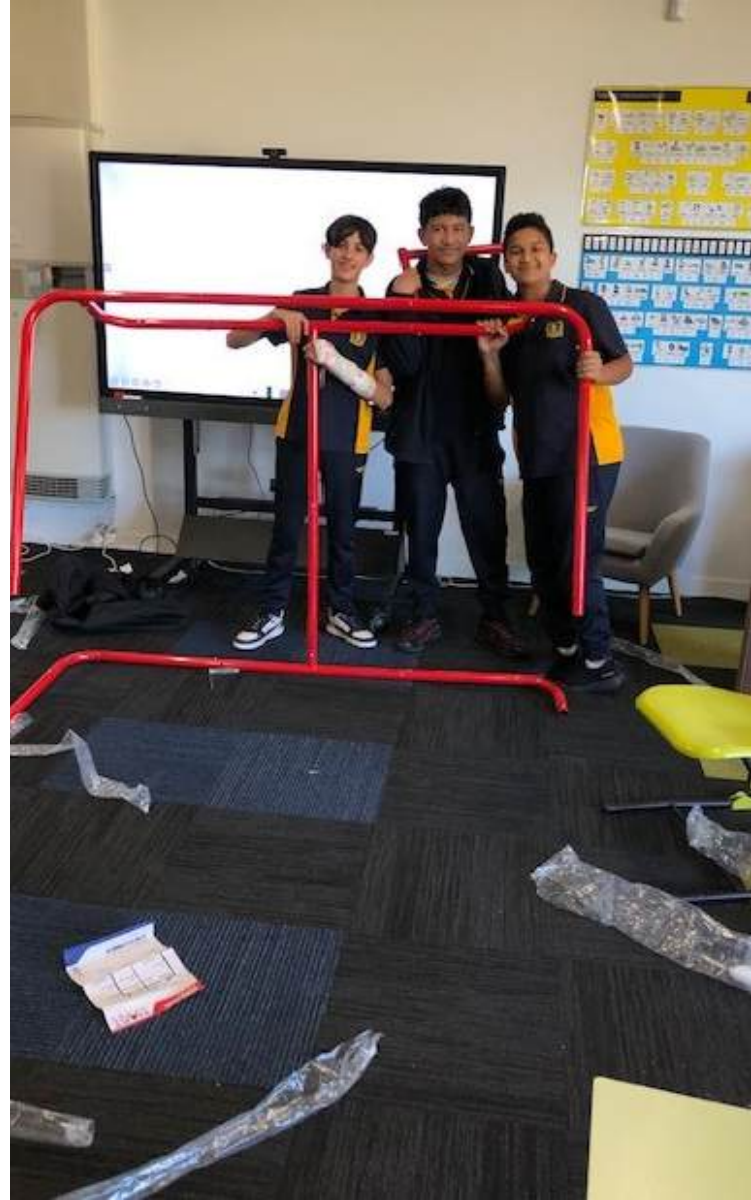
# MATHEMATICS

Mastering the basics is the key to success with mathematics.

We have tailored our curriculum to ensure the right amount of emphasis is given to ensure full mastery of the basics before moving onto more complex problems.

A specific examination has been created for the higher levels should a child enter our program later on in their years. This enables us to locate and efficiently handle any area that may be lacking that would prevent the full understanding and use of higher level mathematics.

Our children usually participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition which involves a number of schools Australia wide.



# SCIENCE

An important journey for children of all ages.

Our children are engaged in Science from an early age, sparking their interest in the subject, bringing up their curiosity and encouraging them to learn and find out more.

Some of our classes are done at the beautiful Yarra Ranges Tech School where classes are taught by the teachers on campus and utilize their State of the Art Facilities.



# HISTORY

History is incorporated into our curriculum to ensure the children understand important events that have happened along the way. We intertwine all cultures in our studies.

We incorporate excursions into our history teaching giving the children a hands on approach.



# GEOGRAPHY

We combine our study of Geography with History to make an even more interesting and comprehensive subject.

This approach has proven to be successful as it pinpoints important dates in time and enables them relate events to the actual place on the map. This gives more reality on an area of a map rather than just a picture of a place.

We encourage discussions, essays and other activities to bring up the awareness of not only that area but its culture, its people and the like.





# ART & DESIGN

Art not only inspires children to create but allows them to express themselves in their own way. Our amazing Art teacher is skilled in many areas of art and lets the children create, master their abilities and explore new areas.

Our art classes cover areas such as sewing, painting, pottery making, drawings, sketching and more.



## PERFORMING ARTS

Every year the children get together and are grouped into age groups. We encourage the children to be creative and choose what they want to perform.

Working together with the teachers the performances are created.

They are practised throughout the second part of the year and presented to the parents in the last term.

The children are allowed to showcase their abilities, learn to work together as a group and create.





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We run various sports programs at our school, starting from the earliest ages. This includes swimming lessons that are given in Term 1 and Term 2 of the year.

For the past number of years we have also included horse riding into our curriculum.

We are also active members of School Sports Australia which is part of the Department of Education. It is a program that delivers extensive sports programs for all schools. These programs are interschool, meaning we compete with other schools.

This provides our students with a wide range of individual and team sports from basketball, to soccer, to cross country racing and more.

Being a member of this group gives opportunities for our students to represent Victoria, under the banner of Team Vic, across various sports and to also compete at School Sport Australia Championships.

The children get to explore different areas of sports, find the area that they like and exceed in it.

Our children have achieved a number of awards at these interschool games in various activities such as soccer, basketball, cross country and more.

It is also a great opportunity to meet up with other schools and make new friends.





# EXCURSIONS

We have a number of set excursions we have incorporated into our curriculum that correlates with the year level of the students and subjects they are studying. This gives the children more reality on what they are studying and allows to explore a subject further and make connections to real life.

In addition to the set excursions throughout the year a number of various events come up such as limited exhibitions and the like that we participate in as applicable.

This is then intertwined into the already set curriculum.



## SCHOOL CAMPS

Every year we have a school camp for Grade 3 students and above.

Each year we look for different venues and different adventures for the children to go on so that they get a wide variety of camps through their years at the school.

Our camps are for fun and for learning. The children learn to cook, make basic meals, participate in group sports and games, challenge themselves and have an adventure!





# COOKING

Cooking is for everyone. A necessity that each child should learn. They learn the basics of cooking including proper measurement of ingredients, ratios and the like. They learn how to turn a set of basic ingredients into something new.

This skill gives them depths into the use of mathematics as well as science. They learn to read and follow instructions.



# LANGUAGES

We believe that teaching another language is important to a child's education. We start the children on learning another language at an early age beginning in Grade 2 through to Grade 6 and Year 7.

Currently our students are learning Spanish. Our teacher is fluent in Spanish and has taught this language to a number of students over the years. He himself is from Central America giving him a full command over the language.

The children enjoy learning another language and being able to expand their abilities.

**"Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom."**

# VALUES EDUCATION

We encourage our students to develop a philosophy of personal ethics that will enable them to fully succeed in life by remaining true to themselves and their goals and by creating valuable relationships with others.

To develop such virtues, we teach from the booklet "How to Make Good Choices", which is based on the first nonreligious moral code called 'The Way to Happiness'. The Way to Happiness was written by the well known author L. Ron Hubbard as an individual work and not part of any religious doctrine. Some examples of what they cover in this booklet are as follows:

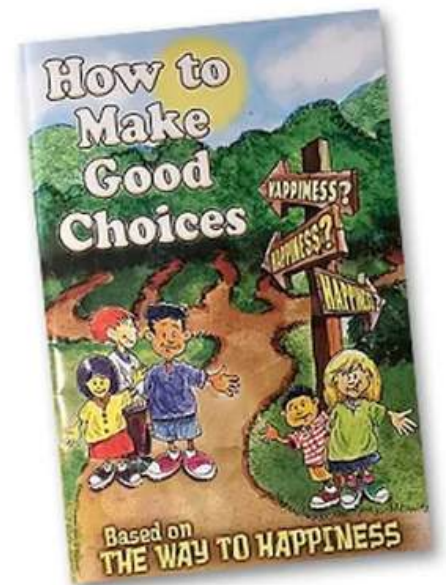
Precept 12, **"Safeguard the Environment"**, prompts our students to value such community activities as Clean Up Australia Day.

Precept 19 **"Try not to do things to others that you would not like them to do to you"**

Precept 20, **"Try to treat others as you would want them to treat you"**.

Qualities such as personal integrity, responsibility and respect for self and others are necessary for a happy and worthwhile life and therefore guidance towards these qualities is considered an important role of the school. The non-religious moral precepts contained in "How to Make Good Choices" are used for this purpose.

While the school is not run on authoritarian lines, positive control is used and self-discipline is fostered through the use of the precepts. The school has a zero tolerance on bullying. Copies are available to anyone.



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year other activities become available for our students to participate in. This can be anything from sporting events, to math competitions, Science Works and more. Each term our teachers carefully review new activities available to broaden the children's awareness and offer more opportunities for them.

We believe in delivering an education that is inspiring, offers new areas of adventure and fosters a desire to learn, to reach goals and to succeed.







# OUR CORRECTION & QUALIFICATIONS UNIT

Throughout a child's education there are sometimes some bumps in the road. We offer an area within our organisation to help the children overcome these bumps and get back on track. Our unique Correction and Qualifications Unit helps students on a one to one basis when needed. This ensures that each and every one of our students make it and graduate with their wisdom shining.

This is a unit that you will not find in most school and yet one that is vital to student's progress.

This unit is also dedicated to the enhancement and personal development of our teachers, ensuring that they too are succeeding as teachers.



## ASSESSMENTS

This unit is also responsible for the testing and assessment of the children. This is specifically in regards to the subjects they are learning.

These assessments which are carried out two times a year ensure that we have not missed anything on a student and that they have understood and can use what they have been learning.

Should it be found that something has been missed or not quite understood this unit will do the work necessary to handle it. This usually includes some one on one work with the student.

Our Qualifications and Assessments Unit In Charge has been with the school for over 30 years and has personally worked with hundreds of students that have come through our doors. She is very knowledgeable and very good at what she does.



# PARENT PARTICIPATION

Last but not least we encourage our parents to participate in as many activities as they can. We have parents who attend various excursions and outings as well as delivering classes on their own specific profession such as woodwork, artistry and the like.

We believe in creating a community environment where parents feel they are part of their Childs education and can actively participate in it.

Our parents are also active in our fundraising area, events area and even when it comes to our end of year school performances.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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