



# TOONGABBIE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

YEAR 7, 2019

INFORMATION HANDBOOK



# Toongabbie Christian College

## 1981 - 2018

### **PRINCIPAL**

Dr Johan Griesel

### **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT & TEACHER ACCREDITATION**

Mr Richard Warren

### **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL PRIMARY**

Mrs Nicole Smith

### **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SECONDARY**

Mr Gareth Scott

### **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

Mrs Lily Ng

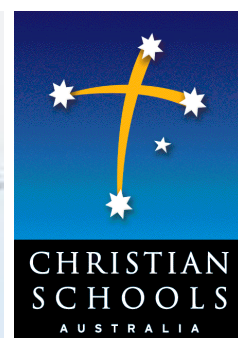
**Address** 30-40 Metella Road  
PO Box 765 Toongabbie NSW 2146

**Phone** 02 8863 2952

**Email** [enquiries@tcc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@tcc.nsw.edu.au)

**Web** [www.tcc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tcc.nsw.edu.au)

Toongabbie Christian College is a ministry of **Toongabbie Baptist Church**



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## COLLEGE MOTTO

Centred in Christ

## COLLEGE VERSE

**Ephesians 4:15** *Speaking the truth in love, grow up in all things into Him who is the Head, even Christ.*

## PURPOSE

To function as a Christian community in supporting families by providing quality education to develop the whole person in a Christ-centred, caring environment for life and eternity.



# What is a *Christian* School?



**Dr Johan Griesel**  
Principal



**Mr Richard Warren**  
Deputy Principal

Teacher Accreditation & Staff Development



**Mr Gareth Scott**  
Deputy Principal Secondary



**Mrs Nicole Smith**  
Deputy Principal Primary

Toongabbie Christian College is committed to a balanced education, based on a Biblical Worldview, and secondary school is another milestone in the lives of young persons. Year 7 is the entry point into maturity and young people start looking at opportunities that will have a significant influence on their futures. Education forms a part of the change in the lives of young people when they move into secondary schooling.

Transitioning into Year 7 does not mean everything changes, but that there are changes in the way we approach learning. Learning in secondary requires becoming independent, self disciplined learners. Change is inevitable, but moving into secondary represents growth.

Education is all about the relationship between knowledge, learning and living life. The question fundamental to providing an effective education is the question, "What does it mean to live a truly serving life?"

A Christian Education holds out an alternative narrative to the surrounding culture and is firmly anchored in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a transforming vision for life that is about wholeness expressed in right relationships with the Lord, oneself and others.

Toongabbie Christian College is a Christ-centred learning community which is shaped by biblical truth and led by the Spirit of God. Here, students can belong and be transformed in every part of their lives. In partnership with our families and their churches, our goal is the development of the whole-person in community with others, exercising their gifts in the service of the Lord.

We strive to grow young men and women who develop spiritually, socially, intellectually, physically and academically.

The teaching and learning that occurs is a core part of assisting students to learn to live well. It not only focuses on core literacy and numeracy but the Toongabbie Christian College educational program is holistic; integrating truth and faith, academic, community service and the co-curricular program. Purposeful and creative learning environments promote the development of students' gifts.

This booklet is written to provide information to parents and students regarding the transition into secondary education.

## Purpose Statements

- Provide a quality Christian education that meets the academic, spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs of each student.
- Teach the NESA curriculum encouraging each student to attain excellence according to their God-given abilities.
- Present the curriculum from a Biblical Worldview perspective that challenges students to become discerning and wise in their judgements.
- Regularly challenge all students to trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and to assist them to grow as his disciples.
- Offer opportunities for spiritual growth and service that help students to grow in Christian character.
- Help all students to grow in a biblical understanding of themselves and others as loved, valued and unique because they are created in God's image.
- Employ mature Christian staff who are well-qualified, passionate people who seek to model Christ to their students.
- Partner with parents/carers and their local churches for the nurture, growth and equipping of their children.
- Develop a relational community where the biblical principles of love, grace, justice and forgiveness are learnt and practised.
- Witness through the Christian example of our lives and missional endeavour, to our local community and the world.

CENTRED IN  
*Christ*



## Educational Stages

The years of schooling ideally should be a smooth progression from Kindergarten to Year 12. Over this thirteen-year period children mature into young adults. Their abilities and needs change enormously. To ensure that the school curriculum provides for this development, six curriculum stages have been defined, with all current syllabus documents being written and developed within this perspective.

Those stages are:

Years K - 2	Stage 1
Years 3 - 4	Stage 2
Years 5 - 6	Stage 3
Years 7 - 8	Stage 4
Years 9 - 10	Stage 5
Years 11 - 12	Stage 6
	Higher School Certificate

For a variety of reasons, three of these transitions seem to be more significant and often more difficult than the others. These are those from Stage 1 to 2, from Stage 3 to 4 and from Stage 5 to 6. Since for the majority of students the second of these transitions involves a change of schools, it is the one that requires the most intervention.

## The transition to the Secondary Department

- Students are no longer in the one classroom all day.
- Students no longer have a desk and place of their own all day.
- Different teachers take the class for different subject areas.
- The academic demand of courses increases.
- Schools are required to meet specified minimum subject expectations.
- Students are now the “youngest” rather than the “oldest”.
- Students experience increased physical, emotional and social change.

This list certainly does seem to be challenging for young people moving from primary to secondary. Perhaps there has been insufficient recognition that at this time most students are ready for some change. Our experience at our College is that by the end of Year 6 the vast majority of students are well able to make this transition with confidence. In fact, with the right degree of care and guidance, most come to really enjoy these changes. Perhaps the focus should not be on the differences between school stages, rather the similarities!

Being a K to 12 College enables us to provide increased continuity for students, parents and staff as the various stages of education are reached.

## Pastoral care groups

For Year 7 and 8 students, their “Home Room” teacher is the primary pastoral care giver. This teacher spends 10 – 15 periods per cycle (fortnight) with the class and really gets to know each student well. This approach ensures that one staff member is aware of each student’s personal spiritual, relational and academic needs.



## PASTORAL CARE



**Mr Peter De Audney**  
Head of Stage 4  
(Years 7 & 8)



### Pastoral care structure

- Students have the opportunity to build a positive and supportive relationship with their Home Room teacher who plays a major role in their development.
- Home Room teachers have been selected on the basis of their suitability and interest in working especially with this age group.
- A high level of care is given by all teachers of Year 7.
- Key teachers of Year 7 regularly consult to ensure that all needs are recognised.
- Year 7 students have access to older students, including College prefects, for advice, encouragement and mentoring.
- Regular time spent in pastoral care groups, Biblical Studies classes as well as Personal Development & Health classes is used to address social or other wellbeing issues from a Christian perspective.

**Behaviour Management** in Year 7 is consistent with the system throughout the College. It is expected to be firm and fair, with a high standard set. The expectation that self-discipline is ultimately more important than imposed discipline is a goal. Above all, it is based on the desire that our students should be trained into godly wisdom according to scriptural principles. The College Handbook outlines the relational commitments expected of all members of the College Community.

The team of Year 7 Homeroom teachers look forward to working in partnership with you as you enter the adventure of Year 7. Here are some of the ways we will keep in touch:

- The **Secondary Parent Information Night** is held in the second week of Term 1.
- All parents of students in Years 7-10 will receive a **term letter** outlining information about events, developmental issues and, for Years 7-9, the assessment program for each term. Term letters are sent as an email to parents/carers.
- **The College Newsletter**, "*The Meeting Place*" is published every odd week and available via our website. An email is sent to every family when the latest edition has been uploaded. The email contains a link that gives direct access to the newsletter.
- Parents are welcome to make **appointments to see teachers** at any time throughout the year.
- **Parent-Teacher Evenings** are organised in Terms 2 and 4 each year. Interviews will be for 10 minutes. Letters are issued explaining the details of how parents may access the internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO) at [www.tcc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tcc.nsw.edu.au).
- The majority of class work is "published" on **ToonieNet**, our E-learning platform.
- Each student will use an **electronic diary**. Parents and students will have access to this. Teachers will use the **E-diary** to post homework, notices and announcements for individual student information. It can be accessed from ToonieNet (Secondary). Parents will be notified as to how to access their child's College E-diary to help them regularly monitor completion of homework and be informed of various events.



## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

### A Parent's Perspective

When choosing our College parents/carers would have considered the following:

- **Spiritual development** - growth in knowledge and faith commitment
- **Social environment** - nature of student body and their families
- **Staffing** - professional expertise, personal Christian commitment
- **Sport / Physical development** - facilities, competition and personal progress
- **Academic opportunities** - subject choice, achievement of potential, awareness of individual needs & curriculum adjustments
- **Emotional development** - learning to cope in a real life environment

### Key Learning Areas

The Key Learning Areas (KLA's) are determined by NESA. They are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Human Society and its Environment (including History & Geography)
- Languages (German at TCS) taught in Year 8
- Technology and Applied Studies
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

To this list we add:

- Biblical Studies

The subjects studied in the Secondary Department all fall within these groupings.

In Years 7 and 8 (Stage 4) there is a requirement that all students have some study from each of these areas, with certain minimum curriculum expectations imposed on all schools.

### Meeting Learning Needs

The traditional school class comprises students who are all from the same school year. Such classes may be thought of as "horizontally selected" since all students in a class come from the same year group and are of similar age. To cater better for individual needs the teacher may endeavour to have all students covering the same minimum work with varying amounts of extension work provided for those who are more able. Students who require extensive support in a subject may follow a modified course. If the number of students enrolled is large the College might select classes in which most students have similar abilities in that subject. Many classes are assisted by our Learning and Education Support Team.

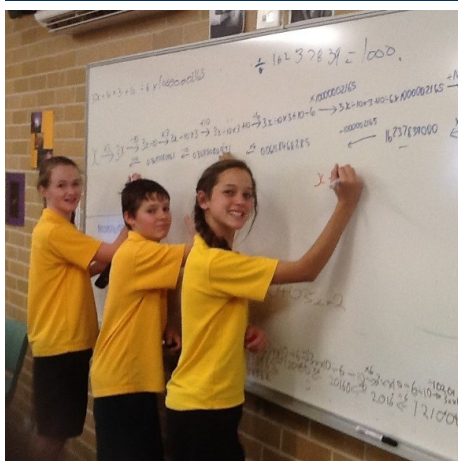
The College has the capacity to offer up to four streams: three classes with mixed ability students and one class for advanced learners in their core subjects. Movement in and out of these classes will be considered based on student performance.





## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

### Stage 4 Subjects



## English

English is the study of language and is fundamental to communication. In Stage 4 the focus is upon assisting students to develop competency in the major communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing/representing. Students are given guided instruction so that they may further develop their ability to express thoughts and ideas in both written and spoken English.

As a Christian College we have the opportunity, responsibility and privilege to express and promote values and attitudes that are based on God's Word within the context of teaching English.

## Mathematics

The Stage 4 Mathematics course is an extension of the K-6 Mathematics syllabus. It reinforces and extends the basic skills that have been developed in Primary School and leads students on in number, space and geometry, patterns and algebra, data and measurement. The learning process makes use of concrete materials and aims to develop logical thought patterns through problem solving, investigations and open-ended activities. Through the study of mathematical concepts students may begin to explore the infinite nature of their Creator God, developing an awareness of the order, precision, design and constancy of His created world.

## Science

Stage 4 Science focuses on providing students with the skills to acquire and refine information. The subject is taught as a two-year course. During this time topics such as classification of living things, water and its properties, measurement, forces, electrical circuits, erosion, weathering and sedimentation are studied.

Science is a dynamic discipline through which we seek to understand God's created world and humankind's responsibility. It is through the development of the scientific processes of observation, hypothesis, experiment and inference that Science attempts to describe, understand and explain the design of God's creation with its order, diversity, complexity and beauty.

## Human Society & Its Environment

### HISTORY

Stage 4 Mandatory History has been designed as a two-semester course to provide students with an understanding of world history from ancient times to the modern world. The focus is upon the contribution of past societies to world cultural heritage and the nature of contact between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

All of this history is explored within the context of God's plan for societies and the effects of sin and God's grace, which can be seen down through the centuries.

### GEOGRAPHY

Geography is also a two-semester course in which students study the mandatory syllabus. Through the study of Geography students are given the opportunity to gain a better appreciation of the relationship God has to His creation of society and the environment. Students are encouraged to develop a biblical worldview, which demands that the environment be properly and carefully used, appreciated and protected.

The content of the Stage 4 Year 7 course includes an introduction to Geography (skills of reading and interpreting maps and graphs); an appreciation of World Heritage; an understanding of world environments. The Year 8 component will study issues and aspects of Global Citizenship. Specific regional and local situations will be identified in case studies.

## Languages (German)

In Stage 4 students must study a language other than English for at least 100 continuous hours. At present the College has committed this time to the study of German in Year 8.

The Year 8 course has four components – Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. An understanding of German culture is also encouraged through the study of the countries where German is an important language.

God's primary purpose for His people is that they proclaim His goodness in Jesus Christ to all people. The ability to speak, understand and communicate in languages other than English opens doors of communication and understanding with other cultural groups within the Australian community and the world.

## Technical & Applied Sciences

### DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The Stage 4 Design and Technology course exposes students to practical experiences in the process of designing, making and evaluating a product. The course runs on a two-year cycle, currently with Year 7 and 8 students horizontally grouped in classes. During the two years students will study a number of context areas which may include Food Technology, Manufacturing, Built Environments, Leisure and Lifestyle, Information and Communication Systems, Clothing Accessories and Engineering Systems. All these areas of study will have integrated computing applications.

The very existence of technological advances and inventions will in itself change us, our world, and the way we relate to others. We develop our programs in this subject in such a way that young people will develop knowledge, understanding and skills within the context of a Christian philosophical base.

### Creative Arts

The Creative Arts are important in the curriculum presented by the College because they provide the opportunity for students to communicate their feelings, thoughts and ideas through creative expression. Such expression is integral to their Christian development, their personal development and the realisation and recognition of God-given gifts and abilities. Each subject is taught in a two-year cycle.

#### MUSIC

Stage 4 Music is designed to give students a fundamental understanding and enjoyment of a wide range of music. This is achieved through playing, writing and listening in a wide variety of styles. Areas studied include God's world in Music, the Orchestra, Music in the Media, Musicals and Jazz.

#### VISUAL ARTS

In Stage 4 Visual Arts, students are introduced to a variety of art concepts and terminology such as line, space, perspective, texture, form and composition. They are furthermore given some experience in a range of art media and techniques such as drawing using a wide range of materials, in both realistic and abstract forms, painting, clay work, printmaking, masks, batik and collage. The course is taught in a two-year cycle.

## Personal Development, Health & Physical Education

This is the key learning area that focuses on the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of development. In our College PDHPE it is taught from the biblical framework of personhood, as created in the image of God. This includes consideration of topics such as self-esteem, fitness, healthy eating habits, relationships with friends, survival and first aid. The purpose of the course is to help students develop as whole persons with skills that are essential for them to lead godly, healthy, and productive Christian lifestyles.

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

In this course students experience a wide variety of sports activities. Physical skills are developed through ball-hand skills and general physical fitness activities. Basic skills development is encouraged in volleyball, softball, hockey, netball, soccer, basketball, cricket and gymnastics. There is also some introduction to dance styles including folk, modern and ballroom.

#### INTER – SCHOOL SPORT

Inter – School Sport competition is a highlight of our College. Sports played focus on team cooperation and friendly competition. Such sports include soccer, netball, touch football, tennis and gymnastics.

### Biblical Studies

This subject is an important part of the student's Christian development. It provides a comprehensive program for Years 7-10 where, through the interaction of the teacher and the students, the Word of God is read, taught, explained, discussed, interpreted and applied. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of a biblical worldview so they are able to reflect on the existence and purposes of their Creator-Redeemer in other subject areas. Thus the truth sets them free as God liberates them to live according to His creational design in all areas of life.

During the year students are required to do some out of school service which will contribute to their semester results. This provides opportunities, as part of their assessment, to contribute their gifts and talents in the service of others.

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

### Stage 4





## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

### Support of students with additional needs:

Mrs Kathy Gallagher  
(Head of Education Support Secondary)  
Mrs Adrianna Brugel  
Mrs Mei Chan  
Mrs Melissa Kuitert  
Mrs Vivienne Williams



### EALD:

Mrs Rebecca Elmer



### Extension of students who are gifted or talented

Our College firmly believes that each child has God-given potential which can be nurtured into abilities and attitudes not only for personal achievement but also for the benefit of others. The College Education Policy embraces the idea that every individual student in every subject area can be challenged to participate to the best of their ability. For this reason, individual teachers aim to structure activities to help cater for differing individual student needs within the class. This requires preparation of lessons that will satisfy the academic needs of all students within the group. To enhance learning opportunities for those with particular academic gifts or talents the College has adopted a number of practices including:

- Academic streaming of students
- Acceleration of some students in a range of subjects
- The use of individual contracts, open-ended assignments and investigative projects across most subjects
- Compacting the curriculum for gifted students
- External competitions and projects
- Involvement in external courses and enrichment camps
- Liaison with universities to provide mentoring
- Withdrawal tuition for groups and individuals
- Staff training.

### Support of students with disabilities

Similarly, the College seeks to support and encourage those students who experience difficulty in accessing the curriculum due to a variety of disabilities. Again, our policy embraces the idea that with reasonable educational adjustments each student can participate to the best of their ability. Here too, individual teachers aim to structure activities to help cater for differing individual student needs within the class by preparation of lessons that will meet the academic needs of all students within the group.

To enhance this support for those with particular disabilities the College has implemented provisions including:

- Some academic streaming of students, with students needing special assistance placed in smaller classes where possible
- Individual teachers making every effort to provide additional assistance to students with special needs
- The allocation of class time for the Home Room teacher to develop study skills and provide individual subject support
- The appointment of support teachers and aides to assist with individual programs for some students. This may involve withdrawal from class for additional work
- Support teachers and teacher aides visits to classrooms
- English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) teachers
- Regular Staff training.

*"For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do  
good works, which God  
prepared in advance for us  
to do."*

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



## Compulsory Studies

### ENGLISH

English continues as a subject in which communication skills are further developed through emphasis on both spoken and written language and many forms of literature.

### MATHEMATICS

The Years 7-10 Mathematics syllabus caters for students of differing abilities with a focus on differentiated curriculum that seeks to meet the needs and interests of each individual student. The Mathematics classes are streamed according to ability.

### SCIENCE

This continues as an integrated course with strands drawn from the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology and Astronomy.

### HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

These courses are mandatory for all students.

### PDHPE

This is assessed internally and students are allocated grades in accordance with prescribed Subject Descriptors.

### BIBLICAL STUDIES

This is a compulsory component of our College's curriculum for Stage 5.

## Elective courses

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) no longer requires schools to offer elective courses. Our College, however, believes that student choice is important in the development of individual gifts and talents.

Some courses run at the College are NESA approved and contribute to the student's Record of School Achievement (RoSA). Other courses are College designed and reflect the teaching staff's ability to cater for individual interest.

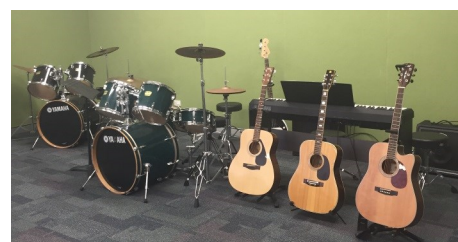
We can currently offer:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| ▪ Christian Leadership & Service                     | ▪ Music                      |
| ▪ Commerce   | ▪ PASS                       |
| ▪ Information Software Technology                    | ▪ Photography, Digital Media |
| ▪ Drama  | ▪ Visual Arts                |
| ▪ German   |                              |
| ▪ Technologies (Engineering, Food, Timber, Textiles) |                              |

For students who have specific interests in other subject areas, or when there are insufficient students to form a class, it is possible for the College to arrange instruction in a single subject through the Sydney Distance Education Centre Vocational Education options or the Saturday Schools for Community Languages.

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

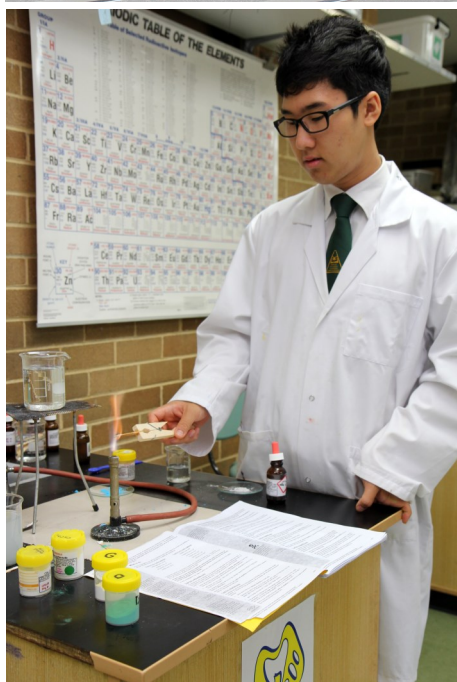
### Looking ahead to Stage 4 (Year 9 & Year 10)



## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Looking further  
ahead ...

### Stage 6 & the Higher School Certificate



## Compulsory Studies

### ENGLISH

This is the only compulsory subject – students choose the level of English that will be studied.

Student needs in any given cohort determine which courses are taught, but the College has the expertise and resources to offer the following HSC Courses:

- ♦ 2 Unit Standard English
- ♦ 2 Unit Advanced English
- ♦ 1 Unit Extension English (Years 11 & 12)
- ♦ 2 Unit Extension English (Year 12)

## Studies of choice

A summary of courses that we currently have the resources, expertise and facilities to offer is listed below. All of these courses have been offered and/or run during the time that we have had HSC students.

### Mathematics

General Mathematics (2 units)  
Mathematics (2 units)  
Mathematics Extension 1 (3 units)  
Mathematics Extension 2 (4 units)

### Science

2 Unit Physics  
2 Unit Chemistry  
2 Unit Biology  
2 Unit Senior Science  
2 Unit German Beginners  
2 Unit Modern History  
2 Unit Ancient History  
Extension History  
2 Unit Geography  
2 Unit Business Studies  
2 Unit Economics  
2 Unit Legal Studies  
2 Unit Society & Culture

### Technology

2 Unit Food Technology  
2 Unit Industrial Technology  
2 Unit Textiles & Design  
2 Unit Engineering Studies  
2 Unit Information Processing & Technology  
2 Unit Design & Technology

### PDHPE

2 Unit Personal Development, Health & Physical Education  
2 Unit Community & Family Studies  
Sport Leisure & Recreation (a non-ATAR course)

### Creative Arts

2 Unit Music Course 1  
2 Unit Visual Arts  
2 Unit Drama

### Studies of Religion

1 Unit Studies of Religion or  
1 Unit Introduction to Biblical Theology

The final decision as to which courses will run and how they will be grouped in lines varies from year to year depending on the choices made by the students, the size of the class and the availability of staff.

## EXTENSION COURSES

Where these more advanced courses exist in any subject area and students have shown exceptional ability then consideration is given to providing for them. They are currently offered in English, Mathematics and History.

Although our College is non-selective in nature, student performance in the HSC has consistently been above State Average and a number of students have been on the merit list.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Toongabbie Christian College offers students opportunity to study vocationally oriented courses in the senior years. Students are able to obtain accreditation towards both the HSC and TAFE courses while studying these courses as part of their HSC. This is an area that is constantly changing and more information is presented to students at the Year 9 Information Night.

## EXTERNAL / DISTANCE EDUCATION

Preliminary (Year 11) students may select a subject which is not available at Toongabbie Christian College but which the student regards as essential for their future opportunities. Some students choose to study languages by External Studies.

## HSC RESULTS

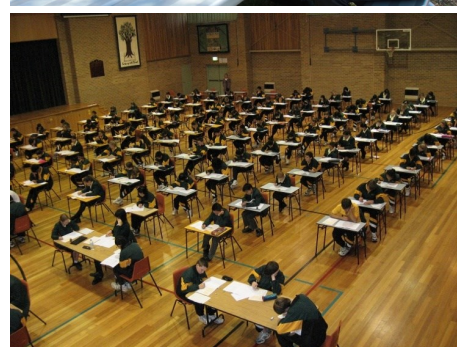
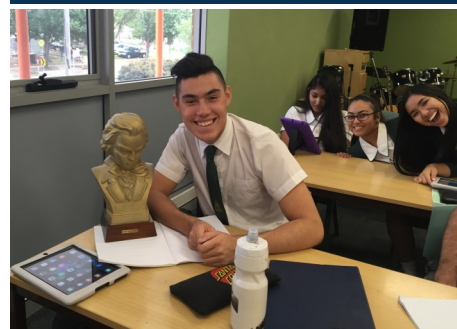
Toongabbie Christian College places a high value on high academic standards. The College provides different academic pathways for students acknowledging choice in relation to post-school pathways. The majority of our school leavers pursue University studies with some students accessing TAFE or work options.

Our students achieve very high in the HSC with ATAR scores over 90 and top band marks in subjects, with students course results appearing regularly on the NSW Education Standards Authority Distinguished Achievers' list.

We have observed an increasing trend of Toongabbie Christian College students receiving early offers to university due to successful applications through the School Recommendation Scheme and various university early access schemes, prior to HSC results being released. This is a clear indication of the standard of academic achievement at Toongabbie Christian College.

# ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

## Stage 6





## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

### Student Development

#### Camping Programs

Our College currently runs a number of camps: Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 are all involved in special camping programs with Year 12 students visiting Canberra. We have found these to be excellent times of fellowship, teaching and relationship development. Year 7 students go on camp during Term 1. They experience a range of water sports and activities, focused on the development of relationships.

#### Chess Club

The students have an opportunity to learn to play chess and also compete in chess competitions with other school teams.

#### Creative Arts

There are increased opportunities to showcase students' work in the areas of drama, music and visual arts. This includes four Bands, Chapel Worship Group, Drama performances, Toonie Community Night, biennial Musical and several outreaches to the local community.

#### Student Leadership

Developing student leaders is a highlight of our College Community. The leadership program continues to be an integral part of the Secondary Department. We equip our students who have leadership potential through staff mentoring and the College Leadership Camp. Student leaders are given opportunities to serve as Stage 4 Class Leaders, student leaders at camp, peer support leaders, House Captains and Prefects.

#### Sport

Inter-School team sport with other Christian schools is actively encouraged. Swimming and Athletics Carnivals also provide the opportunity for students to compete as individuals and to represent the College at Christian Schools Sporting Association (CSSA) carnivals that are held at both Zone and State levels of competition. This allows students from our College to be able to participate to the highest possible level of their ability in any given sport. Over the past few years, students from TCC have been selected to compete at the State level in a number of sporting areas.

We also provide options that allow for a regular inter-school sporting competition for those students who wish to be involved.

The Secondary Department is also a member of the Combined Independent Schools (CIS), which incorporates all school sporting associations in NSW. This provides our students with opportunities to compete in a wider range of sports and at a higher level.

#### Missions (Local & International)

In 2019 students in Years 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to be part of mission teams that visit Fiji. The teams will stay and work at Homes of Hope in Suva. The goal will be to help mothers and their children, also to be a part of creating a culture a freedom where abuse is not a prevalent issue in Fiji. When overseas, students will have the opportunity to share their faith, give testimonies, lead bible studies, be involved in general maintenance, farming-planting and harvesting, cooking and serving meals and working with children in the preschool.

Students in Years 10 and 11 who are studying German will have the opportunity to visit Germany in 2019. This trip is organised every 2 years.





## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

### Student Development



*...a quality, Christ-centered education which develops the whole person  
for life & eternity ...*



## GENERAL MATTERS



## Facilities, Resources, Staff

Toongabbie Christian College is well resourced for the provision of a full Secondary program. The College has set itself the goal of establishing facilities of above average quality so that the entire educational program will be well supported. Our facilities continue to grow to meet the needs of a College of our size.

Our Secondary Department community has a designated Year 7 and 8 facility, with learning spaces including a Visual Arts space, a Technics space and several general-purpose classrooms. These facilities enable us to further develop curriculum areas within the College, and cater for the growing demand in enrolments in the Secondary Department.

The multipurpose hall (seating over 1000) has indoor sporting facilities, a Food Technology facility, change rooms and storage facilities, a specialist music and rehearsal area, a full proscenium stage and drama areas as well as several classrooms. Our new Secondary building has provided additional technology, music, drama, science and Stage 4 facilities.

All staff within our College are well qualified and many are highly experienced. All are enthusiastic about what they are called to do. Many of our staff participate in Higher School Certificate marking and all staff attend professional development courses throughout the year. All our staff are committed Christians, dedicated to teaching and ministering to young people. A number of our staff are presently undertaking or have recently completed Master of Christian Education Courses.

Our College Counsellor is available five days per week and our Psychologist is available two days per week to support our students.

## Transport

There are four buses servicing the Baulkham Hills, Kings Langley, Seven Hills, Wentworthville, Greystanes and Merrylands districts. The close proximity of Toongabbie Train Station means that students have easy access to the rail network.

## College Culture

Our students represent a diverse socio-economic and cultural cross-section of the wider community in which our College is situated. Our students learn that truly Christian community cares for all people not just those from a particular strata of our society.

A careful examination of our College Community will demonstrate that the majority of our students reach their academic potential. The main reason is the high quality teaching that occurs within a relatively small class size structure. Teachers know each student and this allows for and encourages excellent two-way communication. Because all of our staff believe that teaching is a ministry, they are keen to develop each individual in their care, and hence no student gets lost in the 'crowd'.

Over the years a number of our students have achieved outstanding academic results. Surveys of parents and Year 12 students show that they have been very pleased with the excellent quality of education, results and support received.



## Homework

Students in Year 7 should spend about 70 minutes per school night doing work at home. This may be set homework, reading set novels, checking that exercise books are up to date or revising work done previously. We are continuing to refine the strategies and structures regarding homework in order to maximise its effectiveness. As part of this, we are continuing to fine tune methods of regular communication between teachers and parents.

## Reports

Each semester, a comprehensive written report is provided to families.

Parent Teacher Nights are officially held at the beginning of Term 2, with opportunity for parents to have an interview at the end of Term 4. If a parent wishes to speak with a teacher, a simple phone call to the College Office will allow a convenient time to be arranged.

## Uniform matters

College uniform is an important part of the identity of the College and it is important to maintain standards of dress, which ensure the students are a credit to their families and the College. Each student is responsible for maintaining their uniform in good order, and wearing it correctly.

The College will implement a new sports and formal uniform in 2019.

## Behaviour Management & Wellbeing

Our College has a very comprehensive behaviour management and wellbeing policy that is based on a relational, family model. The biblical foundations provide a loving, caring framework. Firm standards are applied and at the same time, we strive to "get alongside" the student to provide support, encouragement and pastoral care.

## To sum up

Coming to the end of primary education can be somewhat sad, yet it is also an exciting time. It is a time of new possibilities and even though this can be daunting, most students are well prepared and truly ready for these new challenges.

At Toongabbie Christian College we believe that we are particularly well placed to provide encouragement, nurture, support and direction for students and families as they make this transition.

Most valuable of all is God's presence and over-ruling in the lives of individuals and in the College. Examples of this include:

- **Staff who pray and care for their students**
- **Parents who pray for the staff**
- **A Board which constantly seeks God's wisdom and leading**
- **Students who display care and support for each other as faith develops.**

## GENERAL MATTERS

