

# WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

**Victoria, Australia**

Department of Education



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE







## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Our college has a strong academic focus, and our history of results show some outstanding achievements. We believe that every student can achieve success.**

Our teachers work very hard to adapt their teaching and learning strategies to ensure excellent student outcomes are achieved by all of our students.

We celebrate diversity and interculturalism at Werribee Secondary College. Our core value of respect underpins our behaviours on a daily basis.

I am proud of our college's high academic expectations and outcomes. In addition, we commit to developing our students social, emotional and physical wellbeing. This is so that their journey to adulthood is a happy, healthy and resilient one.

Werribee Secondary College is an outstanding secondary school and I look forward to welcoming you.

**Amanda Mullins**  
Principal



OUR COLLEGE HAS A STRONG ACADEMIC FOCUS, AND OUR HISTORY OF RESULTS SHOW SOME OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY STUDENT CAN ACHIEVE SUCCESS.



# WHY CHOOSE WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE?

For over 20 years our international student program has been welcoming students from a diverse range of cultures – it is a valuable part of our school's multicultural community.

Our international students receive support from a highly experienced team of school staff. This includes year level, careers and wellbeing counsellors.

Our dedicated international student coordinator regularly reviews students' academic progression and wellbeing to ensure our students attain the goals they aspire to achieve.

We have a range of roles, services and spaces specifically for international students, including:

- our on-site English language centre
- an after school study program
- excursions and day trips to unique and interesting sites around Victoria
- bilingual support staff offering translation services for families
- regular communication with offshore families.

## An academic program encouraging students to excel

Students at Werribee Secondary College partake in a range of core, elective and co-curricular programs throughout years 7 to 12. This enables them to be on track for their future pathways.

## Select entry learning program (SELP)

The SELP is a selective entry program. This addresses the special learning needs of accelerated students who demonstrate a high level of commitment to academic achievement.

SELP offers a combination of a specially designed curriculum, well-practiced teaching expertise and a developed culture of high expectations. Therefore, students are stimulated, challenged and motivated towards even higher levels of achievement.

## Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Our College offers a wide selection of studies within the VCE. This program suits those looking to undertake university studies and employment within Australia.

## Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Students can gain valuable, practical skills in a specific industry while undertaking their VCE. Some units run in house with others taking place across a cluster of local schools.

## Activities and programs which bring the student experience to life

There are a number of extra-curricular activities to get involved in at Werribee Secondary College. This is a great way to make new friends and gain confidence in the English language.

Activities include:

### a debating club:

- our debating team is open to all students passionate about world topics
- members debate the issues and other controversies in our local and international communities at large

### our instrumental music program:

- enabling the experience through to the benefit and excitement of music;
- our program develops student discipline; concentration; refinement; and performance skills

### performing arts:

- a great opportunity for students to develop self-confidence and empathy
- this they achieve through embodying different characters from a variety of time periods and cultures

### sporting opportunities:

- we offer a varied physical education program covering skills and fitness
- our College also offers students the opportunity to learn and compete in various sports competitions against other schools in team sports
- our variety of team sports include cricket; netball; volleyball; basketball; soccer and table tennis

### our café club:

- an extra-curricular activity open to all year levels
- this is designed to increase hospitality skills and experience in a fast paced, fun and energetic environment
- students gain barista, food preparation and customer service skills

### leadership and committees:

- we value our students' experiences and encourage positivity and connectedness; through student voice and agency.
- leadership opportunities give students the voice to direct and take responsibility for their learning; creating independent and self-regulating learners.







### Making welfare and support a priority

At Werribee Secondary College, we do our best to ensure international students receive the support they need at all stages of their education.

We know that school and life can provide challenges – we take a holistic approach to the pastoral care of all our international students.

We have a wide range of teams and programs that we offer to accommodate students' individual needs including:

#### student wellbeing services:

- addressing both educational support as well as therapeutic needs
- professional staff providing counselling services; with qualifications and expertise specific to the area of wellbeing

#### student management:

- year level coordinators assisting students in managing their day-to-day activity at school.
- coordinators and support staff who are always on hand to answer questions, assist with any problems/ issues arising or point a student in the right direction

#### personal careers counselling:

- these staff individually provide support for international students with school subject choices and university placement requirements

#### an after-school study program:

- this is supervised by specialist teachers who provide additional academic and wellbeing support to international students

#### our international student coordinator:

- provides highly experienced support available at any time to students and their families. This is regarding any aspect of their enrolment and wellbeing.

### Homestay for international students

All Victorian government school homestay families provide:

- a safe, secure, welcoming place to live
- a household compliant with the Child Safe Standards
- a separate single room for the student's personal use
- three meals a day, seven days a week, including snacks
- facilities including a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- utilities including gas, electricity, heating and water costs, as well as internet
- cleaning services of common living areas
- the use of living areas within the residence
- study facilities such as a desk, study light and bookcase
- attendance at parent/teacher evenings on behalf of your parents.

One of our homestay parents, Jill Wagener, has this to say about our program:

*"Sunny and Joy are making the most of their amazing opportunity to live and study in Australia. Nothing compares to the reward of seeing them become outstanding young adults and knowing you've played a role in their development."*

### Easily accessible location

Werribee is conveniently located just a 30 minutes' drive from Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD) with easy access to Melbourne's city centre via the train network.

We are known for our modern community facilities, natural wonders and world-class attractions, including Werribee Open Range Zoo.

Our area also includes:

- expansive coastal parks and river trails
- easily accessible local shopping centres
- a thriving multicultural food scene
- the gateway to the Great Ocean Road region.



### A recent success story

Xinrui (Elsa) Shen, from China, studied English; Maths Methods; Psychology; Legal Studies; and Chinese First Language.

Elsa received an ATAR score of 99.65 in 2020 and is currently studying a Bachelor of Science and Teaching (double degree) at the University of Melbourne.

*"For me, studying at Werribee Secondary College as an international student meant receiving knowledge and inspiration from encouraging teachers. As well as forming valuable friendships that will last a lifetime and being empowered to constantly improve myself."*

*I also found a true sense of belonging amongst a welcoming, vibrant and supportive multicultural community."*

FOR ME, STUDYING AT WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MEANT RECEIVING KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION FROM ENCOURAGING TEACHERS.



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

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