

NORTHHOLM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



LEARN WITH **PURPOSE** LIVE WITH **PASSION** - CREATING OUR FUTURE

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015 - 2019

The School Council takes great pride in presenting the Northholm Grammar School Strategic Plan for 2015-2019.

It is timely that the launch of this plan coincides with the expansion of our Junior School and the implementation of our BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) program. The introduction of the additional year levels of Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two and the BYOT program, mark the beginning of an exciting phase in the School's development and we are looking forward to the opportunities afforded by these bold new directions.

In developing this plan there has been extensive consultation between key stakeholders within the Northholm Community: students, staff, parents, the Principal and School Council. The following pages outline the major focus areas identified by this process and the key strategies we intend to implement within each area.

We hope you will study these strategies with interest and give serious consideration as to how you might become involved in their realisation. We believe the active involvement of our community is critical to the achievement of our key goals and we welcome your contributions. By building on the partnerships we have already formed with our community, we are confident we can generate a secure future for Northholm as a distinct and important player in the 'Hills' educational community.

As a school 'on the move', we are consolidating our reputation as a vibrant, enthusiastic and collaborative community where all students feel valued and supported. By maintaining our focus on the development of the whole child through a rigorous academic program, meaningful opportunities for spiritual and personal growth and a broad range of co-curricular opportunities we will continue to empower our students to 'Learn with Purpose: Live with Passion'.

We commend the new Strategic Plan to our current and prospective families and look forward to your support as we embrace the challenge of 'Creating our Future' in a dynamic and constantly evolving educational environment.

Mr John Hayes

Chairman of School Council

Lynne Guthridge

Principal

December 2014

OUR LAST

5

YEARS

2010 - 2014



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Junior School

The introduction of Years Three and Four in 2010 and Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two in 2015 has given the School a new dimension with the influx of new families who share a common interest in providing their children with a rich and supportive educational experience.

Environmental Sustainability

Northholm has sought to implement more sustainable practices in all areas of the School's operation including more energy efficient buildings and more responsible use of resources.

Agriculture

The establishment of the Agricultural Trade Training Centre and adjoining gardens has created the impetus for significant development of the School's Agriculture program. This is reflective of the increased significance Agriculture plays in the Australian economy and the School's commitment to more sustainable practice. This will extend into the Junior School Program.

Creative Expression

Creative Arts has been high on Northholm's agenda over the last five years: The opportunities provided through these programs are integral to the development of a richer cultural life and the capacity to engage effectively in a contemporary society.

Community Service

Northholm has expanded its service program to include a dedicated Week of Service Learning. This involvement has had a marked impact on our students' ability to empathise with others and to demonstrate greater tolerance and compassion.

Building projects

- the redevelopment of the Stables for Middle Years students
- the construction of the Agricultural Trade Training Centre
- the refurbishment of rooms for Year Seven
- the refurbishment of the Visual Arts Centre
- the installation of a wireless network and 100 megabit synchronous internet connection



OUR MISSION

To develop the intellectual, cultural, creative and spiritual capacities of young people so that they are empowered to embrace the future with confidence and compassion.



OUR
VISION

To position Northholm as a centre of excellence in the educational community through our unique ability to nurture young people while challenging them to excel.



OUR VALUES

Respect

We respect our own and others' worth and rights.

Integrity

We act with honesty and do not compromise the truth.

Responsibility

We act with concern for others and for our environment.

Loyalty

We are supportive of each other and fulfil our commitments.

Excellence

We pursue excellence in everything we undertake.

Innovation

We show initiative in discovering creative solutions to problems.

Passion

We engage in all activities with energy, excitement and determination.

Purpose

We seek opportunities to enrich our lives through meaningful activities.



OUR EDUCATIONAL AIMS



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▶ To nurture each student's understanding of the Christian world view and to deepen their sense of selflessness and service
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▶ To offer opportunities for mindfulness, self-reflection, stillness and prayer.
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▶ To provide a co-educational learning environment in which both young men and women have equal opportunities to prepare for life, work and the responsibilities associated with committed relationships.
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▶ To maintain a level of care that enables students to develop an appreciation of their own and others' worth, regardless of their background, culture, religion or ability.
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▶ To develop young people with the honesty, integrity, tolerance and independence of mind required to contribute positively to the maintenance of our democratic society.
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▶ To create a stimulating, purposeful and inclusive learning environment that enhances students' engagement in the learning process and supports the achievement of their personal best.
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▶ To encourage students to become independent learners who will be able to maximise the benefits of future study and diverse work opportunities.
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▶ To inspire a love of learning and commitment to intellectual development in each of the core disciplines through a diverse range of learning and teaching styles including digital technologies.
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▶ To foster a love of the arts and provide opportunities for students to express their creativity.
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▶ To support a positive attitude to health and fitness and a love of physical activities that promote healthy competition.
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▶ To instil an awareness of environmental issues and sustainable living habits.
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▶ To involve all students in a diverse school community that helps them develop the self-discipline, mutual responsibility and empathy necessary to contribute to our global society.
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HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR VISION

1

increasing academic focus

2

enhancing spiritual and personal growth

3

selecting, developing and nurturing exceptional staff

4

respecting our environment

5

embracing the future

6

building on strong foundations



1 INCREASING ACADEMIC FOCUS

To foster academic achievement through excellent teaching and learning and a culture that encourages aspiration.

We will

- inspire students to be lifelong learners through engaging lesson content and delivery
- adapt our teaching practice in response to ongoing analysis of student performance
- respond to the changing needs of our students through targeted professional learning
- encourage students to become responsible learners
- integrate essential skills and cross curriculum priorities across all relevant subject areas
- promote the effective and ethical use of current and emerging technologies

2 ENHANCING SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH

To provide opportunities for all students to develop the attributes they need to engage with life fully as responsible and compassionate citizens.

We will

- enable staff and students to express their faith, spirituality and core beliefs with confidence
- promote greater empathy and understanding of others
- deepen our understanding and commitment to Service Learning
- maintain personalised attention for all students from Kindergarten to Year 12
- provide additional opportunities for authentic student-voice
- introduce further opportunities for leadership development
- extend the co-curricular opportunities available to students to reflect the K-12 enrolment



3 SELECTING, DEVELOPING AND NURTURING EXCEPTIONAL STAFF

To ensure all students are taught by outstanding teachers who are passionate about their subject and positive in their outlook.

We will

- promote teaching as a valued and important profession
- implement a clear structure of supervision and professional support for all staff
- communicate changes and the outcomes of decisions openly
- facilitate staff-led initiatives for school improvement
- model respectful behaviour and treat each other with kindness
- promote a deeper understanding of the need for a high level of self-care

4 RESPECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

To differentiate Northholm by modelling and promoting sustainable practice.

We will

- model responsible and respectful use of the Earth's resources
- promote stewardship of the natural environment
- create dynamic outdoor learning spaces to enhance student wellbeing
- implement programs that optimise the advantages of our unique setting
- provide further opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning and inquiry



5 EMBRACING THE FUTURE

To position the School for 21st Century Teaching by promoting the use of the latest information and communication technologies and fostering cultural and global awareness.

We will

- normalise the use of information and communication technologies across the curriculum
- pilot leading edge programs for deep thinking and learning
- build greater cultural awareness and sensitivity
- develop working relationships with external organisations including parent and community contacts
- develop further national and international connections to enrich our creative capacity
- optimise our service delivery through effective use of information and communication technologies

6 BUILDING ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS

To maintain the School's ongoing financial security and further enhance the positive relations fundamental to Northholm's strong sense of community.

We will

- maintain positive enrolment trends through targeted marketing
- preserve the financial well-being of the school through prudent financial modelling
- creatively develop our website, publications and public presence to promote greater levels of engagement and interest within and outside the Northholm community
- maintain good governance practices to satisfy compliance regulations
- provide further opportunities for parents to be actively engaged in their children's education
- refine the School Masterplan to reflect the future needs



CREATING THE FUTURE

Some people think we can't be small and caring and still have high expectations of students.

We think differently.

We have found ways to do both. Northholm's programs provide students with opportunities to discover their 'essential element'; that positive self-concept that enables them to engage with life in more meaningful ways... to 'Learn with Purpose: Live with Passion'.

Northholm will always be a small caring environment. Our challenge over the coming five years is to demonstrate that this high level of care is providing our students with a unique educational experience and a sound basis for future success.

We believe our students leave school with the wisdom to make considered decisions, the courage to stand firm on matters of importance, the compassion to serve others graciously and the academic achievement that comes from disciplined study in a supportive environment. The positive learning culture, which Northholm has already established, provides a wonderful launch pad to our future.

In this future, we envisage building on these strengths by providing students with greater challenges and more opportunities for experiential learning. By engaging in activities with real life applications our students will have greater freedom to take risks and more scope for innovation and problem solving.

We will also celebrate unity and encourage greater tolerance by promoting teamwork. We believe our students will gain a greater sense of self and a greater sense of connection with their community through involvement in team based activities that require them to utilise their many different skills and capacities to help make the world a better place.

The development of programs that encourage critical thinking and problem solving, the normalisation of technology as an integral part of our learning and the utilisation of our beautiful rural setting as a learning space in which sustainable practice becomes a way of life, paves the way for enhanced student well-being, greater academic achievement and a culture of aspiration.

We are however, mindful that these ambitious goals can only be achieved with the support of our community and know that while some changes are inevitable in 'creating our future' our core values must remain the same. This is the next chapter in the same story. We look forward to your support.

NORTHHOLM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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