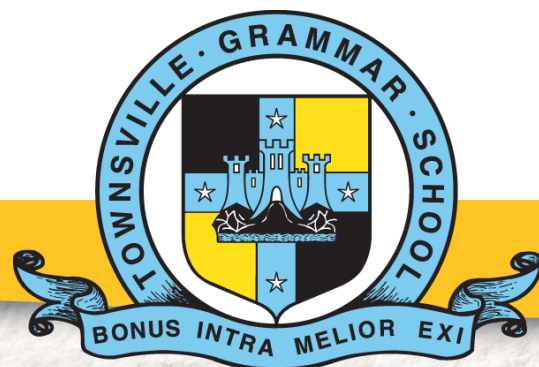


# TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR JUNIOR SCHOOL

## *Subject Information 2017* *Junior School Curriculum*

*Years 1 - 6*

*Opening doors since 1888*



## **CURRICULUM AT TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR JUNIOR SCHOOL**

The curriculum at Townsville Grammar Junior School aims to meet the needs of all students at their different stages of development. Our goal is to enable all students to acquire the skills and knowledge that they need for a successful progression from Prep through to Year 6 and to ensure a smooth transition into their Middle Schooling.

Students undertake studies in eight Key Learning Areas (KLAs) which are integrated from the early years. The KLAs become more clearly defined as students' progress through the middle and upper primary years. Teachers endeavour to promote higher order thinking skills into lessons where appropriate.

The KLAs are as follows:

- English
- Mathematic
- Science
- Humanities and Social Science
- The Arts: Performing Arts, Music, and Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE)
- Information and Computer Technology (ICT)



## ENGLISH

The English programme at Townsville Grammar Junior School is a Prep to Year 6 programme that follows the Australian Curriculum guidelines. It aims to develop sound skills and to ensure the individual develops into a highly literate student.

This subject is divided into three Strands, which are:

- **Reading and Viewing**, which focuses on making meaning from a wide range of written, visual and multimodal texts produced electronically and in print form.
- **Writing and Creating**, which focuses on producing a wide range of written, visual and multimodal texts electronically and in print form for a range of purposes. A structured genre approach to writing is used Prep to Year 6. Our students develop the knowledge, processes and skills to operate our language system (e.g. paragraphing, punctuation, word structure, choosing illustrations and keyboarding) to make critical choices and decisions when writing and editing texts.
- **Speaking and Listening**, which focuses on making meaning with spoken and multimodal texts in a range of contexts.

The Reading programme at the Junior School is one of our core focuses. In it we aim to:

- Encourage and foster a lifelong love of literature and reading
- Engage children purposefully with print
- Develop critical literacy skills and an awareness of a variety of genre
- Develop, in children, the competent and independent use of the skills and strategies necessary to make meaning from print

Phonemic awareness plays a strong role in the acquisition of sound Reading and Spelling skills. Students are taught a phonological awareness programme from Prep to Year 6.





## MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Programme at Townsville Grammar School aims to develop sound skills and positive attitudes toward Mathematics. By following the Australian Curriculum Guidelines, students are challenged to ensure they reach their full potential in this subject.

Each student's mathematical understanding is developed in meaningful and realistic contexts while opportunities are given to learn using a variety of materials and experiences. Language is recognised as an important factor in mathematical understanding and students are encouraged to talk and write about their mathematics to further reinforce understanding.

An investigative and problem solving approach is incorporated into all components of the Mathematical Programme. Students use a variety of strategies to answer both closed and open-ended problems and confidence is built to take risks when solving problems.

Technology is used to enhance lessons where suitable and calculators and computers are integrated into the programme.



## **SCIENCE**

The Science Programme at Townsville Grammar School follows the Australian Curriculum guidelines. It aims to develop in students a scientific view of the world through challenging students to explore the wonders of Science.

The Science KLA has three interrelated strands:

### **Science Understanding**

This includes Science facts, theories and concepts. These include the topics of biological, chemical, earth & space and physical science.

### **Science as a Human Endeavor**

The development of Science as a unique way of knowing and doing as well as how it can influence decision making and problem solving. This strand acknowledges the contributions of many people from different cultures and historical times.

### **Science Inquiry Skills**

Students perform investigations in which ideas, predictions and hypotheses are tested. Students analyse data that they have collected and represent their findings in a variety of ways.



## STEM

The Acronym STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. Within the Junior School programme we look to provide students in Years 3-6 with the opportunity to engage in hands-on, problem-based learning to integrate and extend upon what they are learning in the classroom. Students are involved in STEM for most of their project based learning tasks within their classroom. Enriching this, we also provide a designated STEM lesson weekly with a specialist STEM teacher.

STEM encourages students to apply and connect their learning to different situations and its open-endedness allows for strong differentiation. Students are introduced to the cyclic process of problem solving and developing the skills to **Define, Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver & Debrief** with regard to the project-based tasks they undertake.



## HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Year 1 – Year 6 programme in Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) links directly to the outcomes outlined in the Australian Curriculum. At Townsville Grammar we use a 'theme based' approach to engage student in the content and skills of this section of the curriculum. HaSS focuses on the study of human behavior and interaction in social, cultural, environmental, economic and political contexts. It looks to provide a broad understanding of the world in which we live.

Beyond the content of this curriculum area students are given various opportunities to develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adopt to change.

The knowledge and skills focus on helping students see how people can participate as active and informed citizens with high-level skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## THE ARTS

At Townsville Grammar School, students experience Music, Performing Arts (Dance and Drama), Media and Visual Arts. From Year 1 - Year 6, Music and Performing Arts are taught by teaching staff who are specialists in their field. These teachers aim to develop specific skills, processes and attitudes in their own programmes as well as encouraging and assisting the development of an integrated curriculum. Visual Arts is taught by classroom teachers who plan dynamic and exciting learning experiences catering to all students.

### Performing Arts

Students experience a range of learning outcomes that are structured through storytelling, improvisation and extended role plays. Choral and verse speaking also play an important role in the Performing Arts programme.

### Visual Arts

Visual Art involves selecting visual arts elements, concepts, processes and forms (both 2D and 3D) to express ideas, feelings and expressions. Students are also encouraged to consider different audiences and different purposes, through use of images and objects.



## MUSIC

At Townsville Grammar School, we believe that music can play a vital role in cognitive development, assisting in higher order thinking and creating well-rounded students.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the following activities:

- Classroom music
- Class choirs
- Minor (Years 1-3) Choir
- Major (Years 4-6) Choir
- Boys (Years 3-6) Choir
- Andante String Orchestra
- Allegro String Orchestra
- Band (Years 4-6)
- Various ensemble groups including, Woodwind, Brass, Guitar and Percussion

### Year 3 Strings Programme

All students in Year 3 are introduced to playing a stringed instrument for the duration of Year 3. Children can select from the violin, viola, cello or double bass. Private individual or small group tuition is available for all students.





## **INFORMATION & COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

At Townsville Grammar School, we offer our students a range of opportunities to work with and explore technology. Although acknowledged as one of the eight Key Learning Areas of the Junior Curriculum, the implementation of Technology is mainly through meaningful tasks integrated with other Key Learning Areas.

The Programme aims to develop students who are technologically literate and capable individuals who have an understanding of the role that technology plays in the modern world. Students are given the opportunity to use technology to:

- Create
- Problem solve
- Present
- Inquire
- Communicate
- Operate
- Engage in responsible practice

The Junior School is well resourced with all classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboards and several classroom computers. In addition to this, mobile laptop trolleys are available for all classes to use and a dedicated media room can be booked in the Tait Library.



## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

The Physical Education Programme focuses on the development of gross motor skills through structured activities. These skills lay the foundations, which lead into team games and sports in the upper primary years.

Students in the Junior School participate in a Learn to Swim Programme from Prep to Year 6. Lessons on athletics, dance, ball and motor skills incorporating games, all contribute to the physical development of the children. Annual Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals are an opportunity for students to both demonstrate their abilities and participate as a member of their selected House.

Interschool sport is played on Friday afternoons for students in Years 5 and 6, with all students having the opportunity to participate throughout the year.

Townsville Grammar operates numerous sports clubs for their students.

- Swim Club operates three afternoons a week.
- Rugby Club (Years 3-6) is played on Friday evenings.
- Netball Club (Years 2-6) is played on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
- Fitness Club is held 2 mornings a week.





### LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

Languages other than English are a means of communicating across cultures and promoting socio-cultural understanding and competence. The language of our nearest Asian neighbor, the Indonesian language (Bahasa Indonesia) is of growing relevance given the increasing cultural, economic and political ties with Indonesia and is the primary focus of our LOTE programme. Years 3 to 6 students are involved in LOTE lessons during the School week.

By studying Bahasa Indonesia learners gain an insight into the cultural richness of this country, which enables them to develop empathy for and understanding of the values and attitudes within this Asian multicultural society.

French is added to our LOTE programme as a semester course in Year 6. The introduction of French at this stage not only broadens the students' exposure to another language, it assists with the transition of students into the Middle School. Children progressing into the Middle School have a choice of three languages from Year 7, i.e. Japanese, French and Italian.

Learning outcomes for LOTE focus on the four macro skills of **Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing**, with a strong component on cultural understanding.

A further language option, Spanish ab initio, is available from the beginning of Year 11 as part of the School's International Baccalaureate Diploma course.





## **POSITIVE EDUCATION**

Townsville Grammar School has introduced a Positive Education programme. Positive Education is a whole school community initiative that promotes positive relationships, emotion, health, engagement, accomplishment and purpose.

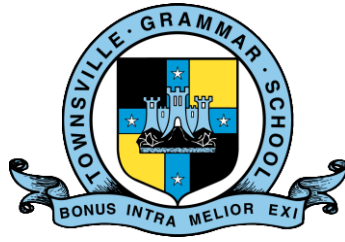
Positive Education is directly linked to the evidence based and universally acknowledged outcomes and benefits of Positive Psychology. Positive Education aims to produce well-rounded and resilient individuals who possess a unique capability to thrive personally, academically and professionally and who are well-equipped to contribute to society in a satisfying and meaningful way.

Positive Education is the framework that supports our Pre-Prep – Year 12 Pastoral Care and Well-being Programme and focuses on providing students and staff with the skills needed to manage and cope with everyday opportunities and challenges in our ever-changing world.

At Townsville Grammar School, all students participate in our ongoing 'character strengths' based Pastoral Care and Well-being Programme. Our strength based approach focuses on the 'Language of Positive Education', in particular, six educational domains have embedded within them 24 universally accepted character strengths.

All staff have been trained in the language of Positive Education and deliver both explicit and implicit age specific and cyclical Positive Education lessons, activities and initiatives that align our Pre-Prep – Year 12 and Staff Pastoral Care and Well-being Programme. For more information please refer to the School's website, following the Pastoral Care link.





# Townsville Grammar School

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