



Deakin
ALFRED DEAKIN HIGH SCHOOL



The
Difference
Is YOU



Our vision is that every graduate leaves Deakin as a confident, celebrated and empowered individual, ready to realise their full and unique potential.



At Deakin, we don't just prepare
students for the world.
We prepare them to shape it.
To leave a mark.
To make a difference.

Our purpose is to help students discover and develop their unique strengths so that, as graduates, they enrich communities and contribute to a more inclusive, equitable world.

Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Alfred Deakin High School and thank you for taking the time to learn more about our wonderful community.

Alfred Deakin High School is a highly regarded ACT public school, committed to nurturing every student through a wide range of flexible, engaging, and personalised learning experiences. Our core values of Excellence, Responsibility, Community, and Respect are embedded in every aspect of school life. They shape our culture, guide our decisions, and foster a safe, inclusive environment where both students and staff take pride in their learning.

We believe that every student brings something unique, and our purpose is to help students discover and develop their individual strengths so that, as graduates, they go on to enrich communities and contribute to a more inclusive, equitable world. At Deakin, education is never one size fits all. Every student brings a unique perspective, passion, strength, and voice, and it's that individuality that shapes who we are as a school.

While we are steadfast in our pursuit of academic excellence, we know that success looks different for every student. That's why we focus on the whole child, nurturing social, emotional, and personal growth alongside learning. Our evidence-based and student-centred approach means we tailor teaching to individual needs, helping students gain confidence, independence, and a love of learning. We offer a rich and flexible curriculum with opportunities in languages, STEM, the arts, physical education, humanities, and technology. We encourage students to lead, to collaborate, and to challenge the status quo, because we know they will shape the world of tomorrow with the skills, empathy, and confidence they build today.

Alfred Deakin is a diverse, vibrant, and inclusive community - one where students feel safe, supported, and truly known. Where difference is celebrated and where every young person is empowered to discover who they are, and who they can become. I invite you to connect with us and experience the warmth, purpose, and pride that makes Alfred Deakin such a special place to learn and grow.

Brian Downton
PRINCIPAL







Respect, responsibility, community, and excellence are the foundation of everything we do. These values don't just define us, they guide us, shape us, and unite us. They are woven into our daily actions, relationships and shared purpose.

RESPECT



We respect ourselves, each other, and our environment. We work enthusiastically to uphold a vibrant community where everyone belongs and every student thrives.

RESPONSIBILITY



Our sense of responsibility extends beyond academics to include the social and emotional wellbeing of all community members. We think of others before we act and acknowledge the impact of our actions.

EXCELLENCE



We encourage, support, and celebrate not just academic efforts but also the personal growth, perseverance, and passion that drive lifelong learning. We recognise that success is a unique journey for each individual, and we value every step along the way.

COMMUNITY



We deeply value our vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community, where we genuinely care for one another. Together, we support all students, families, and staff, both inside and outside the classroom, to embrace their individuality and achieve success.

Learning at Deakin

We are committed to delivering a high-quality, inclusive education that places students at the centre of their learning. In line with the Australian Curriculum, our programs are designed to be innovative, flexible, and responsive to individual needs.

We provide a broad foundation across learning areas while offering opportunities for specialisation and extension, ensuring each student is challenged, supported, and engaged.



Our mission is to
use innovative,
student-centred
teaching strategies
to personalise
learning and
provide a holistic
education, for
every student.





SCIENCE

Science is a dynamic and engaging core subject that encourages students to explore and understand the world around them. Our experienced and passionate science staff deliver hands-on programs that build critical thinking and problem-solving skills, aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Students connect classroom learning with real-world science through partnerships with leading institutions such as the CSIRO, Questacon, and ANU. With a wide range of Year 10 electives and an advanced Extension Science course, we cater to all interests and abilities. Enrichment opportunities include national competitions, science mentoring, and inter-school STEM challenges.

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HaSS)

HaSS is a core subject for students in Years 7–10, providing them with a strong foundation for understanding the world around them. Through exploring history, geography, business, economics, and civics and citizenship, students develop the critical thinking, communication, and ethical reasoning skills essential for responsible participation in society. At Alfred Deakin High School, HaSS helps shape well-rounded, informed individuals by encouraging students to explore their identity, values, and role in the wider community. Emphasis is placed on research and analysis, empowering students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens with a global perspective.

MATHS

All students from Years 7 to 10 engage in a comprehensive Mathematics program, with classes tailored to ensure appropriate support and challenge. Our staff prioritise building student's confidence, procedural fluency, and ability to apply knowledge to solve problems. For senior students, the Mathematics Faculty offers a range of options, including the advanced 10A curriculum for those preparing for higher-level study. A Mathematics Elective is also available, providing opportunities to explore complex concepts and deepen mathematical understanding. Outside the regular curriculum activities, the Mathematics department offers before school, after school and lunch time Study Club, enrichment opportunities for gifted and talented students in Unicorn classes, and involvement in a range of external competitions.



ENGLISH

The English curriculum helps students to engage imaginatively and critically with literature and appreciate its aesthetic qualities. Students explore ideas and perspectives about human experience and cultural significance, interpersonal relationships, and ethical and global issues within real-world and fictional settings. They are exposed to literature from a range of historical, cultural and social contexts. Through the study of texts, students develop an understanding of themselves and their place in the world. The English curriculum explores the richness of First Nations Australian voices and voices from wide-ranging Australian and world literature.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EALD)

Our community celebrates a rich tapestry of cultures and languages, with many students speaking a language other than English at home. To support these students in their educational journey, we offer dedicated EALD classes at each year level for students with high support needs. These are smaller class sizes with instruction paced to meet students' language learning needs, designed to develop their English language proficiency.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Our language programs encourage our students to develop curiosity, respect and understanding of other cultures – lessons which will guide them as they develop as global citizens and innovative leaders. All students study a language in Years 7 and 8, with a choice of Japanese, Indonesian, French, or Italian offered as Beginning or Continuing courses. In Years 9 and 10, students can continue their chosen language, deepening their skills and cultural understanding. We cater to all linguistic abilities through engaging, accessible programs delivered both online and face-to-face. Students have the opportunity to study multiple languages over time, and our popular programs are enriched by overseas tours and visits from international schools.



ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

The Arts and Technology faculty creates the space for self-expression with conviction and passion. Specialist teachers encourage all students to explore the Arts and Technology through a variety of subjects including Music, Dance, Drama, Visual Art, Media Arts, Textiles, Woodwork, Metalwork and Digital Technology. Students will develop their creativity and technical skills in a range of subjects during the junior years, with the opportunity to specialise further through the senior electives program in Years 9/10. There is a strong focus on practical work in addition to building students' discipline literacy to improve writing and understanding. Extension opportunities for students demonstrating strong skills and interest in Visual Arts and Music through our Unicorn programs. There are also a variety of opportunities for students to further involve themselves in the Arts and Technology outside of the classroom through performances, exhibitions and showcases throughout the year.

LIFESTYLE EDUCATION & NUTRITION (LEAN)

Health and Physical Education at our school supports the whole student—physically, socially, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Through engaging and inclusive programs, we inspire active, healthy lifestyles and help students develop confidence, resilience, and strong relationships. Student voice and agency is an integral aspect of PE at Deakin and students select the pace and style that suits their needs, from relaxed to highly competitive. With diverse electives like Outdoor Education, Sports Science, Nutrition Food Studies and our PANTHERS and ELEMENTS leadership programs, the LEAN Faculty offers something for everyone. A core subject in Years 7–10, our curriculum builds lifelong wellbeing and skills for every stage of life.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

At Alfred Deakin High School, all Year 7 and 8 students participate in outdoor camps that build confidence, teamwork, and a connection with nature. Building on this experience, students can choose to deepen their skills by opting into the comprehensive Outdoor Education elective program in Years 9 and 10. The Outdoor Education elective focuses on hiking, climbing, navigation, water activities, and first aid, supported by two major camps. The Advanced Outdoor Education course is offered in Year 10 and provides students with challenging adventures such as, cross-country skiing, canyoning, snorkelling, mountain biking and surfing. The program emphasises resilience, environmental awareness, decision-making, teamwork and leadership. Students also have the opportunity to extend their growth further through involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Award program.



DIVERSITY: LEARNING SUPPORT & INCLUSION

The Diversity Faculty supports inclusive education by ensuring all students can access learning through tailored strategies and reasonable adjustments. Students with disabilities may engage in small-group or mainstream settings, with flexibility to meet individual needs. Each student has a case manager who coordinates with the Disability Education Coordinator to develop personalised support plans. A Case Management team, including family, staff, and relevant professionals, meet regularly to review progress and update Individual Learning Plans. Families of students transitioning from primary schools are encouraged to share relevant support documents during enrolment to ensure a smooth transition.



Year 7

Year 7 students will study a full year program in English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Health, and HaSS. They will also study a modern language - choosing either French, Japanese, Indonesian or Italian.

In addition students will experience some of the electives available in Years 8 - 10 by rotating through a term each of Art, Music, Design Technology and Food and Nutrition Studies.

Year 8

All students will study a full-year program of English, Maths, Science, HaSS, and Physical Education and Health. Students will also continue their study of the modern languages that was chosen in Year 7, and choose from a selection of electives. These electives include a range of options from the Arts and Technology faculty as well as Nutrition Food Studies. Selections are made during Term 3 for the following year.

Years 9 & 10

All students study a full two-year program of English, Maths, Science, HaSS, and Physical Education & Health.

Students then choose from a range of electives across the two years. These electives include The Arts, Technology, Physical Education, Nutrition, Mathematics and Science. The current elective options are described in the Year 9 & 10 Elective Booklet.



We're a school
where culture, character
and community
come together.
Where every student
is empowered
to make their mark.

The difference is
YOUR CREATIVITY.
The difference is
YOUR COURAGE.





The difference is
YOUR PERSPECTIVE.
The difference is
YOUR PASSION.





The Unicorn Program

Gifted and Talented Education

The Unicorn Program is Alfred Deakin High School's academic stream for identified gifted and talented students in Years 7–10. Designed to meet the unique learning needs of gifted students, the program offers enrichment and acceleration in English, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Classes are led by trained teachers who differentiate curriculum, assessment, and pedagogy to provide greater depth, complexity, and challenge — all within the framework of the Australian Curriculum.

The Unicorn Program fosters academic curiosity, independent inquiry, critical and creative thinking, and a supportive peer

cohort. It sits alongside mainstream classes and reflects our school's commitment to nurturing excellence while honouring diverse learning pathways.

Students are selected through a combination of cognitive testing, academic data, and teacher and parent input. Placement is reviewed annually to ensure each student's academic and wellbeing needs are being met. While giftedness is about potential rather than performance, not all students thrive in the same environment — participation is flexible and always a partnership with families.

Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is central to our inclusive and respectful school culture. We promote a safe, supportive environment where all students feel valued, connected and empowered to thrive. Through Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), we explicitly teach and encourage respectful relationships, positive behaviours, and a strong sense of belonging. Our diverse community is celebrated, and everyone's rights are respected.

We take an educative approach underpinned by restorative practices to build empathy, accountability, and mutual respect. Together, these approaches foster a positive school climate that

supports students' academic, social, and emotional development, helping them grow into capable, compassionate members of the community.

At our school, each student is supported by a dedicated Tutor Group Teacher who serves as a consistent point of contact for both students and their families throughout their high school journey. Tutor Groups meet daily to foster a sense of belonging, share important school information, and support student wellbeing, attendance, and behaviour. In weekly pastoral care sessions, students explore topics to support their personal development, helping them grow as confident learners, caring individuals, and active members of the community.







Clubs and co-curricular activities

Clubs and co-curricular programs at Alfred Deakin High School play a vital role in enriching the student experience and supporting a broad, well-rounded education. With a wide range of clubs on offer, spanning interests such as sustainability, debating, coding, visual arts, music, games, and writing, students are encouraged to explore their passions, build friendships, and develop new skills beyond the classroom. These opportunities, alongside a diverse array of curriculum-based excursions, take learning into real-world contexts and provide meaningful connections between classroom content and lived experience. Together, they help foster curiosity, confidence, and a sense of belonging in every learner.

Student Leadership

At Deakin student leadership is inclusive, authentic, and embedded across school life, offering all students a wide range of meaningful opportunities to lead and grow. We believe in creating leaders at all levels, regardless of title and at Deakin, every student has the chance to lead in a way that is relevant, supported, and impactful.

**MAKE YOUR
MARK BY
LIFTING OTHERS.**

True leadership is never about being above others. It's about helping others rise with you.





STUDENT EXECUTIVE GROUP (SEG)

The Student Executive Group (SEG) leads the promotion of student voice and action at Deakin. With representatives from each year level, SEG ensures that the opinions, needs, and ideas of students shape our school community. As a group, they take a data-driven approach to embedding student voice in the learning environment. SEG members collect and analyse data from a range of areas including School Satisfaction Surveys, standardised testing results and student feedback through year group forums. They then use this data to drive meaningful conversations about learning and wellbeing, and share their findings with the staff and key stakeholders.

SEG members receive training in leadership, facilitation, and data analysis, equipping them to run forums, manage diverse viewpoints, and present ideas to school leadership. SEG provides a valuable leadership pathway for students in all year levels and gives them an authentic opportunity to be partners in learning at Deakin. As part of a broader ACT Learning Commission group, their input strengthens Deakin's connections with local primary schools and provide a continuation of leadership opportunities throughout student's school experience.

ADVANCE

ADVANCE is an events and publicity team. A collaborative group responsible for planning, promoting, and capturing school events. Members take on various roles, including event planning, social media management, graphic design, photography, videography, and content writing. Their tasks involve organising assemblies, graduation, creating promotional materials, managing social media accounts, designing posters, and producing visual content to showcase events and managing the school podcast. This team encourages leadership, creativity, and teamwork as students work together to engage the school community and highlight the school's culture and activities.



LiFT Mentor Program

The LiFT Mentor Program (Learning Independence through Friendships and Trust) is a partnership between Deakin and The Woden School. Through this program Deakin students volunteer weekly across, visiting The Woden School to serve as mentors and friends. Students rotated through classes, assisted in activities while fostering inclusion, connection, and support. The program builds independence as students self-manage attendance and engage in reflective debriefs.

LiFT empowers all participants through new experiences and friendships, with an emphasis on supporting relationships with students at The Woden School who do not have other opportunities to engage with peers of a similar age. The program has expanded in recent years and is held in high regard by both schools. Deakin students use the opportunity to extend their work in the Duke of Edinburgh program and build their confidence and upskill to prepare for college and their first job. Looking ahead, students will have the opportunity to complete a Certificate I in Active Volunteering.

YOUTH LEADERS

The Youth Leadership Program is open to selected Year 10 students who are passionate about supporting others and developing their leadership skills. Students apply to take part in the program and receive training to prepare them for their leadership role. As Youth Leaders, they play a key role in helping Year 7 students transition smoothly into high school life at Deakin. This includes assisting with transition days, attending the Year 7 camp, and regularly participating in Pastoral Care sessions. Throughout the year, Youth Leaders act as mentors and positive role models, working closely with Year 7 students to support their wellbeing and integration into the school community.

PANTHERS

Boys Leadership Program

At Alfred Deakin High School, the PANTHERS program offers Year 9 and 10 students a unique blend of Physical Education and English, designed to support both personal growth and academic achievement. Grounded in the values of community, self-development, and leadership, the program challenges students to extend themselves while building strong social connections.

Students participate in a mix of theory and practical lessons with a focus on teamwork, leadership, health, and wellbeing. Learning experiences include sport,

fitness, workshops, and community service projects, giving students opportunities to develop resilience, confidence, and collaboration skills.

A highlight of PANTHERS is the two camps each year, where students strengthen their sense of belonging and engage in team-building challenges that encourage shared achievement and personal growth. Entry into the program is through application and trial in Term 3 of Year 8. Selection is based not only on ability, but also on students' willingness to support others, positively influence the group, and embrace opportunities to grow.

ELEMENTS

Girls Leadership Program

Empowering the next generation of leaders through sport, English, and community.

The ELEMENTS Program is a dynamic leadership initiative for high school girls, designed to build confidence, resilience, and purpose. Combining sport, English, and community, it fosters personal growth and leadership in a supportive environment.

Program Highlights:

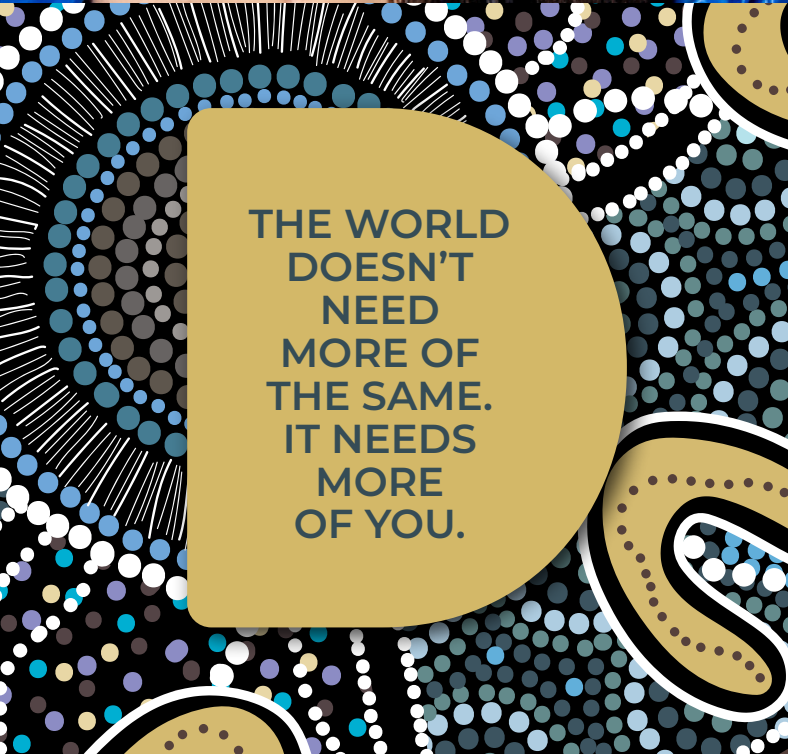
- **Leadership & Personal Development** Goal-setting, communication, & self-awareness.
- **Team Building** Collaboration & problem-solving through group challenges.
- **Sport & Fitness** Promoting health, discipline, & teamwork.
- **English & Communication** Journals, discussions, and presentations to enhance expression, & a focus on representation of strong females and experiences of women through selected texts.
- **Community Service** Projects that develop empathy and responsibility.
- **Health & Wellbeing** Exploring mental health, nutrition, and self-care.
- **Camp Experiences** Two immersive camps to build independence, initiative, and lasting friendships.

By program's end, participants will:

- Gain self-confidence
- Strengthen communication and leadership skills
- Cultivate resilience and teamwork
- Embrace wellbeing and balance
- Connect with peers and mentors

ELEMENTS empowers students to step up as capable, confident leaders in school and beyond.







EVERY VOICE
VALUED.
EVERY STEP
CELEBRATED.

We celebrate effort,
growth, and every
student's unique journey,
because all success
is worth recognising.



At Deakin, we believe
greatness comes from
being your true self.
Curious, kind, inclusive
and brave enough to
make a difference.



Belonging here builds more than confidence. It empowers students to take ownership of their learning, to lead with compassion and to shape a world that reflects the best of who they are.

For more information about our school and to access enrolment forms, visit adhs.act.edu.au.

Further information about enrolling in an ACT public school can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us at info@adhs.act.edu.au.





**ALFRED DEAKIN
HIGH SCHOOL**

111 Denison Street, Deakin ACT 2600

Tel: 6142 3888

www.adhs.act.edu.au

info@adhs.act.edu.au

Photography Credit:

We would like to acknowledge Deakin students
for the photography included within this prospectus.
Thank you to our ADVANCE team, the Year 9/10 Photography
students and a special mention to Hannah Fry.



ACT
Government

Deakin
ALFRED DEAKIN HIGH SCHOOL