



Our
Junior Secondary

Philosophy



Mission Statement

Kingston State College's will provide a seamless curriculum supported by strong, positive school/community relationships. Students will experience targeted learning experiences which foster higher order thinking and a clear pathway to academic success.

Kingston State College aims to maintain student enthusiasm for learning and build self-esteem so that school and learning is a positive and meaningful experience for all. Progress with Pride underpins our relentless pursuit of academic excellence and promotion of lifelong learning for the Kingston State College community.

Through the Junior Secondary curriculum Framework students gather the skills and knowledge required to assist in a seamless transition in the Senior Phase of learning.

Distinct Identity

Junior Secondary students are supported to develop their own group identity within the broader school community, and have a strong sense of belonging and ownership of their school and their learning. Students do best when they feel a sense of belonging and connectedness to their school. Creating a strong identity for Junior Secondary students helps them to feel safe and confident in their new environment, supporting a smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

- Classrooms and flexible learning areas that promote student engagement.
- Form Group rooms within the Year 7 precinct
- Designated undercover and eating areas exclusively for Year 7.
- Orientation Week at the start of school year to provide opportunities to settle in and develop relationships with peers, staff and Year 9 Junior Secondary Integration Program representatives (JSIP). Kingston Integration Program (KIP) will run for Year 8 students with a Year 12 representatives.
- Core teacher for English/SOSE and Wellbeing and Maths/Science
- A strong focus on the development of group identity whilst fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness to the whole school (e.g. generating House spirit through team-building activities)
- **Nothing Left to Chance Charter.** This charter creates one school voice focusing on continuous improvement
- Kingston College Junior Secondary uses the Symphony of Teaching as its pedagogical Framework supplemented by Direct Instruction (EMM), Teachscape, and Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching.

Quality teaching

The learning and achievement of Junior Secondary students is supported by highly skilled teachers with pedagogical knowledge and practice appropriate for this age group. Quality teaching in Junior Secondary means providing meaningful and challenging learning experiences, having high expectations and engaging students in tasks that are relevant and rigorous, using evidence-based practice that is focused on the achievement of every student.

- 1:1 laptop program
- Full complement of Secondary Curriculum subjects
- Specialist teachers for LOTE, Arts, Health & Physical Education, Technology and Instrumental Music
- Support Teacher - Literary and Numeracy
- Opportunities for in-depth study and extension in languages (Indonesian, Chinese), Science, Creative Arts and Sport Excellence programs
- Each classroom will have technology supporting student engagement in the teaching and learning process
- Opportunities for the development of cross-curricular integrated projects in flexible learning spaces
- Access to specialist laboratories, workshops, kitchens and creative arts spaces
- Kingston State College promotes the high standards of behaviour and teaching
- Teachers use data to differentiate the curriculum to enhance the learning outcomes.

Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is positioned as core business, and there is a whole-of school commitment to ensuring a safe, supportive, inclusive and disciplined environment for all Junior Secondary students as they make the transition to a secondary setting. There is a direct link between student wellbeing and academic performance. Students learn best when their wellbeing is optimised, and they develop a strong sense of wellbeing when they experience success in learning.

Focusing on the wellbeing of students in their early teenage years and making connections between their subjects and the real world helps students to enjoy school, engage meaningfully with learning and establish the skills to succeed in life.

A smooth transition from primary school and to promote student wellbeing will:

- Improve academic performance;
- Increase student participation in school activities;
- Enable students to experience success.

This will be achieved by:

- Shared curriculum opportunities, e.g. Science
- Community information events;
- Orientation Days before entering high school;

Student support includes:

- Daily contact with a core teachers who will monitor student progress and wellbeing;
- Year 9 Representatives to mentor students and be a point of contact;
- Senior staff support, e.g. Junior Secondary Deputy Principal, Guidance Officers, BAT/AVT, Head of Junior Secondary & Year Level Coordinators;
- Student Support Services, e.g. Chaplain, Nurse, Youth Support Worker

Student Wellbeing (pastoral care) program promoting and supporting:

- Social and emotional skills
- Resilience
- Core school values - Learning, Respect, Community, Creativity

Parent and Community Involvement

There is a range of avenues to build the active and authentic involvement of Junior Secondary parents and community, and reciprocal partnerships exist between parents and the school. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes.

These partnerships are even more important in the Junior Secondary years when students are experiencing significant changes to their physical, cognitive, emotional and social development.

- Parents and Citizens' Association
- Student Council
- Involvement in Quadrennial School Review

The school actively encourages:

- Attendance at parent information nights
- Participation in Parents and Citizens' Associations
- Accompanying classes on excursions
- Volunteering in the school tuckshop
- Attendance at school functions
- Involvement in school productions
- Helping students in maths or reading
- Helping their children with homework
- Attendance at award ceremonies, assemblies, special events

Leadership

Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for Junior Secondary students. Junior Secondary offers leadership opportunities for both students and teachers.

For students, the Junior Secondary approach focuses on creating an environment that nurtures the leadership potential of all students through opportunities to take on new challenges, build self-esteem and self-confidence, and participate in mentoring programs.

Junior Secondary leadership opportunities:

- Junior Secondary Leaders
- Sports house leaders
- Indigenous Leader
- Creative Arts Leader

Year 7 Leadership opportunities through involvement in the Student Council process.

Teacher leadership is also being fostered through collaboration by teachers in the development of the best approaches to teaching and learning through the Junior Secondary Professional Learning Team.

- Year 7 and Year 8 Co-ordinators
- Junior Secondary Leadership Co-ordinator
- Junior Secondary HOD

Local Decision

Making Local school communities' influence the shape of the Junior Secondary model in each school, reflecting local needs. Local decision making empowers school communities to ensure that their philosophy and practices in Junior Secondary are shaped according to the expectations and needs of the local context.

This means that schools can work in partnership with community stakeholders to develop teaching, relational and organisational practices that best meet the educational needs of students within their community.

- Regular cluster meetings with the primary principals/deputy principals' and HOC's will ensure that the curriculum structure is developed in consultation with the feeder primary schools and in response to feedback from local communities.
- Build on existing primary-secondary experiences through the delivery of LOTE, Instrumental Music, Science, Maths and Sport Development programs

Parent consultation through:

- Expo Evenings
- Parent reference group
- Parents and Citizens Group
- Community Involvement in Quadrennial School Review