BENDIGO SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Victoria, Australia
Department of Education



VICTORIA
State Government
Australia



WE ENCOURAGE OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS TO CONTINUALLY REFLECT ON WHAT THEY'RE GOOD AT AND WHAT THEY CAN DO BETTER.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) supports students to move in a wide range of directions when they leave the College. This diversity is evident in the breadth of our programs.

One of the defining characteristics of the College is the positive relationship between staff and students. This is based on trust and a shared interest in students pursuing their goals to further study and employment.

Our staff are passionate in their desire to see all students succeed.

We encourage our staff and students to continually reflect on what they're good at and what they can do better. Our job is to support every individual as they strive for improvement.

I'm looking forward to an exciting year ahead and to seeing the personal and academic growth of our students.

Dale Pearce
Principal





WHY CHOOSE BENDIGO SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE?

Our international student program, established in 1998:

- welcomes students from countries such as India, China, Iran, Iraq, the Philippines and many more
- is a valuable part of our school's multicultural community. We have a range of programs specifically for international students.

The international focus of the College is wide ranging and also includes friendship and sister school relationships in Germany, France, Indonesia and China. Students participate in regular curriculum-based trips to these countries, and also to Italy and Greece..

A formal academic curriculum tailored to each student's talents

The College offers students the widest range of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) studies of any school in the state. We have over 70 different subject offerings at each year level.

Students can select units in visual and performing arts, business and computing technologies, English and English as an Additional Language (EAL), humanities, languages, health, mathematics, sciences and technology.

Bendigo Senior Secondary College also has an international reputation for high level use of information technology and delivery of online learning. This supports students to access the VCE maths and science subjects in fifty schools around the state of Victoria.

The student excellence program at the College aims to support and extend high-ability students. This is so as our students can reach their full potential and enjoy their experience of learning.

Students also receive updates about events and activities designed to extend and motivate them..





A great choice of extra-curricular activities

Whilst studying at Bendigo Senior Secondary College, you can experience:

- student council, international student forums, leadership programs, intercultural exchange classes, excursions and camps
- science, mathematics, debating and music competitions
- cultural celebrations, festivals and homestay family events
- performing and visual arts opportunities and exhibitions.

Serious about student welfare

The wellbeing team provides health and wellbeing education and activities. This includes wellbeing tips and advice in college newsletters, classroom education and information.

There are also special BSSC events being held throughout the year, including healthy relationship day, harmony day and wellbeing week.

For international students, we host a welcome morning tea/lunch with their learning buddies, student council members and wellbeing support staff.

Other support services include:

- an award-winning career program and school to university transition pathway advisors
- health and wellbeing support, including counsellors, a nurse and visiting doctor
- an experienced team who are dedicated to providing international student support
- regular contact and overseas family visits to report on each student's progress and welfare.

Homestay for international students

International students are provided with homestay support during their time at Bendigo Senior Secondary College.

Our homestay families are very caring and supportive and treat our international students like a member of the family.

This provides our international students with the best possible home environment. Therefore, assisting students with their development of English and in learning about the culture and customs of Australia.

We hold international dinners each semester with all international students and their homestay families. This is to celebrate student birthdays and share in the successes of the term. These are much anticipated and enjoyed evenings.

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 each student's parents.

One of our homestay parents, Rosalie Lake, has this to say about our program:

"As a host mother I have loved being able to guide and nurture my international students into the Australian culture and education system. My little grandchildren have fun making memories with "big sisters" and learning about their cultures. Seeing the students blossom and thrive in my family, their school and then university, brings me much joy," says Rosalie.

"I now have a firm bond with an extended family of young women who all stay in touch, make me proud of their achievements and keep me involved in their current lives."

Easily accessible location

Bendigo Senior Secondary College, established in 1907, is situated in central Bendigo. The school overlooks the leafy, green Rosalind Park. We are also close to Bendigo's Central Business District (CBD).

Our multicultural and welcoming student city also provides outdoor lifestyle spaces and attractions. These include gardens; sports; event including festivals; and easy living.

Features of the local area include being:

- close to modern transport links, shops, restaurants and cafes
- near entertainment precincts and all amenities
- 90 minutes from Melbourne's city centre.



A recent success story

Wenting He, from China, studied Maths Methods, Specialist Mathematics, EAL, Chinese First Language, Chemistry and Biology. Wenting participated in an English public speaking competition and was also a cultural day volunteer.

Wenting has been accepted into the University of Melbourne to study a Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering.

"When I was at Bendigo Senior Secondary College as an international student I had a passion for engineering which led me to become a structural engineer at Rail Project Victoria."

SEEING THE STUDENTS BLOSSOM AND THRIVE IN MY FAMILY, THEIR SCHOOL AND THEN UNIVERSITY, BRINGS ME MUCH JOY.



CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Bendigo Senior Secondary College

40 Gaol Road,
Bendigo, Victoria 3550

International student and Chinese language program coordinator – Juncai Lin

Tel: +61 3 5443 1222
Email: admin@bssc.edu.au
Website: http://www.bssc.edu.au/

Victorian Government Schools International Student Program

80 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000, Australia

Tel: +61 3 7022 1000
Email: international@education.vic.gov.au
Web: www.study.vic.gov.au

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