BENTLEIGH SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Victoria, Australia
Department of Education

Bentleigh
Secondary College



VICTORIA
State
Government
Australia



BENTLEIGH SECONDARY COLLEGE PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON STUDENTS WORKING TO ACHIEVE THEIR VERY BEST, AND ON STUDENTS CHALLENGING THEMSELVES.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Bentleigh Secondary College places great emphasis on students working to achieve their very best, and on students challenging themselves.

We all dream of things we want to accomplish during our lives. The difference between those whose dreams come true and those whose do not can be summed up in one word, 'effort.' Effort is the demonstration of hard work and achievement.

We believe that the college motto, "being the best you can be", is something everyone in our school community must aspire to by raising the expectations.

As a learning community, we set high expectations for staff and teachers providing an inclusive learning environment. Therefore, facilitating the best possible outcome for all students.

Our curriculum is innovative and academically challenging. Our extra-curricular programs offer outstanding opportunities in the performing arts, instrumental music, leadership, sustainable practices and sport.

Positive relationships are the cornerstone of our inclusive college culture. These relationships are supported by our code of conduct which is based on the following principles: the right to learn, the right to be treated with respect and the right to be safe.

At Bentleigh Secondary College, we invite students on an educational journey. This is where they can develop their potential in a supportive environment, challenge themselves to be the best they can be whilst fostering resilience and social awareness.

Helene E. Hiotis
Principal



WHY CHOOSE BENTLEIGH SECONDARY COLLEGE?

Following establishment of our international student program in 1999 we currently have students from China; Korea; Japan; and Hong Kong. Our international student program is a valuable part of our school's multicultural community.

We ensure our international students are aware of each other's cultures and respect each other's beliefs and religions. We also celebrate Lunar New Year, Mooncake Festival, Easter and student birthdays.

We have a range of programs specifically for international students, including:

- literacy support for Years 7 to 9
- a before and after school homework club
- an experienced international program coordinator
- our English language centre, just 13 kilometres from the school campus
- a buddy program for new international students to help them adapt to the school environment.

An academic program fostering excellence

As members of the senior school, we challenge and support our Year 10 students to think positively about their future. Where possible, every student in Year 10 completes a week of work experience at their chosen workplace as part of the curriculum.

As young adults, we support and encourage our Year 11 and 12 students to focus and commit to their studies and to develop a level of independence that prepares them for adult life.

Our Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) centre creates an adult learning environment that allows for excellent collaboration between students and staff. This includes a VCE study centre that is readily accessible during and after school hours.

We base our curriculum, our teaching and our approach to students on a belief that all students are able to achieve their best.

Activities and programs bringing the student experience to life

Our key educational priorities are to ensure students have access to curriculum activities which broaden and deepen their experience and values personal effort and excellence. Bentleigh Secondary College offers an extensive extra-curricular program.

Some activities include:

Student Leadership

Each of our student leadership positions are heavily involved in supporting students in younger year levels and making links with the community.

Languages for international students

Bentleigh Secondary College offers two language subjects; Japanese and French. Students can also undertake other languages within their VCE studies at Victorian School of Languages.

The Bentleigh Respect Group

Membership means that you are interested in ensuring that we live in a fair and safe world for everyone.

Green Machine

Our College green machine is a group of environmentally motivated students from across all year levels within the college.

The group takes responsibility for educating visitors to the college about our many initiatives including the Moorooboon wetland, our urban forest, renewable energy projects, water saving initiatives, harvest garden and our new Meditation and Indigenous Cultural Centre.

Sports

We have been extremely successful in a variety of sports, our area of strength being in Australian Rules Football (AFL) women's; netball; tennis; cricket; and hockey. However, we encourage participation in all sports and are aiming to increase our success.

Instrumental Music

Our well established music program continues to offer enormous opportunities for students. There are over 13 ensembles students can become involved in on a weekly basis.

Visual Arts

Bentleigh Secondary College offers an exciting and diverse visual arts program that enables students to develop their artistic skills in a creative and safe environment.

Students explore extensive mediums, materials and techniques. They also develop skills in drawing; painting; printmaking; sculpture; watercolour; and digital methods.





Making welfare and support a priority

Our multilingual international student coordinator and the assistant principal oversees the enrolment; homestay accommodation; individualised support; and pastoral care of our international students.

Welfare care includes:

- careers resource support
- our wellbeing support program
- a part-time psychologist and nurse
- an experienced international program coordinator

Homestay for international students

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 your parents.

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

Since we started hosting international students eight years ago, our family has been on a cultural tour through China; Vietnam; Brazil; Columbia; and Indonesia.

We have enjoyed every one of the students we have hosted, and we have learnt as much from them as they have from us. They have all become part of our family and we enjoy staying in contact long after they leave. Our lives are infinitely richer for having known these wonderful kids!

Easily accessible location

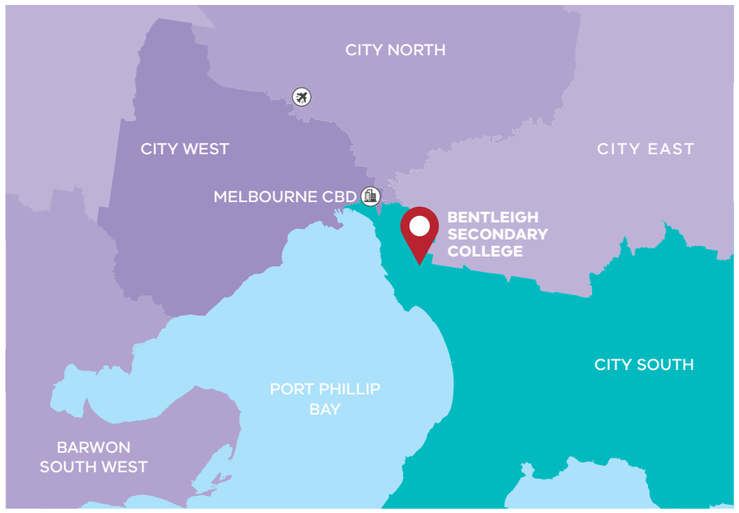
Bentleigh East is located 14 kilometres from Melbourne's city centre and is close to Chadstone and Southland shopping centres.

This is a safe and family-friendly area with plenty of local parks. The suburb also has a fantastic vibe with abundance of restaurants, cafes, retail stores and supermarkets.

Our college is located between East Boundary Road and Centre Road, where a number of bus lines stop, including 822, 701, 703, and 767.

Other features of the local area include:

- a nearby swimming facility including indoors and outdoors pools
- numerous parks with basketball courts, jogging tracks, and BMX tracks
- a multicultural and family friendly suburb with lots of community activities happening throughout the year.



A recent success story

Yilun (Martin) Gu, from China, studied English as an Additional Language (EAL); Chinese First Language; Mathematical Methods; Specialist Maths; Physics; and Chemistry.

Martin is currently studying a Bachelor of Science with a guaranteed offer to study a Master of Engineering; both at the University of Melbourne.

I am very grateful for all the support I received from the teachers over the two years of my VCE journey. Achieving a high ATAR requires a significant commitment to school and learning.

> I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED FROM THE TEACHERS OVER THE TWO YEARS OF MY VCE JOURNEY.



Bentleigh Secondary College

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