WHEELERS HILL SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Victoria, Australia

Department of Education and Training

WHEELERS HILL
Secondary College

VICTORIA
State Government
Australia





WE OFFER A VIBRANT AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY THAT VALUES OUR PERSONALISED CARE FOR STUDENTS AS WELL AS OUR CLEAR FOCUS ON ACHIEVING ONE' S PERSONAL BEST IN ALL AREAS OF LEARNING AND WELLBEING.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Wheelers Hill Secondary College. We have a student population of approximately 700 and a dedicated team of passionate and dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff who are focused on providing the best learning outcomes for all students.

We offer a breadth of programs and opportunities; excellent facilities within a beautiful and natural setting dominated by expansive grounds within well-established housing estates. We offer a vibrant and engaged community that values our personalised care for students as well as our clear focus on achieving one's personal best in all areas of learning and wellbeing.

Our core and extra-curricula programs, at all year levels, includes Sports, Instrumental Music, Student Leadership, Voice and Agency, Robotics Clubs and a range of other activities. We offer an outstanding Arts and STEM Programs. Our School Productions are enormously successful. We also work with closely with the Monash Tech School, situated at the centre of Monash University, where students get to explore leading edge digital technologies and engaged in a range of programs designed to support future career prospects. We also offer our ACE and RISE program at Years 7 to 9 which give selected students the opportunity to delve deeply into 21st Century Learning based around : Collaboration, Communication, Creative Problem Solving and Critical Thinking.

Our International Student Program (or ISP) is an important part of the College. Ensuring that our students become positive and empathetic global citizens who are the change makers of the future is at the heart of what we do at WHSC. In-house language assistance and additional tutoring are also provided for our ISP students as well as 24/7 care and support.

Fern Brisbane
Principal



WHY CHOOSE WHEELERS HILL SECONDARY COLLEGE?

Wheelers Hill Secondary College has been welcoming students for over 15 years. Our international student program is now a valuable part of our school's multicultural community.

We offer a range of unique features and offerings within our programs and specifically tailor these for international students.

International students receive assistance from:

- our dedicated international student coordinators who help students to adapt smoothly in our community. They also help maintain contact between students, homestay providers and parents
- our homestay families who provide individual, safe and secure accommodation for students
- multilingual aides and English as an Additional Language (EAL) teachers who help within the classrooms
- all of our staff who provide personal attention. They work together to ensure that students receive a rewarding educational experience.

We provide a friendly, safe, and welcoming environment encouraging academic excellence. We offer an extensive range of career options/pathways as well as thorough tertiary study preparation.

We also provide 'Motivational Mondays' enabling opportunities after school for Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) students to receive targeted help from their teachers.

A high quality academic program

At Wheelers Hill Secondary College we provide a range of academic subjects.

Our core curricular programs include Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). We have a close relationship with Monash University. Our year 7 to 10 students work annually with Monash Tech School on STEM projects and our robotic club also runs every week.

In addition to this our Performing Arts School run theatrical productions every year:

- this involves students from Years 7 to 12 within the annual school production. Giving students opportunities to express themselves and act in front of an audience
- we also have an instrumental program where students can choose to learn to play a musical instrument or sing in a choir
- We also provide our Year 7 ACE program which is a gifted and talented class for those who are academic high performers. Plus, we offer Student leadership opportunities, for all year levels, including Student Representative Council (SRC). SRC consists of student representatives together with school captains, including international student captains.





A variety of extra-curricular activities

At Wheelers Hill Secondary College, there are plenty of extra-curricular activities. This is a great way to gain confidence in English language as well as to make new friends. Some examples include:

- English, maths, science, chess and debating competitions enabling everyone to participate
- an extensive camp program for all year levels including outdoor education, G'Day USA trip, world challenge expedition
- an annual school theatrical production, involving the whole school
- Year 12 study skills camp
- homework club and tutoring
- Motivational Mondays, an after-school study group supervised by teachers providing tailored assistance.

Serious about student welfare

At Wheelers Hill Secondary College, we understand that students need to feel supported if they are to achieve their potential.

This is especially important for international students living away from home. The wellbeing of our students is our priority.

We offer support through the expertise of student wellbeing leaders, psychologists, social workers and mentors.

Our teaching and support staff are always caring in their approach. Our multicultural aides and bilingual teachers are also on hand. They help international students quickly adapt and succeed in their new environment. We provide:

- dedicated international student coordinators
- regularly monitored homestay families
- courses and wellbeing counselling
- translated semester reports
- multicultural aides helping students in classes.

Homestay for international students

In Victoria, all 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 your personal use
- three meals a day, seven days a week, including snacks
- facilities – a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- utilities – gas, electricity, heating and water costs, internet
- cleaning services of common living areas
- the use of living areas within the residence
- study facilities – desk, study light, bookcase
- attendance at parent/teacher evenings on behalf of your parents.

When students arrive in Australia, our staff will:

- meet them at the airport and take them directly to their homestay family
- ensure they have access to safe and comfortable homestay accommodation
- ensure their accommodation is close to the school and community facilities
- personally organise and monitor each of our student placements, by closely screening all host families.

This is to ensure our international students receive the highest levels of care.

Homestay families will assist students settling into life in Australia. They help orientate students in the local area, set up a mobile connection for them and open a bank account.

"We have been homestay parents for many years to quite a few international students. We get so much out of being a homestay family because it broadens our understanding of different cultures," Geoff and Tenney, homestay parents.

"We love to see students grow as they gain confidence in doing things that we Australians take for granted. In some cases, we have interacted with the students' parents, and this has always been a positive experience."

Easily accessible location

Wheelers Hill Secondary College is located in the leafy eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Our school provides a safe community environment and is close to well-serviced public transport. Some features of the local area include being:

- close to Monash University and Holmesglen TAFE
- near Melbourne city centre and popular shopping centres. For example, Chadstone Shopping Centre
- a multicultural community and diverse culture. For example, our neighbour suburbs, Springvale and Glen Waverley, have many Asian grocery shops and restaurants
- close to Jells Park, one of the largest natural parklands in Melbourne. You can be sure to see lakes, ducks and birds, as well as walking and biking tracks.



A recent success story

Annie Quach is from Vietnam; she was our 2020 VCE school dux (number one among our VCE students at Wheelers Hill). Annie chose English as an Additional Language (EAL), Specialist Maths, Math Methods, Physics, Accounting and Vietnamese as her VCE subjects and is currently studying Science at Monash University.

"I'm really proud that I received three Principal Awards for (VCE) unit 3. For me, these awards tell me that I'm doing well and give me more motivation to work hard... I am proud that I have tried my best."

Amber Li from China now studies Science at Monash University. Previously Amber studied English, English as an Additional Language (EAL), Physics, Specialist Maths, Maths Methods, Accounting and Chinese (First Language) as well as played in the school band.

"I am honoured to represent the international students, as international student captain. We are lucky to have the company and support from our teachers and friends"

> WE GET SO MUCH OUT OF BEING A HOMESTAY FAMILY BECAUSE IT BROADENS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT CULTURES.



WHEELERS HILL
Secondary College

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Wheelers Hill Secondary College

2-28 Raphael Drive, Wheelers Hill Victoria 3150

International Student Coordinator: Jane Xing

Tel: + 61 3 9561 5811
Email: wheelers.hill.sc@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.whsc.vic.edu.au

VICTORIA
State Government
Australia

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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