BUNDOORA SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Victoria, Australia
Department of Education

Bundoora Secondary College

VICTORIA
State Government
Australia





BSC PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP CREATIVITY, LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Located in Melbourne, Australia, Bundoora Secondary College (BSC) offers a personalised and supportive learning environment where every student is known, valued and encouraged to succeed.

With approximately 535 students, our smaller size allows us to provide individual attention while fostering a strong sense of community and belonging.

BSC is recognised for its innovative approach to education, student wellbeing and academic achievement. Our school has been recognised as a School That Excels in Melbourne's Northern Region and has recently achieved its highest median study score in more than a decade.

Students benefit from a broad range of academic pathways, including high-performing programs in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematical Methods, which provide a strong foundation for future study and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

As one of only 20 schools in Australia selected to participate in the Entrepreneurial Schools Program, BSC provides unique opportunities for students to develop creativity, leadership, innovation and problem-solving skills. Through real-world projects, design thinking and entrepreneurial learning experiences, students learn how to identify opportunities, create solutions and build confidence as future leaders.

Beyond the classroom, students can access specialist programs in Environmental Science, Animal Care, Virtual Reality, Coding, Music, Sport, Drama and Design Technologies, ensuring every learner can pursue their interests and strengths.

At Bundoora Secondary College, we prepare students not only for academic success, but for a rapidly changing global future.

Anesti Anestis
Principal



WHY CHOOSE BUNDOORA SECONDAY COLLEGE?

Each international student is supported by a PAL (Pathways Learning and Wellbeing) Mentor, a dedicated teacher they meet with for around 3 hours per week. The PAL Mentor works closely with students and their families to support academic progress, wellbeing, and subject selection, acting as a key link between home and school.

English Additional Language (EAL) class tutoring and study skills programs are offered onsite. For students requiring more intensive language support, a specialist English Language Centre is located just 4km away.

Our International Student Coordinator (ISC) works in partnership with the Principal Team and PAL Mentor to ensure every student's academic and personal wellbeing is closely supported. The ISC and PAL Mentor are your main contacts for any concerns during your time at BSC, whether related to school, homestay, or personal life.

An academic program that encourages students to excel

At Bundoora Secondary College, we don't just promise personalised learning, we deliver it. We prioritise both academic excellence and vocational success through flexible, individualised pathways. Our vertical curriculum model from Years 8–10 allows students to select from a broad range of subjects, learning alongside peers from different year levels. This ensures engagement at their point of interest and challenge at their point of need.

High-achieving students can accelerate through early access to VCE subjects (as early as Year 8) and the REACH program, which offers extension and enrichment opportunities in science, languages, mathematics, sport, design, and the arts. Through strong partnerships with La Trobe, RMIT, Melbourne Uni, Deakin and Swinburne, REACH also provides early access to university-linked courses and experiences.

Bundoora Secondary College's state-of-the-art Science Centre has specialised spaces for physics and biology investigations and a chemistry lab connected to a dedicated theory classroom. With the integration of virtual reality technology in these spaces, exploring matter like cellular processes becomes more immersive, interactive, and leads to deeper conceptual learning and greater learning outcomes.

In addition to strong VCE academic programs, we offer diverse vocational options through VCE-VM and VET. With innovative teachers and modern learning spaces (new science building, design and manufacturing space and farm), students develop real-world skills in engineering, manufacturing, animal care, food production, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. At BSC, we nurture confident, capable students - whether they're scholars, creators, or innovators.

Sustainability and entrepreneurship

At Bundoora Secondary College, sustainability is at the heart of our learning; woven into design, creativity and real-world problem-solving. Students explore challenges such as sustainable food and fibre production, environmental conservation and innovative product design, developing solutions that create positive impact for both people and the planet.

This work is strengthened through our Entrepreneurship Program and our selection as one of only 20 schools across Australia in the Entrepreneurial Schools Project 2026–2027. Through this national initiative, students build confidence, leadership, creativity and problem-solving skills while taking an active role in authentic learning experiences. Working with mentors, developing prototypes in our makerspace, engaging with community challenges and bringing ideas to life, students learn to think critically, take initiative and contribute meaningfully to their world. The result is a generation of learners equipped with the skills, mindset and adaptability needed to thrive in a rapidly changing future.

A variety of extra-curricular activities

At Bundoora Secondary College, our co-curricular programs enrich student learning, wellbeing, and personal growth. Students can get involved in:

- study support and academic programs
- instrumental music and performance groups
- clubs including writing, multicultural club, STEM, chess and virtual reality
- sports, both social and competitive, including lunchtime and interschool programs
- entrepreneurial opportunities
- dance, drama, and music performances
- leadership opportunities through the student representative council (SRC) and conferences
- camps and excursions.

These experiences help students build confidence, develop skills, and connect with others beyond the classroom.





Serious about student welfare

Being a small school, we offer personalised welfare and wellbeing supports, including:

- International Student Coordinator arrangement and management of homestay accommodation
- detailed homestay profile and school-based information received prior to arrival
- provision of arrival support including airport pick up, welcome pack, family introductions
- on-campus orientation session prior to commencing study and on the first day
- introduction to teachers, support groups, and support in navigating clubs
- monitoring of student visa compliance - particularly in the areas of attendance, course progress, employment and welfare provision
- support 24/7 if required
- direct and timely access to Principal and Principal Team
- PAL Mentor:
    - will see the student several times a week and guide them through wellbeing programs
    - will be a wellbeing and academic mentor
    - will 'know' and support with subject selection and career counselling
- Wellbeing team comprised of highly trained youth workers, school nurse, counsellor and mental health practitioner
- Career Practitioner
- Staff members who will assist students to settle into the college, and who speak Mandarin, Cantonese, German, Italian, Greek, Spanish and English.

The primary goal of the team is to ensure students feel safe, engaged and connected at school.

Homestay for international students

We recognise the importance of ensuring the best possible accommodation and welfare arrangements for international students. Homestay families are selected according to a clear set of criteria and the needs, preferences and expectations of individual students.

Our ISC interviews and visits all of our homestay providers to check how well they can look after an international student. They ensure that everyone in the household over 18 years of age has a Working with Children Check and that the accommodation is comfortable and of a high standard for living, relaxing, doing homework and sharing in family life. The students will receive a homestay profile before their arrival so that students can get to know the homestay family.

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 your 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, bookcase
- attendance at parent/teacher evenings on behalf of student's parents.

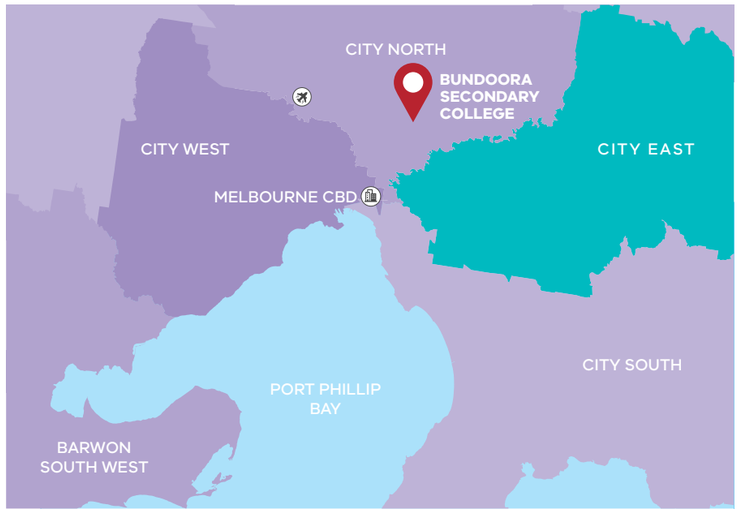
"It has been a privilege to be part of the AGTV-BJR exchange program. We enjoyed sharing our home, state, and culture with our exchange student [Mia], while also learning about their culture. We are thankful for the many experiences we shared with our student, the new friendships formed, and the memories of the experience that we will be able to look back on fondly." – Louis.

Easily accessible location

Bundoora is located with convenient access by train or bus to the Melbourne CBD. Bundoora offers a vibrant blend of nature, education, art, and sport—all within easy reach of the school. The college borders Gresswell Forest, and our school oval is often home to local wildlife like kangaroos and echidnas.

Other features of the area include:

- Parklands, rivers, creeks, and Mount Cooper lookout
- Home to La Trobe and RMIT Universities, major shopping precincts, and local art centres
- Access to top sporting venues including Darebin International Sports Centre and university facilities.



A recent success story

Rheine, an international student from the Philippines, is currently completing Year 12 at Bundoora Secondary College. Alongside her studies in English, Maths Methods, Biology, and Chemistry, she actively participates in various school community activities.

Rheine plans to pursue a degree in Biomedical Science at La Trobe University after graduation.

"One of the primary reasons why BSC is my chosen school was because of the extensive range of subject choices available to students, aligning well with individual interests. This diverse curriculum fosters an environment where students can connect with peers who share similar passion, strengthening relationships and collaboration. Furthermore, the teachers are exceptionally supportive, consistently encouraging me to cultivate my creativity and acknowledging the effort I put in. The school values respect, creating a safe and inclusive environment so everyone feels a sense of belonging and secureness." – Rheine





CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

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