

Introducing Applecross Senior High School

About Applecross

Applecross Senior High School was established in 1958. It is located in the pleasant near-riverside suburb of Ardross. The School has established and sustained a reputation for high academic, sporting and cultural achievements, winning many academic exhibitions, awards and competitions, and is often placed among the highest performing public high schools.

Applecross, Ardross, Booragoon, Brentwood, Mount Pleasant and Winthrop are the contributory primary schools for Applecross Senior High School.

About 70% of our students seek with success to enter a University, and others achieve entry to Technical and Further Education (TAFE) or go directly to employment. Those achieving University entrance frequently do so with higher than the average Australian Tertiary Entry Rank (ATAR), and generally continue to successful completion of their qualifications.

The School celebrates its cultural diversity, with approximately 50% of its student population from non-European backgrounds.

Well known alumni include media personalities Deborah Kennedy and Mara Pritchard, Maritime Museum Director Graeme Henderson, AFL footballer Darren Bennett, and political cartoonist Dean Alston.

Parent involvement is valued and encouraged through the Parents and Citizens Association, canteen, school committees, and the School Board. Active parent groups support the programs in Art, Music and Tennis.

The School has several unique features:

- a long history of academic excellence
- more than 40 years of the highly successful GATE: Visual Arts program
- well qualified, stable staff with a wealth of experience and long-term commitment to the School
- strong relationships with local employers

Features of the Curriculum

Applecross focuses strongly on:

- the individual needs of each student
- students, parents and teachers working together to support the teaching-learning experience
- programs that reflect potential areas for future education, training and employment
- basic skills which are vital to every student's future: literacy, numeracy, information technology skills, critical and creative thinking, ethical behaviour personal and social capability and intercultural understandings.

A full range of subjects covering the eight Learning Areas is offered:

- The Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Science
- Society and Environment
- Technology and Enterprise

Special programs have been developed to cater for the needs of our students. These programs include:

- Academic Extension Program
- English as a Second Language
- GATE: Visual Arts
- Instrumental Music
- Specialist Tennis

Applecross students:

- learn in different and dynamic ways
- use the power of information technology to explore and learn
- participate in real and engaging activities

Curriculum

Applecross Senior High School offers a curriculum that fulfils the requirements of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) and Department of Education by providing learning experiences across eight learning areas. The Australian Curriculum is being implemented as it becomes available. For 2016, English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities will use the Australian Curriculum in Years 7 to 10. Detailed information about the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline can be found on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website: www.scsa.wa.edu.au.

Year 7 and 8

In Years 7 and 8 student courses are structured as follows:

Compulsory studies:

English/English as a Second Language
Mathematics
Science
Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)
Languages (French or Japanese)
Health and Physical Education

Elective studies:

The Arts

Art
Drama
Music

Technologies

Home Economics
Design and Technology
Business Information Technology

Students in Year 7 and 8 are enrolled in courses across eight learning areas from the Western Australian Curriculum.

In Years 7 and 8 students study a rotation of elective courses, as a 'taster' program to provide a broad background across the elective learning areas. GATE Visual Arts, Specialist Tennis and class and Instrumental Music students have slight modifications to the general program to allow time for their specialist program/s.

Most Year 7 and 8 students, with the exception of the Academic Extension classes, follow a common course in English, Mathematics, Science and HASS.

Year 9 and 10

In Year 9 students select their own elective courses, with a requirement that they choose at least one from The Arts and one from the Technologies learning areas. In Year 10, all elective courses are year-long and students can select three from any learning area.

Year 9 and 10 student courses are structured as follows:-

Compulsory Studies:

English/English as Second Language

Mathematics

Science

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Languages (French or Japanese)

Health and Physical Education

Elective Studies

Year 9 students may select four semester length electives. Year 10 students may select three year long courses.

The Arts

Art

Drama

Music

Dance

Photography

Technologies

Home Economics

Design & Technology

Business Information Technology

Health and Physical Education

Outdoor Education

Physical Recreation

Year 11 and 12

Students in Year 11 and 12 enrol in courses that contribute to their Western Australian Certificate of Education. A range of different pathways is possible for students. Details of the courses and pathways offered can be found in the Subject Information Handbooks.

Special Programs

Applecross Senior High School has a long history of excellence in education. Special programs have been developed for students to cater for academic abilities and interests.

Academic Extension Program

The needs of academically talented students are specifically catered for through the Academic Extension Program, which operates in English, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities and Social Sciences in Years 7 to 10.

The Academic Extension Program provides special discrete classes for students who have been selected on the basis of their performance in these subjects. Courses studied are, in many cases, the same as those provided for the most academically able students in mainstream classes, but the Academic Extension students are often required to complete extra courses of study and are offered a variety of learning experiences designed both to develop their skills and competencies while providing challenging and motivating learning experiences.

Within the four Learning Areas that operate Academic Extension classes, there is some variation in the way that students are initially selected. The results of the Applecross Senior High School Academic Extension Tests, together with information from Year 6 & 7 teachers is used when organising Year 7 & 8 students into appropriate pathways for the beginning of the school year.

Competition for places in the Academic Extension Program is always very keen. Whilst academic performance is an important indicator, consideration is also given to teacher recommendation and a demonstrated commitment and motivation to achieve by the student. Generally we review the placement of students in the Academic Extension Program on a semester basis, with highly performing students having the opportunity to move from a general class to an academic extension class. Similarly, students who are not performing at the required level will move to a general class. Our aim is to meet the needs of all students. Class performance is reviewed both throughout and at the end of the year for Year 9 and Year 10 placements.

Students commonly have individual areas of talent and the Academic Extension Program has been designed to cater for this and allow maximum flexibility for students. Selection for each of the Academic Extension classes in a year group is made on an independent basis so that it is possible for some students to participate in just one Academic Extension class while others may be offered places in up to four classes. This has resulted in a wide participation rate amongst students so that typically we have over 100 students placed in at least one Academic Extension class for each of the year groups.

English as a Second Language

Students of Non-English Speaking Backgrounds who have been in Australia for not more than three years and who are experiencing difficulties with their English should enrol in these courses.

Some students who have been here longer may also be accepted into the course if numbers permit.

Gifted and Talented Education: Visual Arts

The Department of Education offers courses for specially selected students with a particular interest in and talent for art. Selection is based on the result of a series of practical activities and is influenced by a folio of work which demonstrates the student's own artwork. Entry to the program takes place for Year 7 students after interviews and testing have been conducted in Year 6. The Department of Education also provides opportunities for students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 (for the following year) to apply for limited places in GATE programs that may become available.

Each year this school receives well over 100 applications for the 30 plus positions available in Year 7. Students enrolled at Year 7 level continue studies through to Year 12.

Students selected for the program attend all normal classes at the school. Artists are employed to provide additional classes in a variety of studio areas on Saturday mornings.

The course is challenging, exciting, time consuming and demanding. A student's full commitment is necessary; however, the long term benefits and rewards are most satisfying. The majority, if not all of the art graduates, gain entry into tertiary courses in art. These are the artists, architects, designers and crafts people of the future.

This program attracts higher compulsory charges.

Instrumental Music

Those students learning an instrument through the Department of Education will be taking Instrumental and Ensemble courses in conjunction with Class Music. Students do not choose Instrumental and Ensemble units directly as they are organised via the Class Music units.

Some students in Year 7 & 8 may be allowed to begin lessons on brass, woodwind, percussion, and voice, if the Department of Education gives its approval.

This program attracts higher compulsory charges.

Specialist Tennis

Specialist Tennis is offered to students at Applecross Senior High School in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, and through Physical Education Studies (Tennis) in Year 11 and 12. In lower school it operates within the elective subject program. Students participating in Specialist Tennis will find that their choice of elective subjects is restricted.

Selected students will complete a course that involves four hours per week of both practical on-court, and theoretical instruction in all aspects of the game.

The Specialist Tennis program offers tournament participation, school representation, interstate travel and competition, lectures and instruction from former touring professionals and accreditation in coaching, umpiring and sports medicine. The program has been formally endorsed by the Department of Education and Tennis West and caters for tournament players.

Students wishing to be considered for the course must pass skills and academic testing standards. Selection trials are conducted in March, June and September, or by appointment should vacancies still exist.

This program attracts higher compulsory charges.

People Who Can Help

Administration

Ms G. Campbell
Deputy Principal

Mr M. Draper
Deputy Principal Yrs 7-9

Mr R. Lilleyman
Deputy Principal Yrs 10-12

Ms J. Casserly
Head of Student Services Yr 7

Ms A. Koios
Head of Student Services Yr 8 – 9

Ms E. Walker
Head of Student Services Yr 10 - 12

Learning Areas

The Arts

Ms J. McBride
Head of Learning Area

Ms L. Rankin
Teacher in Charge – GATE: Visual Arts

Mrs A. Zaknich
Teacher in Charge – Drama

Mr T. Stapleton
Teacher in Charge – Music

English

Ms V. Lake
Head of Learning Area

Mrs C Grosse
Teacher in Charge – English as a Second
Language

Health and Physical Education

Ms J. Lambert
Head of Learning Area

Mr L. Jarvinen
Teacher in Charge – Specialist Tennis

Languages

Ms S. Rose
Head of Learning Area

Mathematics

Mr R. Nesa
Head of Learning Area

Science

Ms H. O'Dwyer
Head of Learning Area

Society and Environment

Mr W. Lloyd
Head of Learning Area

Technology and Enterprise

Mr D. Payton
Head of Learning Area

Mr A. Lewis
Teacher in Charge – Business &
Information Technology and
Career Education

Ms S. Symons
Teacher in Charge – Home
Economics

Student Services

Ms J. Michell
Program Co-ordinator
Years 7 & 8

Mr H. Pope
Program Co-ordinator
Years 9 & 10

Mr A. Coppard
Program Co-ordinator
Years 11 & 12

