



About our School

College Profile

courage & work



mentone girls'
secondary college

OUR VISION

Courage and work

Our students, through courage and work, will develop compassion, independence and tolerance in a dynamic learning environment enabling them to make a fulfilling contribution in local and global communities.

We value

- all girl education
- diversity, respect for others and fostering cultural interaction
 - a safe, caring and supportive learning environment
 - self-confidence, self-discipline, self-respect
 - a stimulating and varied learning experience
 - girls' leadership and student voice
 - promoting excellence



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Where every girl from everywhere experiences success

Mentone Girls' Secondary College is an exemplary government school with a thriving educational community.

We offer a broad range of STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) and have a highly regarded Humanities and Arts program within the school. Our music program is exemplary and the comprehensive sport and aerobics program sees many teams competing at state and national level.

MGSC has a rich tradition of innovation in teaching and learning and strives to ensure that every student achieves their personal best. We value respect, compassion, independence and tolerance. We support students to contribute to local and global communities through our curriculum and co-curricular programs. We promote resilience and value perseverance and hard work.

There is an Enhancement Program for girls who seek a greater academic challenge. Running from Years 7 to 9, students are given the opportunity to learn through higher-order thinking, inquiry and rich tasks as part of an enhanced curriculum in English, Mathematics, Humanities and Science. Rather than accelerating or compacting curriculum, students can work on more complex tasks and will learn topics to a greater depth and breadth.

The music program offers band forms in Year 7 and 8. Students can learn an instrument, participate in a broad range of ensembles and bands and experience the joy of public performances.

With a rich history of educating young women to take their place in a globalised world, our dedicated teachers are always seeking to innovate the curriculum and remain at the forefront of educational theory and practice. We are committed to providing an environment that nurtures the mind, body and spirit.

Our students travel from over 45 post codes to attend our College. As the only government girls' school in the south-eastern suburbs we have an important role to play in the education of young women so that they reach their full potential. The school you choose has the potential to influence how your daughter sees herself now and into the future. The question is, do you want your daughter to challenge cultural norms or merely follow them? Become part of our great tradition that is MGSC so that your daughter can make her mark in this globalised world.

Virtute et Labore



Linda Brown
Principal



Our Curriculum

A strong academic and social education

Students participate in a learning program that equips them with a strong academic and social education while also helping them to develop the skills required to be healthy, flexible thinkers and citizens who contribute to the world.

The school is organised into Junior, Middle and Senior sub-schools in which curriculum, pedagogy and personal learning are driven by the latest research about girls' education with the goal of guiding each student towards their full potential. The College incorporates the individuality of students through inclusive, differentiated methods and practice of teaching that builds student choice into programs to reflect the varying and growing autonomy of the learners.

- Programs that affirm the role of young women in a changing society through access to role models, explicit learning units, curriculum focus, leadership roles and an affirmative culture.
- Data-informed teaching and learning programs to meet learners at their individual point-of-need in subjects, with identification of each learner's abilities in a range of areas, to deliver differentiated learning in an inclusive environment.
- Regular feedback from staff, peers and self to guide learning and develop skills for effective attainment of goals.
- Rigorous and engaging curriculum that applies the Victorian Curriculum standards, the VCE and the MGSC instructional model for best practice and proven current theories on girls' learning, social and developmental needs.
- A learning environment based on respect, responsibility, rights and self-efficacy, made explicit through personal learning programs, classroom culture and school structure.
- Specialised focus on the STEAM subjects to encourage girls' participation and success in these fields.
- Extensive programs in music, sport and arts to foster the development of the whole person.
- A camps program to build relationships and develop an ethos of respect, responsibility and rights.
- Learning in purpose-built environments with authentic learning experiences and specialised technologies.
- Examinations from Year 9 to develop study skills and time management.
- Course and careers counselling programs to connect girls with the world of work and the range and requirements of careers and pathways.



Enhancement Program

Additional academic challenges

The Enhancement Program is designed to engage girls whose need for an academic challenge is greater than the average. It aims to foster the development of a life-long interest in learning that will extend far beyond the VCE.

The program offers extension studies in English, Mathematics, Humanities and Science and focuses on the use of rich tasks and inquiry-based learning. The girls who take part in the program work at greater depth and have many opportunities to pursue their interests within units of study. They take a deeper look at their topics and make more connections between their studies and the world beyond the classroom. They are encouraged to see how their subjects connect to each other instead of thinking of them as isolated.

The program runs from Year 7 to Year 9. Students who have taken part in the Program are able to participate in multiple Unit 1 & 2 subjects in Year 10.

Year 6 students apply for the Enhancement Program and complete testing and an interview process. There are limited places for students to join the program at Year 8 and Year 9 level.

Students share what is special about Enhancement

You get to work with people that enjoy learning and enjoy challenges as much as you.

It's so fun and everyone is challenged and learns new things.

... you make a lot of great friendships.

You don't have to be incredibly smart to be in the Program you just have to want to learn and extend yourself.

There's nothing to be afraid of, try your best, and you will like it. :)



STEAM

Preparing for a changing world

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) is more than content knowledge, it is also the broader skills of critical thinking and problem-solving, digital literacy, creativity and innovation, project management, collaboration and communication, and global citizenship that are required to engage in the future workforce and make a meaningful contribution to the world. It is vitally important to girls' education. Overseas research suggests that 75% of the fastest growing occupations require these skills and knowledge.

Students will be exposed to many unique and challenging learning experiences around STEAM skills and knowledge from Year 7. Projects are based around providing these skills by posing real-world problems and challenging students to work collaboratively using the Design Thinking Process to define a problem, do background research, specify requirements, brainstorm solutions and use new technology and/or hands-on making to solve problems and produce a working solution.

The STEAM Centre. Completion late 2020.



Music

A rich and captivating program

A formal music education is proven to lead to better academic results, improved confidence and self-esteem, and personal growth and social development. Our College is very proud of its rich music program starting with the Band forms in Year 7.

Year 7 and 8 students learning brass, woodwind, percussion or bass can elect to be in a music specialist class where all of their classmates also learn musical instruments. This is a successful program as music students achieve higher results in all subjects when they are surrounded by like-minded students.

Instrumental Music tuition is offered across the full range of orchestral instruments:

Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon and Saxophone

Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Guitar and Bass

Percussion: Drum Kit and Auxiliary Percussion

Voice: Classical and Contemporary

All instrumental music students perform in one of our high performing ensembles.

- Year 7 Band
- Year 8 Band
- Symphonic Band
- Junior String Ensemble
- Senior String Ensemble
- All Star Choir
- Madrigal (Chamber Choir)
- Percussion Ensemble
- Junior Guitar Ensemble
- Senior Guitar Ensemble
- Stage Band
- The Funkadelics

These groups perform at school events, concerts, assemblies, community events and local festivals. They regularly participate in competitions and workshops. A large contingent of student musicians travelled to New Zealand in 2019 to attend the Rhapsody Rotorua Music Festival.



Leadership

Student voice

Leadership experience contributes significantly to a student's preparation for life as they are empowered to assume a positive place in an evolving global and democratic community. We believe that opportunity and skill development is the key to building leadership and enhances personal growth. MGSC provides a wide range of opportunities and encourages students to develop skills in:

- Speaking out, sharing their own ideas and listening to other peoples' concerns and opinions
- Building confidence and assertiveness; learning to take risks
- Decision-making: making things happen; working as a team; meeting new people
- Organisational skills: delegating tasks; managing budgets

Leadership opportunities at MGSC include College Captains, Student Representative Council (SRC), VCE Committee, Middle and Junior School leaders, House Captains and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders among others.

Wellbeing

Nurturing the individual

The College acknowledges that our students' wellbeing and educational outcomes are intrinsically linked. We aim to create a culture where all school members recognise the important role they have in influencing each other's wellbeing. The school community we envision is inclusive, diverse, respectful and supportive: where students have the capacity to develop their individual interests and strengths.

The collaborative student wellbeing group includes the Principal team, Student Wellbeing Coordinators, Psychologist and administrative staff. Wellbeing services range from one-on-one support through to whole school programs as well as accessing external community services. It is essential to acknowledge that student learning and wellbeing team are a vital source of support for your child.

There are events and initiatives throughout the year to raise awareness of, and promote the benefits of, health and personal wellbeing. Our Colour Run is a favourite vibrant and joyful experience.



Transitioning to Year 7

A new school. A new world of learning

Secondary school will be a new experience for Year 7 students. The school will likely be much bigger than their primary school. After being a senior in a small school, they become a beginner in a big school.

From day one, students are supported to become accustomed to many changes, including having a number of different teachers and classrooms. They will be helped to adjust to set class periods on particular subjects which may be of a longer duration than in primary school. They will be assisted in the use of their iPads and notebooks and the management of their time.

Year 7 students can expect to be:

- Based in the Junior Learning Centre (JLC). Their locker and most of their classes will be here. Whilst the girls attend specialty classes in other parts of the school, the JLC enables the girls to feel safe and develop confidence in their own area. Their Student Managers are located in the JLC office.
- Participated in the ALL (Active Links to Learning) program which combines the study of English, Humanities and Personal Learning activities which are designed to help their understanding of themselves as learners, their learning preferences, problem solving skills and their social experiences. Plus studying Mathematics, Science, French or Japanese, Music, Drama, Art, Technology (rotating through Food, Textiles, Wood and Digital Technologies over two years) and PE
- Developing skills to be more independent, self-reliant and self-motivated. Lessons will be more student-centred and teachers will become resources and guides, rather than instructors. Much of their progress will depend on initiative, work and ambition. Their homework commitment will progress to about five hours a week.
- Supported in their transition with a special program to assist with building relationships and confidence. This includes the Year 7 Camp held early in Term 1; the Peer Support program with trained Year 10 leaders acting as mentors; and access to Wellbeing coordinators.
- Immediately able to actively participate in the broad extra and co-curriculum activities programs: House sport carnivals, interschool sports teams, try-out for the Aerobics program or audition for the all-school production.



Junior School

Years 7 and 8

Year 7 and 8 students are located in the Junior Learning Centre.

There is Director of Junior School and two student managers for each year level.

The curriculum covers English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Languages (French or Japanese), Art and Technology, Physical Education and Performing Arts in music and drama. Personal Learning classes are held weekly.

The ALL program runs at Year 7 to improve the transition of students from primary school to secondary school. The integrated program combines the study of English, Humanities and Personal Learning, and is designed to help the girls understand themselves as learners, identify their preferred learning styles, problem solve and expand their social experiences.

The Year 8 students build on their learning from the previous year.

There are interschool sport competitions at Year 7 and Year 8 level, with plenty of ways to represent the school.

The Junior School Captains come from Year 8. Year 7s can nominate to run for Form Captain and the Student Representative Council has members from both year levels.



Middle School

Years 9 and 10

The Middle School recognises the need for community connection, career education, individual pathways and a phased-in Senior School experience.

Their own wing provides a sense of ownership and acts as a base for the girls' learning and support staff. The Director of Middle School, two student managers for each year level and Student Wellbeing Coordinators are based in the Middle School corridor.

Year 9 students are offered choices in their elective blocks, beginning a more individualised learning program. Independence is fostered as learning is more inquiry based and often set in community contexts. Elective subjects are introduced with popular selections in Outdoor Education, Health, and Technology.

Year 10 students are introduced into the world of the Senior School. The Year 10 Curriculum enables students to exercise greater flexibility in their course selections to reflect their growing interests and aptitudes. They can undertake a VCE Unit 1 & 2 and VET studies. There are growing responsibilities and challenges. An extensive Work Experience program runs in Term 2.



Senior School

Years 11 and 12

The Senior School supports independence through the broadest of VCE subject choices. The access to a designated VCE Centre with the Director of Senior School, their students managers, a psychologist and the careers advisor based in the same area. Students make use of the bright, open quiet study space before, during and after school.

Connections to careers, tertiary education providers and personal development are established through guest speakers and special programs.

There is a broad selection of VCE subjects including five science subjects.

Subject selection

English - English, English Language, Literature, English as an Additional Language

Mathematics - General Mathematics, Specialist Mathematics, Mathematics Methods, Further Mathematics

Science - Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Psychology

Visual Arts - Art, Media, Visual Communication Design

Performing Arts - Dance, Music Performance, Theatre Studies

Technology - Food Studies, Product Design and Technology,

Health & PE - Health and Human Development, Outdoor & Environmental Studies, Physical Education

Humanities - Accounting, Business Management, History, Legal Studies, Sociology

Languages - French and Japanese

VET (Vocational Education & Training) - MGSC students can access a broad range of VET subjects offered at closeby institutions including Hospitality, Beauty Services and Early Childhood Education & Care. The full array of VET courses available are part of the VCE curriculum handbook.

The Year 12 students milestone year is marked by special events recognising their final year with us. A two-day study camp, school formal and valedictory dinner. The senior leadership positions of College Captain and SRC President.



International Students

Welcomed from everywhere

Mentone Girls' Secondary College welcomes international students and values what they bring to our school community.

Local students are exposed to cultures and traditions from around the world. In turn they are able to share uniquely Australian experiences. Building understanding and enveloping an international perspective prepares our students for a changing world and a future beyond secondary school. To promote cultural diversity, understanding and harmony special events and activities are run throughout the year.

We provide our international students with an array of opportunities to explore new terrain in their education and in the local and school community. The program continues to expand and embrace diversity within our school community.

Our staff provide students with high-quality academic English teaching and access to a wealth of teaching content. Physical education classes, elective courses, and diversified teaching methods such as short-distance travel programs help new students learn about the local culture. It also helps to incorporate English and their newly learnt cultural experiences into their daily lives.

The program, its students and our culturally diverse local student community has fostered the much-loved Harmony and Cultural Diversity Week celebrations. Discovering festivals, festivities and food from around the world has developed into a joyous calendar of events, embraced by students and staff.



Co-curriculum

Beyond the classroom

Students are encouraged and supported to join programs, events and experiences that take them beyond the classroom and the school day. Our diverse and dynamic school body can support many interests and most team sports. Over their six years at MGSC our students will have many opportunities to take part in pursuits that meet their passions, skills and interests.

Aerobics - a large and expanding program enjoying success at National level

Interschool sport - our teams regularly reach state level

House carnivals - swimming, athletics, cross country and performance competitions

School production - all-school musical every two years

Year level camps - from adventure to interstate touring experiences

Outdoor education - over night hikes and camps

Science - support to attend unique events like the annual National Youth Science Forum

NASA Space Camp - with The Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia

Language tour - exchange program with our Japanese sister school and tours to France



Facilities

Resources for learning

The College buildings and facilities are always being developed to respond to the educational needs of girls in a changing world.

- Six hectare site of well-maintained buildings and gardens close to Frankston train line
- STEAM Centre (completed by 2021) with visual arts, technology, science and media rooms
- Six science labs; two multi-stationed food technology spaces
- Performing arts centre with tutorial and rehearsal rooms, flexible performance spaces and a dance studio and 180-seat lecture theatre
- Junior Learning Centre for Years 7 and 8
- VCE Centre for Year 11 and 12 students used for study and personal learning
- International students' common room
- Bright, spacious library open before and after school
- Gymnasium able to accommodate two basketball courts or six volleyball courts; two outdoor synthetic surface courts
- Synthetic running track with irrigated grass oval



Enrolment

Enquiries welcome

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition

Through DET and primary schools in May each year

Enhancement Program

enhancement@mgsc.vic.edu.au

International Student Program

internationalprogram@mgsc.vic.edu.au

General Enrolment Enquiries

mentone.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au

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or website for Enquiry Form

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