

Asquith Boys High School is a comprehensive community high school which attracts students from a wide area. The school strives for excellence in academic, welfare, creative arts, student leadership and sporting achievement for all boys.

We aim to develop creative, adaptable and resourceful young men with a sense of purpose.

We want them to be able to build upon the many opportunities offered through their learning environment to become happy, successful and contributing members of the community.

The school caters to the particular needs of our boys and seeks to locate areas of excellence for them. We find and nurture talents, developing vocational pathways and the all important sense of purpose that is needed to make learning relevant to the boys.

The school's structure is innovative and flexible in its support of students. It seeks to offer a diverse range of opportunities, areas of study and innovative programs, based on best teaching practice.

Our staff are well qualified, experienced and dedicated. They are committed to providing the best educational opportunities for the boys and providing them with a learning environment which is active and motivating, objective-focused and free of unnecessary distractions.

Staff, students, parents and friends are all part of the learning community at this school. We constantly seek to improve what we do for our boys, and to celebrate and share their achievements.

Asquith has a range of productive links with parents and community, from the very active School Council and P&C to an Old Boys Club. There is a program of high achieving ex-students who participate as mentoring speakers at formal assemblies. The school year includes barbeques, displays, musical, drama and visual arts presentations, as well as regular opportunities to communicate with staff and students. The students participate in workshops, events and displays at times combining with local primary schools and Asquith Girls High School.

Our students develop many interests which add extra dimensions to school life and life beyond school. They are encouraged to be active participants in competitions across all subject areas in wider educational and local communities, building a culture of success. They participate in club activities and community events such as youth events, Anzac Day and Education Week.



ABHS

ASQUITH BOYS

HIGH SCHOOL



Throughout their high school lives, catering specifically to the needs of our boys, in terms of the ways they learn best, motivation, welfare, leadership opportunities, developing areas of talent and excellence, self esteem, community spirit, vocational development and fostering a sense of purpose.

Creating fine young men of which we can be proud.

EDUCATING BOYS IS DIFFERENT

While there are differing views about the preferred education system, a great deal of current research supports the effectiveness of a single-sex learning environment for most boys. Evidence shows achievement of better academic outcomes in an environment which suits their learning styles, encourages them to be motivated participants and develops their sense of direction.

This means that topics and methods of study are specifically targeted toward the interests of boys, in a 'boys only' learning environment. In this setting they often learn best, in more competitive and experimental ways, discovering what they need to learn for themselves. Boys process and store information when their bodies are moving and busy, so learning experiences at Asquith Boys are made as active as possible. Boys succeed by building a culture of success. The absence of girls to dominate both leadership roles and academically, helps our boys to step up to the challenges and involve themselves in their school life as well as minimising social distractions.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Across the curriculum our teachers employ a range of methods to identify and extend our gifted and talented students such as: pre-testing, higher order thinking and open-ended questioning tasks, as well as independent contract extension tasks.

Special strategies have also been introduced in our Gifted and Talented Program. For the past two years an academic enrichment class has been created to extend an eligible group of Year 7 students across all subjects.

In 2007, for the first time, Year 7 and 8 students have been tested and interviewed and reported on by teachers, to compete for places in a dedicated Gifted and Talented class on Monday afternoons.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Asquith Boys High School provides exceptional opportunities for young men to develop leadership skills within and outside the school environment. Being a single-sex school, positions that tend to be dominated by girls in a coeducational school, are highly sought after. Students learn to work as team members in a range of areas including social justice, decision making and representation via the Student Representative Council and other activities.



Participation in the prefect body provides students with valuable experiences in managing teams and events, conflict resolution, running effective meetings, chairing formal assemblies, public speaking and liaising with other organisations in the wider community. Related opportunities exist in Peer Reading, Peer Mediation, Transport Prefects and House Captains, and through debating and mock trials. The boys are encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, to achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and, in doing so, develop personal responsibility, community spirit and self esteem.

Links to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Red Cross Blood Service provide further opportunities to form links with the greater community with visits, fundraising and blood donation (for interested students over 16 years of age).

EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE ARTS

The Creative Arts curriculum offers opportunities for physical, visual and aural problem solving and self expression, building self esteem and confidence. Consistently outstanding results have been achieved by HSC Visual Arts students. Visual Arts Scholarships are offered to eligible Year 9 and 11 students. The Annual Visual Arts Exhibition showcases excellent works from all students, as well as developing teamwork and students' real world understanding of how to create an exhibition (which is part of the syllabus).

Musically, Asquith offers development to musicians of many genres, instruments, levels of skill and development. Again a scholarship program offers places to talented musicians entering Years 7, 9 and 11. The Stage Band offers formal performance development in a highly regarded jazz-focused band that is regularly invited to perform at school and in wider community events, sometimes in conjunction with Asquith Girls. The school has a number of rock bands, run by the students themselves with staff support. Variety Night evenings occur at least annually, showcasing excellent performances to community audiences using professional methods, support and equipment. In 2007, the Music Tutorial Program was piloted to offer individual instrumental tutoring by fully trained and practicing musicians.



TAS Major Projects 2006



Drama is taught in conjunction with participation in live performances, encouraging the boys to develop performing skills, confidence and self esteem. Asquith has a long history of producing outstanding drama productions in conjunction with Asquith Girls and supported by a professional director who is also a former Asquith student. Our boys performing abilities are well regarded in the wider community.

COMPETITIVE SPORT PROGRAM

Sport is structured and varied, allowing the boys to change activities regularly. Asquith Boys belongs to a strong sporting zone and is one of few schools offering Grade Sporting teams to its students. Inter-school sporting events are very popular and highly competitive. The majority of the boys enthusiastically participate in both grade competition and Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals.

Overseas soccer tours have been arranged annually. The 2007 tour was to Thailand. Asquith Boys has nurtured numerous outstanding sportsmen in soccer, water polo, swimming, athletics, rugby union and lawn bowls.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY

The Technological and Applied Studies faculty offers courses exploring design, construction and the ways things work. For example, courses in Industrial Technology Auto, Art Metalwork and Year 8 Rocketry allow students to indulge their fascination with the mechanics and develop innovative ideas. Senior projects are showcased in an exhibition that coincides with the Visual Arts Exhibition in August/September each year.

Computer Studies in all years is well supported with four dedicated Technology Centres and faculty managed Computer Laboratories. Asquith Boys is part of the Department of Education and Training's Intranet, and ICT training is embedded across the curriculum with particular focus for Year 8. Elective courses are offered to students in Years 9, 10 and 11.



We believe that boys need to be equally comfortable auditioning for a major role in a musical performance as they are trying out for a sporting team or leading their peers.





PROVIDING PATHWAYS

Asquith Boys High School encourages students to take advantage of links and pathways available between school, TAFE, University and work. The boys are encouraged to take up opportunities which develop their sense of purpose and direction and engage in experiences that prepare them for their future careers.

The Barista Boys' Café provides a vocational opportunity for interested students to gain an understanding of the hospitality industry. They serve great coffees and other hot specialties each week.

All students are encouraged to explore Work Experience and can extend to TAFE courses that place them well ahead for promising careers.

WELFARE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Our students are nurtured throughout their high school careers.

Our welfare management system is built around the principles of Restorative Justice, developing empathy and a sense of personal responsibility.

Trained Peer Mediators assist fellow students to resolve conflicts.

Small Year 7 classes and trained Peer Support Leaders assist with transition into high school. The innovative 'Rock and Water' program builds resilience and personal strength and addresses possible issues of self esteem in Years 8 to 9.

INNOVATIONS & RESOURCES

We enjoy a reputation for educational and organisational excellence and innovation to offer the greatest advantages to our boys with:

- Longer learning times and vertical semesterised electives, for Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10),
- The most up to date reporting system,
- Computer monitoring of attendance supported by automatic communication to parents,
- Flexible study patterns, including an extensive range of VET (Vocational Educational Training) for senior students,
- Programs that apply educational research to improving motivation, participation and effective study habits with "Habits of Mind" and the pioneering Year 7 "Personal Interest Project" launched in 2006.

A well equipped library provides research and study resources, audio-visual facilities and broadband internet. Specialist learning spaces cater for Computer Studies, Photography, Music, Visual Arts, Design and Industrial Technology. There are extensive sporting facilities including tennis and basketball courts, a large sports oval, cricket practise nets and a new gym.

The school hall provides professional facilities, one of the best performance venues in Hornsby, and is extensively used by the school and wider community.

OUR STANDARDS

High standards are expected of our students across all aspects of their school life.

They are expected to maintain a high commitment to learning and excellence and to wear the correct school uniform.

Our boys conduct themselves in the community with a high level of courtesy and respect for others. High standards of expectation and personal responsibility are applied to classroom and playground behaviours.

All our students are held responsible for their actions, through a discipline system that assists them to modify their behaviour and attitude, with a minimum of disruption to the learning of others.

OUR MISSION

To combine a strong tradition of student achievement with a wide range of opportunities for students in learning and leadership through:

- Caring atmosphere,
- Emphasising the basics in terms of values, standards and skills,
- Flexible curriculum,
- Strong and supportive discipline structure,
- Community links,
- Valuing individual excellence and effort.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The choice of school is important. To find out more about our school, and the exceptional learning opportunities for boys, we suggest you:

- Attend our Open Night in March,
- Peruse our school newsletter and the Old Boys Club newsletter,
- Investigate the school website at www.abhs.nsw.edu.au,
- Examine our Annual School Report and stated goals each year,
- Attend a Musical Variety Night, Art Exhibition and/or Drama Production,
- Make an appointment to visit during a school day,
- Enrol your son to attend our 'High School Experience Day' held in Term 4 each year.

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