



PARA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

raising aspirations, inspiring excellence



Premier's Excellence
Award
2024



Public Education
Award
2023



ACEL Leadership
Award
2023



Public Education
Award
2022



Smith Foundation
Peace Award
2020

Principal's welcome



There are extraordinary things that happen in our small community: our special interest programs allow those interested in the digital technologies or the arts to learn industry-level skills, above and beyond what the normal curriculum covers, in state-of-the-art facilities; our international program allows our students to access scholarships to travel and study abroad and also interact with international students studying at the school from across the globe. We offer a wide range of co- and extra-curricular opportunities because we want every child to find their 'niche' and we try to make sure everyone feels that they belong.

As a leader, I aim to ensure that everything we do at the school would withstand the test of 'would I want my own child to experience this in this way'. I am grateful for your choice in entrusting us with your young people and I will endeavour to ensure they have a positive and engaging experience of education that will set them up for life.

We are proud that our school is the recipient of multiple awards for excellence in educational outcomes, and we all make sure the school goes from strength to strength.

We have high hopes and expectations for and of our students and we support them well in achieving their dreams, often enabling them to achieve or exceed what they thought was possible.

I would love to show you around and recommend a visit during school hours so you can sample what your child's educational experience might look like.

Alina Page

School Captains

A message from the school captains

On behalf of the students at Para Hills High School, welcome.

We love our school and what it offers. We are the Captains of a Student Leadership Team made up of 12 other student leaders. Together, we make sure student life is vibrant and exciting, with lots of events and opportunities to extend our learning.

Some of us have moved here from other high schools and have found Para Hills High to be the home away from home, a place where teachers will go above and beyond to help you and do this with a smile on their faces.



Chelsea Bell



Connor Tilley

We know that whatever our dreams we are well supported here. Our teachers have high expectations and don't ever give up on us, and also teach us how to carry ourselves in the world – how to be prepared to manage adult life after school and be successful in whatever we want to do.

We are proud to represent our school and would love to show you around – we often lead tours for prospective parents, and can answer all your questions about student life at Para Hills High School.

We can't wait to meet you.

Special interest pathways

Unlocking Potential (UP) Available to students in years 7 to 10

Our UP program is designed for students who are passionate about emerging technologies and want to extend their skills in anything from robotics to 3D printing to Virtual Reality, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence. Students will develop skills such as problem-solving and critical and creative thinking, through exploring how emerging technology can be applied to solve real-world issues. The program has opportunities to be partially delivered off-site at venues like UniSA or Lot14 and students will participate in industry immersion experiences to explore future careers and pathways.



Both programs **UP** and **PHHS Arts Company** are available to students through an application process. A limited number of places are available for students within and out of zone. Details of the application process are available on our school website.



Para Hills Performing Arts Company Available to students in years 7 to 11

The Para Hills Performing Arts Company provides an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the diverse and vibrant world of the performing arts. In the program, students will collaborate across year levels to make productions from start to finish. They will have the opportunity to undertake different roles, ranging from off-stage production elements to performance, developing relevant skills and knowledge for performing arts pathways.

The program will see students work closely with the local community and integrate hands on engagement with contemporary practitioners and industry professionals, giving them a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities that the performing arts world has to offer.

Curriculum

Years 7 to 9

What your child will learn at
Para Hills High School
Middle years



As the entry point into high school, years 7-9 (middle school) provide an opportunity to try as many subjects as possible so that students can make informed choices in later years.

In year 7 students study all subjects as a care group. The Arts and Technologies subjects rotate every term to allow students to try as many as possible. Most year 7 and 8 students are taught by their care group teacher for at least 1 subject, helping them to build connections.

From year 8, students start increasing the number of electives which are taught in interest-based groups, rather than care-groups.

A flavour of middle-school experiences, in addition to the standard curriculum include:

- Year 7 camp
- Robotics, technology and Lego clubs
- Choir and dance clubs
- SAASTA Connect
- Literacy and numeracy focus groups to cement basic skills
- Instrumental music tuition (scholarships

available)

- School band
- Write a book in a day competition
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Inter-school sports carnival and competitions
- Mathematics and Science Olympics
- Student Voice and Student Leadership program
- Homework club

Languages

- Japanese as a compulsory language in years 7 and 8, with the opportunity for further study of Japanese in years 9 -12
- An Aboriginal language (Ngarrindgerri or Kaurna) as an optional language for Aboriginal students in years 8 -12

Curriculum

Years 10 to 12

What your child will learn at
Para Hills High School
Senior years

Senior school students can expect to complete the necessary requirements to receive the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) by the end of the year 12. A wide range of Stage 1 and Stage 2 subjects are available from which students can select course pathways which lead to tertiary studies, apprenticeships, traineeships or employment. A large proportion of our students gain 30 SACE credits by the end of year 10.

Through our local and broader school networks, students at PHHS can also access over 50 vocational qualifications in a range of industries, as well as school-based apprenticeships.

Our students achieve exceptionally well in their studies, as our course counselling process is designed to ensure every child can achieve their best in their desired pathway. Over 70% of our students' grades are A or B grades in their SACE, and 100% complete their SACE.

SACE is made up of

- a range of compulsory subjects, delivered in years 10 and 11: English, Maths, Exploring Identities and Futures (EIF) and Activating Identities and Futures (AIF).
- a range of subjects that are the students' choice. These can be vocational subjects or academic subjects. Our students elect predominantly academic subjects, and we are proud to offer a full complement for students to choose from, including Physics, Specialist Mathematics, Society and Culture, as well as subjects like Community Connections or Integrated Learning across multiple subject areas.



Extra Curricular

Extra and co-curricular choices and awards



Extra and co-curricular

- Artists in residence (Performing Arts and Creative Arts)
- Intra- and inter- school sports
- Maths and Science Olympics
- STEM Projects
- Subs in Schools (design and build a sub)
- Unity and CISCO academy courses (Cybersecurity, hackathons, etc)
- Augmented and Virtual Reality clubs (coding and experiential)
- Homework club
- Performing Arts clubs (choir, dance, vocal training)
- After school sport opportunities

International education

Para Hills is the proud host of a growing number of international students and study tours. Students come from across the globe to access our world class educational programs for either short visits (1-8 weeks), or long term studies leading to accreditation and University entry (1-2 years).

Students at Para Hills High School have the opportunity to attend a yearly international trip to Japan, as part of our sister school exchange. Scholarships are available through an application process for students who demonstrate high

commitment to their studies. This is a highly successful and sought after opportunity.

A range of highly coveted school and community based awards are available termly or yearly.

Community based awards

- ADF Long Tan Innovators and Leadership
- Ampol Allrounder
- Zonta
- Florey Outstanding STEM
- Excellence in STEM
- Makin Humanitarian
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Rotary Youth Development
- Liebherr Aboriginal Stars
- SA Refugee Art Prize
- City of Salisbury Art Exhibition

School based awards

- Aboriginal Student Achievement
- Outstanding Academic Achievements SACE
- Outstanding Academic Achievements Modified SACE
- Contribution to the Arts
- Spirit of ANZAC
- Inspiration and Humanitarian
- Student Success story from Y7-12
- Excellence in VET

Wellbeing for learning

At Para Hills High School, we believe looking after students' social, cognitive, emotional and physical health is key to successful development.

Student Wellbeing

To cater to these needs, the school has a dedicated Wellbeing Hub and flexible learning space which students can access during school hours. Coordinated by our Student Wellbeing Leader, the hub houses the school's counsellor, case managers, and engages a range of allied health professionals (psychologist, social worker, family therapist) who work collaboratively with students in need and their families.

Aboriginal Education

SAASTA Connect is a curriculum program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 8 and 9 providing a pathway for entry into the SAASTA program in senior years. The program incorporates learning on and about country, as well as, promoting engagement with Elders and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, ensuring students engage in culturally appropriate and inclusive learning.

SAASTA - The South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA) offers young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 10 - 12 a range of highly engaging learning and personal development opportunities.



ARTWORK BY PHHS STUDENT NATHAN KRAKOUER

STARS

We are proud to be the first school in South Australia to partner with the STARS Foundation since 2022.

The Stars Foundation has been offering fulltime in-school mentoring programs for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls. The mission of Stars Foundation is to support and enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women to make active choices towards realising their full potential in all aspects of the development and wellbeing.

Student life

Uniform

We have high standards of uniform and expect that students wear it with pride to and from school, as well as whilst at school. The Governing Council approves and reviews the uniform at the school.



Technology

Laptops are now as commonplace as notebooks once used to be, and at Para Hills we expect our students to develop their ability to use technology responsibly.

Specifications for laptops are provided at enrolment time, and if you require assistance our social justice program provides support those who need it with access to technology and internet. Whilst every student has a laptop, exercise books are still the main form of recording classwork, and we expect our students to be able to present these at parent/teacher and subject selection events.

Student Voice - helping our young generation make a difference

At Para Hills High School, we encourage our student leaders to:

- represent the views and opinions of the student body in an unbiased manner
- be role models within the school community
- encourage and drive innovations in the way learning activities are implemented at Para Hills High School
- foster student wellbeing and academic achievement through positive interventions
- facilitate effective communication between students, staff and the wider school community on issues that affect the student body
- be a conduit for school policy improvement and change
- provide leadership and direction to progress the long-term needs of the student body
- fostering a safe and inclusive school

Inclusion Hub

Enrolment in the Inclusion Hub is done through a statewide placement process. For more information, please contact the Department of Education's Para Hills Office on (08) 8314 400.



Enrolling your young person in the Inclusion Hub is completed through the local Education Office in term 1, when your young person is in year 6.

A transition program is then initiated in terms 3 and 4 of the year to prepare them for the following year. The Inclusion Hub is hosted in a self-contained area with 6 specially designed classrooms connected to the mainstream school, with a cohort of approximately 50 students. Two of the classes provide a special class curriculum and support students through a modified curriculum with smaller class sizes and additional support.

Students in the Inclusion Hub are grouped developmentally as far as practicable. Inclusion Hub students access specialist learning areas such as Performing Arts, Technology, PE and Home Economics alongside their mainstream peers. Recess and lunch times are times when the mainstream and Inclusion Hub students share social time.

Teachers from across our site work hand-in-hand to provide enriched learning programs to students with additional needs. Inclusion Hub students take part in co-curricular activities aimed at developing independence and life skills.

Curriculum

The Inclusion Hub achieves success by delivering a creative, innovative and dynamic curriculum that focuses on students' abilities, interests and post-school goals. We cater for students from year 7 to year 12 with a modified Australian Curriculum through years 7, 8 and 9, focussing on general capabilities and life skills. Students begin Modified SACE in year 10 and continues throughout years 11 and 12 .

Our curriculum is underpinned by each student's individual SMARTAR Goals which are reviewed each term. In addition to the academic curriculum, students develop skills in:

- transport training
- social skills
- life skills
- executive functioning
- community awareness (safety and access)
- enterprise skills
- post-school planning

Our City-Based Discovery program allows the students to develop skills in an authentic context.

We treat others with kindness and respect



We look after our environment and each other



We try our best and we do our work on time

CONTACT US

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