William Ross State High School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for all students with particular reference to our Junior Secondary, this approach clearly reflects the needs and intent of all Year 7, 8 & 9 students. Here we provide students with the opportunity to engage in quality learning experiences across a breadth of curriculum and acquire values supportive of their lifelong wellbeing.

Our Junior Secondary is hallmark by quality teaching and learning undertaken through a seamless transition between Primary and Secondary education. Our goal is to establish the foundation for future learning and success within the students' secondary years of education. Those critical years that formulate their future aspirations and career pathways. We have a deliberate and focused philosophy that recognises the individual and targets the learning styles and capacity of each and every student so they can achieve maximum potential and their own goals in life.

REAL OPPORTUNITIES
REAL OUTCOMES
REAL FUTURES

DISTINCT IDENTITY: William Ross State High School students are supported through the recognition of individual potential, a proactive school community and a commitment to success from our teaching and support staff and our students.

- Newly constructed and clearly defined Junior Precinct.
- New and specifically designed furniture and teaching resources.
- Digital learning resources for Year 7, 8 and 9 students.
- Designated undercover eating areas exclusively for our Year 7 and 8 students.
- Core teachers assigned across two or more curriculum areas decreasing the number of teachers for our Junior Secondary students (Years 7, 8 and 9).
- Year Level Co-ordinators assigned to each cohort to support attendance and student wellbeing.
- Roll marking and curriculum (KLA’s) classes are in class Pods scheduled within the Year 7 Precinct.
- Embedded Wellbeing program across all areas of learning.
- Orientation program from the start of 2015 to provide opportunities for our students to transition smoothly and develop relationships with peers, teachers and senior mentors.
- Scholarships available for Year 7 and 8 students.
- Programs of Excellence for enrichment and extension.
- Extensive transition program with primary partner schools (Information Evenings, KLA School Visits, Avatar Lessons, Study Skills Sessions, Open Day and Student Transition Days).
- Virtual Transition Program (Virtual Tour, Quizzes and Games).

QUALITY TEACHING: The learning and achievement of Junior Secondary students is supported by an intentional shift of practice towards explicit instruction, a common language of approach and a focus on curriculum rigor to improve student achievement.

- Teachers use the Art and Science of Teaching as the teaching and learning framework utilising a common language and consistent quality practices, supported by extensive educational research.
- Full scope and delivery of Secondary Curriculum subjects.
- Digital resources utilised by teachers and students to promote interactive learning.
- Specialist teachers for the Languages (Japanese and Chinese), Instrumental Music, Art, Information Technology and Industrial Technology.
- Specialist Support Teachers for Literacy and Numeracy.
- Extension and enrichment programs for students enrolled in the Programs of Excellence.
- Opportunities for the development of cross-curricular integrated projects in flexible learning spaces.
- Access to specialist science laboratories, computer laboratories, music and industrial workshops, dance and instrumental practice rooms, gym, kitchens and creative arts spaces.
- Teacher Transition Program to ensure close working relationships with our primary partners schools to ensure curriculum continuity for students.

LEADERSHIP: Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for Junior Secondary students. A Junior Secondary Deputy Principal appointed to lead and support our progressive Junior Secondary School.

- Year 7, 8 and 9 leadership opportunities: Junior Student Representative Council, Sports House Leaders, Music Leaders, Faculty Ambassadors.
- Appointment of our Year Level Co-ordinators for all Junior Secondary cohorts (Year 7, 8 and 9).
- Teacher leadership is also being fostered through collaboration by teachers in class pods with the development of the best approaches to teaching and learning and a focus on improving student outcomes in Junior Secondary.

STUDENT WELLBEING: Students remain the focus of our school. Student success includes supporting the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of the child. Our Student Wellbeing program (The Learning Curve) promotes and supports social and emotional skills, resilience, learning capacity and core school values – Learning, Respect, Commitment and Success. The weekly focus is embedded within every lesson, every day and across all curriculum areas. Supported and directly aligned with the Junior Secondary student diaries.

- Student wellbeing will be achieved by: shared curriculum opportunities, community information events, visits to Year 6, 7 and 8 classrooms, Meet and Greet evenings, Transition Days prior to entering high school, Open Day and Avatar Lessons and Parent-Teacher Interviews.
• Student support includes: Year Level Co-ordinators, Core Teachers across curriculum areas, Vertical Mentoring Program – year 12 students supporting our year 7, 8 and 9 students with academic, resilience and career development, Student Support Services (Junior Secondary Deputy Principal, Head of Teaching and Learning, Year Level Co-ordinators, Guidance Officer, Behaviour Support Teacher, Youth Support Worker, Community Education Councillor, Defence Liaison Officer, Chaplain and School Nurse).

• Junior Secondary Updates, newsletters, website updates, emails and the Junior Secondary App available for download.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Parent and community involvement remains essential and important to support the success of our Junior Secondary students. This involvement continues to build positive and productive relationships between home and school.

• Junior Secondary Meet and Greet
• Junior Secondary Open Day (parents and students in Year 7 and 8)
• Junior Secondary Avatar lessons (practical classes for our 2015 Year 7 students)
• Study Skills sessions for parents.
• Teacher Exchange program.
• Curriculum Transition workshops and visits with all partner primary schools.
• Year 6-7 Information Evening
• Year 8-9 Information Evening
• Year 9-10 Information Evening
• Transition Survey ‘Share Your Thoughts’ for parents and carers.
• Virtual Transition Program
• Transition Blog (discussion board for parents, carers and community input)
• Meet and Greet with Student Council.
• Junior Secondary App.

LOCAL DECISION MAKING: A strong reciprocal partnership helps drive the purpose and direction of our Junior Secondary school. There is a range of opportunities for parents and community to be directly and actively involved in this continuing educational growth.

• Parents and Citizens’ Association
• Junior and Senior Student School Council
• Study Skills Sessions
• Junior Secondary Blog – Junior Secondary Discussion Forum and Reference Group
• Regular cluster meetings with the primary principals will ensure that the curriculum structure is developed in consultation with the partner primary schools and in response to feedback from local communities.
• Build on existing primary-secondary experiences through the delivery of the Languages, Instrumental Music, Science, English, Mathematics, Humanities and Health and Physical Education programs.

JUNIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM MODEL:

In 2015 all Junior Secondary students in Years 7, 8 and 9 enrolled at William Ross State High School will be provided with a depth and breadth of curriculum that reflects the expectations of the Australian National ACARA curriculum. Students will undertake the Core Areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities (History, Geography, Civics and Economics) and the Languages (Chinese or Japanese) along with studies in Arts, Information Technology, Industrial Technology, Health and Physical Education to provide students with experience and a comprehensive understanding of the ‘specialist’ subjects in secondary education.

To assist students and reduce the stress of secondary education:

- Students will be assigned a “core teacher” within their curriculum areas who will assist and support students.

- This teacher will be their Roll Marking teacher and teach across two or more curriculum areas (i.e.: Maths/Science, English/Humanities).

- Each class pod will be identifiable, consistent and transferable through the student’s Junior Secondary schooling (i.e.: Year 7 into 8 into 9).

- This consistent structure supports a strong and consistent relationship between teacher and student by reducing the number of teachers students need to get to know.

- Core feature includes our Year Level Co-ordinators and faculty structures which promote cross faculty connections where teachers meet and discuss support and differentiation strategies for the students within the class pods.

- Class pods and assigned core teachers results in a greater, more detailed understanding of the academic strengths, progress and target areas for growth for each individual student.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

If you have specific questions you can contact our
Deputy Principal of Junior Secondary
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or visit our school website
www.willrosshs.eq.edu.au
or email
admin@willrosshs.eq.edu.au