WELCOME TO BELCONNEN HIGH SCHOOL

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

Principal's Message

Belconnen High School prepares our Year 7 to 10 students for the 21st Century by focusing on the skills of Resilience, Critical and Creative Thinking, Self-Awareness and Communication. Our modern building provides flexible learning spaces that establish our strong culture of learning.

We are a school that is proudly connected to the local community. The well-established links to our local primary schools and senior college ensure an academic pathway from pre-school to Year 12. This connection extends to our parents and the wider community, who are actively involved in working with us on important issues. Our dedicated staff maintain high expectations for student learning through a traditional comprehensive curriculum, successful enrichment and learning support programs. Programs are tailored to meet student needs where teachers challenge students to achieve their best.

Most importantly our students are proud of their school and want to learn. They show their pride each day as they wear their uniform and through the standard of work produced and displayed.

Rebecca Pearce
Principal

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VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

Vision

We are an innovative learning community that empowers all to achieve excellence.

Mission

With high expectations and a culture of success, we collaboratively develop and deliver rigorous and relevant learning. We nurture a safe and supportive environment to develop courageous life-long learners.

Values

Strength, Knowledge and Integrity

SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATION

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

School Phone Number	6142 1690
School E-Mail	info_blch@ed.act.edu.au
School Website	www.blch.act.edu.au
School Newsletter	Emailed twice a term
Student Reports	Each term
Parent Teacher Interviews	Term 1 and 3
Parent Information Evenings	As advertised
P&C Meetings & Forums	Each term
School Board Meetings	Each term
SMS messaging of student absence	Daily
Student Announcements	Daily

ENROLMENT

Enrolment is through an online form available through the ACT Education Directorate website www.education.act.gov.au.

The Education Directorate enrolment policy can also be accessed through the above website.

EDUCATION FACILITIES

Belconnen High School

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Flexible learning spaces

Hospitality Trade Skills Centre including Café and Hospitality Commercial Kitchen

Building and Construction Trade Skills Centre

Open Learning Common

Modern gymnasium with change rooms

Science laboratories

Art areas

Applied Technology areas

Graphics and Digital Photography laboratories

Music/Band suite

Performing Art studio

Learning Support hub

Assembly Hall

Canteen

Artificial turf futsal field

CHROMEBOOKS

Belconnen High School

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ACT Education and Belconnen High School have committed to embedding the use of personal mobile devices at school with Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). As we prepare students for life in the 21st Century we must equip them with the skills in our everyday lives.

This will:

- Prepare students for college and life.
- Support a personalised, student-centred approach, shifting instruction towards more student-centred learning. Emphasising inquiry and authentic learning.
- Increase student engagement through ICT.
- Focus on the role of technology in 21st Century Learning: critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication and self-awareness.
- Belconnen High School is committed to facilitating students and staff in creating a 21st Century Learning environment. Students bring their own device to school and access our wireless network as a tool to enhance the learning experience. With classroom teacher approval, students will use these devices, accessing the internet and online learning platforms (**Google Apps for Education and Education Perfect)** to develop skills and collaborate with each other. Students will have constant access to a broad range of course content, both in and out of the classroom, interacting with a suite of ICT based learning tools beyond the constraints of the traditional classroom.

Which Device

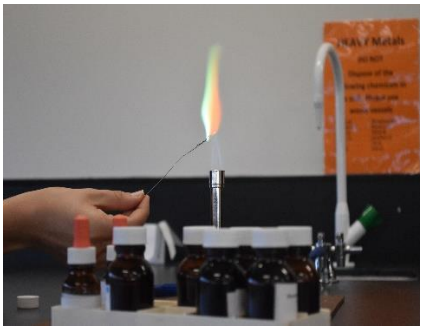
Belconnen High School recommend the use of a **Chromebook** because they are ***inexpensive, fast, lightweight*** and the most secure device best suited to our school environment. The Chromebook meets all the 21st Century learning needs of students to actively engage in their learning at BHS. More information is available on the school website.

CURRICULUM

Belconnen High School offers the following core subjects in the curriculum in Year 7 and 8. This is enhanced with a selection of subjects that students rotate through during Year 7 and 8.

Core Subjects
English
Mathematics
Science
SoSE (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship)
Physical Education
CARE

Rotation Subjects
Music
Applied Technology
2D Art
Digital Technology
Food Technology
Connecting to Country
3D Art
Drama



A comprehensive range of electives are available for students in years 9 and 10. Including:

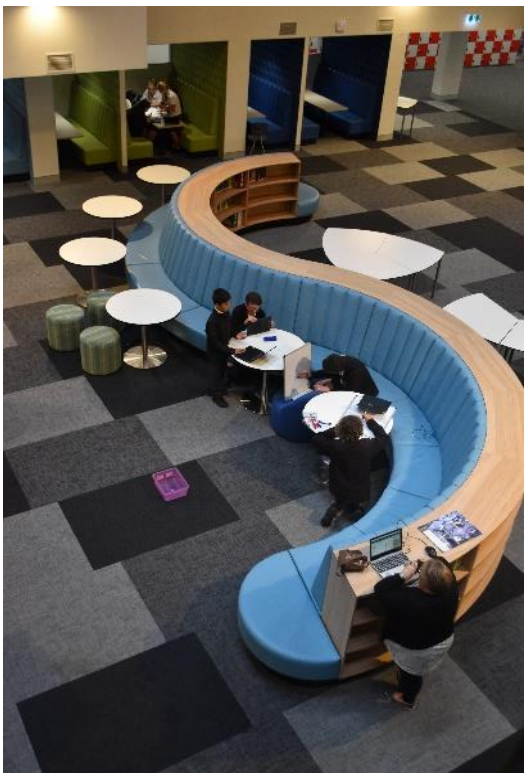
Studio Art
Contemporary Music
VET Building and Construction (Yr 10)
Bake House
Forensic Science
Sculpture
Rock Band
Design and Technology – Wood/Metal
Photography
Media Production
Computer Technology
Outdoor Education
Writer's Worlds
Street Art
VET Hospitality (Yr 10)
Computer Aided Design

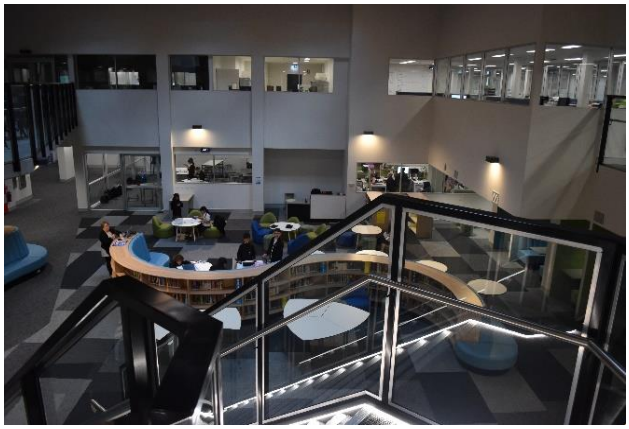
Sport Science

Global Issues

STEM Scientific Inquiry
Drama Studio
War & Conflict
Working with ICT
Robotic Technology
Wondering through Stories
Aboriginal Language
Publishing (Yearbook/Newsletter) (Yr 10)

Farm to Fork
Design & Technology - Metal
Myths and Legends
Intro to Psychology
Sports Leadership
Young Business Owners





ENGLISH and EALD

The English curriculum at Belconnen High School explores the three strands of English as identified by the Australian Curriculum: literature (the study of texts), language (the study of the English language), and literacy (practical use of the English language).

English is compulsory for all students in Years 7 – 10. Students are enrolled into either the PEP class (Pinnacle Enrichment Program) or a general class.

The study of English aims to develop students' skills in:

- reading
- writing
- speaking
- listening
- viewing
- critical thinking

At Belconnen High School we work to foster an interest in, and a love of, language and literature. Students explore a range of texts, including (but not limited to) novels, poetry, short stories, advertising material, film, live performances, blogs, and websites. Over the course of their studies, students will develop crucial interpersonal skills, including collaborative and public speaking skills. They will learn how to use language effectively, and how to tailor their writing according to the whims of their chosen demographic. They will create, analyse, and research a myriad of topics and stories that will inform their critical reflections on the world, on different perspectives, and their own lives. Finally, but most importantly, students will develop the core literacy skills they require to achieve their goals and become active, constructive, and informed members of society.

EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect)

Belconnen High School has an EALD program to support students from a language background other than English. It is run each year based on the needs of students in the school. Students who need more language support are in a smaller class group. Students with stronger language skills are also able to access tutorial support as needed. EALD aims to provide students with the opportunity to improve their Reading, Writing, Speaking and Understanding of English, and to acquire skills to enable them to understand and complete tasks in all subject areas.

SCIENCE

The Science course at Belconnen High School is designed to provide a highly engaging learning experience characterised by hands-on interactive and challenging activities. The units cover the branches of Science, namely: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geology, Astronomy, Environmental Science, and Scientific Investigation. The content of each year of study is varied and follows the Australian Curriculum. In each year group there is an enrichment class and general classes.

INCLUSIVE CLASS STRUCTURES

In all year groups a range of levels caters for the diversity of skills and abilities of students. The Pinnacle Enrichment Program (PEP) course is available to students in all year levels who are able to work at a faster pace than those in the general courses. The general course is designed for students with average ability or who may need more time to understand concepts. PEP classes follow the same course as general classes but tend to cover the content in more depth.

In 2021, each of the year groups will study the following topics:

YEAR 7	Introduction to the Laboratory and Safety, Solutions and Mixtures, Water, Animals and their Environment, Introduction to Forces, Scientific Investigation, and Astronomy.
YEAR 8	Matter, Physical and Chemical Change, Cells, Organs and Body Systems, Energy Transfers, Occupations in Science, Structure of the Earth and Types of Rocks, Scientific Inquiry Skills.
YEAR 9	Atomic Theory, Radioactivity and Nuclear Decay, Energy Transfer through wave and particle models, The Theory of Plate Tectonics, Energy Transfer through Ecosystems, Nervous and Endocrine System and Evaluation of Scientific Skills.

YEAR 10 Periodic Table, Chemical Reactions and Rate of Reactions, Genetics and Evolution, Energy Conservation as Transfer and Transformation, Motion, Global Systems and Astronomy.

ENRICHMENT IN SCIENCE is offered through a range of activities that are open to all students. These include:

- National Chemistry Quiz
- ICAS Science Competition
- Year 7 and 8 students participate in the Science Fair
- Girls in Engineering and Technology programme
- Forensic Science
- STEM

MATHEMATICS

Learning mathematics creates opportunities for, and enriches the lives of, all Australians. Students will study essential mathematical skills and knowledge in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The aim is to develop the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life, and provides the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.

In line with the Australian Curriculum students have opportunities to demonstrate the four proficiencies:

UNDERSTANDING	building knowledge and making connections
FLUENCY	skill in choosing and applying appropriate procedures and concepts
PROBLEM-SOLVING	interpretation, investigation and communication
REASONING	analysis, evaluation, justification and generalization

Education Perfect is used in the teaching and learning of Mathematics in classes and students are required to complete assessable tasks. This online program assists students and parents with the learning of Mathematics.

Although most phones and devices have calculators, students are still required to bring a calculator to class. Please note that during tests, students are not permitted to use the calculators on their phones or devices which access the Internet.

INCLUSIVE CLASS STRUCTURES

In all year groups a range of levels caters for the diversity of skills and abilities of students. The Pinnacle Enrichment Program (PEP) course is available to students in all year levels who are able to work at a faster pace than those in the general courses. The general course is designed for students with average ability or who may need more time to understand concepts. PEP classes follow the same course as general classes but tend to cover the content in more depth. There is also a year 10 only extension maths elective class, which studies a curriculum that will help prepare them for the higher tertiary maths courses at college.

In 2021, each of the year groups will study the following topics:

YEAR 7	Number, Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Linear Equations, Introduction to Algebra, Cartesian Plane, Classification of Shapes, Angles, Perimeter and Volume, Measures of Centre and Spread, Data Collection and Representation.
YEAR 8	Index Laws, Rational and Irrational Numbers, Integers, Algebraic Expressions, Linear Equations and Graphs, Rates, Ratio and Percentages, Profit and Loss, Circles, Volume of Perimeter, Area and Volume, Congruence, Time and Probability.
YEAR 9	Pythagoras' Theorem, Trigonometry, Simple Interest, Index Laws, Binomial Expressions, Linear and Non-Linear Relationships, Similarity, Surface Area and Volume, Probability and Statistics.
YEAR 10	Linear equations and Inequalities, Graphing Quadratics, Algebraic Fractions, Simplifying and Solving Expressions, Deductive Reasoning, Congruence and Similarity, Composite Solids, Interpreting, Graphing and Understanding Statistical Relationships, Finance, Probability.
YEAR 10A	Expanding and Factorising, Advanced Trigonometry, Simultaneous Equations, Non-Linear Graphs. Solving Complex Equations, Logarithms, Fractional Indices and Surds.

ENRICHMENT IN MATHEMATICS is offered through a range of activities that are open to all students. These include:

- The ICAS Mathematics Competition
- Year 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to participate in the annual Da Vinci Decathlon
- Extension Maths/10A Curriculum (year 10 only)
- STEM

STUDIES of SOCIETY and the ENVIRONMENT

Belconnen High School

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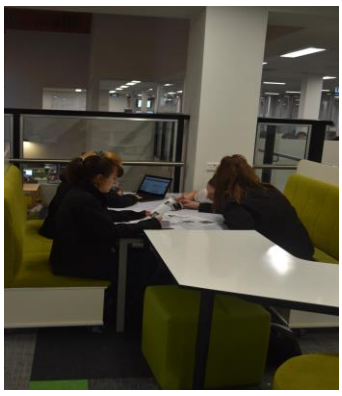
SoSE is comprised of three strands at Belconnen High School. These are: History, Geography, and Civics and Citizenship.

HISTORY:	a study of past societies and peoples, both from Australia and around the World.
GEOGRAPHY:	the study of the world as a place in which humans live, how humans affect it and are affected by it.
CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP:	the study of Australian government and law and how citizens are involved in these processes.
YEAR 7	History: The Ancient World Geography: Water in the World
YEAR 8	History: The Middle Ages Geography: Urbanisation and Migration
YEAR 9	Civics: Australian Politics and Law History: Australian History (colonization to 1914), The First World War
YEAR 10	History: The Second World War, Integrated unit: The Modernising World



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The Physical Education and Health curriculum is innovative and progressive. Through movement and health, students will develop the knowledge and skills that promote a well-balanced and holistic lifestyle. Learning takes place in a positive and inclusive environment. The aim of the physical education curriculum is to engage and extend student's physical fitness, skill acquisition, self esteem, cognitive processing and social skill development as a means of promoting lifelong participation in physical activity. Every semester, students will also be required to complete a 3 or 4 week health unit. The aim of the Health curriculum is to promote healthy living and making informed decisions.

COURSE SUMMARY

YEAR 7*:* Students participate in a variety of units that focus specifically on the development of particular skills. These skills are developed through modified games and cooperative learning tasks. Health units include: Healthy Lifestyles and Puberty and Growth.

YEAR 8: Traditional skills and drills curriculum relating to specific sports. Health units include: Smoking and Alcohol Awareness and The Healthy You.

YEAR 9: Sport Education. Students learn about all facets of a sporting competition. The students develop and implement all aspects of the competition. Health units include: Illicit drugs and Sexual Health.

YEAR 10: Community and Leisure. Students learn about and access various activities that are available to the general community in combination with other traditional, sport based Physical Education units. Health units include: Healthy Relationships and Party Safe.

In all units, skills are introduced progressively as higher standards of performance are achieved. PE is a compulsory subject for all students unless exempt for medical reasons with a medical certificate.

Belconnen High School has a proud tradition of running three excellent sports carnivals each year.

- Term 1 – Swimming Carnival & Athletics Carnival
- Term 2 – Cross Country Carnival

These events are an essential element in maintaining and building on the positive school culture that exists at Belconnen. They provide:

- An opportunity for our students to excel in front of all their peers and teachers and provides a pathway for these students to progress to representative levels of the relevant sports.
- A non-threatening environment for other students to participate in sporting events they may never otherwise experience.
- An opportunity for students to demonstrate both house and school spirit.
- An opportunity for staff and students to interact in a highly positive manner away from the day to day classroom environment.

PE ELECTIVES YEAR 9 AND 10

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor Education is a subject that fosters and encourages leadership and team work. We aim to prepare students for different situations, teach students how to identify and respond to safe and unsafe situations and apply the necessary skills to demonstrate a positive environmental ethic. Students can complete outdoor education over the 2 years with the focus on outdoor activities dependent on the season. Activities may include:

- Surfing
- Sea kayaking
- Stand-up paddling
- Rock climbing
- Abseiling
- Rogaining
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Hiking
- Outdoor specific first aid
- Caving

SPORTS SCIENCE

Sports Science is a Semester unit where students learn the basics of Human Movement. Students will have the opportunity to study how the body works, performs and reacts to different situations in theory and practice. Both practical and theoretical components will be assessed. Students will be given the opportunity to complete their Sports Medicine Awareness Certificate as part of this subject. The key characteristics are:

Body Systems and Anatomy	structure and function, names, locations and actions
Sports Injuries	understanding the basic structure of those areas of the body most susceptible to sporting injuries and how to prevent them
Fitness Testing	the development of co-ordination, cardio, agility, speed, muscular strength, muscular endurance, accuracy and flexibility
Warm-up activities	understanding the importance of warm-up activities in the prevention of injuries for different age groups

SPORTS LEADERSHIP

Sports Leadership is designed to improve students' leadership skills, self-confidence, and knowledge of the principles and science of sports coaching. We aim to provide students with the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills, their ability to be adaptable and flexible in different situations as well as their ability to successfully work as a team to deliver positive learning experiences to younger students.

Sports Leadership allows students to gain an understanding of coaching theory and receive a Beginning Coaching General Principles qualification. Students put theory into practice by planning and implementing basic coaching sessions with primary school students.

SCHOOL SPORT

BHS participates in a wide range of SSSA sporting competitions. These generally take place during the school day. Please ask the PE faculty should you have any questions regarding school sport.

DESIGN AND PRACTICAL TECHNOLOGY

Students design, make and appraise practical solutions that respond to opportunities, problems, needs or enterprising ideas. Using technology involves selecting and applying practical skills, techniques, tools, materials, programming and robotics to create design solutions.

Based on the design process students are given specific challenges and encouraged to think creatively about a range of practical solutions which are then executed and evaluated.

Students will study an introductory course in Year 7 or 8, in which they will sample a few of the different types of technology offered as electives from Year 9 onwards at BHS. These consist of wood-based projects, metal-based projects, graphic design, electronics, robotics and programming.

YEAR 7/8
Digital Technology
Applied Technology

YEAR 9/10
Computer Aided Design
Computer Programming
Design and Technology
Robotics Technology

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Food Technology provides students with opportunities to consider and take hold of their own health and well-being, to develop safe food handling skills and to make good food choices. Importance is placed on the development of practical skills which can be used at home. It is based on the design process, allowing students to take on 'food challenges', using creative thinking and design to produce suitable solutions.

Students study an introductory course in year 7 or 8. This focuses on developing basic skills through practical application.
In years 9 and 10 students are offered elective subjects, allowing them to diversify their interests.

YEAR 7/8

Food Studies

YEAR 9/10
Food Technology (Bakehouse)
Food Technology (Farm to Fork)
Food Technology (Entertaining)

VET HOSPITALITY

This course provides an introduction and pathway for Certificate I in Hospitality in Year 10. The focus is on food trends, occupations, job roles and workplace expectations. The units of competency cover food safety, interpersonal skills and food preparation and equipment. This course will develop employability skills and knowledge which are essential for a career within the hospitality industry.

VET BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

This course for Year 10 students provides an introduction to the construction industry and its culture, occupations, job roles and workplace expectations. The units of competency cover essential work health and safety requirements, communication skills, work planning, and basic use of tools and materials. The qualification is built around a basic construction project unit that integrates the skills and embeds the facets of employability skills in context.

ARTS

The Visual Arts provides students with opportunities to explore and develop skills in a wide range of visual media to create images and objects that communicate their ideas. Students are encouraged to view, discuss and evaluate art works from different cultures and historical perspectives. They will also acquire skills in identifying and applying art concepts to their own work. This course promotes the development of self-confidence through a variety of individual and co-operative activities, as well as self-discipline and organisational skills.

YEAR 7/8 2D ART

2D Art encompasses a broad range of artistic experiences from drawing and painting to printmaking. Each unit will provide a strong introductory foundation allowing students to continue in their artistic endeavours in the senior years as an elective where they can continue in either Studio Art or Street Art.

YEAR 7/8 3D ART

3D Art enhances a student's visual/spacial awareness. This subject exposes students to a range of sculptural mediums that encourage exploration through application. Students will have the opportunity to work with mediums including clay, wire, plaster and fabric. Clay modelling, slab building, plaster wrapping and wire manipulation are some of the practical skills students will develop in this course.

YEAR 9/10 ELECTIVES

STUDIO ART

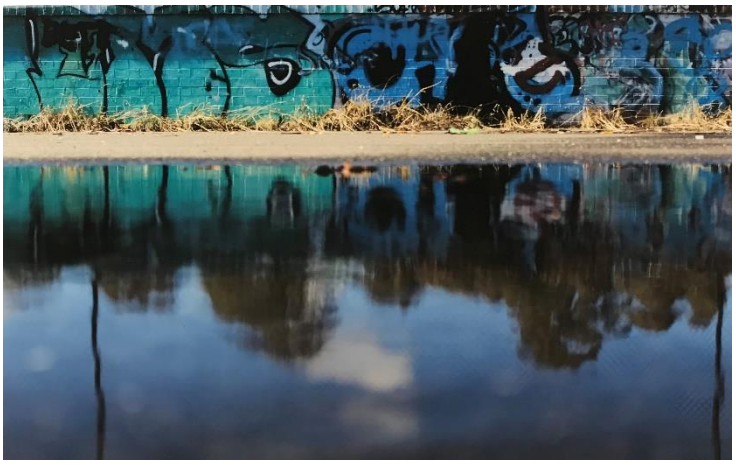
Students explore a range of 2D mediums in depth, including drawing in graphite and charcoal, painting in acrylic and printing in relief and intaglio. Drawing is an integral part of this unit with an emphasis on skill development. Art appreciation (historical and contemporary) and analysis of student artwork is included.

SCULPTURE

This subject exposes students to a range of sculptural mediums, both traditional and contemporary; to create their own works of art. Students will have the opportunity to work with mediums including clay, plaster and concrete. Modelling, chiselling and carving are some of the practical skills students will develop in this course.

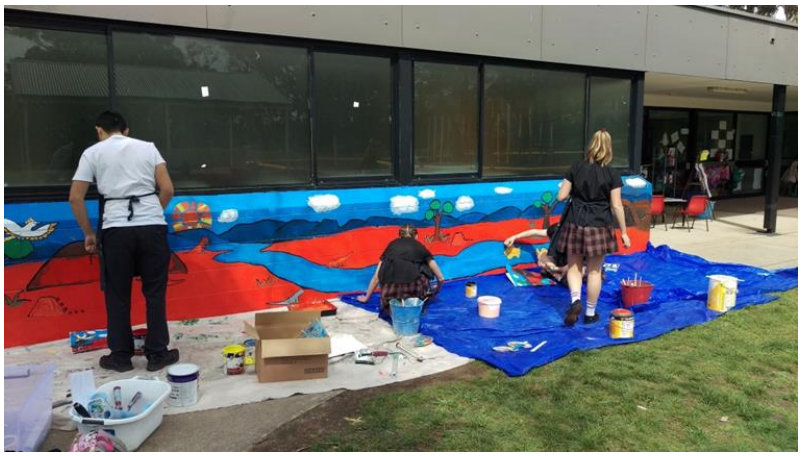
PHOTOGRAPHY 9/10

Photography provides students with the opportunity to learn digital photographic skills. It includes learning to use an SLR camera, and photo editing software to enhance photographs. Students focus on producing their own images and experimenting with them developing photographs for presentation and exhibition.



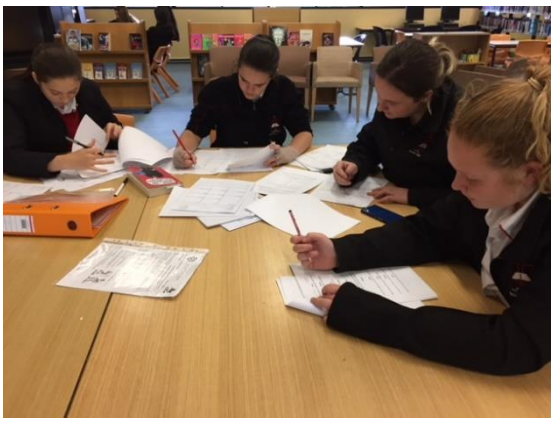
STREET ART

This visual art unit focuses on the development of ideas and techniques used in designing and painting murals. Students will have the opportunity to design and paint murals to improve the school environment here at Belconnen High and the wider community. Street Art gives the students the opportunity to use a wide variety of materials and techniques such as drawing, stencil art, calligraphy and Chinese Brush Painting.



MEDIA PRODUCTION 9/10

Media production provides students with the opportunity to understand how media creates meaning through the analysis and creation of film narratives. Students learn film and producing techniques while using video cameras and editing software to produce and manipulate meaning in their own story telling. Project based groups are formed and collaboration is essential for this subject similar to the industry. Students are able to try various roles within the process of media production and enjoy their final screenings.



YR 10 PUBLISHING (YEARBOOK)

Publishing students collaboratively apply design, production and distribution processes in the formation of the school Yearbook, screencasts, memes, websites and school formal presentations. Students learn and follow publishing guidelines, ethical, social and cultural values as they create an inclusive publication. They connect with everyone in their year level and use media, technical and symbolic conventions to create a meaningful published text with their own distinct Year 10 point of view. Yearbooks and formal presentations are then shared the night of the Year 10 Formal.

DRAMA 7-10

Drama enables students to develop confidence and self-esteem as they creatively explore and express a range of ideas. In years 7 and 8, students experiment with a variety of skills, elements, conventions and styles associated with drama. They learn through experiences of creating, presenting and appreciating drama individually and collaboratively to develop their performance skills, significant emphasis is placed on participation and cooperation.

Students who choose drama electives in years 9 and 10 have the opportunity to explore specific styles and techniques in greater depth as they continue to develop their performance skills. They perform in groups as well as individually, building up to student created performances for peers across the school. Drama students from 7-10 may have the opportunity to work on all aspects of the end of year school production.

MUSIC

Music is a language through which students explore self-expression and communication which contributes to the growth and development of the individual.

All music courses at Belconnen High School accommodate students with varying skills, including students who have had little or no music education.

YEAR 7/8 MUSIC WORKSHOP

This course focuses on understanding the elements of music, reading and writing music notation and performance skills on keyboard and guitar and drums.

YEAR 9/10 ELECTIVES

Moving into Years 9 and 10, the course focuses on the elements of music, reading and writing music notation and basic composition and recording techniques. Students will develop performance skills on an instrument of their choice (guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, or vocals and will work through various units of work under the title Contemporary Music.

Also, on offer as a Year 9 and 10 music elective is Rock Band which differs from Contemporary Music in terms of its focus. While students still learn to apply the elements of the necessary skills to create and maintain covering the basics of reading and writing music notation, Rock Band focuses on the development of the necessary skills to create and maintain a successful rock band. Students explore a range of related topics such as improvisation, song writing and effective rehearsal techniques. In Rock Band, it is more collaborative as students will choose a rock instrument and form rock bands to learn and perform a variety of repertoire.

YR 7 CONCERT BAND

Additional to the music courses listed above, the Year 7 Band is also offered as a subject. This takes place during the elective rotation, with students participating for the full year. We welcome varying abilities from beginner to advanced musicians and offer a range of instruments from the brass, woodwind and percussion families. Students that complete the Year 7 Concert Band course will then be asked to join the Senior Concert Band (Years 8 – 10), which is our performance band. Our more advanced players are usually offered a position in the Senior Concert Band earlier than by the end of the year. Students joining Belconnen High School in Years 8-10 are welcome to join the Senior Concert Band after an audition process. The Senior Concert Band regularly perform at school events such as assemblies, graduations and other various ceremonies as well as doing an end of year Primary School Tour and participating in community events such as Floriade.

Belconnen High also offers some extra-curricular music groups such as guitar group and choir.

CONNECTING TO COUNTRY - LOTE

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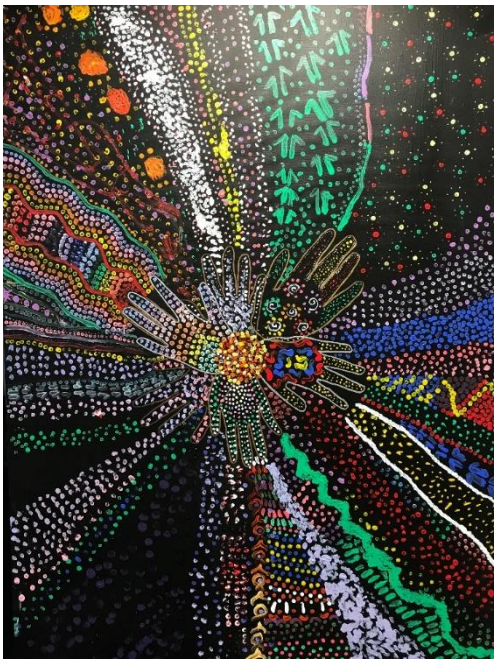
We have introduced Aboriginal Languages of our region as the Language course for Belconnen High School. All Years 7 and 8 students will cycle through the semester language course called Connecting to Country. The students will learn Aboriginal language and culture from each Country. We start with the area where the students live and work, Ngunnawal Country. We then investigate and learn about our surrounding regional Countries of Ngarigo, Gundungurra, Yuin and Wiradjuri.

Through learning the original languages of Australia all students have the opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation of the nature and diversity of languages and cultures and acquire knowledge and skills necessary to learn and understand an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language, culture and Country. Students will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to:

- Communicate in the language
- Understand language and culture

Each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language is unique to the Country/Place on which it arose. It gives voice to the landscapes, thoughts and ways of seeing and interpreting the world. When the language of the land is spoken, it brings together all of the elements of the landscape and its people. It encompasses the relationships of these people with one another and with the landscape, past, present and future. The learning of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language incorporates the realities of its people and facilitates students' deep engagement with knowledge, ways of being and ways of knowing. It develops in students an understanding of historical, current and ongoing connection to Country/Place and culture.



LEARNING SUPPORT

Belconnen High School

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Learning Support at Belconnen High School provides an inclusive program catering for students with Autism/Asperger's syndrome and students with learning difficulties.

Learning Support students are supported to develop the skills that give them independence to be successful learners and participants in society. This philosophy is encouraged in all classes and receives particular emphasis in Life Skills.

Each year level has their own case manager who teaches in the unit, which allows teachers to develop a significant bond with the students and their families. This relationship is vital in meeting the individual needs of the Learning Support students.

Learning Support students are divided into two categories:

1. LSU - Learning Support Unit – Autism
2. ISP – Integration Support Program

Students are allocated into these programs through a central placement process in the Education Directorate. Please discuss placement/eligibility with your current primary school psychologist.

Students complete core subjects of Maths, English and Science in our Learning Support Unit, while PE and elective subjects are undertaken in the mainstream. In the unit, classes are small, the curriculum is differentiated and there is often a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) working with the teacher to cater to the student's needs. These students have an entire class, known as "Life Skills", dedicated towards the development of social skills, management of anxiety and further assistance for any class work or assignments they may require.

ISP STUDENTS

Students complete core and elective classes in the mainstream. Their curriculum may be modified and they may be supported by an LSA where required. Open lines of communication between mainstream and Learning Support teachers ensure these student's needs are being met. These students also have an entire class, known as Tutorial, dedicated towards the development of social skills, management of anxiety and further assistance with any class work or assignments they may acquire.

LITERACY PROGRAM YEARS 7 AND 8

Students who are identified as needing extra help with Literacy (reading, writing, handwriting and spelling) have the opportunity to have intensive lessons which target various Literacy skills. We recognise that no one is born able to read, write and spell and that these skills need to be taught. If students are in Year 7 and are still struggling with the basic skills, it is not their fault and they possibly need to be taught in different ways. Students in the Year 7 Literacy class work in small groups and follow the MacqLit program and related Spell-It program to help them with the identification of the sounds of English and the various ways to represent those sounds with the letters of English. Reading is encouraged for a short time every lesson and students discuss interesting words which they notice. The students are also placed in a Modified English class to further target any Literacy needs while following the same units of work being studied by the rest of Year 7. The Literacy class is also offered in Year 8 to further consolidate the work done in Year 7.

STUDENT SERVICES
SCHOOL CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

Belconnen High School operates a whole school approach to Student Wellbeing. The needs of each student are catered for through a holistic approach for each students' individual need.

THE STUDENT WELLBEING TEAM

- Student Services Executive Teacher
- School Psychologist
- Year 7 Coordinator
- Year 8 Coordinator
- Year 9 Coordinator
- Year 10 Coordinator
- PCG Teachers also play a vital role in supporting the Wellbeing team.

All members of the team are available to listen to any concerns students or parents may have. The Student Management Office is always open with the executive teacher or one of the Year Coordinators available on a roster system.

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Student behaviour is managed through Student Services. All school policies relating to Student Services issues such as anti-harassment, uniform and attendance and others can be found on our website: http://www.blch.act.edu.au.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The principles of Restorative Practices underpin all student welfare and classroom management policies and procedures at Belconnen High School. A restorative school or classroom is characterised by high levels of support, as well as clear boundaries, where problem solving around issues are resolved with student involvement. Students whose behaviour is managed restoratively have been observed to undergo meaningful attitudinal behavioural change.

CARE

The objective of the CARE program is to create a positive school culture in which social and emotional literacy is developed in all students. Once a fortnight Pastoral Care Group teachers deliver an age specific lesson focussed on respect and caring for one's self and others in a variety of situations. The overarching goal being the development of students as valuable members of our community.

CARE assists students to:

- Develop self-confidence and positive self-esteem,
- Develop a wide range of interpersonal skills,
- Develop valuable skills for everyday life including basic communication and stress management.
- Develop decision making skills and the ability to resist negative peer pressure.

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership program at Belconnen High School is aimed at easing the difficult transition process from primary to high school for Year 7 students. Year 10 student leaders are assigned to year 7 Pastoral Care groups. In this setting they support new Year 7 students daily, while also supporting Pastoral Care teachers with the delivery of the CARE program.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The aim of the Student Wellbeing Team is to cater for the needs of all Belconnen High School students. To help us in this approach we access community services for support with programs and events. Some examples include:

Breakfast Club –a free breakfast for students is provided before school one day a week.

Belconnen Community Services

Other programs are offered throughout the high school years and these include;

Indigenous tutorial program

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Pinnacle Enrichment Program

Student Leadership Program

Sports Leadership

Road Ready (Year 10)

Work Experience

EVENT DAYS

Belconnen Community Day

The aim of the day is for students and staff to show the pride we have in our school and celebrate as a school community. The SRC is responsible for the organisation of the day.
The first hour of the day is taken up with cleaning, renovating and beautifying our school environs. Then all CARE Groups help raise funds for the school by running stalls/activities at Break 1 or Break 2. The students plan, prepare, set up, man and clean up the stall/activity with their friendly CARE leader guiding and assisting them.
One CARE group runs "*Belconnen's Got Talent*" where our talented students perform for the whole school after they have made it through the gruelling audition process. Finally, in the afternoon, the SRC run a trivia quiz challenge in CARE groups to see who really is the smartest and best at general knowledge.

THE PINNACLE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

The Pinnacle Enrichment Program (PEP) provides a challenging and engaging learning experience for students with an exceptional capacity to learn. The aim is to encourage students to challenge themselves academically and take considered risks in their pursuit of deeper knowledge.

HOW IS THE PINNACLE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM SPECIAL?

Students in PEP are grouped with others of similar ability and commitment. The work ethos expected, permits teachers to progress studies more quickly, offer a greater range of learning experiences and allow students to study topics both more widely and in greater depth.

PEP classes run in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. These classes are conducted in English, Mathematics, Science, SoSE and Physical Education, though not necessarily in the same student group.

PEP students will be expected to take up extension opportunities such as:

- Academic competitions e.g. Australian Geography Competition, ICAS Science and English and the Australian Chemistry Quiz, Rio Tinto Big Science Competition and Australian Mathematics Competition.

- Academic challenges e.g. Da Vinci Decathlon, Maths Challenges and debating and Chief Minister's Reading Challenge.

WHICH STUDENT IS SUITABLE FOR THE PEP PROGRAM?

The student who is accepted into the Year 7 Pinnacle Enrichment Program will have demonstrated:

- a high standard of academic achievement in primary school,
- evidence of being an independent learner,
- the ability to organise time,
- pride in work,

and will be prepared to contribute to the corporate life of the school and community.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

Currently the school timetable operates on a two week cycle. Students meet with their Pastoral Care Group teacher every morning for roll mark and daily announcements and attend one year group assembly one morning each week. Students are enrolled in seven lines (or classes) which occur seven times each fortnight. Whole school assemblies are usually held three times a term on different days replacing one lesson on the timetable.

Belconnen High School –

10 Day School Timetable

Period Times	Week A					Week B				
	Monday DAY 1	*Tuesday DAY 2*	*Wednesday DAY 3*	*Thursday DAY 4*	*Friday DAY 5*	*Monday DAY 6*	*Tuesday DAY 7*	*Wednesday DAY 8*	*Thursday DAY 9*	*Friday DAY 10*
PCG 8:40 – 8:50										
1 8:50 – 9:47	1	6	4	2	7	5	3	1	5	3
2 9:47 – 10:44	2	7	5	3	1	6	4	2	6	4
Break 1 10:44 – 11:34										
3 11:34 – 12.31	3	1	6	4	2	7	5	CARE	7	5
4 12:31 – 1:28	4	2	7	5	3	1	6	3	1	6
Break 2 1:28 – 1:53										
5 1:53 – 2:50	5	3	1	6	4	2	7	4	2	7

HOMEWORK

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

Homework is expected and promoted and is an essential part of academic work at Belconnen High School.

It may be –

- work designed to be partly or wholly completed outside class time,
- revision work necessary to prepare a student for a test, or to achieve mastery of an aspect of a unit,
- "catch up work" made necessary by sickness or involvement in excursions, band performances or sport.

Major homework, including assignments, is set out in Semester Outlines distributed at the beginning of each semester. Students are supported with their assessment and time management by their teachers and can access Catch Up during Breaks.

BELCONNEN LEARNING COMMON

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

Flexible Learning Space

Our school is a space dedicated to learning and we have purposely located our student resources at their dedicated faculties. This means, students studying a particular subject, for example; Modern Art, may step outside the classroom to loan a resource from the selection located at the Arts & Technology resource centre and an English resource from the Humanities resource centre.

Instead of fixed teaching spaces, furniture will allow for movement adaptability. There will be areas for large group learning as well as spaces for students to pursue small group or individual study.

Of course there will still be books (both fiction and non-fiction). We are also increasing the range of electronic books students can access from their devices.

The Learning Common is also the place where students come to access personal computers for short term loans. The ICT helpdesk will be located in the Learning Common as well and students will be able to access help with ICT issues before and after school and during breaks.

CATCH-UP

The Catch-Up program runs during Break 1. Staff from all subject areas is available to assist students with their study. Students can also use Catch-Up to work cooperatively on group assignments or to work on individual projects in a study-focused environment.

As part of our commitment to student learning, students may be referred to Catch-Up by their teachers. Teachers refer students to Catch Up to catch up on work missed or overdue work. There is a timetable which tells students when staff from each faculty will be available, so students can self-refer for extra help as well.

HOUSE SYSTEM

The Houses are Freeman, O'Neill, Perkins and Thorpe, named after famous sportspeople. House Captains are elected from Year 10 each year and they lead the student body in accruing points for their house at School Carnivals.

GRADUATION SYSTEM

At Belconnen High School the Graduation System encompasses every aspect of school life. Each year Belconnen High School offers each student the opportunity to receive a graduation, merit or distinction certificate at the end of year award ceremony. The students are able to earn points for their houses in 4 major areas of the school.

ACADEMIC – Students gain points for every grade at the end of each semester and for entering and achieving in the academic competitions.

SPORTING – Carnival competitions and other team participation events.

CULTURAL – Involvement in Dance fest, Drama nights, Art shows, Band etc.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP – School and House Captains, SRC, Peer Support, Work experience, ASBA's, Volunteer work, Merit and Values awards, Formal committee, Information Night helpers, Year 6 visit leaders etc.

Depending on the number of points accrued, students will graduate, graduate with Merit or graduate with Distinction. At Belconnen High School students **need to earn the privilege to walk across the stage to graduate from their current year of study.** The student who earns the most points in each house will receive the **House Champion** award. Students also have the opportunity to contribute to the overall house points that determine the **Champion House** for the year.

BELCONNEN HIGH SCHOOL CAPTAINS

School captains are selected from the Year 10 students by the student body and staff through an interview and application process supported by the school executive. The prestigious role of School Captains includes the representation of the school at community events. The students who fill these positions are exceptional leaders of the student body and well regarded by the staff. They have knowledge, dedication and a high degree of commitment to the corporate life of the school. They lead the SRC and report to the school community at the school assemblies.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

At Belconnen High School all students wear school uniform. The wearing of the school uniform demonstrates a commitment to the culture of Belconnen High School. This policy applies whenever students are present at school or on a Belconnen High School excursion (unless stipulated by organising teacher).

Belconnen High School uniform is made up of the following:

Shirt White short sleeve with red piping with school logo embroidered on pocket

Blouse White short sleeve with red piping with school logo embroidered on pocket

Skirt Black and red check

Shorts

- Black tailored with school logo embroidered on left leg
- Charcoal grey tailored with school logo embroidered on left leg

Pants

- Black tailored with school logo embroidered on left leg
- Charcoal grey tailored pants with school logo embroidered on left leg

Jumper Options

- Red Woollen with school logo embroidery on chest
- Black Micro-fibre with fine red piping school logo embroidery on chest

Jacket Black waterproof layered jacket with school logo embroidered on the chest

Shoes Black leather, fully-enclosed

Socks Black or White

Physical Education

Polo shirts Choice of black/red or red/white with 'BHS' embroidered on chest

Shorts Plain black sports shorts

Shoes Sports shoes

Optional

White plain T-shirt or skivvy may be worn under shirts and blouses

School bag A black sturdy chiropractic approved backpack is recommended

Hat A plain black or black/red bucket hat or black/red cap