



**STRATHMORE**  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

**PALLADEM ALITE**  
*nurture and cherish wisdom*



Strathmore SC students enjoy sunrise on day 12  
– Annapurna Trek in Nepal.



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## PALLADEM ALITE – nurture and cherish wisdom

The motto of the College 'Palladem Alite' or nurture and cherish wisdom suggests that wisdom has a deeper significance than learning or the mere acquisition of facts. It is knowledge applied to life and living. With this ideal, Strathmore Secondary College seeks to:

- foster the intellectual growth of students by developing their sense of worth and promote their sense of responsibility,
- nurture the shared values of its community: perseverance, respect, integrity, diversity and excellence.

## Message from the Principal

Welcome to Strathmore Secondary College - our college provides students with a learning environment that is both inspiring and nurturing. We foster the intellectual growth of students and reinforce the need for perseverance and effort. We seek to promote the virtues of honesty, fairness and cooperation, all important in an age where nearly all serious work involves effective collaboration. We are committed to high academic outcomes for all students and creating a learning environment that recognises and cares for students as individuals.

Students are always placed at the centre of all decision making and the College has a strong focus on the holistic development of each student through their involvement in the rich academic, co-curricular and student leadership programs. We provide a comprehensive, challenging, academic curriculum that encourages a strong work ethic as well as extensive co-curricular opportunities which include our acclaimed sporting program, instrumental music, choral and performing arts program.

I warmly welcome you to our College and encourage you to discover the many benefits of a Strathmore Secondary College education.

**Jillian English**  
Principal



## Caring for our Students

When students begin at Strathmore they are welcomed into one of our College teams – Argyll, Burnet, Chisholm, Dunlop, Napier or Stirling. Our experience tells us that effective relationships between students, teachers and parents is critical to student learning as well as personal and social growth. The Team Leaders and Student Coordinators foster the personal growth, oversee the learning of students and liaise with parents to promote effective communication between home and school.

Year 11 and 12 students continue in their team and are encouraged to become more independent with their studies. The Senior School strives for a healthy balance between academic and social opportunities and promotes the importance of student achievement.

Our team structure is particularly valuable in allowing Team Leaders and Student Coordinators to know students as individuals. The teams allow us to provide both academic and social support to our students and are an integral part of

the College's approach to student wellbeing. We believe that knowing our students and their families well helps us to identify and resolve issues quickly and to work more proactively.

We complement our student team structure with a comprehensive array of Student Services aimed at supporting students and families. Our Student Services team includes a Student Services Coordinator, Wellbeing Coordinator, Youth Counsellors, Coordinator for Students with Special Needs, Learning Support Coordinator, and two Careers and Pathways Teachers. The team provides specialist advice and proactive programs aimed at supporting student learning and ensuring each student achieves their best.

We emphasise values of mutual respect, co-operation and fair treatment in our student management. Classroom teachers and Student Coordinators provide the initial support and care for students, Team Leaders oversee and provide leadership within their Team.



## Curriculum

Our students develop their understanding, knowledge and skills in each domain area. Every area identifies those skills that are most essential and builds our teaching program around these to ensure the curriculum is viable and guaranteed (Marzano, 2017).

The curriculum areas are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Health & Physical Education
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts & Music
- Design and Technology Studies
- Languages Other Than English
- Sport for all students in Year 7-10

Students in Years 7-10 have access to a carefully structured program that provides breadth of study with the opportunity to be extended and challenged. In Year 10, students are largely free to choose their own programs. They also have the option of completing VCE subjects as a form of extension, or specialised Year 10 advanced subjects, across the domain areas. Year 11 and 12 students have a large range of VCE subjects from which to choose.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

The College provides learning opportunities to prepare students for the digital world. All students bring an iPad so that they have the 21st Century at their fingertips. They learn that these tools are useful to collaborate with others and enrich their understanding of essential concepts. The College has recently upgraded the media, IT and art computers so that VCE students have access to professional programs that are a staple of the respective industries.

*“Our focus is on learning and on building teacher capacity to enhance student learning.”*

## The Importance of Teachers

There is a strong body of international research that has identified characteristics of high performing schools. Central to these findings is the role of teachers.

At Strathmore we look to the best international practice to guide our work. We have a shared or common language describing good instruction. We recognise the centrality of evidence and the need for a research base to support the validity of proposed actions.

We value teachers and recognise the complexity of their work. Our focus is on learning and on building teacher capacity to enhance student learning. In our work we emphasise the importance of using research

based classroom strategies and encourage the use of common lesson formats. Our teachers understand the benefits of clearly articulated, well sequenced and appropriately assessed curriculum and the importance of feedback in the learning process.

A team of Learning Specialists is employed to support teachers in reflecting upon and further improving their classroom practices. Teachers collaboration and collegiality is facilitated through the use of professional learning communities. We also provide targeted intervention support for students who have not mastered essential content or concepts.



# Enriching Academically Advanced Students

Strathmore Secondary College acknowledges the importance of challenging students to excel. We reward effort, we balance cooperation with competition and we celebrate the greatness of each student as often as we can – in classrooms, assemblies, presentation evenings and most importantly by simply being respectful and supportive of each other.

Strathmore caters to a range of academic abilities. This requires that all students have access to high quality curriculum that is well taught, closely monitored and supports student learning. It also requires flexibility and the development of arrangements based on achievement data gathered from students.

The evidence based research of Professor John Hattie, a world renowned expert in educational strategies to maximize achievement, under pins the teaching and learning program in



the college. His research shows that students who are separated into ability groups improve at a lower rate than those who are subjected to rigourous and deliberate instruction (Hattie, 2012). According to Bryan Goodwin (2011) “good teachers not only have high expectations for all students, but challenge them.” Rather than stream classes by ability, the College promotes excellence by providing a range of enrichment subjects for advanced students, taken in addition to their core studies.

Advanced subjects can be taken as individual program units at Year 7 – 10. Students in Year 10 may also apply to do a VCE Unit 1 & 2 subject as part of their Year 10 course.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Advanced English STEAM Project	Advanced English STEAM Project	Advanced English Advanced Humanities Coaching & Fitness STEAM Project	Industrial Design Advanced Physical Education Big History Science Institute VCE Unit 1 or 2



# Languages other than English (LOTE)

The College has well established language programs in Italian, Japanese and Greek from Years 7 to 12. Students are encouraged to pursue language studies through to VCE. They study a range of topics to understand the traditional aspects of and the changes in the societies where the target language is spoken. Students develop an understanding of vocabulary and grammatical structures to use in communication and creation of original text. Students’ language skills are strengthened by working collaboratively and using technology to practise. Within the LOTE program students enjoy cultural activities and excursions as well as entering various competitions. The annual visits from our Italian and Japanese sister schools enhance our language programs and our students are offered study tours to Italy, Japan and Greece.

# Performing Arts

Involvement of students in the Performing Arts has long been a part of College life. Our Performing Arts department stages a musical production every second year in which students are encouraged to act, dance, play an instrument, sing, or be involved back stage. Students also take part in a range of smaller performances developed as part of the teaching program.

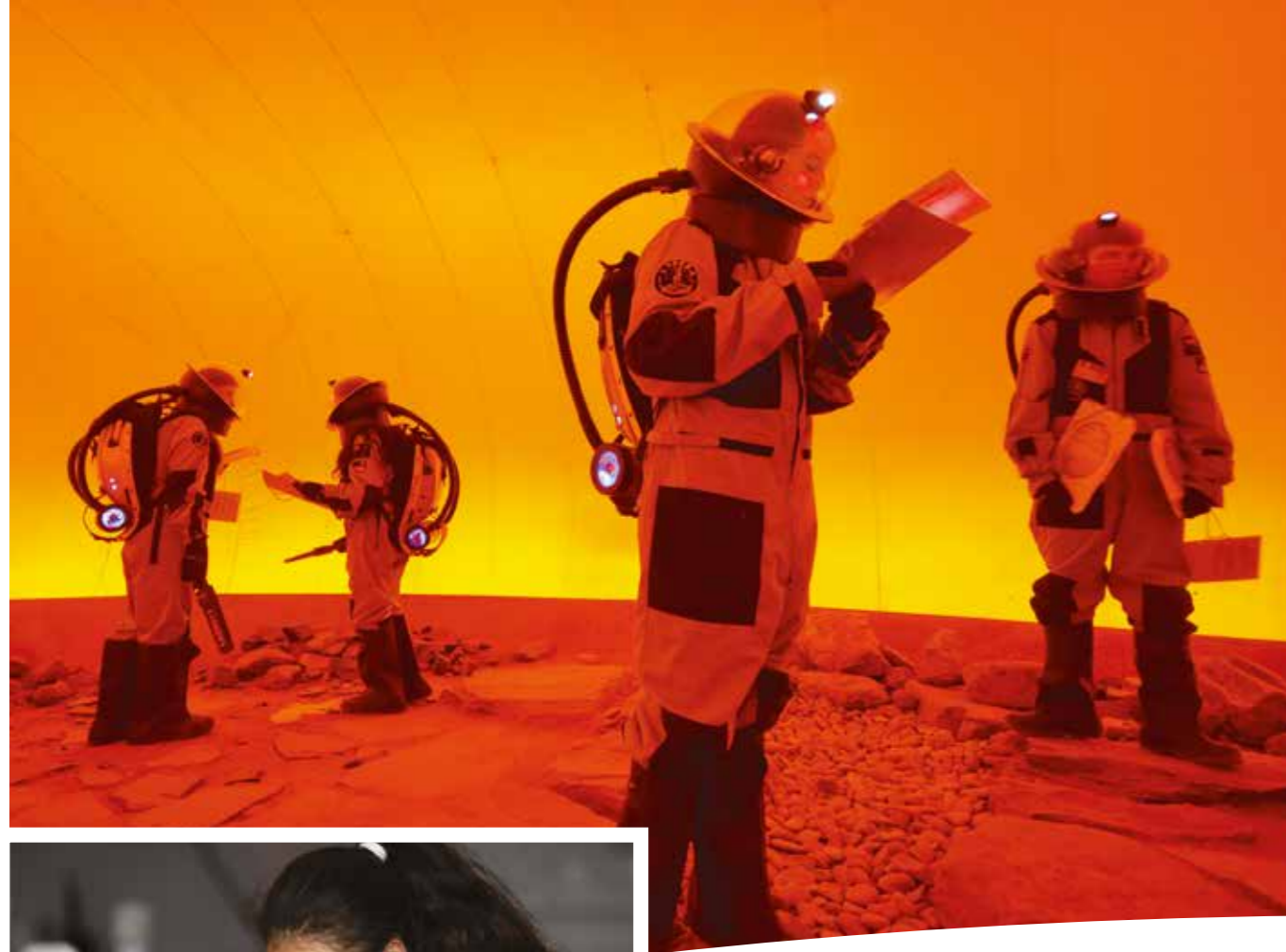


Our Music department is acknowledged as outstanding. We offer tuition in over 23 instruments. Students who study music are able to join one of our many orchestras or ensembles where they have the opportunity to perform at concerts, community events and various school functions.

Students involved in Performing Arts at Strathmore have numerous opportunities to participate in overseas tours. These tours may include performing as music ensembles in Europe or attending shows and workshops on Broadway in New York.

# Sporting Achievements

Strathmore has long been renowned for the quality of its sporting program. We have a record of sustained success at state and national level in swimming, athletics, cross country and a range of individual and team sports. Although success in competitive sport is important to us, our fundamental objective is to promote within students an interest in, and enjoyment of, healthy living and practices that support a healthy lifestyle. Sport is compulsory for all students in Years 7 to 10. During these sessions students select from a range of sporting and recreational activities.



## The Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC)

VSSEC is one of six specialist math-science centres of excellence established by the Victorian State Government. It is situated in the grounds of Strathmore Secondary College and the Director is a staff member of the college. The Centre promotes greater interest in the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) by providing highly engaging, hands on activities for students. For example, all our Year 9 students participate in the 'Mission to Mars', which is a series of problem solving scenarios built around a geological field trip to the red planet.

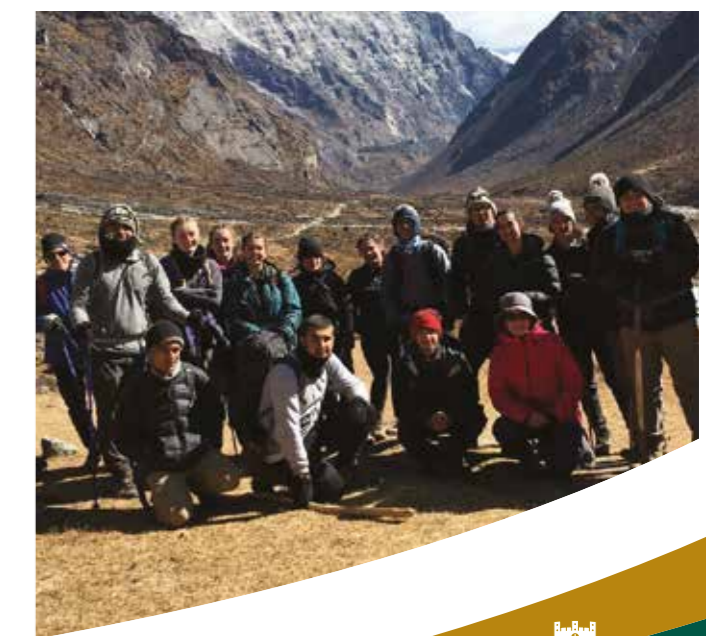
Year 10 students have the opportunity to select an advanced science subject as part of the Advance Science Institute curriculum developed by VSSEC. The Centre also offers specialist programs for VCE extended investigations in Analytical Chemistry, Astrophysics and Aerospace. VSSEC works in partnerships with universities and industry to promote science education and provide unique pathways and opportunities for all Victorian students.



## Beyond the Classroom

Extra curricular activities are important for the stimulation and personal growth of our students. We provide an extensive array of activities for students across a wide range of interests. Students can join debating and public speaking competitions, join the College Choir, contribute to College publications or be involved in leadership activities to mention just a few of the opportunities available.

A Year 7 camp is held at the start of each year in team groups as an important part of the Year 7 transition process. Each team also run interstate camps for Years 9 and 10 students. Subject areas such as Music, Science and Health and Physical Education run curriculum based camps. Students are able to take part in a wide range of international excursions. We offer language study tours to Japan, Italy and Greece, the Performing Arts run a Theatre Study tour to New York and many of our students have been involved in community development programs in India, Borneo and Peru.





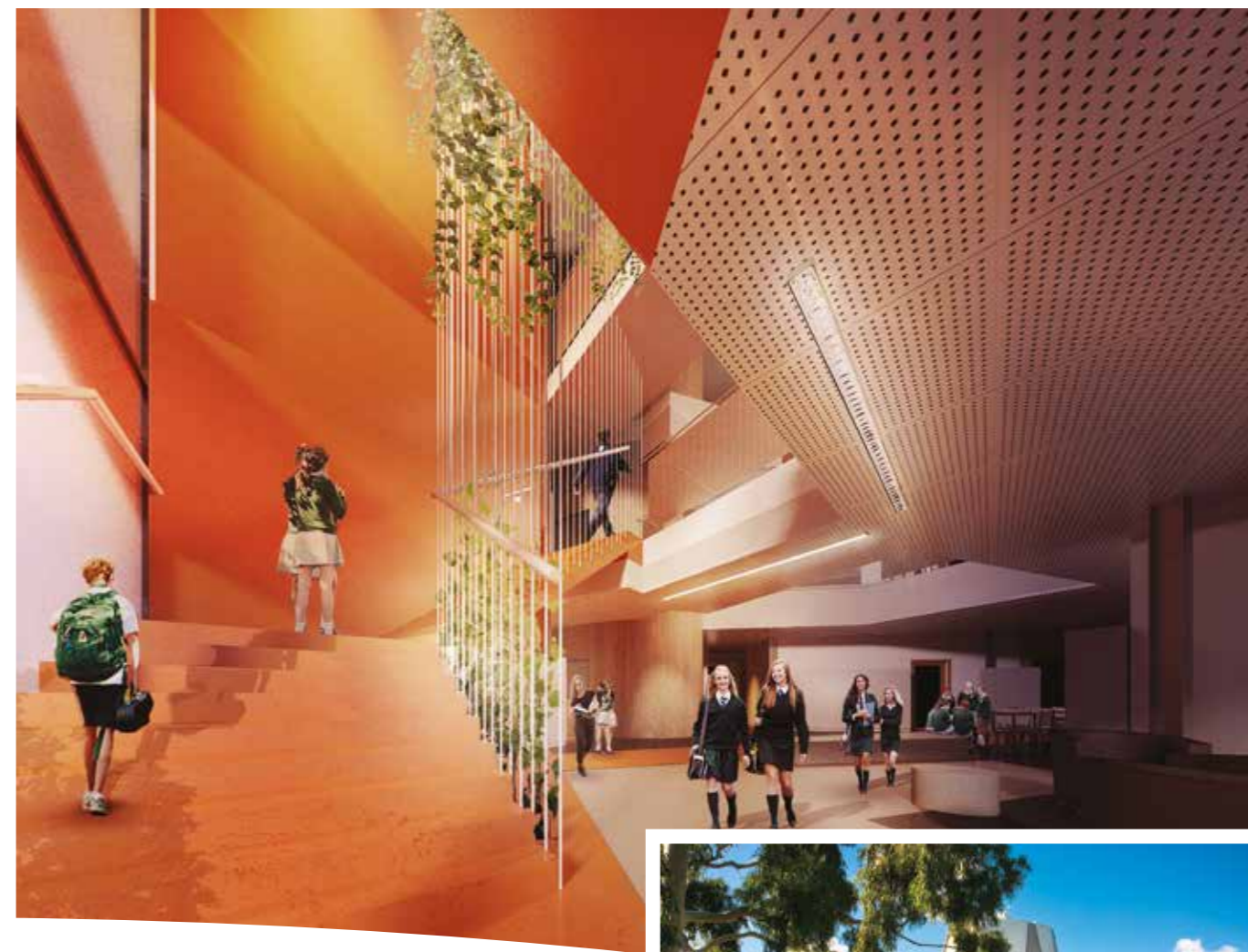
## Student Leadership

The development of personal leadership skills is vital for a student's success in life and so at Strathmore, leadership is for all – not just a select few. In the junior/senior school teams there are leaders of the whole team and form captains. Across the college there are opportunities for students to be involved in the Student Council, the Youth Talks project, as coaches of sporting teams, peers mentors to support the transition of Year 7 students, leaders of music bands, orchestras, choirs and in performing arts as well as the Year 9 Leadership camp to Rubicon.

## International Student Program

Strathmore Secondary College has a highly regarded International Student Program. It fosters international links with students from countries such as China, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Hong Kong and assists with engagement in the increasingly global society.

Students from Europe and South America also enrol at the college through the Study Abroad program offered by the Department's International Division. The college offers support and will arrange home stays for a smooth transition into the Australian schooling system.



## College Facilities

At Strathmore we think it is important that students have the opportunity to learn in a physically attractive environment. Over the last decade we have received five architectural awards for the quality of buildings designed for the College. Students have access to a wide range of facilities designed to support teaching in specific curriculum areas including our Arts and Technology Centre, Theatre, Library, Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Music and Performing Arts building, Science laboratories, Food Technology kitchens, the Victoria Space Science Education Centre and all weather sports fields.





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Pascoe Vale Road, Strathmore VIC 3041

Phone: 03 9379 7999

Web: [www.strathmore.vic.edu.au](http://www.strathmore.vic.edu.au)

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